



## Wilkinson School Community Council Annual General Meeting

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday June 17 2013	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Wilkinson School, Room 3
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### Overview of the School Council

- Our role is to:
  - Encourage parental and community participation and input into school activities and programs that improve student achievement,
  - Maintain and foster the partnership between staff and parents,
  - Keep parents and community members informed about changes in education policies and programs and their effect on Wilkinson,
  - Raise and distribute funds for Wilkinson School.
- We meet monthly to provide input to the principal and staff on issues that affect the school and our children.

### Highlights for the 2012-2013 School Year

- This year was a different type of year, with a lot of attention placed on the Teacher's withdrawal of extra curricular activities. Council members though staying informed and providing input where possible did manage to stay focus on carrying out our responsibilities and the activities we look forward to bringing to our community. We are very fortunate to have such a committed group of parents who consistently came out to the meetings and participate in rich, enthusiastic and respectful discussions.
- Here are a few highlights of the Council's accomplishments this year and how they added value to the school and contributed to the fulfillment of our mandate:

#### **Extra Curricular Activities (ECA):** *filling a gap in services*

- The absence of extra curricular activities for the children this year had council members step up to the plate and conduct some on their own ECAs.
- Starting late January, a series of ECA were held on Friday evenings, allowing kids of all ages and abilities to come out and try their hand at Dodge Ball, Ball Hockey, Badminton, Volleyball, Basket Ball, and other fun games.
- This was a very popular concept that it might become a regular parent council funded activity going forward.

#### **Wil-Kitchen:** *connecting parents through cooking*

- Through another TDSB Parents Reaching Out Grant, Council hosted three sessions on Health Eating ran by Lisa Shamai, a caterer in our community who's interest is in the relationship between the food we eat and our health.
- Wil-Kitchen also hosts a Fun Fair prep night, where delicious salads and cheese triangles get prepared for the day of event.
- Wil-Kitchen has been an important part of our parent outreach as they bring together a mix of new and longer-term parents of diverse backgrounds and abilities to connect and learn from each other.

#### **Safety Review:** Ensuring we provide a safe learning environment

- Though the committee has been informal, council has provided recommendations regarding areas of concern. The principle ordered new signage to be installed at the main entrances to the grounds, reminding the public that the grounds are private property during school hours.
- We are also getting cameras and a lock placed on the front doors of the school, to ensure like most other schools, that people being let into the school, check in with the Office prior to proceeding to where they need to go.



**Fun Fair:** *Wilkinson's day to give back to the kids*

- This is the Council's biggest fundraiser and community event of the year. Though parents were tired from this year's political strife, the Fun Fair was deemed to be even more important than in years past as we didn't want to disappoint the kids on this front as well. Though we started planning late in the season, this year's event was great and has become known as the Year We Had Enough Volunteers!
- This year's event saw a new Fund Raising/Community Service come out of it. The Selling of Ready to Cook Tandoori Chicken. The rave reviews from people this year lends it to maybe become an event on its own!
- Promotes Wilkinson in the community and enables us to provide services and programming to the students and fulfill funding requests from the staff.
- Vital to parent outreach as it gathers parents together to work on one major project.

**Movie Nights:** *flicks for fun and fundraising*

- Council held many movie nights this year which are community events that turn a profit for our fundraising initiatives. We choose films that appeal to a wide range of audience.
- This event demonstrates the confidence the principal and staff entrust in the council to use the school premises regularly and manage all aspects of these events. This is significant for us as it fosters and maintains respect between parents and the administration.

**Sweetheart Sale:** *controlled chaos for one's sweetheart*

- Council held its annual Sweetheart bake sale in February. This is a much anticipated event for the kids.
- This year's event was successful from the looks on the kids faces, as well as from an operational and profit perspective. I think the volunteers have the event down pat now!

**Pumpkinfest:** *enjoying the fall and our community*

- A community event held in the fall that includes selling pumpkins and other items. Though this event brings in some funds from the sale of pumpkins, the focus is to bring the community together and to enjoy the fall weather.
- Free coffee, apple cider and baked goodies shows that community activities don't always have to be about raising funds.

**Pizza Lunches:** *how excited the kids are on those Fridays*

- The last Friday of the month has become to be known as Pizza Days.
- This offering by dedicated parents is no small feat.
- Bringing kids together to share in a lunch is really nice to observe.

**Communications:** *keeping parents informed*

- Council prepares monthly newsletters that are sent home along with special notices of events to keep parents informed and engaged in what is happening at the school, and with education at the TDSB and provincial level.
- We have a Web site that may have been a bit neglected this year. Sorry about that. It should be kept current with upcoming activities, school and council information, forms and links to other resources.
- Ongoing coordination and partnership with the administration and staff to communicate effectively to parents.
- This year we invited to our January 2013 meeting, John Smith ETTO, and Katherine Wareham, Wilkinson's Union representative. The goal was to understand the Union's current stance and what to expect in the near future regarding teacher's involvement with extra-curricular activities. Though this invitation was met with some controversy, it was well attended and better enabled parents to understand what was being said to teachers, and the current environment they are working under.

**Arts:** *developing appreciation through painting and performances*

- This year Council for Grades 1 to 6 to have 2 performances paid for by council and the AM and PM Kindergartens had 1 each.
- The performances this year included Native Dancers, Brazilian Dancers, Kim and Jerry Brody who are folk singers, and a puppet play.



- Bringing the arts into the school ensures an opportunity is given to all students to develop an appreciation of artistic expression in various forms.

**Garden Party Clean-Up:** *families keeping Wilkinson “green & tidy”*

- An eco-focused, community effort to keep our school yard green and relevant
- Part of the Council’s ongoing support of the Learning Garden Revitalization
- This year there were no Council Members on this committee.

**Financial Highlights**

- Several fundraisers were held this year: Direct Donation campaign, Pumpkinfest, Movie Nights, Pizza Lunches, Sweetheart Sale, Fun Fair and Fund Script.
- Council provided full or partial funding for:
  - Scientists in the School
  - Field trips
  - Performances for all grades
  - Blue Spruce/Silver Birch reading programs
  - School yard greening initiatives - Learning Garden Revitalization, Veggie Garden
  - Graduation awards
- As part of a financial commitment from prior years, Council is completing their final payments on: the kindergarten play ground and the risers for the gym.
- Full financial details will be presented separately by the Treasurer