

# Willowdale Middle School



## Grade 8 Students - Address Verification Form

Grade 8 students have been sent home with an address verification form. This process is essential, prior to the upcoming high school course selection timelines.

**THIS MUST BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED BACK TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER, EVEN IF THERE IS NO CHANGE REQUIRED FOR YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS.**

**PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BY FEBRUARY 13, 2025.**

We thank you for your assistance and timely responses, and to those who have already returned the forms.



## Grade 8 High School Course Selection



Students will be completing their course selection with our guidance counsellor, Ms. Ziebell, at school between February 11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. Each class will have a designated time and will be provided with course selection sheets for the high school that they will be attending.

We remind students and parents/caregivers that students **MUST** attend their home school (by address) unless they have been accepted into a specialty program or via out-of-area attendance. We ask that you provide your child with your email address, as all course selections must be approved by parents/caregivers before they are considered final.

If you have any questions, please contact, [lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca)

## Report Card Distribution



Report cards will be sent home digitally on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like a paper copy of the report card, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

## Parent/Caregiver Teacher Interviews

We will be hosting parent/caregiver-teacher interviews on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00PM - 7:00PM and on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM - 12:00PM. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher to set up an appointment. We look forward to seeing you next week.

## PA DAY - Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

We would like to remind you that next Friday is a PA Day and the school will be closed for students.



## WMS Sports Update

### Grade 6 Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the Grade 6 Boys basketball team on their amazing showing in their tournament at Willowdale on February 5. Led by Boris and Thomas, the boys went 3-0 in very close and hard-fought games. Our team earned a spot in the quarterfinals which will be played during the week February 10th. Their coaches are very proud of their effort and display of team spirit and sportsmanship.

Thank you to our coaches, Ms. Wyman and Mr. Soriano for their amazing leadership.



### Herb Garden Fundraiser by the Eco Council



The Eco Council is hosting its first fundraiser to raise funds for our first WMS herb garden. Buy a plant for your loved one this year to show them how much you appreciate them.

Plants are \$5 and will be sold outside the office at lunch or through cash on line.

**Plants will be delivered on February 13. Add a chocolate for \$1.**

## 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](#)

### Important Upcoming Dates for Grade 8 Students

<b>February 10, 2025</b>	myBlueprint Course Selection opens
<b>February 26, 2025</b>	No offers for Central Student Interest Programs or Out-of-Area Admissions will be made after February 26, 2025.
<b>March 3, 2025</b>	myBlueprint Course Selection deadline

### Grade 8 Graduation Dates

Our Grade 8 Graduation ceremony will be taking place at 4:00PM on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at Earl Haig Secondary School.

Following the ceremony, we will host a Graduation celebration for students only at Novotel North York starting at 6:30PM.

More details to follow soon.



## Muskoka Woods Grade 7 Trip

Our Grade 7 students and staff enjoyed a wonderful, snow filled, outdoor experience at Muskoka Woods this past week. We are so proud of how our students represented Willowdale.

Thank you to Mr. Batkay, Ms. Teplitz, Ms. Prugo, Ms. Silis, Mr. Persic, Mr. Jones, Ms. Douglas, Ms. Dolce, Ms. Ziebell and Ms. Stoikos for helping to create lasting memories for our students.

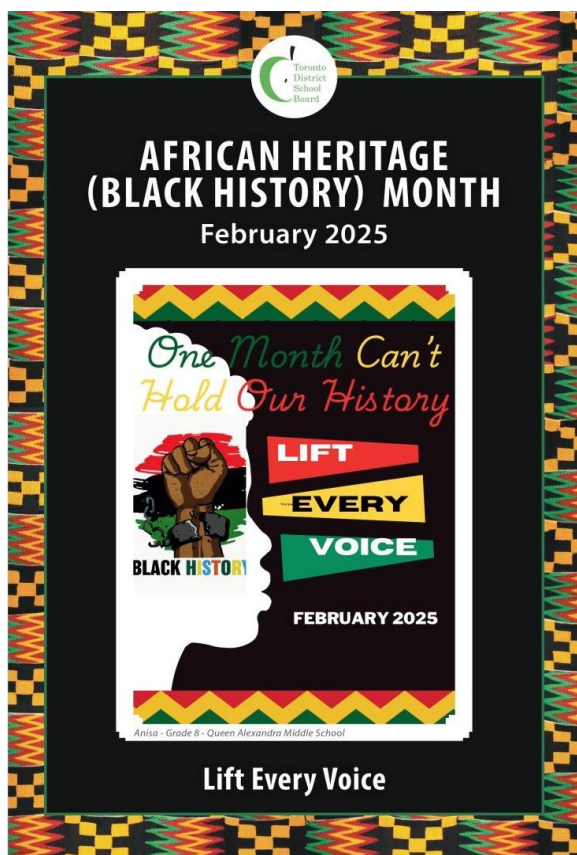








# African Heritage (Black History) Month - February



“At the TDSB, a motion to recognize [African Heritage \(Black History\) Month](#) was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004. During the month of February, African Heritage (Black History) Month is recognized across Canada thanks to The Honourable Jean Augustine. The former Member of Parliament introduced the motion in the House of Commons, and it officially took effect in February 1996. The [Black History Month Act](#) was passed in Ontario in 2016.

The chosen theme for 2024-25 is ***Lift Every Voice***. This theme is drawn from the iconic first line of the Black National Anthem, and encourages collective strength, unity, diversity, and resilience.

Whether you identify as Black, African, African-Caribbean, Black 2SLGBTQI+, or African-Indigenous, this powerful phrase invites us to acknowledge and celebrate our shared heritage, recognize our historical and ongoing struggles, and honour our achievements. It also serves as a call to action, encouraging inclusivity, collaboration, and solidarity, and reminding us of the impact we can make when we raise our voices together for justice, equity, and the greater good.”

To kick off African Heritage (Black History) Month, we are excited to extend an invitation to all students, staff, and the TDSB community to join us in marking this important month with performances by Black artists, creators, and noteworthy speakers. Please see below for details:

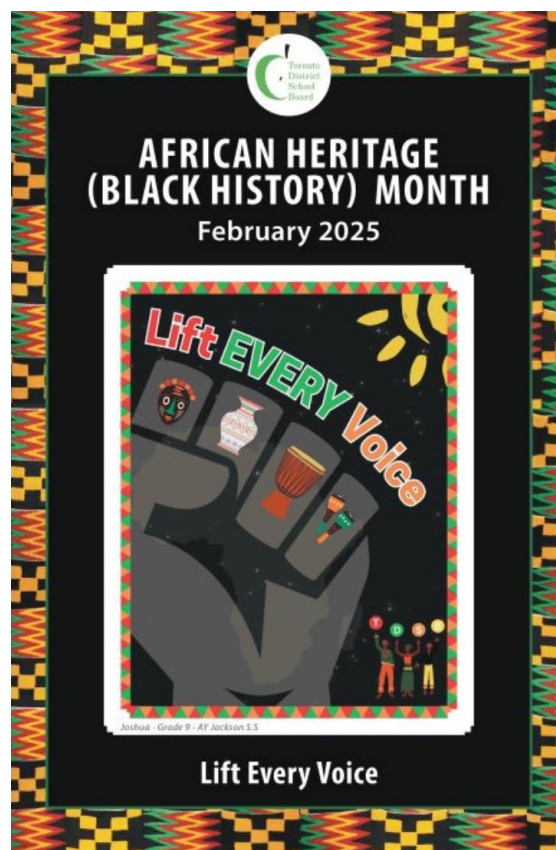
## African Heritage (Black History) Month Virtual Launch Celebration

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10 - 11 a.m. Live Stream Link:

[CLICK HERE FOR EVENT LINK](#)

For more information, follow on;

[X @tdsbAfricanHM](#) and [Instagram @tdsb\\_african\\_hm](#).



# Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB - February

"The TDSB proudly recognizes [Chinese Heritage Month](#) in February each year. This year, we celebrate the *Year of the Snake: Tenacious and Transformative*. We hope to encourage students, staff, and the TDSB community to make impactful changes amidst challenges.

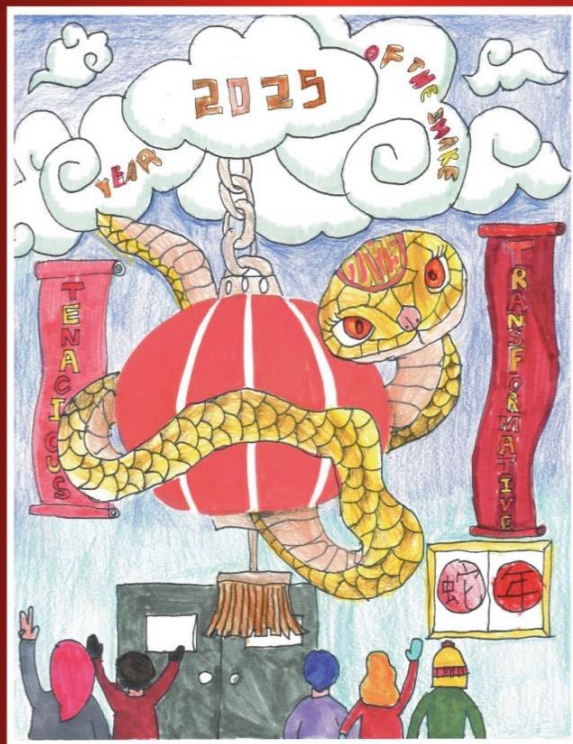
The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most significant holidays of the Chinese heritage. The date is determined by the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, and the celebration lasts 16 days. This year, the first day began on Wednesday, January 29. Festivities can include family gatherings, decorations, and of course, a feast!

An in-person Chinese Heritage Month celebration will be held at A. Y. Jackson Secondary School with performances, presentations, and speakers to mark the day. A video that captures the highlights of the event will be posted for all to enjoy!"

For more information, follow on [X at @tdsbChineseHM](#) for daily messages throughout February.



## Chinese Heritage Month



Ava, Hillmount P.S., Grade 2

**February 2025**

*Year of the Snake: Tenacious and Transformative*



## Chinese Heritage Month



Shela, Claude Watson School for the Arts, Grade 4

**February 2025**

*Year of the Snake: Tenacious and Transformative*



## Norooz Celebration at WMS

Willowdale will be hosting Norooz/Novroz at Willowdale this year! Norooz, which marks the first day of Spring (March 20 this year) is celebrated by people all over the world.

On March 19, students from various cultures and religions who observe Norooz will be creating a display to talk about their cultural or religious connection to Norooz.



## Upcoming Pizza Lunch Days and Order Information



Below are the upcoming pizza days for the month of February. If you have not ordered already and you are still interested in ordering, a new cash online has been set up. Please see the link: [School Cash Online](#)

### Pizza Days:

Wednesday, February 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 School Council Meetings

Our next School Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025**, beginning at 6:30PM in our school library.

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



## WMS Sports Calendar - February



Please see our sports calendar that is being updated for February. [CLICK HERE!](#)

## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Wed., Feb. 12, 2025	Digital Report Cards go home
Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025	Parent-Teacher Interviews (4:00 to 7:00PM)
Fri., Feb. 14, 2025	P.A. Day (No school for students & Parent-Teacher Interviews (9:00AM to 12:00PM)
Mon., Feb. 17, 2025	Family Day (No school)
Wed., Feb. 26, 2025	School Council Meeting at 6:30PM in Library
Mon., Mar 10 - Fri., Mar. 14, 2025	March Break (No 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.