

Fundraising



CHOCOLATES – MORE TO SELL!

We still have 20 boxes of chocolate left to sell from our fall fundraising campaign. If you can help us out by selling some we would truly appreciate it!

Each box contains 25 nut free chocolate bars (15 Caramel Bars, 5 Crisp Bars and 5 Milk Bars) to sell at a cost of \$2 per bar. The amount to be returned is \$50.

To order a box or boxes to sell, please send an email to wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or send a note to the school with your request.

S.O.S. (“SINK OR SWIM”)

– HELP SAVE THE EARL GREY POOL!

As some of you may know, Earl Grey Sr. Public School is where most of Wilkinson’s students go for grades 7 and 8. It has a swimming pool that is used as part of the students’ physical education curriculum.

Over the past few years, the TDSB has determined that they do not have the money to cover the entire operating cost of every school pool. The pools that offer services outside of school hours, via Parks & Recreation or a private swim team, have their operating costs offset by these organizations. However Earl Grey’s pool was at a disadvantage because up until now, no outside organization was allowed to permit the pool for their own use. Because the TDSB has to cover the entire cost of maintaining the Earl Grey pool along with a number of other pools, it is “on the chopping block” and slated to close permanently at the end of 2009.

Some good news...

A few months ago, the TDSB decided that Earl Grey’s pool can be rented out in order to raise money to offset the cost of maintaining the pool. However, given the community has not been given much lead time to let people know about the change or obtain the necessary permits, a group of dedicated parents in the community along with the Aquatic Working Group (an organization formed a few years ago to work with the TDSB to determine ways to save the pools) has worked hard to create awareness about the situation and get more organizations to permit Earl Grey’s pool.

What Wilkinson is doing...

Parent Councils from Earl Grey’s feeder schools are supporting the SOS: Earl Grey Pool initiative. Our own Parent Council hosted a Badminton & Euchre evening on November 27th and would like to thank everyone for their show of sup-

port at this event. The night raised an important contribution which will aid Earl Grey’s Aquatic Working Group to work on bringing in more organizations that want to rent the pool (e.g. the YMCA).

Thanks also go to the Wilkinson parents who showed up in droves on Saturday November 28th at Earl Grey to show their support and enjoy the use of the pool. Comments were made by the organizers that Wilkinson families were numerous.

What’s Next...

Even with all these efforts, we have not stopped “making waves” because Earl Grey’s pool is not out of the woods yet. The Earl Grey Pool Initiative was also made eligible for a grant through the AVIVA Community Fund provided a certain level of community support is demonstrated. The SOS initiative made it into the semi final round of the AVIVA Community Fund.

What you can do...

We need to vote online every day until the round closes at the end of day Wednesday, December 16th. This support is critical to ensuring that the SOS initiative is one of the top contenders to receive funding through the Aviva Community Fund. This money will go a long way to saving some Earl Grey’s pool along with other TDSB pools at risk of being closed.

VOTE EVERY DAY BY VISITING:

<http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf2904>

Food Drive



DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK

Support our community this holiday season! Rooms 8 and 9 are running a food drive for the Daily Bread Food Bank. Suggested types of non-perishable food item donations include: baby formula, beans, canned fruits & vegetables, canned fish & meat, cans of soup or hearty stew, dried pasta & tomato sauce, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter and canned or powdered milk. The collection box will be placed outside Room 3 during the last week of school in December.

In addition to the traditional food drive, there is another opportunity to give this year!

Q: When is a Loonie a Toonie?

A: Give a dollar and the Food Bank will get two dollars!

Our goal is to collect \$365.00*.

Contact Mr. Low (Room 8) for more details.

*Please note: the dollar matching is up to a maximum total of \$365.00

Important Info



WHO’S WHO IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM?

Parents regularly hear the names and titles of the people working with us in the school system, but sometimes it’s hard to know who’s who and who does what. Here’s a quick run-down of the people responsible to you and how they can help you with any problems that arise.

Tanya Sterioff,
Principal, Wilkinson Public School
416-393-9575 • Tanya.Sterioff@tdsb.on.ca

The principal is responsible for the successful running of the school. It is her job to manage the staff, make sure ministry and school board policy is followed, and ensure the safety of everyone in the building.

Tanya’s office is located just inside the front doors, on the left. It’s best to contact her by phone or email to set up an appointment. Parents will have the most luck calling after the morning rush, which ends around 9:15am.

Leasa Adams,
Vice Principal, Wilkinson Public School
416-393-9575 • Leasa.Adams@tdsb.on.ca

Wilkinson is fortunate to have a vice principal, who shares responsibilities with the principal. You can contact Leasa about any school matter, but especially if your concern is about the lunchroom or lice. Her office is directly above Tanya’s, and accessible by the set of stairs across from the large central stairwell.

Usually, problems can be resolved by working with the principal or vice principal. If you feel unsatisfied with how your problem was handled at this level, however, you can discuss the matter with the person the principal reports to, the superintendent.

Jill Worthy,
Superintendent, Southwest 4 district
416-394-2048 • jill.worthy@tdsb.on.ca

The superintendent oversees several schools in a district. She can help not only to resolve a dispute a parent may have with a principal, but also to address issues that go beyond just a single school in a district.

Cathy Dandy,
School Board Trustee, Ward 15
416-397-3083 • cathy.dandy@tdsb.on.ca

If you are not satisfied even after consulting the superintendent, you can contact the school board trustee, who may be able to mediate. Trustees help set board policy and make funding decisions. Like the superintendent, they work for a family of schools, not just ours.

Unlike the people listed above, who are hired by the Toronto District School Board, trustees are elected to office by you. They are elected to represent your views.

Useful websites:

www.tdsb.on.ca
www.cathydandy.ca/whotocall/index.shtml
www.peopleforeducation.com

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR GR. 7

If you are a parent of a grade 6 student, one of the options your child may be considering for next year is attending an alternative school. Each alternative school has a distinct identity and approach to curriculum delivery. They usually have a small student population, and a focus on a particular programming or theme. For example, alternative schools may focus on an arts-based curriculum or offer programming that is very project-based and student-directed.

Many alternative schools seek high levels of parental involvement.

School profiles are available at www.tdsb.on.ca.

What are the local alternative schools?

In the Wilkinson area, two alternative schools offer Grade 7 and Grade 8 programming. They are:

East Alternative School of Toronto (EAST),
Blake Public School (operates out of)
21 Boulton Avenue.
(416) 393-8442

Its Information Night takes place on Thursday, January 28 at 6.30pm.

Quest Alternative,
Withrow Public School (operates out of)
25 Bain Avenue.
(416) 393-9430

Its Information Night takes place on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:45pm.

Remember that your child must also attend the Information Night with you!

How are students admitted to alternative schools?

Most alternative schools admit students by lottery. Application forms are given out at an annual Information Night which both parent and student must attend.

Sports Update



FLOOR HOCKEY HOUSE LEAGUE

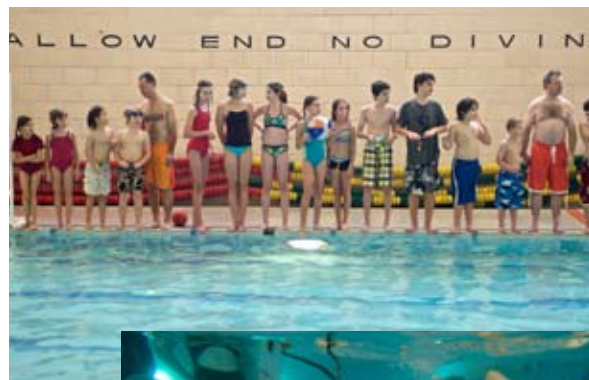
Our Floor Hockey House League will start in the new year. We traditionally have over one hundred students participate in these leagues. They have become one of the most popular co-curricular activities at the school!

WILKINSON SOCIAL BADMINTON CLUB

Come out for recreational badminton night! The new Wilkinson Social Badminton Club will have their first session on Friday January 8th 2010 from 6:00 to 8:30. Everyone is welcome to come out. There is no fee, but a donation will be graciously accepted with all proceeds going to the Wilkinson Parent Council Athletic Equipment Program.

Rackets and shuttles will be provided. Please check the posted flyers for more information or contact Brady Sheppard if you have any questions at (416)462-2798.

SOS Pool Fundraiser PICS



Arts & Music



WINTER CONCERT

Our Winter Concert will take place on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. We look forward to seeing a full house of parents and relatives in the room.

Our annual Carol Sing will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the gym on Friday December 18th. We invite parents to come a join us for this festive event.

Online Communications

Our Web site: www.wilkinsonschoo.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!

Contact Us

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

Thank you to this month's contributors:

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Wilkinson Newsletter



December 2009

Principal's Message

Here we are at the end of the first term and still no snow on the ground! December is a short month for us but there are still a great many things on the go.

Parents are welcome to join us for all of our festive events so please review the Important Dates carefully. This is a wonderful way to finish off the school year in 2009!

Although it's not festive but it is important... Dental screening will also be taking place during the week of December 7th in the former nurse's office. A letter will be circulated to explain this screening process.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to an exciting second term in the New Year!

Tanya Sterioff
Principal

Important Info



PREMIER'S AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The Premier's Awards recognize educators and staff who excel at unlocking the potential of Ontario's young people. Parents and students are encouraged to nominate exceptional members of their school who make a difference in their community and their child's life.

The awards are open to staff in Ontario's publicly funded schools and boards. You can nominate teachers, support staff, principals and vice-principals, supervisory officers, directors of education and many others.

There are six different award categories:

- Teacher of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Excellent Support Staff
- Excellence in Leadership
- Team of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement

Visit the following link for more information on these awards, how to write a compelling nomination letter and/or to download a Nomination Form.

www.ontario.ca/teachingawards

Nominations must be submitted by February 1, 2010.

Important Dates

FRI. DEC. 4TH	P.A. Day – NO SCHOOL
MON. DEC. 7TH	Last Day of Direct Donation Campaign 2009
WED. DEC. 9TH	Winter Concert – 6:00pm
MON. DEC. 14TH	Council Meeting – 7:00pm (Child care provided.)
	FOOD DRIVE BEGINS
TUE. DEC. 15TH	"Fiddle Fire" performance – 1:15pm
FRI. DEC. 18TH	Carol Sing – 1:00pm
MON. DEC. 21ST	Holidays Begin
MON. JAN. 4TH	School Begins
FRI. JAN. 8TH	Wilkinson Social Badminton Club – 6:00pm
THU. JAN. 14TH	Earl Grey Sr. P.S. tour for grade 6 students (morning)
THU. JAN. 21ST	"Autorickshaw Duo" performance – 1.15pm
FRI. JAN. 22ND	Awards and Club Assembly – 10:00am
TUE. JAN. 26TH	QUEST Information Night – 6.45pm (at Withrow P. S.)
THU. JAN.28TH	EAST Information Night – 6.30pm (at Blake P. S.)