



# WILCLAY WILDCAT

*Together in Harmony*

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October 2013

這是重要文件，若不明白，請找人翻譯。 இது ஒரு முக்கியமான பத்திரம். இதை வாசித்து விளங்கப் படுத்தும் கூடிய ஒருவரடம் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவும்.

به ایک ضروری دستاویز ہے۔ اسے کسی ایسے شخص کے پاس لے جائیے جو آپ کو اس کے بارے میں سہولت دے سکے۔

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هذا الخطاب مهم جدا .. نرجو ان تجد من يشرح لك

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 30 and Oct 1	Grade 3 Scientists in the classroom	Oct 10	Cross Country Area Meet
Oct 1 and 2	Fall Picture Days	Oct 14	Thanksgiving (no school)
Oct 11	PA Day (no school)	Oct 17	Regional Cross Country Meet
Oct 16 & 17	Bus Safety for all grades	Oct 29 & 31	Halloween Activities for K-3
Oct 23 & 24	Autism Awareness Presentations	Oct 31	Intermediate Dance
Oct 30	Dance-a-thon		

### **ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE**

We have had an excellent start to the school year. Routines have been clearly established in all of our classrooms and relationships have been built between teachers and students and within the classroom to encourage an effective learning environment. We are all looking forward to another year of focused learning towards both academic achievement and well-being for each and every student. We hope that you enjoyed Curriculum Night and that you found the presentations to be useful to you. If you require more information about your child's programme, you are invited to contact your child's teacher.

We had a very successful Terry Fox run. Thanks to Mr. Littleford for organizing this very important fundraiser for cancer research. Our next fundraiser is the Dance-a-thon. This will be held on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The School Council plays a big role in helping us organize this event, and money raised will support school initiatives. In the past, we have bought computers, Smart Boards, musical instruments, and playground equipment for the school with this money. We ask our parents to support us once again this year. As always, we appreciate your partnership with us!

With fall upon us, the weather will be changing and getting cooler. Please make sure your child(ren) are dressed according to the weather. All of our students go out to play for 20 minutes in the morning and 40 minutes after lunch. Parents are encouraged to check the weather report on the radio, television or online to ensure that their children are dressed to be comfortable playing outdoors. If your child is too unwell to play outside then it is best that he/she stay home for the day until feeling well enough to participate in school activities.

We wish our community a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving!



## CHARACTER CORNER –

### October is...Courage Month!

The Character Trait for the month of October at Wilclay is Courage. Courage is doing the right thing in the face of difficulty. Having courage means that we face challenges directly. We are not afraid to seek advice from others or to do the right thing...even when it seems unpopular. We are able to recognize risks and dangers and do not make unwise decisions to gain approval of those around us.

*"We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot."* Eleanor Roosevelt

*"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."* Nelson Mandela

## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The School Council met on Monday, September 10 in the library at 6:00 P.M. This year the School Council will be meeting on the following dates:

Nov 4<sup>th</sup>

Feb 10<sup>th</sup>                      April 14<sup>th</sup>

June 9<sup>th</sup>

All parents and guardians are welcome to attend. Some of the highlights of our last meeting are:

**Dance-A-Thon:** Wilclay's annual Dance-A-Thon will be taking place on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Students from all grades will be showing off their fancy footwork as they groove to popular tunes. This year a portion of the money raised will be used to support the purchase of new technology and learning devices such as laptops, ipads and netbooks which enhance engagement and learning opportunities. Pledge forms will be sent home next week. Students will have the chance to earn tickets for our prize raffle and the top fundraiser will be awarded a special prize. Classes which raise a target amount will celebrate with a class pizza party.



If you have a new toy, game or book that you'd like to donate to our raffle, kindly drop it off to the office by Oct. 16. Thank you for your support!

**School Nutrition Program:** The school is planning to start the School Nutrition program in October. We will be serving nutritious snacks to all our students. Community volunteers run this incredible program. If you are interested in helping with this program, please contact the office.

**School Council Elections:** Elections for this year's School Council took place at our first School Council meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Similar to last year our School Council Chair will be a shared position. This year's Co-Chairs are; Kirushajini Sabesan, Navanathy Chandran and Velma Lee. Thenali Thiruchselvam was elected Secretary and Christine Liang was elected Treasurer.

**Next Meeting:** The next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. in the Library.



## Getting to School Safely

We encourage children to walk to school either with an adult, older sibling, or if they are old enough, a friend or neighbour. Walking to school is good for your children's health, good for friendships and good for the environment.

For those times that you have to drive your child to school we have a drop off process in place in order to keep each and every child safe as they come to Wilclay. If you are dropping your children off at school, **please remember the following:**

1. **Do Not** let your child out of the car at the entrance to the car loop.
2. Drive your car, following the **staff member's guidance**, all the way up to the pylon. If there is a line of cars drive right up to the stopped car in front of you and let your children out there.
3. Seat your children so that they can easily get out on the passenger's side.
4. Stay in line. **Do Not drive around the car in front of you once you have dropped off your children.**
5. Leave home early and have patience.



## SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

If your child is going to be late or absent, **please telephone the school and let us know at (905)470-1447.** If we do not receive a message on our machine or telephone call in the morning, we will telephone your home or place of work to find out why your child is not at school. If you know your child will be absent, please let the office know. In the event that we cannot reach a parent or an emergency contact, the police will be notified.

## HEALTHY SNACKS, LUNCHES AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:

Wilclay Public School is a nut/peanut safe school. To support a safe and positive school for all, parents are asked NOT to send food containing peanuts and peanut related products to school with your child.



**For Birthday Celebrations:** Parents are asked to please consider healthy, nutritious snacks and birthday treats such as fruit, veggies and dip, cheese and crackers instead of donuts, cakes and candy. Many children enjoy celebrating their birthday with their classmates and loot bags with pencils, stickers or other non-food items are another healthy alternative to birthday cakes.



## MS. SOMANI'S LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back from a great summer. This month the students have been learning and reviewing about the parts of the library as well as different types of texts such as fiction, non-fiction, etc. that are found in the library. They have also reviewed how the library works and have been able to take out many new and exciting books. The children have reviewed and learned how to search for a book and find that book in our library. All of these skills will help children in public libraries as well.

We hosted the book fair during curriculum night on September 25, 2013. Thanks to you and your families for all of your support as the money will go towards resources and books that your children can use.

Please ensure that your child brings their books back when they have library so that they can get new books. Also, the library is open every morning recess for book exchange or for your children to complete their homework or use the computers for school purposes. Please encourage your child to use the library.

Some useful links to review this with your children are:

1. [tumblebooks.com](http://tumblebooks.com) - you can review the types of books

username: wilclay      password: books

2. [tumblecould junior](http://tumblecould.junior) - you can review the types of books

user name: Wilclay      password: login

3. <http://www.studyzone.org/testprep/ela4/i/fictionnonp1st.cfm> - difference between fiction and non-fiction

If you have any suggestions or comments about the library, I would love to hear from you. Happy reading!



**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**

[www.wilclay.p.s.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.wilclay.p.s.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

Our new website has launched!! Please visit the above url to check it out.

## News From The Grade 6 Musicians



We are really excited to be in Grade 6 this year because we can now learn to play different instruments AND take them home to practise. Last week we listened to the Grade 8 students play a variety of different types of brass and woodwind instruments, for example, the flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, trumpet and trombone. After the listening stage, we then had the opportunity to rate each instrument according to its pitch and sound. We can't wait to finish trying all of the instruments so that we can make our final choice and begin playing!!

Written by: Musicians Nathushan and Kathy from Grade 6 B

## HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

This year Halloween is on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. If your child chooses to wear his/her costume to school in the afternoon there are a few simple rules to follow:

- Under the Province Safe Schools Legislation students may not bring toy guns or replicas of any weapons of any kind.
- Guns, knives, or fake blood cannot be brought to school. Such items may cause fear, anxiety or misunderstandings and must be kept away from the school. This applies to students at all grade levels.



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

- Wear a properly fitted costume that is bright and non-flammable
- Use reflective tape on your costume so you can be seen in the dark
- Use face make-up or enlarge the eyes on your mask so you can see well
- Visit the front door of well-lit homes and NEVER go inside
- Have a trusted adult check your treats before eating them
- Go out with an adult or a group of friends
- Only nut-free/peanut free treats can come to school for snack.



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE: JUANITA NATHAN**



I am very pleased to welcome our new and returning families as we start another school year. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and feel refreshed and energized.

There is a lot to look forward to in the first few months of school, and I hope you will find an opportunity to get involved in some way. Partnerships with families are essential, not only to student achievement and well-being, but also to creating a positive, caring and supportive school environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways you can get involved and support your child's education from communicating with your child's teacher and asking your child about what they are learning to volunteering in the school or participating in the school council.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to be one of the top performing school boards in Ontario.

As an elected trustee and an advocate for high quality public education, I am committed to ensuring the highest quality public education possible for our students and their families. In the coming year, we will continue our focus on the priorities set out in our Multi-Year Plan: student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and appropriate educational programs and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at [Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) or by phone at 416-885-3479. If you would like to be kept informed about various initiatives or topics that relates to your child's education and well being, please send me your email address and I would be happy to keep in touch with you on a regular basis.

I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you all the best for 2013-14.

Juanita Nathan  
Trustee | York Region District School Board – Area 4  
Town of Markham – Ward 7&8

**CONGRATULATIONS TO WILCLAY STUDENTS!**

Kimenjot Kaur Bassi competed at the International level in the Sikh Youth Symposium on Sikhism held in Atlanta, GA, USA in August. Kimenjot was honored with the Distinguished Speaker Award. Congratulations Kimenjot!

Congratulations to the following students: Vipushan Uthayasegaran, Bharathan Perumal, Shalini Murugavel, Sandy Cao, Sakira Kushakumar, and Edward Huang. These Intermediate students' artwork was selected for display in York Region's "Holidays and Observances" Calendar for 2013-2014.

**Pending Locked Front Doors During the School Day.** In the near future, all doors will be locked at Wilclay Public School during the school day, including the front doors. All visitors will be asked to wait patiently until an office staff member is able to view the security video screen and unlock the doors remotely. We suggest that families begin modifying their typical routines as necessary, in anticipation of the locked doors. For example, if you drop off your child's lunch each day, you may consider sending it with them in the morning. We will provide the community with further information regarding the locked doors as soon as we receive word from the Board.

**WILCLAY P.S. EQAO RESULTS**

**PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL STANDARD (LEVELS 3 AND 4), 2012-2013**

