

Important Dates – September

MON. SEPT. 5TH

Labour Day – NO SCHOOL

TUES. SEPT. 6TH

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL –
Senior Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 6 only.

WED. SEPT. 7TH – FRI. SEPT. 9TH

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL –
Junior Kindergarten
Note: Junior Kindergarten classes have a “staggered” start in September. Avoid disappointment by taking note of the date written in your package from the school.

FRI. SEPT. 16TH

Parent Council Election Nominations due –
drop off at Main Office.

MON. SEPT. 19TH

2010-2011 Parent Council Meeting – 7pm
(child care provided)

THURS. SEPT. 22ND

Curriculum Night
Parent Council Election

THURS. SEPT. 28TH

Rosh Hashanah

Important Dates – October

FRI. OCT. 7TH

Yom Kippur begins.

SAT. OCT. 8TH

Yom Kippur ends.

MON. OCT. 10TH

Thanksgiving Day – NO SCHOOL.

WED. OCT. 12TH

First day of Sukkot.

WED. OCT. 19TH

Last day of Sukkot.

SUN. OCT. 23RD

Annual Wilkinson Pumpkinfest

MON. OCT. 24TH

United Nations Day

WED. OCT. 26TH

Diwali begins.

MON. OCT. 31ST

Hallowe'en
Diwali ends.



NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2011

Principal's Message

Welcome back to all returning families and a special welcome to our new Kindergarten families. We are excited to begin another school year here at Wilkinson with a focus on student achievement. Once again we look forward to working closely with parents and the Wilkinson School Community Council to make 2011-2012 a successful year. We have a number of new initiatives that we will be working on and we will continue with a strong curricular and extra-curricular program. Your input and collaboration is most welcome and the administration is available to help and support you throughout the school year. Enjoy the new handbook and take some time to review with your child. I look forward to meeting everyone on Curriculum Night.

Sincerely,
Allan Kelly, Principal

Welcome Back

The Wilkinson School Community Council extends a warm welcome to all new and returning Wilkinson parents as we head into the 2011-2012 school year.

To start the year off we thought that it would be helpful to provide an overview of our school's daily schedule. We've also included other important dates and reminders. If you have any questions, please contact us via email at wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or note in the Council mailbox in the Main Office. Someone will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

Paula Weekes Kahn, Chair

Wilkinson School Community Council

WILKINSON SCHOOL DAY

8:30am – First bell.

Teachers begin supervising in the schoolyard.

8:45am – Second bell.

Students in grades 1 to 6 line up in the schoolyard to enter the school. Kindergarten students should be dropped off with teachers in the Kindergarten play area in the north side. Teachers let the students into the school.

8:50am – Official start of the school day.

8:53am – National anthem and announcements.

Teachers have taken attendance by this time so any students arriving after the national anthem starts must stop by the Main Office for late slip. Otherwise office staff may phone parents as part of the Safe Arrival Program confirming the student's absence.

10:10-10:20am – Morning recess.

Kindergarten has recess separately, at times determined by the classroom teachers.

11:20am – End of morning: Kindergarten classes.

Caregivers meet students at the classroom door.

11:30am – Lunch begins.

Students are encouraged to eat lunch at home. If this option is not available, the small lunchroom is for grades 1 to 3 and the big lunchroom is for grades 4 to 6. There are four lunchroom attendants. Microwaves are not available.

In the small lunchroom, all the children have until 12pm to finish their lunches before going outside with an attendant. In the large lunchroom, children can go outside on their own once they've finished eating. At least one attendant will be outside with them. There are activities for children who choose to stay inside. On extremely cold or rainy days, all students must stay inside. Watch for more information about milk sales and pizza lunches.

12:15pm – Bell rings.

Teachers take over from the lunchroom attendants to supervise the schoolyard.

12:30pm – Bell rings. (New start time!)

Students line up and have 5 minutes to enter the school.

12:35pm – Start of the afternoon.

1:55-2:10pm – Afternoon recess.

Kindergarten has recess separately, at times determined by the classroom teachers.

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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WILKINSON SCHOOL DAY (cont'd)

3:05pm – End of afternoon: Kindergarten classes.

Caregivers meet students at the classroom door.

3:20pm – Official end of the school day. (New end time!)

Depending on the location of the classroom, students will exit from the north or south doors.

LATENESS REMINDER

As we begin a new school year, we would like to remind students and parents about the importance of having good attendance and being punctual. In order to provide the best possible program for students, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly and on time. When students are late they miss important information and it is disruptive to the teacher's lesson. A quick calculation shows that if a student is five minutes late each day, he or she will miss approximately 16.5 hours of learning through the course of the year. Also, research indicates that attendance patterns and attitudes are developed at an early age. The older an individual gets the more likely it is that these patterns will persist. Just a reminder that teachers are on duty in the school yard at 8:30am and that the bell rings at 8:45am. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation in this matter.

Leasa Adams, Vice Principal

Important Information

WILKINSON SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wilkinson is fortunate to have an active Council with many parent members from our school community. The mandate and responsibilities of the Council and its members are covered in our constitution. This document and past approved meeting minutes are available on our school website <http://www.wilkinsonschool.ca/>.

The Council meets monthly during the school year and all Wilkinson parents and guardians are welcome to attend even if they aren't an elected/voting member. Some parents stay on the Council for a few years but each year members move on and we want to ensure our Council remains vibrant and representative of our school population so new parent members are always welcome and encouraged to join. Childcare is provided during the meetings.

Nomination Forms for the 2011-2012 Council are included in the Welcome Package. Anyone wishing to be a voting member of this year's Council should complete and return this form to the Council mailbox in the main office by Friday September 16th.

SPORTS & H.E.A.L.T.H.Y EATING PROGRAM

Hope everyone had a great active, safe, happy and healthy summer! The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program will be up and running during the first week of school. As a community we did a great job last school

year improving our eating habits during school time and were recognized for it by the Ontario government. Let's build on the fantastic work and try to be the healthiest school in our area. Students and parents, try to make the best healthy snack and lunch choices and keep the junk food away!

Here are the healthy snacks for the month of September:

- Week 1 - Oranges
- Week 2 - Cucumbers
- Week 3 - Bananas
- Week 4 - Carrots

Now for sports! Last year we had a very successful sports year earning playoff berths in many sports and getting a banner in cricket as well as medals in track and field. Build on that this year, Wilkinson, with your great attitude, hard work and determination! Try outs for the Cross Country team as well as boys and girls slo-pitch will be taking place within the first two weeks of September. Listen carefully to the announcements in the morning for further information. Looking forward to having a great year this year Wilkinson and remember to always show good sportsmanship!

Craig Kasaval, Physical Education

NUT ALERT

There are a number of students with allergies to nuts and nut products. These allergies are potentially life threatening; even the smell of nut products can trigger a reaction. As a result, students are asked not to bring any foods containing nuts or nut products to the school as part of their lunches and snacks. Please read labels carefully before sending something with your child to the school.

LATE SLIPS – WHEN & WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?

Teachers take attendance twice a day – first thing in the morning and right after lunch. If students don't arrive before the national anthem in the morning or before 12:35pm after lunch, they must go to the office and get a late slip before going to their classroom. Late slips do not mean that a student is in trouble. They simply let the office know that a child is safe at school, even if a teacher has already marked them absent. Problems arise when a child doesn't get a late slip because there is no record that he/she is at school. We want to avoid unnecessary concern and panic of parents being called and told their child is not at school when they are! If your child isn't going to be at school, call the Absence Line (416-393-9575; press "1"). State your child's name, classroom number, how long your child will be away and the reason why.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the kindergarten and grade 1 snack program. Volunteers are needed for a maximum 30 minutes in the morning or afternoon. If you are able to assist us, please let the Main Office know.

DONATE OLD MAGAZINES & TOYS

Wilkinson teachers are looking for old children's magazines such as Chirp, Chickadee and Owl. Other magazines titles include Sports Illustrated for Kids, National Geographic for Kids, etc. Always in need are gently used building toys such as Lego, Duplo and Kinex. Please bring your donations to the Main Office and thank you for your support!

2011 / 2012 eNEWSLETTER

Before the end of the 2011 the Council Communications Team plans to distribute the monthly Newsletter electronically. Don't forget to complete and return the form in the Welcome Package to ensure you're on our group distribution list!

Upcoming Events

CURRICULUM NIGHT & COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Curriculum Night will be held Thursday September 22nd from 6:45-8:00 pm. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see the classroom, learn about grade expectations and the class routines. Before the classroom activities start, Mr. Kelly will introduce the teachers in the gym at 6:45pm and then the School Community Council elections take place. The election only lasts a few minutes and then parents head off to the classrooms.

Curriculum Night is an informative evening for you to learn more about your child's education and what they do each day at school. If you require specific information about your child's progress please make arrangements with the teacher for a mutually convenient time to meet privately. Curriculum Night is not intended for parents to discuss their child's progress.

Fundraising

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

We hold 6 to 8 movie nights each year in the gym (Friday evenings), complete with popcorn, pizza and drinks. They're an inexpensive way to take the family out for a movie so bring your blanket and pillow and enjoy the show! Keep your eye out for details of our first feature this year. Please note that children must remain accompanied by an adult 18 years or over at these events.

PIZZA LUNCHES

A treat for the students and a break from making lunch once a month! The forms will be sent home shortly outlining the Pizza Lunch dates, choices and asking for volunteers.

SUPPERWORKS

Eat well and raise money for Wilkinson! SupperWorks is a fun and convenient way to get nutritious, tasty food on your table – without the time, hassle and mess! Even better, it is a fundraising activity for Wilkinson. When registering for a session at The Beach location, enter the charity code WPS and 4% of the gross proceeds will be donated to the school. Check out this month's menu at SupperWorks here www.supperworks.com

MABEL'S LABELS

These labels are designed to deliver maximum durability and will withstand the dishwasher, microwave and UV rays for years to come. They are perfect for labelling students clothing, school and lunch bags. Very helpful when these end up in Lost & Found! Please support the fundraiser and visit the Wilkinson Mabel's Labels site: www.wilkinson.mabel.ca

Community Information

ST. DAVID'S CAREGIVER DROP-IN

The Open Door Drop-In will be up and running again as of September 7th. Parents, caregivers and kids are welcome every Wednesday morning from 8:45 – 11:15am at St. David's Anglican Church Parish Hall (the red brick building in the block just south of the school – 49 Donlands Avenue, side door). Snacks, coffee and lots of toys. We need more volunteers so if you are interested in helping run this program please email st.davids_dropin@digitaljive.com to indicate your interest. Or just drop by.