

Important Information

WILKINSON ECOTEAM

The staff and students of Wilkinson have been working hard to improve our environmental record. The students on our EcoTeam have been making presentations to classrooms on what can and can't be recycled and they have been inspecting the classroom bins to make sure everyone is on board. Also every Wednesday morning the EcoTeam does an announcement on ways we can work together to improve our environment. In our lunch rooms, we have started using green bins to reduce our garbage and the students are being encouraged to bring litter-less lunches. We are trying to reduce our energy consumption by only using the lights when we need to. Finally, once the snow and ice clears classrooms will start to take turns picking up the garbage in the yard. In all these ways, we are doing our part to help make our world greener.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been busy as always with numerous projects on the go. I have been fortunate this year to have three high school co-op students to help out in the library. Beyond the important and time consuming work of book exchange, they have been working with me on the reorganisation of the French collection and the professional collection. Thank you to Wayne, Tynisha and Tom.

A dedicated group of 50 students has been busy reading for the Silver Birch Reading Club. They have committed to reading 5 of 10 books in their reading program (Fiction, Non-Fiction or Express) and will be voting on their favourite at the end of April. 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. Keep reading!

Last month our school won an author visit from Eric Walters. Through Wilkinson student submissions to the TDSB's *Just Read It!* website, Wilkinson was selected to have him visit. On February 15th, Mr Walters spoke to the grades 3, 4 and 5 students about his career as an author and some of the over 70 books he has written. One of his main messages to the audience was 'Write what you know'. He also spoke of the library as a place where students can learn more about what they like.

On February 17th, grade 3 classes took a trip to Valley Park Middle School to participate in *Literacy Live!* It was a reading and writing festival where well known Canadian children's authors spoke, sang, drew and read to their primary student audience. Authors included Ruth Ohi, Ted Staunton, Sharon Jennings, Eric Walters and Jeremy Tankard. The students I have spoken with were thrilled with the event. Thanks to all of the parent volunteers and, of course, to the grade 3 teachers for agreeing to take their classes.

Finally, don't forget about the Library Blog web.me.com/joelkrentz/Wilkinson/Blog/Blog.html. It includes library news, student book reviews, the grade 6 book trailer project and the Wilkinson podcast. Here you will also find a link to Wilkinson's Twitter. Follow us!

Happy Reading!

Joel Krentz - Teacher Librarian

SWEETHEART BAKE SALE

Thank you to all those who baked and bought. The Sweetheart Bake Sale raised nearly \$700 for the Wilkinson Community Council.

SPIRIT WEAR

Our new Spirit Wear went on sale on Tuesday February 22nd. It was a fantastic success! Thanks so much for your support! If you missed your chance this time round visit the Wilkie Store during Fun Fair. For anyone who pre-ordered, Spirit Wear will be dropped off to the students by the end of March or early April. For more information contact Jill Spellman at jill_spellman@yahoo.ca.

Arts & Music

TALENT SHOW

The 2011 Talent Show auditions took place in late February. As in previous years the judges had a very difficult time in narrowing down the list of performers due to all the amazing talent at Wilkinson. This year's Talent Show will take place on Friday April 1st at 1p.m. It promises to be another show stopper!!

CHOIR

There are two upcoming music events to mark on your calendar:

Primary Choir at TDSB Choral Festival - Monday, March 28th - 12:30-2pm - at Central Commerce CI: 570 Shaw St.

Junior Choir at TDSB Choral Festival - Thursday, March 31st - 10-11:30am - at Central Commerce CI: 570 Shaw St.

Our annual Wilkinson Spring Concert will take place on Thursday, April 14th. Watch this space for more details in the April issue!

Batya Levy - Music Teacher

STORYTELLING CLUB

The Storytelling Club for grades 2 & 3 is off to a wonderful start with over 50 children signed up for this exciting lunchtime program! We meet every Tuesday from February 22nd to April 19th, 2011. This club focuses on developing oral communication skills that children need to understand and interpret ideas and to interact with others. They are developing the confidence to express and present their ideas fluently.

Adelia Cerqueira, Helen Mangos & Joel Krentz - Supervising Teachers

FRENCH PLAY PERFORMANCES

On Thursday, February 3rd all core and extended French classes performed the plays they have been working on since September. Family members and friends showed up to Room 3 for either the daytime or evening performance.

In the evening, it was a packed house, with standing room only. Ten different groups took their turn in the spotlight. There were 7 performances of "Les Trois Petits Cochons", one performance of "Louis La Gernouille" and 2 performances of "Salut Mon Ami". All the students demonstrated a high level of French and dramatic flair.

Thank you to all family members who attended, and apologies to those whose child performed near the end of the evening.

A huge thank you goes to Room 19 and Mrs. Simpson for creating the houses. Thank you also to Nicholas, Victoria and Maryam D for painting the backdrop for "Salut Mon Ami".

If you would like a copy of the video of your child's play performance, please send a USB key or a rewritable CD with your child's name on it to Mme Barber. We look forward to showing you our next plays in June!

Mme Sophie Barbier - Grade 4/5/6 Core French

UPCOMING ART PROGRAMMING

Waterwood Theatre performs O for Ogre at Wilkinson for our students from JK through to grade 3 on March 11th. Beautiful puppets and music make this performance fun-filled to be enjoyed by all!

On March 25th Cascade Theatre will present Something from Nothing, Phoebe Gilman's award-winning tale of a boy's special relationship with his grandfather. This theatrical rendition is brought to life with the use of music, dance, drama and wonderful life-size puppetry.

Last month grades 5 and 6 students enjoyed a performance by Shannon Thunderbird. Room 28 provided the following review:

"Thanks to the Community Council for arranging the visit by Shannon Thunderbird. The students had a great time. Throughout the hour she told us a lot of stories. For example, she told us how the Northern Lights were created by the Raven and how North America came to be called Turtle Island (North America looks like a turtle on a map). She also talked about how her grandmother was mistreated by the government. Besides storytelling, she let us play instruments and touch the skins of animals that were shot and left to die. Shannon showed us these skins to remind us how important animals are and when Natives kill them, they use the whole animal.

During the presentation she made us laugh, provided us with lots of information and even spread her magic glitter around. Thank you very much. What an awesome time!"

Sports & H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Program

Wow! What a great month February shaped up to be with three Wilkinson teams making it through to the playoff rounds! First the girls' volleyball team, who won their volleyball tournament, played on the 23rd in the quarter finals versus John Ross Robertson. Secondly the boys' basketball team placed second in their tournament and will face Westwood at Westwood for their quarterfinal match. Finally, Wilkinson's Ice Hockey team made it to the quarterfinals but unfortunately lost to a tough Bennington Heights squad. Throughout the season they showed great heart and sportsmanship. Good luck and congratulations to all the teams and be sure to support your LIONS!

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program is going strong and many students are participating and eating healthy snacks - great to see!

Here are the healthy snacks for the month of March

- Week 1 – Berry Week (any kind!)
- Week 2 – Salad Week (any kind!)
- Week 3 – Oranges
- Week 4 – Broccoli

Happy H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating Wilkinson!

Craig Kasaval

Fundraising

FUN FAIR

Our first Fun Fair meeting will take place on Monday, March 7th at 6pm right before the Community Council meeting at 7pm. Come and see what it is about. Childcare will be provided. RSVP to Jill Spellman at jill_spellman@yahoo.ca.

DJ needed! If you or someone you know is interested in being the Wilkie Fun Fair DJ please contact us as soon as possible. We also need to create a volunteer base of parents and student alumni to help run other areas of Fun Fair. We encourage you take part – as much or as little as you like. Please contact April Moon via moon.wallis@sympatico.ca to learn more about how to become the Wilkie DJ and a volunteer today!

Last year's Fun Fair Silent Auction raised over \$10,000 for the school. Now we need volunteers to help make this year's Silent Auction to be even better. You don't need to make a big commitment, an hour or two contacting local businesses or helping to organize the donations is a great way to show your support and make a difference at Wilkinson. Contact Martin Saxton, the Silent Auction lead, at martin@arrowfinancial.ca.

MOVIE NIGHT – DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know in order to publically show movies the school must have a license? At the start of each academic year, the Community Council purchases an Annual Public Performance Copyright License through Audio Cine Films. This allows us access to any of the titles in their library, including access to movies that are in pre-release so that we can show them before they are available for sale or rent. If you'd like to know more or look at the titles available to us visit www.acf-film.com. (Keep your eye out for posters of our next Movie Night which is still to be set as this goes to print.)

Did you know we are looking for a new co-ordinator for Movie Night starting September 2011? If you are interested and would like to start shadowing the current lead, please contact Susan Haney via susanpbell@rogers.com.

Community Information

RED CROSS BABYSITTING COURSE

The popular babysitting course is back in our neighbourhood! If your 11-15 year old is interested in babysitting or would like to gain important basic skills for first aid and emergency situations this course is ideal.

Course Date: **Saturday, April 2nd, 2011**

Course Length: **9am-5pm**

Location: **Earl Grey Sr. PS.** (100 Strathcona Ave. near Jones and Danforth)

Fee: **\$45.00**

The last day to register is Thursday March 31st. This course fills up quite quickly, register soon to ensure your child has a spot. To register, please contact the Toronto branch office, First Aid Services, at: (416)480-2500 or contact sean.hewson@redcross.ca.

Important Dates

MON. MAR. 7TH

Fun Fair Meeting @ 6pm

Community Council Meeting @ 7pm

Child care provided.

FRI. MAR. 11

Wedgewood Theatre performance. (See article)

MON. MAR. 14TH – FRI. MAR. 18TH

March Break – NO SCHOOL

FRI. MAR. 25TH

Cascade Theatre performance. (See article.)

Earth Hour @ 2-3pm

SAT. MAR. 26TH

Earth Hour @ 8.30pm to 9.30pm

MON. MAR. 28TH

Primary Choir in TDSB Choral Festival @

Central Commerce Collegiate Institute

THURS. MAR. 31ST

Junior Choir in TDSB Choral Festival @

Central Commerce Collegiate Institute

FRI. APR. 1ST

Annual Talent Show @ 1pm

THURS. APR. 14TH

Primary Concert (JK – Grade 3) @ 6pm

Junior Concert (Grades 4 – 6) @ 7pm

Thank you to everyone who participated in the February WilKitchen to make it one of the best ever!

Check the Community Council Board for details on the next WilKitchen coming soon!

DANDYLION DAYCARE

We currently have 3 spaces available in our After School Program. This program is fully supervised by a fabulous Registered Early Childhood Educator.

Program Outline

-For students in grades 4-6

-Hours of operation-3.30 pm to 6.00 pm

-We offer care 5 days a week but are closed on PA days, Winter Holidays, March Break and summer. We only operate when school is open!

-Cost is \$273.00 monthly

-Nutritious snacks

-Homework program

-Science experiments, creative art projects, social games, outdoor fitness

-This program also encourages independence as many of the students will be on their own after grade 6. We assist in the "walking home alone" program.

For more information or details please call Karen Anthony at Dandylion 416-469-0091 or via email dandylion@bellnet.ca.

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:

Jill Spellman, Room 28

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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

MAR. 2011

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe March Break is right around the corner. We have had a very successful and busy year here at Wilkinson thus far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Community Council who continue to work on your behalf to make Wilkinson a great place to go to school, from Movie Nights and WilKitchen to arts presentations and supporting field trips, our Council is busy supporting your school year round.

I would also like to clarify an issue that has had some parents, and students, concerned over the past few weeks. We have been focusing on persuasive writing in both primary and junior divisions. To get students passionate about writing and taking sides on an issue, some staff members have provided a scenario to write about. Often times the scenario involves something very important to our students such as recess, music or physical education. Don't be alarmed if your child has informed you that we are losing or cutting back on any of the above. Instead, rest assured that we are not and please encourage them to write persuasively about why it is important to them to keep them.

Finally, we are busy looking for ways to make Wilkinson an even safer place for students. One of the concerns raised by staff is adults on the second and third floors. We ask that students be dropped off and picked up on the first floor. Parents are further asked to drop things off at the Main Office and not to go to classrooms while classes are in session. If an invitation has been extended by a teacher or if you are attending a field trip then exceptions will be made. If you must go to the second or third floor please check in at the Main Office for a Visitor's Pass. Let's work together to keep students safe inside and outside our building.

Please feel free to call and stop by the office if you have any concerns/suggestions.

Sincerely,

Allan Kelly
Principal

Important Information

CHARACTER EDUCATION

"Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away."

– Elvis Presley

The character trait for March is **Honesty**. What is honesty?

- Being truthful in word and action
- Showing trustworthiness
- Being reliable in carrying out commitments, obligations and duties
- Telling the truth
- Admitting wrongdoing

Projects parents can do with their children to help them understand honesty:

- Watch TV shows or movies. Talk about the ways in which the characters were honest or dishonest with each other.
- Read the story entitled *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, and discuss the importance of being honest

Encouraging honesty in your child:

- Praise your child for telling the truth
- Model honesty by returning lost items
- Make sure that you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though he or she may be afraid that you might be angry

Wilkinson History

Our school has a long history and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015.

Check out some of historical Wilkinson photos at www.wilkinsonschooll.ca/history/history.html