

attention. If your child needs dental follow-up, you will receive a letter explaining what needs to be done. If you can't afford dental care, your child can get free care. It's important to have your child's teeth checked by a dental professional every 6 to 12 months.

### Lice Check - October 23

On Thursday October 23rd, the school will be screening all students and staff for lice. If a live louse or multiple nits are found in your child's hair, you will be asked to take your child home immediately for treatment. That is simply to prevent the lice from getting onto another child's head. If only a couple of nits are found in your child's hair, you will be informed by letter that day and asked to remove the nits at home that night. If an affected child is in your child's class, you will be informed by letter that day. Since Ms. Watt started holding regular lice checks at Wilkinson in 2006, the number of cases has gone down dramatically -- from 7 or 8 cases per class, down to about 5 cases in the entire school!

Lice can spread from person to person when hair or headgear come into contact. It's impossible to avoid all such contact, but there are a few simple precautions we can all take. Remind your children to never share hats, helmets, combs, brushes, hair ribbons or headscarves. If lice are found on you or your child, after removing nits and lice from your hair, remember to vacuum all surfaces that may have come in contact with your head, and wash all clothes and linen that may have been exposed.

The Toronto Board considers lice a nuisance rather than a health risk. But most parents agree it's better to get rid of them before they spread to other kids or parents. Experts disagree on the best way to do this. Some people choose to use chemical treatments, and pharmacists can give advice on which ones seem to work best. But all chemical treatments carry potential health risks. Some people swear by traditional oil and vinegar or mayonnaise treatments, while others do routine checking and combing with special lice combs, such as the LiceMeister. Talk to Ms. Watt if you need more information. You can also consult: [www.headlice.org](http://www.headlice.org).

### 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, Julie Found, John Hykel, Alison Motluk, Karen Wiseman.

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# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

October 2008

Published by the Wilkinson School Council

### principal's message

Welcome back to everyone. We hope you had a restful summer and are ready for the first term. It's been a busy month and several changes have been made to the staff list since school began.

Firstly, we added a seventh kindergarten unit to the main floor. It is a morning class and will be taught by Ms. Whitfield (who taught JK/SK last year). Ms. Zafred will now be teaching our primary special education class in the mornings. The Board has not yet confirmed who will be teaching the afternoon JK/SK class so I will write a letter specifically to the parents involved as soon as I have been notified.

We are all very relieved that apart from these minor adjustments, we did not have to endure a reorganization of classes and staff.

Our school will be used as a polling station for the election on **Tuesday October 14th**. Voting will occur in the gym.

On **Wednesday October 15th** there will be a performance for grades 1-3 by Cosima Grunsky entitled "Cozy Music". The performance will take place in the gym at 1:00 pm. Please join us if you are available.

Picture Day will be on **Tuesday October 28th** and **Wednesday October 29th** (if needed). We will put out reminders closer to the date.

Our Hallowe'en parade and assembly will take

place on **Friday October 31st** at 1:00pm. We encourage you to allow your child to come in costume that day however please refrain from using props that are replicas of weapons.

There will be a number of events taking place in October in addition to what I've outlined above that are talked about in this newsletter in the Important Dates and Upcoming Events sections. Please note that **October 24th** will be a P.A. Day across the TDSB and there will be no school that day.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call Ms. Watt or myself at the school. We look forward to seeing you on Curriculum Night!

**Tanya Sterioff**  
principal

### important dates

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Wed., Oct. 1:</b>   | Eid al Fitr, Ramadan ends  |
| <b>Thurs., Oct. 2:</b> | Council Nomination forms due   |
| <b>Fri., Oct. 3</b>    | Pizza lunch (for those who prepaid)<br>Movie Night: King Fu Panda @ 6pm in the Gym |
| <b>Tues., Oct. 7:</b>  | Curriculum Night & School Council Elections @ 6:45pm                               |
| <b>Mon., Oct. 20:</b>  | Council Meeting 7pm  |
| <b>Fri., Oct. 24:</b>  | P.A. Day - no school   |
| <b>Tues., Oct 28:</b>  | Picture Day - Smile!   |
| <b>Fri., Oct 31:</b>   | Hallowe'en Parade @ 1:00pm   |

## important information

### School Council Nominations

Wilkinson is fortunate to have an active school council with many parent members from our school community. Some parents stay on the council for a few years but each year members move on and we want to ensure our council remains vibrant and representative of our school population so new parent members are always welcome and encouraged to join.

If you are interested in participating as a voting member of the Council, please complete and return the nomination form enclosed with this newsletter (you can also download one from our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca)) by October 2nd. Please note that you may nominate yourself. 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.

For an overview of the role, responsibilities and composition of school councils, please refer to the Q&As on the reverse of the nomination form [extract from Regulations 612/613/00 of the Education Act which governs school councils].

### Why join the Council?

Well, we asked some current members for their views on what they get out of being on the Council and how they feel it makes a difference.

*"I joined the council because initially I simply wanted to help out. I didn't have any grand designs to change the way that my kids were taught. The more involved I became the more respect I developed not only for the teachers but for a lot of parents whose efforts have made a big difference to the school. I've enjoyed my time on the council mainly because of the constructive and respectful dynamic that we've established and the friendships that have developed as a result."*

- John Hykel

*"I joined the parent council because as a parent and librarian I love information, I like to search for it, find it and question it. So being on the*

*parent council put me in a 'frontline' place where I could find out all the information I wanted of my child's school and education."*

- Karen Wiseman

*"I joined council because I had opinions about how some things around the school could be improved. Being a council member gives me a chance to shape my children's school. It has also helped me better behind-the-scenes understanding of why certain things happen the way they do."*

- Alison Motluk

*"I find that people just generally want to be aware of what's going on and so communicating effectively is one of my passions. By getting involved with the council I've been able to work at improving communications between the school and home through our newsletters and Web site. I also love getting to know other parents and the staff at the school."*

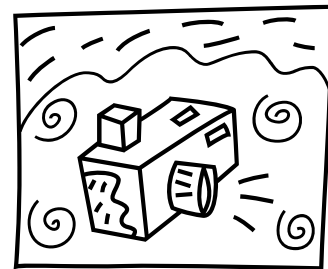
- Carol Bennett

### School Council Election (Parent Members)

**Tuesday October 7th @ 6:45pm** in the Gym  
Before you head off to your child's classroom on Curriculum Night, we ask that you stay in the gym for a few minutes for the school council election. Parents will be handed a ballot with the nominees on your way in - the election only lasts a few minutes.

## Picture Day!

Wednesday, October 28th  
AND  
Thursday, October 29th



Don't forget to brush your hair  
and brush your teeth!

## fundraising

Every year parents help enrich students' experience and learning environment at Wilkinson by contributing both their efforts and financial support. The school council raises money each year to fund additional educational activities and resources to supplement the curriculum, purchase equipment and enhance the schoolyard. Traditionally we have kicked off fundraising efforts with chocolate sales each fall. This year, in response to concerns about having nut products in the school, we will not be selling chocolates. Instead, we are asking families (yes, this can include grandparents too!) to support the council's fundraising efforts through a direct donation campaign.

### Direct Donation Campaign

The council's goal is to raise \$5,000 through donations to spend on improvements in the schoolyard - \$2,500 towards a play structure in the Kindergarten play area and \$2,500 toward other play structures and enhancements, for example additional basketball hoops, in the larger playground.

Please see the Direct Donation form accompanying this newsletter or on the Web site ([www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca)) for more information. Tax receipts can be provided for donations over \$25. If every family were able to donate \$30 to \$50 we would achieve our entire fundraising goal for the year! We thank you in advance for your consideration and support of the council's fundraising efforts.

## arts & music

### Wilkinson's Choirs

The Junior and Primary Choirs started on September 18th. The Junior Choir rehearses every Thursday from 12:00-12:40pm, and the Primary Choir rehearses every Thursday from 12:45-1:30pm. Also, all Orff groups started the week of September 16th. Students were invited to sign up for a group. They had their choice of Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays at 12:00pm. All music groups are off to a great start!

## library news

### Library Open Late

The library will be staying open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:00pm for students in grades 4, 5 and 6. This time is to give them additional opportunities to return and check out books, do research for projects and/or to complete homework.

It is important that the students let their caregiver know if they will be staying late so please remind your child about this beforehand.

### International School Library Day

There will be an open house event again this year for parents to celebrate International School Library Day on October 27th. A sign up sheet will be sent home with students in October. Come join Mrs. Found to explore the wonderful resources in our school library and discover ways you can help your child at home too!

### Leading to Reading @ Pape Danforth Library

Leading To Reading is a free program offered by Toronto Public Libraries for children who are reading below their grade level or need help with their homework. Children are encouraged to learn and practice their skills in a fun environment. It is open to children in Grades 1 to 6 who can communicate in English. A volunteer is paired with a child and they meet at the library for one hour each week.

Applications are at the 1st floor desk at the Pape Danforth Library. Sessions are held Thursdays from 4-5pm, 5-6pm or 6-7pm from October 2008 to May 2009. For more information call Cathy Thomson at 416-396-8601.

## health info

### Dental Checks - October 6 to 10

During the week of October 6th, two dental hygienists will visit the school to check all Wilkinson students' teeth. This is to catch any problems that have gone unnoticed and need