

Community Information

MUSIC IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

The Musically Speaking concert series premiered at St. David's Anglican Church (49 Donlands Ave. at Danforth) on Sunday, Jan. 15. The long-established concert series used to take place at the Church of Holy Trinity downtown, but has now moved to St. David's Anglican Church (upstairs in the nave).

The series offers hour-long concerts of "early music" (music from before 1800 played on authentic instruments of the period <http://pages.interlog.com/~temc/em.htm>) and showcases some of Canada's finest historical performers. **Admission is by pay-what-you-can donation.**

For those who haven't yet had a chance to come to St. David's for other events or church services, the series offers the opportunity to enjoy a concert in the church's lovely interior with its exquisite acoustics.

The first program in the series was on Sunday Jan. 15. and featured Alison Melville (recorder/flute), Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith (violin), Justin Haynes (viola da gamba), and Sara-Anne Churchill (harpichord) in a program that included music of the French Baroque period.

Other concerts will take place on:

- Feb. 26, 2012
- March 25, 2012
- April 15, 2012
- May 6, 2012
- June 17, 2012

★ **MOVIE NIGHT** ★



FRIDAY FEB 10
DOORS OPEN AT 6:45PM

Important Dates

TUES. FEB. 7-THURS. FEB. 9

Kindergarten Registration from 9-11:30am

*Call ahead for an appointment

FRI. FEB. 10

Movie Night featuring The Muppets

MON. FEB. 13

Report Cards are sent home

TUES. FEB. 14

Annual Sweetheart Bake Sale in Room 3
(Remember to donate nut-free treats)

THURS. FEB. 16

Carnaval de Quebec performance
for the Grades 2-6 @ 1:30 pm

FRI. FEB. 17

P.A. Day

THURS. FEB. 23

Parent workshop: Kids Have Stress Too
from 6:30-8:30pm in Room 3

FRI. FEB. 24

Pizza Lunch

SUN. FEB. 26

Musically Speaking concert series
@ St. David's Anglican Church

Contact Us

Go to our Web site at www.wilkinsonschooll.ca
or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

Thank you to this month's contributors.

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NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2011

Principal's Message

I would like to encourage parents to help us reinforce the Character Education traits that are part of our anti-bullying strategy. Ask your children about this month's trait and how they have been demonstrating its use. Continue to encourage your children to practice these traits at home and in the community as this is an important part of our goal of creating great citizens.

I would like to thank all our staff who worked with our Grade 5 and 6 students to bring them the wonderful and enriching experience that is The Island Natural and Science School. Also, thank you to all those parents who supported us in making this a successful and memorable trip for our students.

Teachers are busy with assessments and tabulating marks for the next reporting period. Report Cards go home on Monday February 13 and interview day is Friday February 17. Interviews are not required for this reporting period except when requested by parents or teachers.

Sincerely,
Allan Kelly, Principal

TDSB's Character Traits:

- RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • EMPATHY
- KINDNESS & CARING • TEAMWORK • FAIRNESS
- HONESTY • CO-OPERATION • INTEGRITY
- PERSEVERANCE

Important Information

Kindergarten Registration!

Kindergarten Registration takes place on Tuesday February 7, Wednesday February 8 and Thursday February 9 in the mornings from 9am to 11:30am. Appointments are scheduled every 15 minutes. Please call the office at (416) 393-9575 to book one. Please note that this registration is only for in-district children and children who are enrolled in Dandy Lion Daycare. Remember to bring all of the following information about your child to your Registration Appointment:

- Proof of Birth/Citizenship (a Canadian birth certificate, a Canadian passport, a Permanent Resident Card or a Toronto District

School Board School Admission Letter, etc.)

- Your child's Ontario Health Card
- Your child's Immunization Record (the card that shows a list of vaccinations your child has received)
- Address (two pieces of identification that show your home address, such as your driver's license, telephone bill, hydro bill, lease, bank statement, etc.)

Parent Workshop: Kids Have Stress Too

Kids Have Stress Too is Wilkinson's second parent workshop and is taking place on Thursday February 23 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in Room 3. Representatives from Toronto Public Health will facilitate the workshop, which includes an introduction on identifying stress in our children and ways to help parents deal with behavior that may arise due to stress. Please keep an eye open for the registration form. It will hit backpacks soon.

Parent Survey

As parents of students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 you will be invited to complete a Parent Census Survey during the period February 10-29. This survey is the second part of a student data collection research project approved by a motion passed by the Toronto District School Board in May 2009. The first part, a Student Census for students in Grades 7 to 12, was recently completed in November 2011. These surveys are valuable to our schools and the Board, who use the information they yield to improve planning and programming. Please make sure you complete and return the survey to the school by Wednesday February 29.

Wilkinson Food Drive

Thank you Wilkinson community for your kind donations and support during last year's Food Drive. Ms. Currie's class and Room 8 had a wonderful time collecting for the Daily Bread Food Bank of Toronto. We collected five very large boxes of food and \$451.09 in donations. Additionally, some anonymous donors from the community agreed to exchange 365 Loonies for Toonies! So the final donation amount was \$816.09. This was a wonderful way to end 2011.

On the last Friday of school, a young man from the Food Bank, with quite a stylish haircut, showed up with a hand dolly to carry the heavy boxes of food. We started talking for a bit and I noticed he had a very pleasant voice. His nametag read "Justin Beaver." Later that night, imagine my surprise, when I saw him on the news at Massey Hall with a guitar. Nice fellow!

- Mr. Low

Important Information(cont'd)

LIBRARY NEWS!

For the past few months I have been working on creating an online presence for the Wilkinson Library. I have done this as a way to communicate all of the great things that the library offers and all of the fabulous work the students do. As I am just starting out on this venture, any feedback would be appreciated.

The Wilkinson Library landing page <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary> provides a single webpage to access and keep track of the library's growing digital footprint. Check them all out! The Library Blog in Tumblr <http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com/> highlights some of the major happenings at the Wilkinson Library, all in text, photo or audio format. Student book reviews are now being accepted so stop reading and write your submission!

The Wilkinson Library YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/wilkinsonlibrary> houses some of the great work done by Wilkinson students including last year's Eric Walters' book trailers. A couple of great sites for student research are the School Library Website <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/cat.asp?schoolNo=5282> and the Library Links <http://www.only2clicks.com/pages/wilkinson/> pages. Both direct students to high-quality sites for research, news and information. Resources4Learning <http://resources4learning.edublogs.org/> is a blog for teachers, spotlighting some of the fabulous print and online professional resources available through the Wilkinson Library.

Finally, you can learn more about what's happening at Wilkinson by listening to our Podcast <http://soundcloud.com/wilkinsonpodcast> or checking us out on Twitter http://twitter.com/#!/TDSB_wilkinson.

Forest of Reading

The Forest of Reading programs have started. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 are enjoying the Blue Spruce picture books and will get a chance to vote on their favorite at the end of April. A group of 60 enthusiastic students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 have started the Silver Birch reading program. It involves reading five of 10 books in a chosen reading program (Fiction, Non-Fiction or Express) between now and the end of April. As students finish a book they will check in with Teacher Sponsors who have read the book to get their signature. In mid-May, some of the members will join me on a trip to Harbourfront for the Festival of Trees, a celebration of reading and of the books in the program. To read more about this year's selection of nominated titles, check out the Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading site @ <http://bit.ly/rgTE9G>.

Happy reading!

– Mr. Krentz

Teacher-Librarian

PIZZA LUNCH IS BACK!

The Wilkinson Pizza Lunch program is back and will begin on Friday Feb. 24.

The next pizza lunch dates are: Friday March 30 and Friday April 27. Collection for these three dates will take place in the front lobby (outside Room 3) on Wednesday February 1, Thursday February 2 and Friday February 3 from 8:20am to 9am.

Please note: The number of Pizza Lunch options has been reduced to three and the prices have been updated to make sure that each option contributes equally. We will continue to offer only halal cheese pizza, one juice box and one treat per child.

The new forms were placed in students' backpacks during the week of January 23.

The Wilkinson Parent Council and Pizza Lunch Volunteer Team are thrilled to be able to offer this program for the remainder of the school year and look forward to seeing everyone in the gym at the next Pizza Lunch day!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - NEW!

There are a number of committees that Wilkinson Parent Council members and parents can join, including Communications, Arts, Health and Safety, Fun Fair, Fundraising and Greening. A full description of these committees is available on our website at <http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca/wilkinsoncouncil/consitution/>.

The Education Committee has recently been revitalized and Bipasha Choudhury, a Council member, will be its Chair.

According to our constitution, the role of the Education Committee is to inform the school community about education policies and issues at the school, board and provincial level. The committee can organize parent information nights, make submissions on behalf of Council, and provide education information through newsletter articles.

The committee has plans to organize events throughout each academic year. And based on parent feedback at the 2011/2012 Curriculum Night, the first event's topic will be on Internet Safety and is proposed for the spring.

Other potential topics include: the use of restorative justice practices to create safer, caring schools; the value of smart boards; the transition to full-day kindergarten; special education; and parenting workshops.

The Education Committee wants to be responsive to the needs and concerns of the Wilkinson community. Please let us know of your interest in the above topics or if you have ideas for others. You can send an email to wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

MUSIC PROGRAM NEWS!

All of the music groups have started up again. Here is a list of the groups that are currently being run:

- **Primary Choir** (Grades 2 & 3) on Day 2 from 12:30-1:15pm (Teacher: Ms. Levy)
- **Junior Choir** (Grades 4-6) on Wednesdays from 11:50am-12:30pm (Teacher: Ms. Levy)
- **Orff Ensembles** (Grades 4-6) on:
Mondays from 12-12:30pm
Tuesdays from 12-12:30pm
Thursdays from 12-12:30pm
Fridays from 12-12:30pm (Teacher: Ms. Levy)
- **Beginning Ukulele Group** (Grades 4-6) on Mondays from 3:30-4:20pm (Teachers: Ms. Bartkiw & Ms. Foster)

- **Advanced Ukulele Group** (Grades 4-6) on Thursdays - 3:30-4:20pm (Teacher: Ms. Doane)
- **Beginning Band** (Grade 5) on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 12:30pm (Teacher: Mr. Wooldridge)
- **Advanced Strings** (Grade 6) on Days 2 & 5 – 2pm (Teacher: Mr. Harry)

TDSB MUSIC FESTIVAL

Both the Junior Choir and Primary Choir will be participating in the TDSB music festival. The Primary Choir will perform on Thursday March 29 from 12:30-2pm at the Bickford Centre at 777 Bloor Street West (Bloor and Christie).

The Junior Choir will perform on Tuesday March 27 from 10-11:30am also at the Bickford Centre at 777 Bloor Street West.

SPRING CONCERT

The Spring Concerts takes place on **Thursday May 3**. The Primary Concert (from Kindergarten to Grade 3) will perform from 6-6:50pm. The Junior Concert (Band, Strings, Ukulele, Junior Choir & Orff Ensembles) will perform from 7-8:15pm.

– Ms. Levy

JACK GRUNSKY VISITS WILKINSON!

On Friday January 13, 2012, musician Jack Grunsky performed a concert for students in kindergarten, and Grades 1 to 3. He performed songs from around the world singing and playing the guitar, drum, thumb piano and bamboo shakers.

At the beginning of the concert, he sang a song called "Happy Day." We sang along to many songs like "With my two hands," which is about seeing children's paintings in schools.

Mr. Grunsky had volunteers help play instruments during the song "Big Thunder, Dark Clouds" while the audience sang along.

We got to dance, too. At the end of the concert we danced and sang along to the song "Alligator Stomp."

We enjoyed the concert very much.

– The kids in Room 14

SWEETHEART BAKE SALE

The Sweetheart Bake Sale is back again and coming up fast. The Wilkinson Parent Council will hold the sale in Room 3 on Tuesday February 14 in the morning and over the lunch hour. We are looking for donations of sweets and baked goods to sell.

Please be mindful that donations should not contain nuts or nut products and please mark if your donation is non-halal. (For example, halal food items should not contain gelatine unless it is of a vegetarian variety.)

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact: Laami Portelli at (416) 729-7576.

CARNAVAL DE QUEBEC!

Celebrate Carnival at Wilkinson on Thursday February 16! Chris Rawlings and Peter Jellard will perform for the Grades 2-6 at 1:30pm. Their show includes easy sing-a-longs, hands-on music making, simple movements and music from Quebec.

DANDYLION DAYCARE UPDATE - VACANCIES

Dandy Lion Daycare Centre currently has two vacancies in the After School-Age Program (ASAP) room. The ASAP room is for children in Grades 4-6. This program is only offered after school from 3:20pm–6pm and is closed for the summer, Christmas Break, March Break and P.A. Days. The program teaches the children responsibility, team building, involves outdoor time and plenty of fun and creative activities for the children. For more information regarding the centre or going on our waiting list for another program, please contact Patrina Stathopoulos or Sarah Hoac at (416) 469-0091 or via e-mail dandy lion@bellnet.ca.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS!

Well the new year has started off right where we left off with a lot of teams practicing for their upcoming league games or tournaments. The Junior Girls Volleyball team has been practicing hard for their tournament this week on the Thursday Feb. 2. We wish them luck! Another team that has been practicing hard is the Junior Boys Basketball team. They have played a couple of tune-up exhibition games to prepare themselves for next week's tournament at Diefenbaker on the Tuesday Feb. 7. Good luck to them as well.

Wilkinson/Morse's Ice Hockey team has gone undefeated so far this year at 3-0. Let's hope they can continue their winning ways and make it to the playoffs. The Wilkinson Junior Intramural Hockey League has been exciting as eight teams have been battling out for the championship hopefully to be held before March break.

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program is once again well under way. Students seem to be continuing their healthy ways. Great job, Wilkinson! Here are the healthy snacks for the month of February: Feb. 6-10 - Apples, Feb. 13-17 - Carrots, Feb. 20-24 - Salad (any kind!), Feb. 30-March 3 - Grapes.

Happy healthy eating Wilkinson!

– Mr. Kasaval

Community Information

DONATIONS NEEDED!

If you have baby play-pen(s), exerciser(s) and baby toys that aren't being used, consider donating them to the Open Door Parent & Caregiver Drop-in program at St. David's Anglican Church (49 Donlands Ave. at Danforth). The program runs every Wednesday and most Thursday mornings during the school year from 8:30am to 11:30am. All donations are appreciated and can be dropped off on Wednesday or Thursday mornings. (Note: The Drop-In is closed on the fourth Thursday of each month.)