



WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

October 2013

Principal's Message

Our school year is well underway and we look forward to the many events planned throughout the month of October.

I want to take this opportunity to thank parents who attended our "Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Night" on Thursday Sept. 26. We enjoyed meeting you and look forward to working with your children this year.

Safe Arrival Program

Our Safe Arrival Program and emergency procedures only work if our student database is accurate and up to date. During the first week of September, the office sent home a large package of information, which many of you may still be sifting through. However, I would ask you to return your child's updated form as soon as possible. We rely on those forms to ensure that we have accurate information in the event that we need to make immediate contact when necessary.

Officer Tierney's Visit

John Tierney, our School Liaison Police Officer, gave workshops to our students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 on a variety of topics; including: Bullying, Street Proofing, Internet Safety, Youth and the Law, and Drug Awareness.

Dental Screening

During the week of October 15-21, we will be having our Dental Screening. Dental hygienists will check children's teeth and let parents know if any further follow up is needed.

Picture Day

School photos are taken each year in the fall. **PICTURE DAY** will be on **Tuesday Oct. 29** and **retake is on Tuesday Nov. 19**. We will be sending out a reminder closer to the date.

Halloween

Halloween provides an opportunity for parents and children to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family parties. Halloween is a big event at schools and provides opportunities for parties, creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. Halloween is also a time for students, parents, and schools to take extra care to ensure safety and security. Our **Halloween parade and assembly** will take place on **Thursday Oct. 31 at 1p.m** in the gymnasium.

– *Yasmin Buhariwalla*
Vice-principal

Movie Night!

Last month's Movie Night was great fun and boasted one of our best turnouts! The night raised more than \$1,000, which will go toward various school enrichment programs.

This month's Movie Night takes place **Friday Oct. 18** with the animated film, *Despicable Me 2*. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm. Children are welcome to bring blankets and pillows and sit up front by the stage.

Donations at the door – big or small – are much appreciated! So are volunteers!

Movie Night RULE REMINDER: Adults (parents or guardians) must accompany their children to Movie Night and must remain with their children throughout the movie. No running is allowed in the gym or hallways. Please keep noise to a minimum. And enjoy!

Pumpkinfest at Wilkinson on Sun. Oct. 20

Pumpkinfest is fast approaching! The community event, presented by Wilkinson Community Council, takes place on **Sunday Oct. 20 from 11a.m. to 2p.m.** Enjoy a BBQ, apple cider, baked treats, and pick your pumpkins! Local produce will also be available for purchase.

Community Council meeting on Oct. 21

The 2013-2014 Community Council will have its first meeting on Monday Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend, whether you're a member or not. Childcare will be provided. Meet the council and school administration, learn about the issues our school community faces and have your say.

Wilkinson Ongoing Fundraisers – Easy ways to help your school community:

Donate Naturally

Looking to make your life a little easier and to help the Wilkinson school community at the same time? Here's one idea: shop online at Donate Naturally (www.donatenaturally.com). This online store sells organic and natural products and will deliver them right to your home. The other good

news is that Wilkinson will receive 15% of the total you spend. All you have to do is select Wilkinson from the scroll down menu when you register. First time users will also get a 30% discount by using the code: **tryit30**.

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 at 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 at www.wilkinson.mabel.ca. Mabel's Labels code: Just ADD Wilkinson in the box called "Please credit my order to this fundraiser."

Save your Canadian Tire Money

We want your money – your Canadian Tire money, that is. If you have Canadian Tire bills that you're not using, please save them. Place them into an envelope and address them to Wilkie mom "April Moon – Fun Fair chair," and drop them off at the main office. Canadian Tire money will be used to purchase items for Fun Fair, Wilkinson's largest annual fundraiser that takes place in the spring.

Bona Pizza & Pasta Receipts

If you're ordering from Bona Pizza & Pasta (431 Donlands Ave. (416) 406-5000), save your receipts. Parent Council can submit them at the end of the year for a cash donation. Place them in an envelope, address them to Wilkie mom "April Moon – Bona Pizza Receipt Drive," and drop them off at the main office.

Music News

Junior Choir

Junior Choir (a voluntary extra-curricular group) began on Wednesday, Sept. 18, and the students have already begun to master four songs! You can now access computer generated rehearsal track recordings (in mp3 format) at the following site: www.soundcloud/wilkymusic. For each song, there are three versions: alto, soprano, and all parts. Here is a list of which classes are singing which parts:

- Soprano – Rooms 10, 19, 21, 26, 27 & 29
- Alto – Rooms 22, 23, 24 & 28

Orff Ensemble

Orff Ensemble (also a voluntary extra-curricular group) began the week of Sept. 23-27, and each group has already made significant progress. Students are permitted to practice in the music room at recess. Also, there are 10 instruments that students can borrow to practice with at home. However, it is extremely important that students return borrowed instruments to the music room the very next morning that there is school.

Ukulele

Advanced ukulele classes have begun. The new ukuleles for the beginner ukulele students just arrived very recently, and Ms. Bartkiw has been busy getting them tuned up and ready for the first practice. Beginner ukulele classes will begin on Monday, Oct. 21.

Wilkinson Concert Dates

Winter Concert: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 – 6-7p.m.

Spring Concert: Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 6-7p.m.

Please note: The early start times for the concerts were chosen in an attempt to accommodate the band and string itinerant teachers who will probably have concerts at other schools on the same night. The time of the concerts may be changed to 7-8pm based on the band and string itinerant schedules. We will be sure to announce any changes at least a month in advance of the concert

Festivals: Students may also have the opportunity to perform at festivals throughout the year. These will be announced as information becomes available to us.

– *Batya Levy*
Music Teacher

Auditions for Claude Watson School for the Arts

Each year the Claude Watson School for the Arts (130 Doris Avenue in the Yonge and Sheppard area) holds auditions for admission to the school. There are 60 spots available in the Grade 4 year. The school is also holding auditions for possible vacancies in Grades 5-8.

The screening process for students is a series of studio experiences in dance, drama, visual arts and music. Auditions take place at the school, located near Yonge St. and Sheppard Ave., and are conducted by a team of adjudicators, both professional artists and teachers. The auditions will be conducted on Saturdays during the months of February and March.

The school will hold two information evenings on Tuesday Oct. 22, 2013 and Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. School parking is limited so families should leave sufficient time to find street parking. These meetings will review the school's program, the application process and provide parents with an opportunity to ask questions.

This year there is an on-line application process that will be available Monday Oct. 21, 2013. To apply on-line, parents are asked to visit www.claudewatson.org under "Admissions." The deadline for applications is December 31, 2013.

For more information regarding the application and audition process, contact: ian.handscomb@tdsb.on.ca or michael.byrne@tdsb.on.ca or call the school directly at (416) 395-3180.

Physical Education and HEALTHY Eating News

Bordenball Finalists

It's fall and that means sports teams are up and running at Wilkinson. First and foremost congratulations to our girls' Bordenball team who were finalists in their division and earned a banner for our school! Great work girls, and great coaching by Mr. Pirso. This is the first year Wilkinson has had a Bordenball team, so it's a great accomplishment.

Flag Football

Another new sport emerged at Wilkinson, well at least since I (Mr. Kasaval) have been here and that's flag football. Wilkinson hosted the tournament and while the team wasn't as successful, they played their hearts out and represented Wilkinson proudly and won their consolation match! The team was made up of junior boys and girls. Great work flag football team and Mr. Bozabalian for coaching them and hosting the tournament.

Cross-country Meet

The cross-country team ran at Ashbridges Bay on Thursday Oct. 10 and they did an awesome job! Some students were able to move on to the conference championships on Monday Oct. 21. They are:

- Parker Pirso in Grade 4 who finished 14th,
- Grade 5 students Allison Brown who finished 17th, Ava Welsh who finished 19th and Lauren Lynch-Hudecki who finished 20th
- Breanna Malcolmson in Grade 6 who finished 29th.
- Matthew Jennings had an outstanding result finishing first out of all Grade 4 boys!
- Ryan Gillespie in Grade 5 who finished 17th.

Congratulations to all runners and special thanks to Ms. Currie, Mr. Pirso and Mr. Cross for their great help, and parents who tagged along and helped set up our Wilkinson base and brought refreshments. It was greatly appreciated!

Walk to School Month

October is walk to school month and many students in the primary grades (which I teach) said they chose a safe route to school each day and walked. This was great to hear as walking is not only good for the environment, because you are not using a car, but equally important is that walking also keeps you active and healthy.

H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program

September was a very nutritious month as many students were not only eating the healthy snacks of the week but were showing me outside during recess what healthy snacks they were eating! Excellent healthy eating, Wilkinson. Keep up the great habit! November's snacks of the week are:

- **Nov. 4 - Nov. 8:** Bell peppers
- **Nov. 11-15:** Apples
- **Nov. 18-22:** Carrots
- **Nov. 25-29:** Bananas

Recap of October's healthy snacks:

- **Oct. 14-18:** Grapes
- **Oct. 21- 25:** Cherry/Grape tomatoes
- **Oct. 28 - Nov. 1:** Oranges

Happy Healthy Eating, Wilkinson!

– *Mr. Kasaval and Mr. Bozabalian*
Health and Physical Education Teachers

Library News

Scholastic Book Fair

The first **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place from Nov. 11-15. The Book Fair will be open during parent-teacher interviews on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 14 and the morning of Friday,

Nov. 15. Be sure to pop into Room 3, say hello and do a little bit of book shopping!

Volunteers needed!

If you are interested in helping out, follow this link (<http://bit.ly/wilkybookfair>) and sign up at a time that is convenient for you. You can also simply let me know when you see me.

Wilkinson on Pinterest

I have started a Pinterest page to highlight some of the great books at Wilkinson's Library. So far, I have boards for Picture Books, Silver Birch Fiction, Wordless Picture Books and Graphic Novels. New and notable selections will be shared on these boards. Feel free to have a look at <http://www.pinterest.com/joelkrentz/>.

Wilkie Library Website

To learn more about what's happening at the Wilkinson Library, check out the following site, <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary>. Here you will find links to the Library Blog, the Wilkinson Podcast, the Library YouTube page and the School Virtual Library, amongst others.

And don't forget to follow Wilkinson on Twitter! http://twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson
Happy reading!

–*Mr. Krentz*

Teacher-Librarian

Integra: Support for children with learning disabilities and their families

Integra is an accredited Children's Mental Health Centre that is dedicated to helping children and adolescents who experience social, emotional and behavioural problems related to their learning disabilities. Integra delivers its services with the aim of strengthening the family.

For more on the organization and its workshop schedule, visit: www.integra.on.ca or call (416) 486-8055.

People for Education – News and more:

17th Annual Conference on Nov. 2

People for Education is holding its 17th annual conference on Saturday Nov. 2 at the University of Toronto. And the conference is just in time for parent-teacher interview season (Thurs. Nov. 14 at Wilkinson). Some of the topics the conference will cover include what can be done to ensure that parents and teachers start out on the right foot, keep lines of communication open and make the most of the relationship for the sake of the students. For more on the event, visit:

www.peopleforeducation.ca under "Events & Workshops."

Support for Parents

People for Education offers parents a variety of tip sheets, including one on children with special needs and one on homework. **The organization also offers a toll-free Parent Support Phone Line at: (888) 534-3944.**

Recent EQAO Results: Math scores are down

People for Education says recent EQAO results show that students have improved in reading and writing but math scores have declined.

The organization says that while test scores do not provide the complete picture of how our education system is doing, they can help teachers, schools and policy-makers determine what is working well and where there are problems.

This year's results show continued increases in the percentage of students reaching the provincial standard (approximately "B") in reading and writing, but they show continued declines in math for students in Grades 3 and 6.

The change in math results raises a number of questions, says People for Education, including:

- Over the last five years, has there been a change in students' attitude towards math?
- Are certain groups of students struggling more than others?
- Does teaching experience affect the scores?
- Have the tests changed?

For more on the topic and the recent results, visit: www.peopleforeducation.ca. Click "News" and then "Our news and views."

New website for parents looking for childcare

If you're looking for childcare, check out this new website: www.findingqualitychildcare.ca. The Childcare Resource and Research Unit and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers as part of the Parent Quality Information project developed the website. The site offers resources for parents in understanding and accessing high-quality childcare.

Important Dates

October

Oct. 15-21

Dental Screening

FRI. Oct. 18

Movie Night with the animated feature, *Despicable Me 2*

SAT. Oct. 19

Special Education Conference at Earl Haig Secondary School from 8a.m.-2:30p.m.

For more information, visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference

SUN. Oct. 20

Pumpkinfest! A community-building event presented by Wilkinson's Community Council. From 11a.m.-2p.m.

MON. Oct. 21

Community Council meeting. Begins at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

THURS. Oct. 24

Riverdale School Council and Toronto Public Health present: "Connecting with your Teens."

Where: Riverdale Collegiate library (1094 Gerrard St. East)
When: 7:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

FRI. Oct. 25

Pizza Lunch!

TUES. Oct. 29

Picture Day!

THURS. Oct. 31

Halloween parade and assembly at 1p.m. in the gym

November

SAT. Nov. 2

People for Education's 17th annual conference
Visit www.peopleforeducation.ca

Nov. 11-15

Scholastic Book Fair! At the Wilkinson school library. Open late on Parent-Teacher interviews night (Nov. 14).

THURS. Nov. 14

Parent-Teacher interviews

TUES. Nov. 19

Picture Re-take Day

FRI. Nov. 22

Pizza Lunch!

December

THURS. Dec. 12

Winter Concert from 6p.m. – 7p.m.

FRI. Dec. 13

Pizza Lunch!

Contact Us

If you'd like to contact the Wilkinson School Community Council, send an email to wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

If you'd like to contact the Communications team, visit our school web site at www.wilkinsonschool.ca or send an email to wilkinson.communications@gmail.com.

Thank you to this month's contributors!

Editor: Deanna Rosolen