

## Online Communications

Our Web site: [www.wilkinsonschool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschool.ca)

Come and take a tour of our web site! Mark it as one of your online favourites and be sure to visit it regularly for upcoming dates, events and volunteering opportunities. It also contains general school and Council info, and other useful links. Click on Contact Us and drop us a line!

### Not happy with your photos?



**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25TH  
IS PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY!**

### Chocolate Money Reminder

**IF YOU HAVEN'T HANDED IN YOUR CHOCOLATE  
MONEY PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



**THE WILKINSON  
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL**

## Contact Us

Have an article to contribute to the newsletter?  
Interested in helping out? Compliments? Go to our  
Web site at [www.wilkinsonschool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschool.ca) or leave  
a message at (416) 393-9575.

**Thank you to this month's contributors:**

Carol Bennett, Alison Motluk

**Editor:** Carol Bennett

**Design/Layout:** Gerald Flach - [zebragator@rogers.com](mailto:zebragator@rogers.com)

Published by the Wilkinson School Council

## Flu Season Tips

Following a few simple rules can reduce the  
chances of getting the flu this year.

- 1. WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY**
- 2. DON'T SHARE DRINKS OR FOODS**
- 3. WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY**
- 4. SNEEZE OR COUGH INTO YOUR ELBOW**
- 5. WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY**

The Wilkinson Newsletter is proudly subsidized and printed by:

**COPY CAT  
REPRODUCTIONS**

680 Danforth Ave. Tel: (416) 405-8484



# Wilkinson Newsletter



**November 2009**

## Principal's Message

We are now into November and things are very busy at Wilkinson. The next school council will take place in the staff room on Monday, November 9th at 7:00pm. Please come and join us if you are available.

During the month of November, the students will be collecting Pennies for Peace. Using literature such as the book Three Cups of Tea, the students will have opportunities to talk about how we can do small gestures, like collecting pennies, to help other children around the world. A small group of students will work with teachers to help decide which organizations would benefit from our penny collection. As we work together to collect the pennies, the discussions will centre around peace and focus on the character education curriculum, specifically, kindness, caring and helping, empathy, respect and co-operation

On Wednesday, November 11th we will conduct our annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. They will begin at approximately 10:30am and will end at 11:00am with a moment of silence.

### Some other important dates to note:

- **Friday, November 13th** will be a P.A. day and there will be no school that day.
- On **Monday, November 23rd** we will host an Extended French Information Night for parents of grade 3 students who may wish to consider it for grade 4. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm and will be approximately 45 minutes in length.
- **Wednesday, November 25th** is photo retake day. Our photographer, Edge Imaging, will be here for a limited time. Please let your child's teacher know in writing, in advance, if you would like to have your child's photo taken again.

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st so turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday night!

And finally, thank you to the Simpson family for putting together Wilkinson's haunted house again this year.

Please contact me or Ms. Adams at the school if you ever have any questions or concerns.

**Tanya Sterioff**  
Principal

## Vice Principal's Message

### Creating a Safe and Caring School

At Wilkinson Junior Public School, we strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment where all students are free to learn, grow and pursue their personal best. During the past couple of weeks I have been visiting classrooms to talk with the students about bullying prevention.

Through discussions, books, films, and drama activities we have explored the following questions: What is bullying? What are the differences between tattling and getting help? What are some of the strategies we can use when confronted by a bully? What is the role of the "onlooker"?

Parents can also be a big help. Here are some suggestions on what you can do:

- Model appropriate ways of getting along with others: e.g. showing empathy for others, managing angry feelings, accepting differences, and coping with peer pressure.
- Monitor your child's television viewing. Discourage TV programs that model anti-social behaviour.
- Help your child find ways to express anger that do not involve verbally or physically hurting others. When you get angry, use it as an opportunity to model these appropriate responses for your child and talk about it.

The staff and I will continue to address any problem of bullying throughout the year, and with your help, we can make Wilkinson a Bully Free Zone!

**Leasa Adams**  
Vice Principal



## Fundraising



### DIRECT DONATION CAMPAIGN – TO DECEMBER 7, 2009

Was selling chocolates not really your thing? Or can't make it to movie nights – but you'd still like to contribute to the Council's fundraising efforts for programs and events for Wilkinson students? Then perhaps making a direct donation is something for you.

If you would like to make a donation, please complete the Direct Donation form sent home with your child (it's also available for download from our website), enclose your donation (cheque or money order preferred) and return it to the school.

Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. If you would like a tax receipt for your donation, make your cheque payable to "Toronto District School Board – for Wilkinson School". If you would like a tax receipt for your 2009 tax return, your donation must be submitted no later than Monday December 7, 2009. (Tax receipts cannot be issued for cash donations.) If a tax receipt is not required, please make your cheque payable to "Wilkinson School Community Council".

**Any donation, be it money, time or talent is greatly appreciated!**

### WILKINSON'S 1ST PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

#### – What a great afternoon!

While it may have been held on short notice, Wilkinson's first ever Pumpkin Festival was a huge success! Lots of Wilkinson families and neighbours came out to enjoy the gorgeous fall afternoon, buy their pumpkins, play games and enjoy homemade treats and hot apple cider. A special thanks to Ruby Lederman and Brady Sheppard for all the work they did to bring this together quickly and to the all the parent volunteers who donated baked goods and helped out!



## Important Info



### School Council 2009-2010

The 2009/10 Wilkinson School Community Council held its first meeting of the school year on October 5th. The following parents have been elected as voting members of this year's council:

Varathan Aiyadurai  
Carol Bennett  
Laura Bullard-Brezovsky  
Paul Dobson  
Jay Friedman  
Sarah Gillespie  
Susan Haney (Vice Chair)  
John Hykel (Treasurer)  
Kris Kearns  
Ruby Lederman  
Kirsten McGoey  
April Moon  
Alison Motluk  
Saeka Shaikh  
Jill Spellman  
Erin Vaillancourt  
Sam Vrakking  
Paula Weekes Kahn (Chair)  
Karen Wiseman (Secretary)

The council meets once a month and childcare is provided. All parents and community members are welcome to attend any meeting however to vote on motions, you must be an elected member. In addition to reviewing and discussing items related to the improvement of student achievement and the school environment, the agenda for these meetings typically consists of: updates from the principal and the treasurer, updates from the various committees (Arts, Communications, Fundraising, Greening, Health & Safety), and funding requests.

If you would like to raise an item for a council meeting, please email [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca) or leave a message in the parent mailbox in the office. Minutes from all council meetings are posted on our website at [www.wilkinson-school.ca](http://www.wilkinson-school.ca) as well as the meeting dates for this year.

## Report Cards



You may have heard reports in the media recently that report card language is set to be overhauled, in particular the comments that are included regarding the student's progress or capabilities. A memo leaked to the Toronto Star says that the Ontario Ministry of Education will reassess the language used in report cards to make it more personal, clear, precise and meaningful. They may also provide translations for parents who don't understand English.

The ministry document argues that report cards are currently written in a way that simply mimics curriculum guidelines, but offers little insight to parents about what their kids are learning or how well they are doing. Many parents have voiced the same concerns.

"Parents find them absolutely filled with jargon and gobbledegook that don't seem to have any relation to their own child," Annie Kidder, executive director of People for Education, told the Star.

The Ministry review is scheduled to start next year. We will keep you posted as we find out more about any changes!

## Arts & Music



### Choir & Orff – WINTER CONCERT

The Winter Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 9th in the gym from 6:00-7:00pm. The following groups will be performing: the primary choir (grades 2 and 3), the junior choir, the Orff Ensembles, and the Strings class. Since the band will have barely begun, they most likely will not be performing.

## Sports Update



The Girls' **Slo-pitch** team just completed another successful season. We played hard, won two of our four games, and lots of fun was had by all.

We are moving into the finals of our **Kickball** House League and all of the kids are having a lot of fun with the games. We have 104 students participating over the lunch hours twice each week.

## Important Dates

- FRI. OCT. 30TH** Hallowe'en Parade – 1:00pm
- MON. NOV. 9TH:** Council Meeting – 7:00pm  
(Child care provided)
- WED. NOV. 11TH:** Remembrance Day
- FRI. NOV. 13TH:** P.A. Day – NO SCHOOL
- FRI. NOV. 20TH:** Movie Night  
– 6:00pm in the gym
- MON. NOV. 23RD:** Extended French Info Night  
– 7:00pm
- WED. NOV. 25TH:** Picture Retake Day
- FRI. NOV. 27TH:** Pizza Lunch  
(for those who have pre-paid)
- FRI. DEC. 4TH** P.A. Day – NO SCHOOL
- WED. DEC. 9TH** Winter Concert – 6:00pm

SEE WHAT ALL THE FUZZ IS ABOUT.

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH — DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM**  
PIZZA ARRIVES AT 6:10PM — MOVIE STARTS AT 6:30PM  
"PAY WHAT YOU CAN" AT THE DOOR.  
BRING YOUR PILLOW AND BLANKET & GET A FLOOR SEAT UP FRONT!  
PIZZA, POPCORN, COOKIES AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE.

## MOVIE NIGHT IN THE GYM