



2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council Annual Report – June 5, 2023 -DRAFT REPORT-

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community:

The 2022-2023 school year was packed with activity! The Wilkinson School Community Council (WSSC) not only welcomed a new Co-Chair but also a handful of new members who helped to bring a fresh perspective to our discussions. Our focus this year was on building and rebuilding. We worked to foster connections within our community after so many years apart, build awareness of equity and inclusion issues, and fundraise to support student programs. It was wonderful to finally be able to run events and programs like we did before the pandemic!

We were a smaller group again this year, and it was certainly not easy to pick up where we left off before the pandemic. But with help of volunteers, we worked as hard as possible to bring back the events our students had been missing and support our school community in any possible. This report serves as a summary of the 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.

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 library books in accordance with school board policies. Please refer to the 2022-2023 financial report which will be provided at the end of the final version of this report for insight into the finances of the Council.

All Council meetings are open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community. Between September and April, we met via Zoom videoconferencing. In May and June, we tested a model where some people attended in person and others continued to attend via Zoom.

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



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2022-2023 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 2022-2023 Wilkinson School Community Council are:

Elected Executive:

Dayna Tekatch (Co-Chair)
Beth Martin (Co-Chair)
Vince Chan (Treasurer)
Shanna Breslin (Secretary)
Zoya McGroarty (Secretary To Be)

Elected Members:

Emily Davidson
Stephanie Lamb
Angeli Mehta
Brenda Ohngemach
Nicholas Palmer
Lindsay Reimers
Sharon Scanlon
Pratik Shah
Deborah Shub
Jennifer Stiff
Lisa Zivontsis

Faculty/Staff/Community Representatives:

Liz Albrecht-Bisset (Principal)
Anthea Moreau (Dandylion)
Kostas Kotsampouikidis (Teacher Rep)

Thank you for your, time, work, and energy this year! For those leaving us at the end of June, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

2022-2023 WSCC Meetings

The Council held meetings on the following dates:

September 19, 2022
October 3, 2022
November 7, 20122
January 16, 2023
February 13, 2023
March 20, 2023
May 1, 2023
June 5, 2023



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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 during 2022-2023 are:

- The Communications Committee has continued to update the school community via our email distribution system, [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [Twitter feed](#), and the feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive. This year, we made an effort to post more events on our Facebook page, and this has resulted in increased page activity.
- The Communications Committee 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 out to all 2023-2024 Kindergarten and Grade 4 Extended French families by the school office. WSCC representatives were at Curriculum Night and Welcome to Kindergarten Night to provide this information as well.
- Communications Committee members make sure to respond to all inquiries received via the Council email address in a timely and helpful manner.
- The Communications Committee has been working to ensure that our community understands where the money raised by the Council is spent. We do this by giving examples when we send out program and event information. There is also a pie chart illustrating our spending (from the last “normal” pre-COVID year) in the Direct Donations [area](#) of our website.
- The Communications Committee is responsible for maintaining the Parent Council shared Google Drive, which houses legacy planning documentation 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 with as little disruption and as easily as possible. With events running again this year, the committee has taken care to save as much information to the drive as possible.
- The Council moved from an external bank account to PACE Credit Union and the SchoolCash Online system. The Communications Committee has created a section on the Council [page](#) of our website that contains all the financial forms, guides and instructions needed by Council members. In addition (and on the same page), the Communications Committee created a finance process document to guide Council members through our financial processes.



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- The Communications Committee 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. We will continue to advertise them and hope that a larger percentage of our school population begins to use them.
- The Communications Committee is continually working on ways to reach more Wilkinson families and engage the community.
- WSCC Members of the Schoolyard Revitalization Committee have requested an outdoor community message board as part of the yard construction so that we have a central area to post information that is easily accessible.

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, issues of racism and equity, 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.
- Members of the WSCC continue to represent the parent population on a Schoolyard Revitalization Committee hosted by the TDSB construction team. The long-awaited project finally began at the end of summer 2022 and is aiming for a completion date at the end of 2023.
- The Council Co-Chairs meet with the principal to give feedback into the proposed staffing model for next year.
- The Council purchased six folding tables to provide further material support for community-led activities at the school, such as bake sales and celebrations related to days of significance.
- The WSCC has provided funding to support curriculum priorities. See below for more information.

Working inclusively, recognizing that all parents/caregivers have an equitable place in our school's community, free from racism, classism, and other kinds of discrimination, intentional or unintentional. Parent Councils work to offer parents/caregivers a variety of ways to share their voices, knowledge, and expertise; strive to identify and eliminate barriers to participation for parents/caregivers; and disrupt practices that contribute to oppression based on race, class, nationality, abilities, gender, education, or language. Examples of our ongoing work in this area are outlined below.



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The WSCC:

- Offered families the option to donate additional funds for Pizza Lunches and Fun Fair food tickets and Game Cards to include families that might not otherwise be able to participate.
- Moved back to meeting in person in May and June, but offered people the option to join via Zoom if they could not make it to the school.

The Anti-Racism and Equity Committee has been actively working on initiatives which focus on equity and anti-racism:

- One of our Co-Chairs has been working with the City of Toronto for several years to have our school crosswalk repainted in Pride colours for reasons of both safety and inclusion.
- Rotating progressive flags have been hung in the school's main hall above Room 3, which is in the sightlines of any visitors entering through the school's main doors. Some of the flags include themes of anti-bullying, Every Child Matters, Black Lives Matter, and neurodiversity. New flags are also being added to the collection.
- A standing Equity and Inclusion item has been added to our Council meetings. It is a safe space for people to share stories or incidents related to equity and inclusion, so they can be handled appropriately, or the community can be informed.
- In partnership with the Communications Committee, Days of Significance have been included in the Council's weekly email newsletter.
- Classrooms were given supplies to create more welcoming signs for the fence surrounding the school. A few signs were defaced this year, and they have been repaired by the ARE Committee.
- Volunteers painted the bulletin boards in the large lunchroom with Pride colours to give the space a more welcoming and inclusive feel.
- In the fall, the committee created and sent home a pamphlet about racism and dealing with incidents in response to some things that happened at the school last year.
- The committee consulted with the school principal to make some changes to the school's front entry to better reflect our current population and remove relics of colonialism.
- The committee designed the Portrait of a Name project whereby each student was given materials to draw or paint their name with a phonetic pronunciation below it. Each class worked within its own framework, and each student put their own spin on their piece. Once finished, the pieces will hang in the main floor hallway.
- In partnership with the Arts Committee, the award-winning rapper and author [D.O. Gibson](#) was brought in for an anti-bullying presentation. He visited a few years ago and adjusted his presentation to incorporate issues specific to racial bullying to address some incidents that occurred at the school since students returned to in-person learning.
- The committee collaborates with the librarian to expand our anti-racism book collection.



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

- The annual [Sweetheart Bake Sale](#), [Fun Fair](#), monthly [Pizza Lunches](#), [Fall Fest](#), [Movie Nights](#), and the [Virtual Silent Auction](#).
- The [Wood Car Derby](#) fundraiser was in its sixth year running. Not only was this event successful in raising funds for our school but it also ties into the S.T.E.M. curriculum.
- The school is enrolled in the Amazon Associates program and several [shopping fundraisers](#): Mabel's Labels, FlipGive, Oliver's Labels, and Tru Earth. A commission is earned each time a person shops through our dedicated links.
- The WSCC continued our sale of [silicone snack bags](#) online and at Fun Fair to raise money for school programs. Once we break even and make back what we spent, the profits will go to the EcoTeam for their projects and initiatives.
- Several years ago, the WSCC created a [Lice Check Fund](#) to gather contributions towards our school-wide lice check program. Contributions were not collected this year as we were navigating a return to our events following COVID. We hope to bring this program back in the future.
- Our Direct Donation campaign, which allows people to make donations online. This year we planned to tie the campaign to our schoolyard revitalization project. Because we were awaiting information, we did not run our Direct Donations campaign this year; however, donations are always appreciated and can be made any time through the [School Cash Online](#) website.

How Does The WSCC Support The Curriculum 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:

- Classrooms were given supplies to create more welcoming signs for the fence surrounding the school.



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- Funding was provided for supplies for the school’s new Art Club.
- In partnership with the ARE Committee, [D.O. Gibson](#) was brought in for an anti-bullying presentation. He visited a few years ago and adjusted his presentation to incorporate issues specific to racial bullying to address some incidents that happened at the school.
- In May, the kindergarten classes enjoyed a presentation by Nadia L. Hohn, [author](#) of the Malaika picture book series and other engaging titles. During the presentation, the children explored Caribbean songs, rhymes, and games that Malaika would learn and play in her schoolyard. It was an interactive, lively, and musical workshop featuring a reading of *Malaika’s Costume*, musical instruments, and storytelling.
- In April, the Grades 4, 5 and 6 classes experienced a bilingual performance by Cameroonian drummer Njacko Backo. In this interactive [performance](#), students learned about the important role that music, dance, and storytelling play in everyday life in Cameroon, Central Africa. Students experienced traditional dance and drumming, listened to a traditional story, and learned about the importance of community in Central Africa.
- Wilkinson parent and choreographer, Dayna Tekatch, organized a Fun Fair flash mob. Interested students, parents, and teachers learned and practiced a dance to perform at the Fun Fair for several weeks leading up the event.

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:

- Funding a portion of the ukulele program, through the [Doane USchool](#), to reduce or eliminate the program cost for Wilkinson students wishing to participate.

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 the following programs:

- In April, the Grades 4, 5 and 6 classes experienced a bilingual performance by Cameroonian drummer Njacko Backo. In this interactive [performance](#), students learned about the important role that music, dance, and storytelling play in everyday life in Cameroon, Central Africa. Students experienced traditional dance and drumming,



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listened to a traditional story, and learned about the importance of community in Central Africa.

- Helping to fund French books for the [Forest of Reading Program](#).

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:

- The WSCC did not directly support this curriculum with activities and programs but members volunteered to help with Track & Field Day at the school.

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:

- Helping to fund books for the [Forest of Reading Program](#).
- Collaborating with the librarian to expand our anti-racism book collection.
- The WSCC usually provides funding for the visiting authors program, but no authors visited the school this year. Instead, part of that money was used for the [D.O. Gibson](#) anti-bullying presentation.

Mathematics

An information and technology-based society requires individuals 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. ([The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Mathematics](#))



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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:

- The funding of the Scientists in School or equivalent programs.
- Organizing the [Wood Car Derby](#) fundraiser, which is tied to the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program.

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:

- In May, the kindergarten classes enjoyed a presentation by Nadia L. Hohn, [author](#) of the Malaika picture book series and other engaging titles. During the presentation, the children explored Caribbean songs, rhymes, and games that Malaika would learn and play in her schoolyard. It was an interactive, lively and musical workshop featuring a reading of *Malaika's Costume*, musical instruments, and storytelling.
- In April, the Grades 4, 5 and 6 classes experienced a bilingual performance by Cameroonian drummer Njacko Backo. In this interactive [performance](#), students learned about the important role that music, dance, and storytelling play in everyday life in Cameroon, Central Africa. Students experienced traditional dance and drumming, listened to a traditional story, and learned about the importance of community in Central Africa.



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- The Greening and Grounds Committee, using funds provided by the TD Friends of the Environment grant it was awarded in 2022, invited the Indigenous land steward Carolynne Crawley to present a two-part workshop to teachers about integrating Indigenous forms of pedagogy into the curriculum. She is also scheduled to share Indigenous perspectives to students in Grade 3 in mid-June about the interconnectedness of living things.
- The Greening and Grounds Committee is also using the TD Grant funds to transform the school's existing learning garden into a Food Forest. The committee has planted numerous berry and grape producing native species and has posted signage about each species that focuses on the plant's Indigenous and colonial histories, and how it interacts with other living beings in its ecosystem. It has also planted and successfully grown Indigenous medicines like sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and tobacco, which the school plans to harvest to honour Indigenous visitors to the school.

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:

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- The Greening and Grounds Committee is also using the TD Grant funds to transform the school's existing learning garden into a Food Forest. The committee has planted over two dozen berry and grape producing native species and has posted signage that focuses on each plant's Indigenous and colonial histories, and how it interacts with other living beings in its ecosystem. It has also planted and successfully grown Indigenous medicines like sage, sweetgrass, cedar, and tobacco, which the school plans to harvest to honour Indigenous visitors to the school.



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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:

- Working with the school to organize a [battery recycling drive](#) through Raw Materials Inc. and a [textile recycling fundraiser](#) through Diabetes Canada.
- Cutting back on printing where possible by running program registration online and offering information via email, our website, and social media.
- Continuing to research and implement ways to eliminate or drastically reduce waste, single-use plastics and environmentally unfriendly materials at our events. Examples of this include asking students and families to bring reusable containers and bags to events to reduce the quantity of plates and food packaging we need to supply and organizing a Halloween costume swap, winter clothing swap, and used book and game sales. We also asked for donations of beads for our Fun Fair arts tables to reuse instead of buying new.
- Continuing our sale of [silicone snack bags](#) online and at Fun Fair to raise money for school programs. Once we break even and make back what we spent, the profits will go to the EcoTeam for their projects and initiatives.

The Greening and Grounds Committee has supported this program through:

- Involving the community in the clean up and mulching of the Learning Garden and supporting the school's spring yard clean-up.
- Applying for and receiving the TD Friends of the Environment grant to expand our food forest and provide indigenous education to our staff and Grades 3 and 6 students.
- Supporting the [Danforth Nature & Climate Expo](#), which was hosted at the school.

Year End Financials to Date

At the final meeting of the current Parent Council in September 2023, the Treasurer will present the final financial details for the year ended August 31, 2023. Those details will be attached to the final version of this report, and both will be posted on the [Council page of our website](#).

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 Wilkinson families, staff, and the school community, who allow us to bring so many programs, activities, and initiatives into the school each year. We're grateful for the involvement of



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Wilkinson families and staff 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 2023-2024 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 an amazing summer!

Wilkinson School Community Council Executive