

# Willowdale Middle School



## Willowdale Music Gets an Upgrade!



Our Music program expanded with the exciting addition of a set of tubular chimes! This beautiful instrument, part of the mallet percussion family, offers a rich, resonant sound often featured in orchestral and contemporary music. With this new addition, students will have even more opportunities to explore a wider range of techniques, experiment with tone and dynamics, and deepen their understanding of musical expression.

The tubular chimes will not only enhance our ensemble performances but also inspire creativity and curiosity as students experience the unique role this instrument plays within a group setting. It is always exciting to introduce new sounds into our program, and we look forward to hearing how our students incorporate this instrument into their musical learning.

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated School Council for their continued support of the arts at Willowdale. We also extend a sincere thank you to our broader school community. Your ongoing support of fundraising initiatives directly enriches student learning and helps make opportunities like this possible.

If you would like to see and hear the newest member of the Willowdale Music family in action, we warmly invite you to join us at our CODA music concert on June 3rd.

We hope to see you there!

## WMS Swim Team



On Monday, April 20th, for the first time ever, two of our Willowdale students proudly represented our school at the 2026 TDESAA Swimming City Finals held at Rosedale Heights School of the Arts.

Adam B. (Gr. 8) and Naveed M. (Gr 7) both demonstrated tremendous effort and determination, each placing among the top six fastest swimmers in all of the TDSB, in their respective events. Naveed competed first and delivered an outstanding performance in the 25-yard breaststroke, earning a bronze medal with a 3rd-place finish. Adam followed with a strong showing in the 50-yard backstroke, competing against some of the fastest swimmers at the meet, finishing just outside of medal contention.

Mme Hamdule and Mme Silis are extremely proud of your achievements and the dedication you've shown.

Great job, Wildcats!

## WMS Speech Competition

Congratulations to our Grade 6-8 Speech Competition winners! We are incredibly proud of all students who participated, demonstrating confidence, creativity, and powerful communication skills. Your hard work and dedication truly shone through.

### Grade 6:

- 1️⃣ Katelyn M (6E)
- 2️⃣ Lexi C (6E)
- 3️⃣ Penelope W (6E)

### Grade 7:

- 1️⃣ Jacob M (7D)
- 2️⃣ Naveed M (7D)
- 3️⃣ Ronya E (7C) & Ksenia B (7M) - tied

### Grade 8:

- 1️⃣ Ashley P (8D)
- 2️⃣ Reya J (8C)
- 3️⃣ Matthew B (8C)



Our first-place winners from each grade, Katelyn, Jacob and Ashley, will be competing at the TDSB Speech Arts Competition next week at Don Valley MS. Good luck to all three of our participants!

A special thank you to our staff and judges for supporting this event and helping make it such a success. We are so impressed by the talent and courage shown by all of our speakers. Well done!

## 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.



## WMS Track and Field Day



Willowdale Middle School Track and Field Day has been postponed to June 1<sup>st</sup> due to the field conditions. 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.

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

Thank you to all of our students who came out and tried out for the Track and Field team this past week!

## Introducing "The Den": Our New Wellness Space



We are excited to share that all classes have now participated in an introductory workshop for "The Den," our student-designed wellness room. Unlike a traditional "timeout" space, The Den serves as a proactive recharge space where students learn to navigate both "down-regulating" to calm the mind and "up-regulating" to focus for learning. During these sessions, students practiced self-regulation techniques like box breathing and sensory grounding, and explored various "test drive" stations featuring tactile tools, creative expression corners, and quiet reflection areas. Our goal is to empower students to use these tools to promote self-regulation and manage stress effectively.

## 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



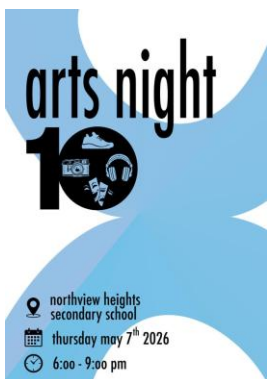
## Gauss Math Contest of WMS

Willowdale will be hosting the Gauss Mathematics Contest on May 20th. This exciting opportunity, organized by the University of Waterloo, invites students to challenge themselves with engaging and thought-provoking mathematical problems.

The contest encourages students to apply their problem-solving skills, think critically, and explore mathematics in a fun and meaningful way. We look forward to seeing our students take on this challenge and showcase their mathematical thinking.

Best of luck to all participants!

## Arts Night @ Northview Heights

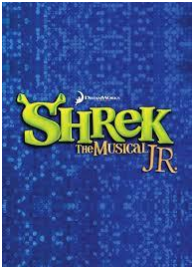


Northview Heights SS' Arts & Cyber Department invites the Willowdale MS community to the 10th Annual Arts Night on Thursday, May 7, from 6:00-9:00 PM at 550 Finch Ave. W. (Please park in the east lot and enter through Entrance 11).

Join them to celebrate student artists, musicians, dancers, and actors with art exhibits, live performances, food for sale, and free face painting and henna.

All are welcome!

## WMS Drama Club Presentation



Willowdale's Drama Club is excited to present the musical they have been working on all year! Families and caregivers are warmly invited to join us on the evening of May 13 for a special performance of *Shrek Jr.*

We look forward to sharing our students' hard work and talent with you—more details and updates to come soon!

## Reminder for the Upcoming Immunization Clinic At WMS

We would like to remind you that nurses from Toronto Public Health will be visiting our school Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, to administer the next dose of the hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines to Grade 7 students with a consent form.

These vaccines are essential for protection against hepatitis B and HPV, and two doses are required for full protection. If you missed any vaccines during the first clinic, you can still catch up at this time.

Please remember to wear a short-sleeved or loose-sleeved top and eat something before being vaccinated.

Parents and/or legal guardians with questions related to immunization, please call 416-338-7600 and select option 2 for immunization or visit [toronto.ca/SchoolVaccines](https://toronto.ca/SchoolVaccines).

## 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 **June 1, 2026** beginning at 6:00PM in our school library.

[Click here](#) to view the minutes from our previous meeting on March 3, 2026.



## Grade 6 EQAO

The EQAO dates for our Grade 6 students to write the EQAO tests are June 2-9, 2025. 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!](#)

## 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 12th**

### Criteria for Yearbook Cover Contest:

- 1) Clearly states the year (2025-2026)
- 2) Clearly states the school name Willowdale MS or initials WMS
- 3) Positive message about this year at WMS that infuses unique aspects of 2025/2026
- 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 by 8.5x11 and in portrait layout.

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



**YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST**  
**FINAL DATE: Tuesday May 12, Voting May 14th**



**Criteria for Yearbook Cover Contest:**

- 1) Clearly states the year (2025-2026)
- 2) Clearly states the school name Willowdale MS
- 3) Positive message about this year at WMS that infuses unique aspects of 2025/2026
- 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 by 8.5 x 11 and in portrait layout.
- 7) It is recommended to leave a border around the edges

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

## Rugby Workshops at WMS



Willowdale is excited to host a special rugby clinic for our students! On April 30 and May 1 (Days 3 and 4), TIRF Rugby will be visiting our school to lead introductory rugby workshops.

Each class has been scheduled to participate in at least one session, with workshops taking place during regular Phys Ed periods and supervised by our teaching staff. Due to scheduling, some classes will have the opportunity to attend two sessions, allowing students to further develop their skills as the lessons progress.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn the fundamentals of rugby, build teamwork skills, and stay active in a fun and engaging environment. We look forward to welcoming TIRF Rugby and seeing our students enjoy this exciting experience!

## 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	
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
	Junior Achievement for Gr. 8's (AM)
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
	Drama Club Performance (Shrek Jr.)
Thursday, May 14	Pizza Day Lunch
	Junior Achievement for Gr. 8's (AM)
Friday, May 15	Gr. 8 Visit to Northview S.S.
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day (No School)
Tuesday, May 19	ESL students visit the YMCA (AM)
May 20 & 21	TPH Gr. 7 Dental Screening Clinic
Thursday, May 21	Gr. 5's visit WMS
Friday, May 22	JR Council Art Gallery at WMS
Monday, May 25	Pizza Day Lunch
Tuesday, May 26	7F & 7M Trip to Ripley's Aquarium
Thursday, May 28	Therapy Dogs for Gr. 8's
Friday, May 29	8C Trip to the ROM
Monday, June 1	School Council Meeting at 6:00PM in Library

Monday, June 1	WMS Track & Field Day
June 2 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.