

# Willowdale Middle School



## Holiday School Closure Reminder



We would like to remind families that Willowdale MS will be closed for the winter holiday break from December 23, 2024. School will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## Marlies Hockey Game Field Trip

We are excited to offer all of our students a field trip opportunity to the Toronto Marlies ice hockey game!

**Date:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**Transportation to the Game:** School Bus

**Cost:** \$25.00 (includes ticket and school bus)

Tickets will be available on December 11<sup>th</sup> on [SchoolCash Online](#).

**The deadline to purchase a ticket is December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**



**SCHOOL DAY GAME**

Make-A-Wish CANADA

ETEC COMETS VS TORONTO MARLIES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 2025	10:45 AM	COCA-COLA COLISEUM

## Social Media and Online Safety Presentation

Thank you to all of our students and guests who attended our social media and online safety presentations by Paul Davis! It was very eye opening for all in attendance. To get in touch with Paul Davis, you can follow him on Instagram @ followPaulDavis



## Mono Cliffs - Grade 6 Overnight Trip



We are excited for our Grade 6 students to go to Mono Cliffs next week! We wish you all a safe and wonderful trip, filled with new experiences and memories!

Date	Classes
December 9 to 11, 2024	6A, 6C, 6D (Group 1)
December 11 to 13, 2024	6B, 6F, 6/7F, 6I (Group 2)

## Muskoka Woods - Grade 7 Overnight Trip



**TRIP DATE: February 5 to 7, 2025**

Muskoka Woods is a TDSB approved vendor, offering amazing outdoor education programming. Students participate in activities such as climbing, cross-country skiing, archery, ropes, and much more! Annually at WMS, we offer this trip to our Grade 7 students. For more information, please see the attached [SLIDES](#), which were shared at our information night.

The cost of the trip is \$375 and is now live on [School Cash Online](#).



## High School Information for Grade 8's

### Grade 8-9 Transition Information Night Slides

Click [HERE!](#) for the parent night information slides.

If you have any questions, please e-mail our Guidance Teacher: [lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca)

### Secondary School Open Houses - Grade 8's

To our Grade 8 families, please note the upcoming Grade 9 Open Houses and Information Nights. These dates are fast approaching. Please find more information by clicking on this link: [Secondary School Open Houses](#)

### Other Important Grade 8-9 Transition Information

- [TDSB Beyond 8 website](#)
- [Out-of-Area Admissions](#)
- [Secondary Schools without a Boundary](#)
- [Grade 8 Transition Year - At a Glance](#)

### Biidaaban: Truth and Reconciliation Initiative



This past week, Ms. Ishac, Ms. Wyman, and Ms. Ziebell attended Biidaaban, a Truth and Reconciliation professional development session (first of three), focusing on enhancing educators' understanding of Indigenous perspectives, histories, and cultures. The session provided insights into the legacy of residential schools and the ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities. Participants also had the opportunity to listen to the keynote speaker, Tanya Talaga.

Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, explored strategies for embedding Indigenous knowledge into the curriculum, and reflected on the importance of fostering inclusive learning environments that respect and honor Indigenous ways of knowing.

This experience reinforces our commitment at WMS in advancing Truth and Reconciliation through education, aligning with the TDSB's equity goals and the Calls to Action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## WMS Wildcats Sports Teams Update

### Grade 7 Girls' Basketball

On Wednesday, the Grade 7 girls' basketball team played in the conference finals at Milne Valley MS. After winning against Milne Valley our team fell short in the finals against a strong Highland team. Congratulations on a great performance, which added another Grade 7 team on our Wall of Fame in the gym!

Thank you to Mr. Batkay for your coaching efforts!



### Grade 8 Girls' Basketball



On Wednesday our Grade 8 girls' Basketball team hosted Milne Valley MS. After a great back and forth game, Willowdale sealed the victory with 15 seconds to go, 23-22. Willowdale now plays Glenview in the semifinals on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM at AY Jackson SS.

## WMS Wildcats Sports Calendar - December

Please click the link [HERE](#) to take you to our sports calendar! We will update this calendar regularly to reflect known practices, games, and tournaments for our sports teams. If you have any specific questions, please reach out to the coach of the specific team you are inquiring about.



## 2024/2025 WMS Spirit Wear



We still have a few hoodies for sale. Hoodies cost \$45 for the screenprint version and \$60 for the embroidered version. Please see Ms. Ziebell or contact her at [Lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca) if you are interested to buy one. You can also purchase one on [SchoolCashOnline](#).

We will also be selling hoodies in person at our Winter Concert on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

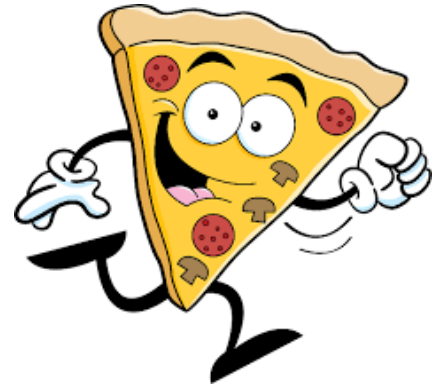
[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE NOW!](#)

## Upcoming Pizza Lunch Dates

Our last pizza lunch of 2024 will be Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for new pizza days in January 2025!

### Pizza Days:

Thursday, Dec. 19th



## 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

## Upcoming Parent Council Meetings

Our next Parent Council meeting. It will now take place on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**, beginning at 6:30PM in our school library.

At this meeting, we will be making a motion to amend the current by-laws to change the number of parent members from six (6) to a minimum of six (6) members. This will ensure we can effectively discuss and align on key decisions for WMS. We want to ensure that families are aware of the proposed amendment and this will be voted on at the next School Council meeting.





# Student Safety Information



## Streetproofing Tips Elementary

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At school, the safety of your child is our most important priority. We remind you to keep your school staff up to date with your address, phone number, childcare arrangements, to whom your child may be released, etc. We also encourage you not to permit your child to make alternate arrangements over the lunch hour if they are in a lunch program. We need you to let us know about any changes of routine and to sign your child in if they are arriving late or leaving early for any reason.

The Toronto Police streetproofing program encourages you to teach your child:

- his/her name, address, phone number
- to Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency
- to communicate with you when they feel unsafe or afraid
- to keep you informed as to his/her whereabouts at all times
- never to admit to being alone in the home when answering the telephone
- never to invite strangers into the house or answer the door when alone
- never to approach or enter a stranger's car or hitchhike
- never to travel or play alone- always be with friends
- to trust their feelings and say "NO" to an adult if that adult wants them to do something that is wrong
- not to accept gifts from strangers
- to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
- that no one has the right to touch any part of his/ her body that a bathing suit would cover
- that if he/ she is being followed, or approached too closely, to run home or go to the nearest public place and ask for help
- to report to your school authorities or a police officer, anyone who act suspiciously towards him/ her
- never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas
- never to enter anyone's home without your permission
- to avoid taking shortcuts through parks and fields
- never to show his/her money and, if attacked, to give it up rather than risk injury
- to be aware of his/her surroundings and not be distracted-never text and walk or wear headphones or earbuds to play loud music
- that a police officer is a friend who can always be relied upon when he/ she is lost or needs assistance.

Together, we can keep our school and community a safe environment for our children.

## WMS Cooking Club

This past week, the WMS Cooking Club prepared Korean Scallion Pancakes from scratch, accompanied by an Asian cucumber salad. Students learned the significance of using precise ingredients to create a dough that stretches properly, ensuring the pancakes achieve a perfectly flaky texture.

Great job, Willowdale chefs!



## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Mon., Dec. 9 to Wed., Dec. 11	Group 1 Grade 6 overnight trip to Mono Cliffs
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	Parent Council Meeting - WMS Library - 6:30PM
Wed., Dec. 11 to Fri., Dec. 13	Group 2 Grade 6 overnight trip to Mono Cliffs
Friday, December 13, 2024	ESL Presentation 1:00PM in the WMS Library
Tuesday, December 17, 2024	Grade 6 Great Lakes Toronto Zoo Presentation
Wednesday, December 18, 2024	Officer Tony visiting WMS
Thursday, December 19, 2024	Pizza Day
Dec. 23, 2024 to Jan. 3, 2025	Winter Break
Monday, January 6, 2025	School resumes
Thursday, January 16, 2025	Winter Concert - WMS Gymnasium - 6:30PM
Fri., January 17, 2025	P.A. Day (No school for students)
Wed., Feb. 5 to Fri., Feb. 7, 2025	Grade 7 Muskoka Woods Trip

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.