

**'WILKY'S TRASH TACKLE TEAM' continued...**

This effort also helps to prevent the broken window syndrome, the well documented phenomenon whereby if people find buildings in disrepair, they are more likely to vandalize them because they think no one cares. In short, the Wilky Trash Tackle Team is all about sending a message to other students and to the community at large that "we do care" and so should they.

The real problem stems of course from the abundance of packaging in our society. There is hope though. Ireland has banned plastic bags and in Germany, customers are permitted to leave excess packaging at the check-out counter. Here at home, reducing the plastic and wrappers that we send with our kids' lunches and snacks can really help reduce litter in the playground.

The great news is that these litter teams are spreading. The idea came from an Oakridge Public School teacher and now, after Wilky's success, it has been passed on to Bowmore P.S. where grade 5-6 students are sending the message that a clean yard just gets cleaner.

Could this be the beginning of a league of "Trash Tacklers" from each and every school in Toronto? If so, we have some dedicated and enthusiastic Wilkinson students to thank for it.

**Submitted by Kate Tennier**  
*Kate Tennier has been a Wilkinson parent for seven years.*

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## WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006/2007

### MAY

- 2 (W): Spring Concert
- 7-11: Wilkinson Art Gallery
- 11 (F): Movie Night 6pm "High School Musical"
- 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
- 31 (Th): Wil-Kitchen Community Cooking night 7pm

### 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.wilkinsonschoo.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoo.ca) or leave a message at (416) 393-9575. Thank you to this month's contributors: Carol Bennett, Karin Deane, Kate Tennier, Lisa Watt.

**Editor:** Carol Bennett **Design/Layout:** Kim Diamond

# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Published by the Wilkinson School Community Council

### COUNCIL NEWS



#### MEETING RECAP

**The Wilkinson School Community Council met on April 2, 2007.**

In the principal's update Ms. Sterioff advised that the grade 3 and grade 6 teachers will be released on Wednesday April 4 to meet with the literacy coordinator to analyze Wilkinson's EQAO test data and to look at ways of improving test scores for this year. (Note: see Ms. Watt's EQAO article further in the newsletter).

The Statement of Financial Position was reviewed. There is currently just over \$2,800 available for disbursement. The Fun Fair committee met before the last movie night, and several new people attended. There is a concerted effort to try to teach the skills and knowledge gained by individuals who have been involved for several years to newer parents to ensure there is a seamless turnover for future years. The budget for this year's event was presented and approved.

The issue of the graffiti on the hydro box in front of the school was raised. Ms. Sterioff confirmed that she has called Toronto Hydro about the graffiti but they have not yet responded (Toronto Hydro must remove it.)

Highlights were presented from the March Ward 15 meeting:

- Trustee Cathy Dandy provided an update on the staffing numbers, stating that the board is about 100 teachers short because of the 20-student cap on primary grades. TDSB is looking for ways to address this shortfall.
- The board is bringing in universal access for grade 4 French immersion beginning September 2008. Children will be guaranteed a place in French immersion, although not necessarily in the school closest to their home.
- Trustee Dandy is interested in using schools as community hubs and will be looking to consult with principals and Ward members about how schools can play a stronger role within their communities.

A parent brought forward her observation that back doors to the gym and the girls' washroom have not been locked consistently in the morning. Ms. Sterioff confirmed that she has spoken with the caretaking staff and all doors will be locked by 8:55 AM. Council members agreed that including safety tips in the newsletter and reminders throughout the school year would be helpful. These messages would include playground safety, what to do when confronted by a stranger, and related topics.

**The next Council meeting will be held on Monday May 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm** in the staff room on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### WIL-KITCHEN

Our 1st Community Cooking Night!

Thursday May 31, 2007 – 7:00pm

**What is it?** All parents, guardians, staff and community members are invited to participate in a fun evening of preparing and sampling dishes using recipes from our own Wilkinson Cookbook as well as other favourites!

**When and Where is it?** Thursday, May 31, 2007 in the School Lunch Room and Kitchen (lower level of the school); 7:00 – 9:00pm, 9:00-9:30 clean-up

**What is the purpose?** "Food, Fun and Friendship". It's for Wilkinson parents to come out to learn, chat and have fun together! Childcare will be provided.

To help us get an idea of numbers and how much food to purchase, please complete and return the bottom of the form that went home by May 18, 2007 or call the school at 416-393-9575 and leave your name and phone number. Some of this food we prepare will also be sold at the Fun Fair.

What is the tentative menu? Vegetable and fruit trays, baked Brie, samosas, chickpea salad, tabouleh and couscous salad

#### How is this going to happen?

1. Participants will rotate through stations, making a different dish at each station.
2. Each participant will have the opportunity to make samosas and at least one salad.
3. Each station will hopefully have one facilitator along with copies of the recipe for the participants. If there is not a facilitator, people can have fun figuring it out!

This is meant to be a relaxed, informal, enjoyable evening with the focus on learning and sharing together. We really look forward to seeing you there!



Saturday June 2nd  
11:30am - 3:30pm

Well the big day is less than a month away – Make sure you have it marked in your calendar! Keep your eye out for the Dream Basket flyer coming home that outlines how this great event works as well as the Fun Fair Package that will highlight all the activities for the day.

#### What we need from you!

- Used/broken electronics
- Towels for the dunk tank participants
- Donations for: LoonieLand, Silent Auction, Buck-a-Book and Media table (e.g. previously viewed videos, DVDs and games)
- Your time – any amount of time you can give is valuable whether it's an hour at the Fun Fair or helping beforehand. The volunteer form will be in the Fun Fair Package or you can contact us through our special email address: wilkinsonfunfair@hotmail.com.

Also, if you know of any high school students looking to fulfill their volunteer hours, please direct them to this email or leave a message at the school at 416-393-9575.

#### Dream Baskets

This year's Dream Basket Themes:

**JK/SK:** "Summer Time Fun"

**Gr. 1:** "Get Creative"

**Gr. 2:** "Rainy Day Activities"

**Gr. 3:** "How does your garden grow"

**Gr. 4:** "Tool Time"

**Gr. 5:** "Let's Get Physical"

**Gr. 6:** "The Joy of Cooking"

**Gr. 4/5/6 French Immersion:** "Happy Trails"

#### Drop off information

There will be someone in Room 56 (in the basement of the school) on Friday mornings until June 1st to receive your donations.

## PARENT INFORMATION



### EQAO TESTING AT WILKINSON

This year the Grade 3 testing will take place from Tuesday, May 22 until Friday, May 25th. This will be followed by the Grade 6 testing starting May 28th until May 31st. All students in these grades must write the test so please plan any trips or absences before or after this time.

The EQAO provides the students, school, board and province with a picture of the strengths and needs of our students. Here at Wilkinson we use the data to inform our teaching and to aid in the purchase of resources. The EQAO tests the students' mastery of the primary and junior grade curriculum expectations.

#### What's happening at Wilkinson

After analyzing our data from last year, as a school, we realize that our students need to be more test savvy. Test taking is a skill that can be taught. To meet this need we have provided teachers with the resources to help our students feel more confident when taking tests.

Another area where all of our students need assistance is in answering open-ended questions. Many of the questions on the EQAO are multiple choice and our students do well on these. The open response questions require multiple steps and careful reading of the question. Here are two examples:

#### 1) Gr. 3 Math

Ryan is given the following problem to solve:

"There are 30 maple trees on a farm, half the trees have been tapped for sap. What are the total number of trees that have been tapped for sap?"

Ryan gets an answer of 18 trees. Is his answer correct? Students need to explain their thinking. (Students need to figure out the answer AND be able to explain how they got the answer in pictures, numbers and words)

#### 2) Gr. 6 Language – After reading an article:

Explain why Dorothy may have had so many different jobs between 1936 and 1963. Use information from the text and your own ideas to support your answer. (Here students need to carefully read the question and use information from the text and their own experiences to fully answer the question)

To encourage our students to use their higher level thinking skills our teachers have attended a number of professional development opportunities. This is a school wide initiative to provide our students with a variety of learning opportunities.

#### What can parents do?

At home, please encourage your children to read and write as much as they can. Follow this up with a discussion about what they are reading or writing – share your own reading with them. For math, you could have them explain how they know an answer is right or how they got the answer. This would be very helpful. Thank you.

*Submitted by Lisa Watt, Vice-Principal*

## WILKY'S TRASH TACKLE TEAM

Wilkinson, with one of the best school yards in Toronto, got even better last fall with the formation of the Wilky Trash Tackle Team. The team – a rotating roster of grade 6 students – use "litter lifters" to pick up garbage. The litter is "counted" and if the yard has been kept clean throughout the week – meaning there is little to pick up – Ms. Sterioff grants the students a celebratory lengthened recess once a month.

While community members contribute to the problem, a garbage audit I did with Madame Mahovich's class several years ago showed that there was a lot of "kid garbage". This program sends the message that if we make a mess, we should clean it up and it is one that students have embraced.