

# Willowdale Middle School

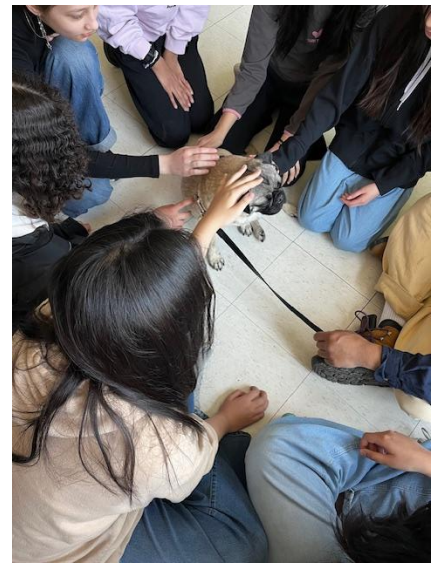


## Therapy Dogs Visit our Students

We were delighted to welcome three very special visitors to Willowdale on Wednesday from Sunshine Therapy Dogs. During lunch, our students had the opportunity to meet and interact with the service dogs while learning about the important role they play in supporting mental health and well-being.

Students enjoyed spending time with the dogs, creating a calm and positive atmosphere that was both relaxing and uplifting. This meaningful experience brought many smiles to our school, and we look forward to welcoming Sunshine Therapy Dogs back in the future so more students can benefit.

A special thank you to Mr. Lee for overseeing this initiative!



## WMS Swim Team Update

Congratulations to our Grade 6, 7, and 8 students on their performance at the swim qualifying meet held on April 8! As the first group from our school to participate in this exciting event, you demonstrated incredible dedication, perseverance, and team spirit. From early morning practices to strong finishes in the pool, your hard work and positive attitudes truly stood out. You represented our school with pride, respect, and excellent sportsmanship, both in and out of the water.

We are very proud of everyone for making Willowdale history and setting such a strong example for future teams!

Thank you to Mme. Silis and Ms. Hamdule for bringing swimming back to Willowdale!

## Badminton Update

After weeks of training and clinic, the Gr. 8 Badminton Team faced 4 schools during a two-day tournament at Zion Heights Middle School. They had some wins and some losses, but they had lots of good laughs and showed incredible team spirit, supporting each other in every event. As a school, we are incredibly proud of their tenacity and sportsmanship. Despite not moving on, we can all agree it was a memorable season.

Thank you to Ms. Hamdule for working with our team this year!

## All-Gender Volleyball Update



Last week, our Grade 7 All-Gender Volleyball Team competed in their second tournament here at Willowdale. Our Wildcats showed determination and resilience, winning both matches in three sets and earning a spot in the finals on April 17 at JB Tyrrell.

Congratulations to the team, and best of luck in the final round!

Thank you to our coach, Mr. Batkay, for prepping our athletes!

## Upcoming Late Spring Sports

We will be offering the following upcoming sports: Slo-pitch, Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Rugby and Track and Field.

Stay tuned for tryout information in the coming weeks!



## Happy Easter!



We would like to wish our families celebrating Orthodox Easter this weekend a Happy Easter. We wish you a joyful time with family and friends.

## 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.



## Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB - April

Since 2016, the Toronto District School Board 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 passed in December 2013 and the Government of Canada's recognition on April 30, 2019.

This theme for Sikh Heritage Month 2026 is: *Sangat atey Seva - Community and Service*

*Sangat* refers to the sacred gathering of the Sikh community, and *Seva* is the spirit of selfless service. Both are integral pillars of Sikhism. Sangat is the congregation of everyone, without discrimination, to participate in spiritual discourse and practice. Likewise, Sikhs perform selfless service for everyone and anyone in need, without discrimination. In Sikhism, being part of the Sangat and serving humanity through Seva are both considered ways to serve the Supreme Lord. Happy Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB!"

## WMS Speech Competitions

Willowdale will be hosting our in-school speech competitions on **Tuesday, April 21**.

Grade 6	9:15AM
Grade 7	10:20AM
Grade 8	12:45PM

After all the speeches have been presented, a winner from each grade will be selected to represent Willowdale at the "TDSB Speech Arts Festival". The "TDSB Speech Arts Festival" will take place on April 29 for Grade 6 & 7 students, and April 30 for Grade 8 students at Don Valley Middle School. Good luck to all our students participating. We look forward to hearing your speeches!

## Grade 8 Reach Ahead Credit - Summer 2026

The Toronto District School Board Continuing Education department is pleased to offer the Reach Ahead Program for incoming Grade 9 students. This July, students have the opportunity to take *Technology and the Skilled Trades (TAS101)* in-person and earn a credit toward their OSSD before beginning high school.

This program supports a smooth transition to secondary school by helping students build confidence and become familiar with high school expectations.

Registration opens on April 28. For more information, please visit the [Reach Ahead website](#).

### Program locations include:

- Central Technical School
- Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute
- Western Technical-Commercial School
- David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute
- West Humber Collegiate Institute
- Westview Centennial Secondary School



## WMS Track and Field Day



Willowdale Middle School is excited to host our annual Track and Field Day on **April 23 or April 24** (Rain Date), weather permitting. This highly anticipated event provides students with the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities, demonstrate sportsmanship, and enjoy a day of friendly competition with their peers.

In addition to being a fun and active day for all participants, Track and Field Day will also serve as an important **tryout opportunity for our school's Track and Field team**. Students will be encouraged to give their best effort in each event, as performances will help inform team selection for upcoming competitions.

We look forward to a great day of energy, enthusiasm, and school spirit!

## WMS Sports Teams Practice Schedule

Please see our “Sports Practice Calendar” to help keep students, parents, and guardians up-to-date with upcoming practices. Please check the calendar regularly for schedules, updates, and any changes. [CLICK HERE!](#)



## Upcoming Parent Council Meetings

Our next Parent Council meetings will be taking place on **April 21, and June 1, 2026** beginning at 6:00PM in our school library.

[Click here](#) to view the minutes from our previous meeting.

We hope to see you at our next meeting on April 21!



## Pizza Day Lunch

A reminder that our next Pizza Day Lunch is this coming Tuesday, April 14.



## Lunch Box Program

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. Souvlaki
Tuesday	Umami Sushi
Wednesday	bar Burrito
Thursday	Mr. Sub
Friday	Swiss Chalet



## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Tuesday, April 14	Pizza Day Lunch
	6I Trip to Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre
	Fire Drill
Thursday, April 16	7F, 7M, 8F, 8M Trip to Molière Théâtre
Monday, April 20	Fire Drill
Tuesday, April 21	Speech Competition at WMS (all grades)
	School Council Meeting at 6:00PM in the Library
Thursday, April 23 or Friday April 24	WMS Track and Field Day
Monday, April 27	Fire Drill
Wednesday, April 29	Pizza Day Lunch
April 30 to May 1	Rugby Workshops
Monday, May 4	6F Trip to Ripley's Aquarium
Tuesday, May 5	8D Trip to the ROM
Wednesday, May 6	Gr. 7 Vaccination Clinic (Toronto Public Health)
Friday, May 8	French Classes on Trip to Berkeley- Théâtre Français
Monday, May 11	Track & Field Area Qualifier at Esther Shiner
Wednesday, May 13	Forest of Reading Conference
Thursday, May 14	Pizza Day Lunch
Friday, May 15	Gr. 8 Visit to Northview S.S.
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day (No School)
May 20 & 21	TPH Gr. 7 Dental Screening Clinic
Monday, May 25	Pizza Day Lunch
Tuesday, May 26	7F & 7M Trip to Ripley's Aquarium
Monday, June 1	School Council Meeting at 6:00PM in Library
June 1 to 9	Gr. 6 EQAO Writing
Tuesday, June 2	Track & Field Conference Finals at Esther Shiner
Wednesday, June 3	CODA Music Concert at 6:30PM
Friday, June 5	P.A. Day (No school for students)
Tuesday, June 9	Pizza Day Lunch
	City Championship for Track & Field at Birchmount
June 10 to 12	Gr. 8 Trip to Ottawa
June 11 & 12	Gr. 6 Trips to Aga Khan
Thursday, June 18	Pizza Day Lunch
Monday, June 22	Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony and Celebration
Wednesday, June 24	Pizza Day Lunch
	Report Cards are sent home electronically
Thursday, June 25	Last Day of School for Students
Friday, June 26	P.A. Day (No School for students)

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

**1-833-250-2290**

**or use the APP**



SchoolMessenger  
Education

If you are signing your child out during the school day, you are required to come into the office to sign your child out.

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.