

# Willowdale Middle School



## Grade 8 Graduation Photo Retake Day



We are happy to announce that we were able to secure a retake day for Grade 8 graduation photos. Students who were absent on our photo day will have the opportunity to have their graduation photo taken on **Tuesday, May 6** in the morning only. Students who qualify for this are asked to please come prepared and on time to have their picture taken.

## Speech Arts Festival 2025

Congratulations to our finalists who competed at the Speech Arts Festival at Don Valley MS this week. Maya G in Grade 6 won 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Christy S in Grade 7 won the participation medal; and Maya V in Grade 8 won 1<sup>st</sup> place. Thank you to all our competitors for their hard work and dedication. We are very proud of how you represented Willowdale so positively! A special thank you to our teacher, Ms. Stevenson and Ms. Dolce, for their commitment in helping to prepare our competitors. Great job, Wildcats!



## Lacrosse Program

From Tuesday April 22 - to Friday April 25, 2025, Willowdale staff and students participated in the Spartan Academy Lacrosse program. The workshops covered the historical significance of the sport. An important sport for the Haudenosaunee people, Lacrosse was used not only for sport, but also for spiritual, social, and diplomatic purposes. It was a way to resolve conflicts, honour the Creator, and build community. The game of Lacrosse served to strengthen the bond between the players and the natural world, and it was often seen as a "medicine game" played to maintain balance in the world. The game also helped with physical and spiritual healing. Students had the chance to learn the traditional rules, as well as how the game is played today, focusing on the Haudenosaunee perspective. Our students had a great time learning how to play Lacrosse this week!



## Pizza Day - New Dates - Cash Online Opens Soon

Our last pizza day for April is on Tuesday, April 29.

Our new block and final days of pizza will be on the following days:  
May 13, May 27, June 11, and June 23.

Registration for these fun-filled, delicious days opens on **April 29** and **closes on May 7**. The cost is \$40.00 for all four pizza days (May & June) which includes: 2 slices of cheese or pepperoni pizza; 1 Juice box; and 1 small bag of chips.

This initiative is proudly organized by the School Parent Council, and all funds raised will go toward enhancing the students' learning experiences at our school. Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy pizza while supporting a fantastic cause! If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to [sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca). Thank you to our parents for their ongoing support, and a special thank you to our School Council volunteers for their hard work and commitment!



## Gr. 6 Ultimate Frisbee & Slo-Pitch Tryouts

Attention Grade 6's. Ultimate Frisbee and Slo-Pitch Baseball tryouts will start next week for the Grade 6's. This is open to both genders. Slo-Pitch Baseball tryouts will be on Tuesday, April 29 from 3:00 to 4:15PM. Ultimate Frisbee tryouts will be on Wednesday, April 30 from 3:00-4:15. Please sign up on EMA or sign a permission form. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Soriano or Ms. Teplitz.

## Federal Student Vote

Willowdale MS is registered to participate in the Student Vote Canada, taking place alongside the federal election on Monday, April 28, 2025. Student Vote is a dynamic learning experience that empowers students to explore the democratic process by casting ballots for the official local candidates in parallel election. More than 80,000 students across the province are expected to take part. This is also a great opportunity to connect as a family and discuss the importance of participating in democracy. We hope to support students to become active and informed citizens.

Students can learn more about the issues using the student poll: Vote [Compass: Canada Youth Edition](#) and [Pollenize](#).

**Our local Willowdale candidates are:**

- Christy Kheirallah - New Democratic
- James Lin - Conservative
- Ali Ehasassi - Liberal



Student Vote is a program of CIVIX.

Student Vote Canada is presented in collaboration with Elections Canada.

## Grade 6 EQAO

The EQAO dates for our Grade 6 students to write the EQAO tests are June 2-11, 2024. The tests measure student performance in reading, writing and mathematics based on the expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum.



TDSB EQAO Guide for Parents- Click [HERE!](#)

## Student Drop-Off

We are asking parents for their co-operation when dropping off students in the early morning for music practice. Please do not drive into the north side parking area, nor the back of the school (school yard) when dropping off your child for music practice. This becomes a safety issue with students coming to school and for staff driving in the lot to park. Please drop off your child in the loop, or on the East side of the parking lot. We thank you for your co-operation in helping to ensure our students' and staff's safety.

## Annual Willowdale Art Show



On May 22, Junior Council is once again hosting an Art Show celebrating heritage from around the world. Each class will be invited to vote for their favourite pieces. Submit any paintings, drawings, sculptures, pastel art for consideration to Ms. Clarino by May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is open to all students at Willowdale. We look forward to seeing the beautiful art!

# School Council Message - Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Hello Willowdale Middle School Families.

As a token of thanks to the WMS Staff, we are hosting a breakfast on **Thursday, May 8th**. This is a great way to show your appreciation to ALL of the WMS teachers, employees and school staff! We are looking for contributions to the breakfast.

- Foods can be dropped off between **3:15-4:00pm on Wednesday, May 7th**.
- Food can be dropped off outside the office to a School Council representative. You are welcome to make or bring something store bought.
- Please ensure items are nut-free.
- A note stating the ingredients and name of the homemade food would be appreciated.

If you are contributing food, please sign up on the form linked below. There are fields with items already listed for which you're welcome to sign up or include your contribution on a blank line.

[Click here to access the google form](#)

If you prefer to donate a small amount of money, that is also welcome. School Council would use that money to purchase additional items for the breakfast (e.g., coffee) depending on the quantity of food and donations. If you choose to donate money, please bring cash in an envelope marked "Staff Breakfast" to either your child's teacher or the office. You are welcome to bring cash any time between now and Wednesday, May 7th.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks in advance,

*Meg Boyle, on behalf of the WMS School Parent council*

[sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca)

Mobile: 416 428 8290

## Upcoming School Council Meetings

Our next School Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**, beginning at 6:30PM in our school library.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view our approved school council meeting minutes.





## Yearbook Cover Contest

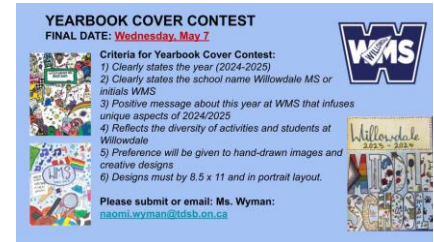
Are you interested in participating in our annual WMS yearbook cover contest? If you are, please ensure you meet the following parameters

**DUE: Wednesday, May 7th**

### Criteria for Yearbook Cover Contest:

- 1) *Clearly states the year (2024-2025)*
- 2) *Clearly states the school name Willowdale MS or initials WMS*
- 3) *Positive message about this year at WMS that infuses unique aspects of 2024/2025*
- 4) *Reflects the diversity of activities and students at Willowdale*
- 5) *Preference will be given to hand-drawn images and creative designs*
- 6) *Designs must be 8.5x11 and in portrait layout.*

Please submit or email Ms. Wyman at [Naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca)



## Virtual Math Workshops

Families with students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are invited to attend a virtual workshop which will provide parents with practical strategies to support their child's math learning at home, building confidence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. A third workshop has been added for Tuesday, May 6. For more information and to register, please see the flyer attached on our website.



## Discussion on Mental Health

Silverthorn Collegiate will be presenting a session on Mental Health hosting Michael Landsberg. This session will be taking place on Tuesday, May 6. Tickets are free when you sign up using the QR code in the flyer. For more information, please see the flyer attached to our website.

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

## Indoor Shoes

**Spring is here!** This means that our field is very muddy, as the ground continues to melt. It is essential that all students bring indoor shoes to wear while inside the school. We thank you for your assistance with this.



## Reach Ahead Program

The Grade 8 to 9 Reach Ahead credit course is available only in person. If your child is interested in applying, please see the link for more information: [Conedsecondarycreditprogram](#)

Please see under the ***Continuing Education Summer School 2025*** heading.

## Lunch Box Program



We are excited to offer “The Lunch Box” program for the 2024/2025 school year! A reminder that Parents/Guardians may purchase their child’s lunch through this program by ordering on-line. **Orders must be in by Sunday at noon for the upcoming week.**

You can choose to participate for all five days (Monday to Friday), or you may choose any day/days of your choice. Please [click here](#)

for information on how to order!

The restaurants are as follows:

Monday	Mr. Greek
Tuesday	Hero Burger
Wednesday	Osmow's
Thursday	The Basil Box
Friday	Boston Pizza

## Elementary Summer School 2025



The Elementary Literacy and Numeracy Summer School Program offers the opportunity for students to continue learning in the summer.

Programs are offered in-person at various locations to students in Kindergarten to Grade 8, from **July 2 to July 25, 2025**. A remote program is available for students in Grades 6 to 8.

**Registration Information:**

- Program Dates and Hours - Monday, July 2 to Friday, July 25, 2025, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Registration is online. To fill out an application, please click on the school registration form link: [Elementary-Summer-School](#)

**Afternoon Jays Camp RBI Summer Edition**

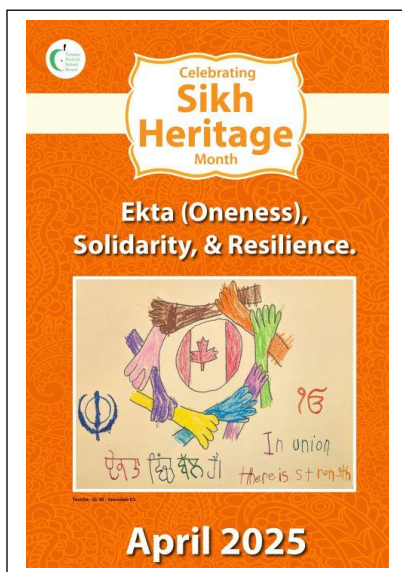
**RBI Summer Edition** is a free afternoon baseball-for-development program for Grades 3 to 8 hosted at 13 schools. Throughout July, students registered for half-day morning summer school can opt to join the RBI Summer Edition program for the afternoon. Please note that spaces are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the afternoon, students will engage in a wide range of recreational activities including cooperative games, arts and crafts, team-building, and inclusive baseball training. Throughout July, the program runs from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, with the opportunity to extend to 5:30 pm for aftercare. After TDSB summer school ends, students can register for a full-day program from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm during the first two weeks of August. **Please note** – students enrolled in the afternoon program must bring their lunch.

**Note:** Jays Camp RBI Summer Edition is a distinct and separate program from the TDSB's Elementary Summer School program. The registration link for Jays Camp is provided at the end of each participating elementary summer school's form. We encourage everyone to review the specific details, procedures, and policies for both programs in the registration requirements before enrollment.

Please note that limited spaces are available for all programs.

## Sikh Heritage Month - April



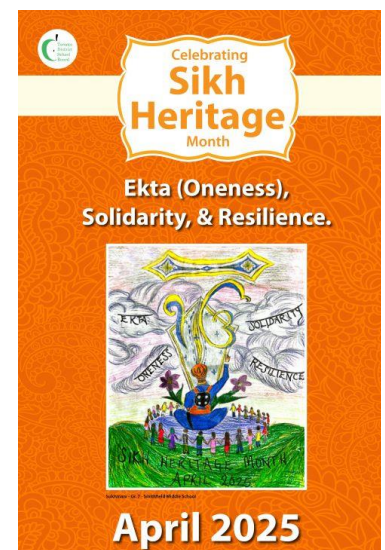
Since 2016, the TDSB has proudly recognized Sikh Heritage Month every April, becoming the first school board in Canada to do so. This aligns with the Province of Ontario's Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013 and the Government of Canada's recognition on April 30, 2019.

This theme for Sikh Heritage Month 2025 is **Ekta (Oneness), Solidarity, and Resilience**.

Educational offerings for students, staff, and the community are inspired by Guru Nanak's teachings on justice, equality,

and community. These principles challenge discrimination, combat bullying, and promote inclusivity.

By celebrating Sikh diversity and shared humanity, we foster dialogue, learning, and collective action. Through storytelling, workshops, and school-wide initiatives, we highlight how Sikh teachings inspire unity and empower students to stand against injustice with courage, compassion, and Chardi Kala (relentless optimism).



## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Tues., April 29	Pizza Day
Tues., May 6	Gr. 8 Graduation Photo Retake Day
Wed., May 7	Final School Council meeting for the year- 6:30PM in Library
	Region Track & Field Day at Esther Shiner
Thur., May 8	Staff Appreciation Breakfast hosted by School Council
Fri., May 9	Gr. 5 Visits to Willowdale MS
Tues., May 13	Pizza Day
Wed., May 14	Junior Achievement Day
	GAUSS Math Contest
Fri., May 16	Gr. 7 School Vaccination Clinic
	Gr. 8's visiting Northview Heights SS (PM)
Thur., May 22	Junior Council Art Exhibit in Cafeteria
Tues., May 27	Pizza Day
Wed., May 28 - Fri., May 30	Grade 8 Graduation Trip to Montreal
Wed., June 4	Conference Finals for Track & Field at Esther Shiner
Fri., June 6	P.A. Day (No School)
Mon., June 9	Music Festival at Wonderland
Tues., June 10	Track & Field City Finals at Birchmount
Wed., June 11	Pizza Day
Thurs., June 12	CODA Concert at 6:30PM in Gymnasium
Mon & Tues., June 16 & 17	Gr. 7 Dental Clinic
Mon., June 23	Pizza Day
Tues., June 24	Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony and Celebration
Wed., June 25	Report Cards sent home
Fri., June 27	Last Day of School

If your child is going to be away or late, please call the **Safe Arrival Program** (School Messenger) at

**1-833-250-2290**

If you are signing your child out during the school day, you are required to come into the office, and send a written note, or email to [willowdale@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:willowdale@tdsb.on.ca)

We acknowledge that Willowdale MS is hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.