

# WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006/2007

## MARCH

- 1 (Th): TDSB Music Fest. at Monarch Park (Primary)
- 2 (F): TDSB Music Fest. at Monarch Park (Junior)
- 2 (F): Pizza lunch
- 2-9: Book Fair
- 5 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
- 9 (F): Beach Day Assembly; 1pm
- 11 (Su): Daylight Savings Time begins
- 12-16: March Break (No School)
- 23 (F): Performance: Taonga Treasures, 10am  
Movie Night "Flushed Away"
- 26 (M): Report cards go home
- 29 (Th): Parent-Teacher interviews
- 30 (F): P.A. Day

## APRIL

- 2 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
- 3-10: Passover
- 6 (F): Good Friday (No School)
- 9 (M): Easter Monday (No School)
- 13 (F): Movie Night - "Happy Never After"
- 19 (Th): Earth Day activities at Wilkinson
- 20 (F): P.A. Day (No School)
- 22 (S): Earth Day
- 24 (T): TSO at Roy Thompson Hall (Gr. 2 & 3)
- 26 (Th): Performance: The Great Canadian Songbook
- 27 (F): Pizza lunch

## MAY

- 2 (W): Spring Concert
- 7-11: Wilkinson Art Gallery
- 14 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
- 17 & 18: Track & Field
- 21 (M): Victoria Day (No School)
- 22-25: Gr. 3 EQAO
- 28 (M): Gr. 6 EQAO testing starts

## JUNE

- 1 (F): Pizza lunch
- 2 (Sa): Fun fair 11:30am - 3:30 pm
- 11 (M): Council Meeting & AGM
- 12 (T): Volunteer Breakfast; 8am
- 15 (F) Awards Assembly; 1pm
- 22 (F): Play Day
- 25 (M): Report cards go home
- 26 (T): Graduation
- 27 (W): Last day of school

## CONTACT US



Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Go to our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschoool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoool.ca) or leave a message at (416) 393-9575. Thank you to this month's contributors: Carol Bennett, Karen Geraci, Ruby Lederman, Lisa Watt. **Editor:** Carol Bennett  
**Design/Layout:** Kim Diamond

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# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Published by the Wilkinson School Community Council

## COUNCIL NEWS



### MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on February 12, 2007.

In the principal's update Ms. Sterioff advised that JK/SK registration for in-district and Dandy Lion students takes place February 13th to 15th. The spring Book Fair will take place the week of March 5th to 9th in room 3. In response to a parent's question about teacher training in conflict resolution, Ms. Sterioff confirmed that Wilkinson has a number of teachers trained through the Tribes approach.

## Movie Night Friday, March 23

*Happy Never After*

Doors open at 6pm. Come early for a good seat. Bring your blankets and pillows to get a spot at the front. Movie starts at 6:30. As usual, pizza and drinks will be available for sale.

### Highlights from committee updates:

- Arts (The Maori Dance Troupe performed on January 23rd to an enthusiastic audience; Robert Morgan will perform on February 19th)
- Communications (February newsletter was late getting out to parents this month because of equipment failures at the printer; a monthly email message will be sent to parents on the list-serve to share information received through the parent mailbox or other routes about upcoming events, reminders, etc.)
- Fundraising (Cookbook promotion will resume for the remaining stock at Mother's Day or Fun Fair; full Fun Fair committee to meet in early March)
- Greening and grounds (looking at proper siting of new trees for kindergarten play area; several unwanted trees will be removed by grounds crews in the spring, and protective cages will be put around the young trees near the play structure.)

Sports uniforms and Wilkinson sweatshirts ordered from Roots are ready. Items for purchase will be arranged in the front display cases and an order form will go home in the next month or so.

The parent outreach proposal put forward to the Ministry of Education to fund the Wilkinson Kitchen project was approved. The proposal requested \$1725.00; \$1250 was approved. All allocated monies

must be spent by June. Volunteers will meet to discuss how to get the project started.

A discussion about measures to keep awareness up amongst children and parents about nut allergies at the school took place. We will look at ways to communicate on the topic to both children and parents. Up to \$100 was allocated to purchase children's books about allergies as well as materials for the Teachers Resource Room [see FAQ in this newsletter].

Full minutes for all Council meetings are posted on our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschoo.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoo.ca).

**The next Council meeting will be held on Monday March 5, 2007 at 7:00 pm** in the staff room on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

## FAQ



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

**Q: What does Wilkinson do to support kids with serious allergies?**

**A:** Sabrina's Law requires all Canadian schools to provide a safe environment for kids with allergies. A big part of this is ensuring children and parents are aware of the measures they can take to protect kids with allergies. When children enter kindergarten at Wilkinson, they are told about food allergies and instructed not to share snacks as a good way to prevent accidental ingestion of an allergen. While this is an important measure, other ideas were recently suggested for ensuring the message about nut allergies is consistent and clear throughout children's time at Wilkinson. To that end, the Wilkinson Council has recently ordered several books, including *No Nuts for Me*; *Alexander – A Special Day* and *Learn About*

*Food Allergies*. At the request of staff, these resources will be kept in the staff resource room so they are more accessible for classroom use. Posters have also been ordered, which may be posted in central areas and in lunchrooms.

#### Did you know?

Peanuts (which are actually legume) are perhaps the best-known allergen; however tree nuts can also produce serious allergic reactions. These allergies can be dangerous because they cause anaphylaxis, a potentially life threatening reaction.

To avoid putting anyone at risk, the easiest thing to do is ensure snack foods and lunches that come to school with children do not contain nuts. Keep this in mind also when preparing baked goods or other snacks for children to enjoy at bake sales and classroom festivities.

For more information, visit the Anaphylaxis Canada web site at [www.anaphylaxis.org](http://www.anaphylaxis.org).

## FUNDRAISING



### SWEETHEART BAKE SALE

This year's sale was a great success, raising over \$200 to go towards programs for Wilkinson students! A special thank you to all the parents who contributed baked goods for the event. Thanks also to Bambi Alvia, Bianca Kapteyn, Ruby Lederman and April Moon for coordinating the sale.

### FUN FAIR

**Saturday June 2nd**

11:30am to 3:30pm

(note time change from previous newsletter)

The Fun Fair is Wilkinson's biggest fundraising effort of the year, and a great chance to come out, eat well and have fun with your school community.

Highlights include a great selection of outdoor games and events, an Extreme Makeover area complete with hairwraps and Mendhi, and of course fabulous food from around the world.

### FUN FAIR MEETING

**March 23rd 5:30pm**

In the Gym (before Movie Night)

The first fun fair meeting, open to all, will take place in the gym at 5:30pm on Friday March 23rd (just before the movie). We can really use help organizing, so come out and see what it is all about. The next Fun Fair meeting after that will be Monday April 16th at 7:00pm. If you are interested please let us know through our Web site at [www.wilkinson-school.ca](http://www.wilkinson-school.ca) or leave a message for April Moon at the school at 416-393-9575.

#### Sponsorships Needed!

This year our goal is to raise approximately \$2,500 through sponsorships to cover some of the expenses related to putting on this event. If anyone knows of a company that would be willing to donate money in return for a "Thank You for Sponsoring..." acknowledgement at one of the activities, please let us know.

Also, if you know any high school students looking for an opportunity to volunteer please send them our way!

#### Currently we're looking for:

1. Donations for the Silent Auction. Consider asking the companies that you work for. Or, be creative! Can you donate a couple of hours to help someone learn how to use the internet? Or how about a cooking lesson or pet walking?
2. Items for Loonieland. As you do your spring-cleaning, hang on to those new or gently used items that may be taking up valuable space.
3. Books for the "Buck-a-Book" table.

Drop off location and times will be confirmed in next month's newsletter.

## PARENT INFORMATION



### LUNCH ROOM PERMISSION

#### Reminder to Parents

If your child(ren) eat in the lunch room every day, you would have completed and submitted a form at the beginning of the school year. It is important to note that if you haven't completed this form (i.e. your child doesn't stay for lunch every day) and your child needs to stay for lunch on any random day, you must send a note or call the school to let the staff know. This information is then passed on to the lunchroom monitors so that they know which children they are responsible for.

To help with this, a form is being developed that can be given to the coaches/staff to distribute to students who will be staying at school for lunch on the basis of a club, choir or sport. Please note that students who go home for lunch are not expected to return until 12:30pm when the teachers are out in the schoolyard to supervise.

### SOLVING PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL

#### Help for parents navigating our education system

A new tip sheet released by People for Education offers guidance to parents about problem-solving at school. This tip sheet is one of a series of multi-lingual guides aimed at helping parents navigate the education system. It is part of People for Education's ongoing Parent Inclusion Initiative, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The goal of the initiative is to ensure that no parents or families feel excluded in Ontario's education system. The sheet is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil and Urdu on the People for Education Web site.

Source: *People for Education Web site at [www.peopleforeducation.com](http://www.peopleforeducation.com). People for Education is a group of parents working to preserve fully publicly-funded education in Ontario.*