



2020-2021 Wilkinson School Community Council Annual Report - June 1, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community,

The 2020-2021 school year was difficult. Wilkinson staff worked tirelessly to implement new COVID-19 protocols aimed at keeping students, staff, and families safe. With the discovery of a few positive cases, specific classrooms pivoted to online learning for short periods in the winter and spring. March Break moved to April, and following April Break, Ontario public schools were closed due to a rise in COVID-19 cases and variants of concern. Remote learning was again implemented across the province.

Even though globally, many people have been feeling isolated, anxious, overburdened, and exhausted, many in our community were still looking for ways to help others and the school. Although we were not able to do much in terms of programming, events, and activities this year, it was wonderful to see so many parents and caregivers actively participating in our online council meetings and brainstorming ideas for community engagement and connection. The Wilkinson School Community Council (WSCC) welcomed two new Co-Chairs, a new Treasurer, and several new members. Wilkinson welcomed a handful of new staff and Lianne Dixon as our substitute Vice Principal.

Unfortunately, over the last two years, we have been significantly limited in our ability to raise funds for the school. Due to this year's difficult circumstances, we decided to focus our efforts on community building, by bringing various virtual programs to our families free of charge. And, although our library was closed and we were without a librarian for the year, we were able to host online book fairs and enhance our already impressive collection of anti-racism books. This book purchase is the first step in our "I Belong" initiative, which will direct funds towards projects which focus on equity and anti-racism. Wilkinson families looking for ways to support the school financially should please note that direct donations can be made at any time, are always greatly appreciated, and go directly towards programming and activities to benefit our students (simply choose Wilkinson PS from the ["School" dropdown list](#)).

This year has allowed us to pause and take stock, and we hope to introduce new and interesting ideas to our community next year. Program and event ideas and suggestions are encouraged and welcome. When we're able to run them again, our community events and fundraisers will be more important than ever. This report serves as a summary of the Parent Council's accomplishments over the course of this school year, as well as a description of the ways in which our activities fulfilled our mandate.

We would like to thank the Wilkinson staff for their dedication and incredibly hard work this year. We would also like to thank the Wilkinson families for their flexibility, support, and diligence. We all worked together to support our students and each other, and we kept our case count low. That's something to be proud of!



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About School Councils

School councils are advisory organizations that strive to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. This is achieved by putting forth recommendations to the Principal and Vice Principal of the school and to the school board, as well as by communicating with the school community.

Another important responsibility of the Council is fundraising. Fundraising proceeds are used to fund projects such as arts programming, technology in the classroom, and the Scientist in School program in accordance with school board policies. Please refer to the 2020-2021 budget provided at the end of this report for insight into the finances of the Council. The Year End Financial statement is presented at the final meeting of the current school year.

All Council meetings are open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community. To facilitate increased participation, free childcare is provided for all in-person meetings.

Meeting minutes and financial records are available for public inspection at the school website:
<http://wilkinsonps.org/about/council/>

2020-2021 WSCC Elected Members

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the Council this year.

The members of the 2020-2021 Wilkinson School Community Council are:

Elected Executive:

Lisa Zivontsis (Co-Chair)
Angeli Mehta (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)

Staff/Community Representatives:

Kim Jensen (Principal)
Lianne Dixon (Vice Principal)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)

Elected Members:

Amy Cole
Rob Jefferson
Stephanie Lamb
Brenda Ohngemach
Fernanda Perdikaris
Lindsay Reimers
Shirin Shahrokni
Norah Shaughnessy
Deborah Shub
Jennifer Stiff

Chantal Sweeting
Dayna Tekatch
Rose Ullah
Erin Vaillancourt
Ryan Wozniak



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2020-2021 WSCC Meetings

The Council held virtual meetings on the following dates:

September 21, 2020

October 26, 2020

November 30, 2020

January 11, 2021

February 1, 2021

March 22, 2021

May 10, 2021

June 7, 2021

What does the WSCC do for the Wilkinson Community?

School councils are governed by **Ontario Regulation 612**, which sets out the purpose, membership and election requirements for school councils. Under section 2(1), the purpose of the school council is “through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”

School councils are responsible for:

Sharing information with parents and the community and seeking their input on matters the Council is discussing. Some examples of how this was accomplished in 2019-2020 are below.

The Communications Committee:

- Has continued to update the school community via our email distribution system, website, Facebook page and Twitter account and the feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Notified new families about these channels by posting information on our website in conjunction with posts about Welcome to Kindergarten Night and Kindergarten registration. We also created a flyer outlining this information which was emailed to all 2020-2021 Kindergarten and new Grade 4 Extended French families by the school office.
- Makes sure to respond to all inquiries received via the Council email address in a timely and helpful manner.
- Has been working to ensure that our community understands where the money raised by the Council is spent by giving examples when we send out program and event information and by posting our budget information on our website.
- Continues to work on ways to advertise our shopping fundraisers. By shopping online through our dedicated links, families can earn money for the school without paying anything extra. Uptake continues to be small even though there is no risk to the shopper. We will continue to advertise them and hope that a larger percentage of our school population begins to use them.



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- Compiled a list of COVID-related links and resources which resides on our website's Links and Resources page.
- Is continually working on ways to reach more Wilkinson families and engage the community.

The WSCC:

- Has continued with the legacy planning documentation program that was started three years ago to capture details related to Council-run events, processes, and school committees. The aim is to record information so that our operations can continue from year to year as easily as possible. This program is a work in progress and will continue over the next number of years.

Providing advice to the Principal and to the school board on issues such as school year calendars, strategies to improve school performance, codes of conduct and dress, curriculum priorities, safe arrival programs, community use of schools and community programs provided at the school, health and safety issues, selection criteria for Principals and Board policies that will affect the school. Some examples include:

- The WSCC Executive and Communications Committee continue to work on co-ordinating school year calendars with the school administration.
- The WSCC was unable to offer our school-wide lice check program this year due to COVID-19. The funding for this program comes from both the Council budget and from money contributed by families through our Lice Check Fund.
- Members of the WSCC are representing the parent population on a newly formed Schoolyard Revitalization Committee. Two Council members sit on this committee (they have children in the lower, middle, and upper grades at the school). The project plan was supposed to be finalized in April, but it has been delayed due to COVID-19.
- Our Safe School Committee was unable to meet this year in person, but several safety issues were discussed at Council meetings.
- Two members of the WSCC Executive met with Principal Jensen to give feedback into the proposed staffing model for next year. That model will likely change several times before schools open in the fall.
- We launched a committee which is working on an "I Belong" initiative, which will direct funds towards projects which focus on equity and anti-racism.
- The WSCC has provided funding to support curriculum priorities. See below for more information.



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School councils are actively involved in organizing community building and fundraising events and activities for the school community. Examples of activities organized by the WSCC are:

- The annual Sweetheart Bake Sale, Learning Garden Clean Up, Fun Fair, Fall Fest, monthly Pizza Lunches, Wood Car Derby, and Movie Nights could not take place this year due to COVID-19.
- We ran two free virtual Wilkitchen events (one for younger students and one for older students) hosted by a Wilkinson parent who is a registered dietician.
- We organized and funded seven Scientists in School virtual science workshops. The workshops were free for participants.
- As our library was closed and we were without a librarian this year, we organized two online Scholastic book fairs, raising over \$600 in scholastic rewards for the school. Purchases were delivered directly to the customers by Scholastic.
- We invited students to submit book reviews and recommendations to share with others via our emails, website, and social media.
- We organized a free virtual trivia night for all interested families.
- We invited families to connect around Halloween by posting photos of their carved pumpkins and costumes on our social media in a virtual costume and pumpkin parade.
- We hosted two virtual coffee gatherings for Wilkinson parents and caregivers to connect with one another.
- We partnered with several other school councils to bring a virtual Canadian Roots Exchange speaker to our community. The topic was "Wampum Education: Teaching about the historical importance of the Haudenosaunee wampum, its relevance to First Nations culture, and its use as a tool for negotiations with European settlers. We will focus on the Dish With One Spoon treaty and Treaty 13A which cover the land on which Toronto abides".
- The school is currently enrolled in the Amazon Associates program and four shopping fundraisers: Mabel's Labels, FlipGive, Oliver's Labels, and CafePress. A commission is earned each time a person shops through our dedicated links.
- The WSCC created a Lice Check Fund to gather contributions towards our school-wide lice check program. Contributions were not collected this year due to COVID-19.
- Our Direct Donation campaign allows people to donate to our events and programs online. This year we had planned to tie the campaign into our schoolyard revitalization plan and our new OPAL program. Because the final meetings for the revitalization project have been postponed and our school closed before the nice weather hit (both due to COVID-19), we did not run our Direct Donations campaign. Direct donations are always appreciated and can be made any time through the [School Cash Online](#) website.



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How Does The WSCC Support Subjects And Learning At Our School?

A very brief overview of Ontario's elementary curriculum is provided below along with the ways that the WSCC has supported the subjects and learning at Wilkinson.

(Note: Information has been derived directly from Toronto District School Board and Ontario's Ministry of Education websites.)

The Ontario Curriculum: Elementary

The Arts

Education in the arts is essential to students' intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth and well-being. Experiences in the arts - in dance, drama, music, and visual arts - play a valuable role in helping students to achieve their potential as learners and to participate fully in their community and in society as a whole. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: The Arts](#))

The WSCC Arts Committee supported this curriculum through the following programs:

- We were unable to support this curriculum this year due to COVID-19.

Wilkinson Music Program

Wilkinson has an enriched music program, including specialties in Band, Strings, ORFF Choir and Ukulele. Wilkinson is also the host of the [Doane USchool](#) and "Uke Day" Ukulele Festival.

The WSCC has supported this curriculum by:

- We were unable to support this curriculum this year due to COVID-19.

French As A Second Language

By studying a second language, students learn a great deal about interacting effectively with others, because they have to focus closely on what it is they are trying to communicate; what they need others to understand; how their oral or written expression is received and interpreted; and what others are trying to communicate to them. As students learn to exchange information and ideas in another language, they also learn about other ways of thinking, other ways of doing things, and other ways of living – in short, about other people and other cultures. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 4-8: French as a Second Language](#))

The WSCC has supported this curriculum through:

- We were unable to support this curriculum this year due to COVID-19; however, we did organize two online Scholastic book fairs and French books were available for purchase.



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Health and Physical Education

Students' health and well-being contribute to their ability to learn in all disciplines, including health and physical education, and that learning in turn contributes to their overall well-being. The health and physical education curriculum engages students in learning about the factors that contribute to health and well-being and in building skills to live healthy, active lives. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health Education & Physical Education](#))

The WSCC has supported this curriculum by:

- We were unable to support this curriculum this year due to COVID-19.

Language

Language is the basis for thinking, communicating, and learning. Students need language skills in order to comprehend ideas and information, to interact socially, to inquire into areas of interest and study, and to express themselves clearly and demonstrate their learning. Learning to communicate with clarity and precision, orally, in writing, and through a variety of media, will help students to thrive in the world beyond school. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Language](#))

The WSCC has supported this curriculum by:

- We were not able to fund the Silver Birch Reading Program this year due to COVID-19.
- As our library was closed and we were without a librarian this year, we organized two online Scholastic book fairs, raising over \$600 in scholastic rewards for the school. Purchases were delivered directly to the customers by Scholastic.
- We invited students to submit book reviews and recommendations to share with others via our emails, website, and social media.
- We provided funding to enhance our already impressive collection of anti-racism books. This book purchase is the first step in our "I Belong" initiative, which will direct funds towards projects which focus on equity and anti-racism.
- The WSCC usually provides funding for the Visiting Authors program, but no authors visited the school this year.



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Mathematics

An information and technology-based society requires individuals who are able to think critically about complex issues, analyse and adapt to new situations, solve problems of various kinds, and communicate their thinking effectively. The study of mathematics equips students with knowledge, skills, and habits of mind that are essential for successful and rewarding participation in such a society. To learn mathematics in a way that will serve them well throughout their lives, students need classroom experiences that help them develop mathematical understanding; learn important facts, skills, and procedures; develop the ability to apply the processes of mathematics; and acquire a positive attitude towards mathematics. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Mathematics](#))

Science and Technology

Science and technology are closely linked, especially through the skills of scientific inquiry, technological problem solving, and communication. The world as we know it today has been affected in many important ways by science and technology. For example, science has radically altered and expanded our understanding of Earth and space, of the workings of the human mind and body, and of the ways in which living organisms interact; and technology has revolutionized the way we communicate and has made vast changes in our lives through the discovery of new drugs and materials. It is important, therefore, that students see science and technology in this wider context - as endeavours with important consequences for people and other living things - and that they learn to connect their knowledge of science and technology to the world beyond the school. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Science & Technology](#))

The WSCC has supported the math, science and technology curriculum through:

- We organized and funded seven Scientists in School virtual science workshops. The workshops were free for participants.
- We organized a free virtual trivia night for all interested families.
- We ran two free virtual Wilkitchen events (one for younger students and one for older students) hosted by a Wilkinson parent who is a registered dietician.
- We were unable to offer field trip subsidies this year due to COVID-19.



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Social Studies, History and Geography

In social studies, history, and geography, students develop skills, knowledge and understanding, and attitudes that will serve them both inside and outside the classroom, including in their communities and the world of work. The focus of teaching and learning in the social studies, history, and geography curriculum is the development of transferable skills that students need in order to acquire and apply knowledge and understanding. Students apply these skills in a variety of contexts to examine information critically, to assess the significance of events and processes, to develop an understanding of and respect for different points of view, and to reach supportable conclusions and propose solutions to problems. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Social Studies](#))

The WSCC has supported this curriculum through:

- We were unable to offer field trip subsidies this year due to COVID-19.
- We organized a free virtual trivia night for all interested families.
- We provided funding to enhance our already impressive collection of anti-racism books. This book purchase is the first step in our “I Belong” initiative, which will direct funds towards projects which focus on equity and anti-racism.
- Our Education Committee was reinstated this year. The first project is a joint venture with the Greening and Grounds Committee. In partnership with local indigenous organizations, we are creating a project to teach our students and families about indigenous agriculture. Information can be [found here](#).

Aboriginal Studies Across the Curriculum

Students are introduced to the study of Aboriginal peoples' histories, perspectives and experiences across the curriculum in all grade levels. The approach to program delivery is cross-curricular and includes language arts, social studies, the arts, science, as well as other subject areas.

Grades 3 and 6 have specific units of study in the social studies curriculum that incorporate a more substantial amount of educational content related to Aboriginal peoples. ([Aboriginal Studies Across the Curriculum](#)).

The WSCC has supported this curriculum through:

- Due to COVID-19, there were no field trips this year.
- Our Education Committee was reinstated this year. The first project is a joint venture with the Greening and Grounds Committee. In partnership with local indigenous organizations, we are creating a project to teach our students and families about indigenous agriculture. Information can be [found here](#).



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- We partnered with several other school councils to bring a virtual Canadian Roots Exchange speaker to our community. The topic was “Wampum Education: Teaching about the historical importance of the Haudenosaunee wampum, its relevance to First Nations culture, and its use as a tool for negotiations with European settlers. We will focus on the Dish With One Spoon treaty and Treaty 13A which cover the land on which Toronto abides”.

EcoSchools

[Ontario EcoSchools](#) is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12 that helps school communities develop both ecological knowledge and environmental practices in order to become environmentally responsible and to reduce the environmental footprint of our schools. Wilkinson currently has Platinum EcoSchools status.

The WSCC has supported this program through:

- Cutting back on printing where possible. Although, we were unable to run most of our programs this year due to COVID-19, some examples of this from last year include:
 - Converting Pizza Lunch registration to an entirely online process unless paper forms are needed and requested by individuals.
 - Introducing online registration for the Wood Car Derby.
 - Enabling e-transfer donations to the Lice Check Fund.
 - Creating a significantly smaller Fun Fair information package
 - Planning to send the Direct Donations campaign electronically with no hard copies.
- Planning to organize another textile recycling fundraiser through Textile Waste diversion (due to COVID-19, this has been postponed).
- Planning to continue organizing the Learning Garden clean up event. Due to COVID-19, the event could not be held; however, our Education Committee was reinstated this year. The first project is a joint venture with the Greening and Grounds Committee. In partnership with local indigenous organizations, we are creating a project to teach our students and families about indigenous agriculture. Information can be [found here](#).
- Once we are allowed to run events again, we plan to continue: researching and implementing ways to eliminate or drastically reduce single-use plastics and environmentally unfriendly materials at our events; providing field trip subsidies for students to visit or be visited by organizations such as the Island School, Toronto Urban Studies Centre (TUSC), and Round the Bend Farm, asking students and families to bring reusable containers to events to reduce the amount of plates and food packaging we need to supply; and to organize a Halloween costume swap and used book sale.



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Year End Financials to Date

Please find below the Council's current financial details. These details will change as a result of any funding requests approved at the June meeting. At the final meeting of the current Parent Council in September 2021, the Treasurer will present the final financial details for the year ended August 31, 2021.

We hope that this report gives readers an understanding of the Council's activities and the amount of time and effort that goes into each one. We are truly thankful for the support of the Wilkinson families, staff, and school community, which allow us to bring so many programs, activities and initiatives into the school each year. We're grateful for the involvement of Wilkinson families who participate by attending events and Council meetings, by volunteering on committees and at events, and by donating items and funds.

If you'd like to join the 2021-2022 Wilkinson School Community Council, information and nomination forms will be emailed out and posted on our website at the beginning of the next school year.

Have a happy and healthy summer!

Wilkinson School Community Council Executive

		2020-2021		(For Comparison)
Expenses: School Programming		Actuals	Approved Budget	2019-2020 Budget
YE Transfer		\$4,510.28	\$4,555.00	
Scientists in the School (19/20)	\$2,255.00		\$0.00	
Yearbook (19/20)	\$800.00		\$0.00	
Graduation (Plaques, etc) (19/20)	\$455.28		\$0.00	
Silver Birch Program	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	
Field Trip Subsidies	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Scientists in the School		\$1,375.00	\$1,400.00	\$4,000.00
Field Trip Subsidy		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Visiting Authors		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Silver Birch Program		\$0.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00
Graduation		\$455.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Yearbook		\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Ukelele Program		\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Performing Arts & Visual Arts		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Garden Educator		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,240.00
Council Operations		\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Photocopying	\$0.00			
Babysitting	\$0.00			
Banking	\$0.00			
Teachers' Appreciation Event		\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Wil-kitchen		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Greening Initiatives		\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Emergency Fund		\$0.00	\$200.00	
OPAL storage container		\$0.00	\$3,000.00	
Expenses for Programs/Initiatives		\$7,140.28	\$15,855.00	\$26,640.00

Expenses: Council Events / Initiatives		Actuals	Approved Budget	2019-2020 Budget
Fun Fair		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Pizza Lunches		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Movie Night		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Fall Fest		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Sweetheart Bake Sale		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Car Derby		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Eco Pouches Purchase		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,333.00
Lice Checks		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00
Communications Website + Apps		\$93.03	\$850.00	\$900.00
Google Suite	\$93.03			
Web hosting + Domain	\$0.00			
Signup.com	\$0.00			
Council Activities Expenses		\$93.03	\$850.00	\$23,933.00
New Funding Requests				
Library Books		\$252.22		1 book left to order.
Indigenous Learning Speaker		\$50.00		
New Funding Requests		\$302.22	0	
Total Expenses		\$7,535.53	\$16,705.00	\$50,573.00

Income From Events/Initiatives (Gross)		Actuals	Approved Budget	2019-2020 Budget
Fun Fair		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,000.00
Pizza Lunches		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00
Movie Night		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Fall Fest		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Sweetheart Bake Sale		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Car Derby		\$393.85	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
Eco Pouches Sales		\$26.00	\$0.00	2 sold in Sept. by April
Lice Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Shopping Fundraisers		\$586.72	\$300.00	\$181.38 from Mabel's pending
Direct Donations		\$950.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fundraising Income (gross)		\$1,956.57	\$1,300.00	\$43,600.00
Net Income		-\$5,578.96	-\$15,405.00	

MOVING TO SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Bank Balance (June 1, 2021)	\$21,042.71
Year-End Transfer*	-7,392.50
Indigenous Speaker	-\$50.00
Mabel's Labels Re-Issued Cheque	\$181.38
Amazon Re-Issued Payments	\$556.10
Estimated Bank Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$14,337.69

*The 2020/2021 Year-End Transfer Includes:

From the 2019/20 School Year	
Scientists in the School (19/20)	\$2,255.00
Yearbook (19/20)	\$800.00
Graduation (Plaques, etc) (19/20)	\$455.28
Silver Birch Program (19/20)	\$1,000.00
Sub Total	\$4,510.28
From the 2020/21 School Year	
Scientists in the School	\$1,375.00
Graduation	\$455.00
Yearbook	\$800.00
Sub Total	\$2,630.00

Anti-Racism Library Books	\$252.22
Grand Total	\$7,392.50