

Willowdale Middle School



Grade 8 Graduation Trip Information - Ottawa

This is a friendly reminder to register ASAP for our Grade 8 graduation trip to Ottawa. We are very excited to offer this meaningful and memorable experience for our students, and we don't want anyone to miss out on the chance.



If you were unable to attend our parent/caregiver information night, the presentation slides can be found [HERE!](#)

Please also review our registration information letter [HERE](#) for full trip details.

Trip Dates:

 **June 10 – June 12, 2026**

REGISTRATION IS PAST DUE, BUT WE STILL HAVE SOME SPACES AVAILABLE. REGISTER TODAY! So far, we have 100 students registered to attend!

Please visit: <https://portal.brightsparktravel.ca/>

**Tour Web Code:
EQZ26PL**

If you have any questions, please contact: Lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca

Thank you for your support—we look forward to an amazing graduation experience for our Grade 8 students!

Winter Invierno Music Concert

On January 21st, the Willowdale Music Council hosted our 5th annual winter concert, filled with lots of exciting performances. We are so proud of all our student musicians who participated, and provided amazing entertainment for our Willowdale community.

Thank you to all families who attended and made this event so special.

Thank you to Mr. Jones and Ms. Klunowski for all their hard work in making this amazing performance possible!



WMS Annual Craft Market

A big thank you to our wonderful Junior Council students, along with Ms. Beaubien and Ms. Miller, for organizing an amazing Craft Market! The event was a huge success, and we are grateful to our school community for their generous support. Each item sold was a unique, handmade creation, proudly crafted by members of our own school community.



Muskoka Woods - Grade 7 Overnight Trip



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. Our trip will take place from February 4-6, 2026.

The deadline to register has now passed.

For more information, please see the slides we shared during our virtual information night: [Muskoka Woods Information Slides](#).

Internet Safety Presentation with the YMCA

This week the Grade 8 ELL students participated in an informative Internet Safety presentation organized by our Settlement Worker, Svetlana Kravchenko. The session was delivered by Kevin Khuu from the YMCA.

The presentation focused on helping students understand how to stay safe, responsible, and respectful while using the internet and social media. Students learned about protecting personal information, making smart online choices, and where to seek help if they feel uncomfortable online. We thank Svetlana and the Kevin for providing this valuable learning opportunity for our school community.

Thank you to Ms. Chantzis for organizing this amazing experience for our students.



Willowdale Middle School Big Box Fundraising



Dear Families,

We are thrilled to kick off a new fundraiser at our school – **The Big Box of Cards!** This campaign is a fun and simple way to support our school, and each box offers great value your family and friends will love.

Card boxes sell for \$35 each and the Candles box sell for \$40 each:

- 35 **All Occasion** cards
- 35 **All Birthday** cards
- **Holiday Box** cards
- Big Box of **Candles**

Our campaign will run from **January 23rd, 2026**, to **February 13th, 2026**. Below are product video links which are perfect to share with friends, coworkers, and extended family to help boost your sales!

All orders and payments should be submitted by **February 13th, 2026**. Payment for orders are now available on [School Cash Online](#).

Prizes!

- If we sell 75+ boxes, the top-selling class will win a pizza party
 - If our school sells 150+ boxes, for every 3 boxes your family sells, you'll be entered into a draw to win one of four \$25 gift cards
 - If we hit 400 boxes, we'll also draw for a Samsung 8" Tablet
- There's no limit – the more boxes you sell, the more entries you get!

Product Preview Links

- [All Occasion Box](#)
- [Holiday Box](#)
- [Candle Box](#)
- [Full Collection Overview](#)



All funds raised from the *Big Box Fundraising* will go towards subsidies for school trips, sustaining our nutrition program, and other school initiatives. Thank you for supporting our students through this exciting fundraiser. Your participation makes a difference, and we hope you enjoy sharing these beautiful card sets and/or candles with your friends and loved ones!

Black in Canada - Prologue @ WMS

On Thursday, January 22nd, our entire school had the opportunity to attend a powerful Prologue performance by the Artists in Motion dance group. Our students experienced an engaging presentation from the *Black in Canada* program, which uses dance, music, and storytelling to explore the history, experiences, and contributions of Black communities in Canada.

Through dynamic movement and meaningful narratives, the performance highlighted themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion, encouraging students to reflect on identity, resilience, and belonging. The presentation sparked thoughtful conversations and provided a meaningful learning experience that connected the arts with social awareness and historical understanding. We thank Artists in Motion for sharing their talent and stories with our Willowdale community.



Thank you to Mr. Batkay for organizing this event!

Digest This! Hands-On Science Learning

Students in Grade 6 this week took part in *Digest This!* - a hands-on workshop exploring how organic waste can be turned into renewable energy. This program, run by Relay Education, taught students about non-renewable and renewable sources of electricity. They learned how biodigesters work and made connections to the human digestive system. They investigated chemical reactions by mixing solids and liquids. Through experiments, students practiced measuring, collecting data, and observing changes. The Grade 6 classes developed scientific understanding and lab skills while connecting to the Grade 6 Science & Technology curriculum.

Thank you to Ms. Wyman for organizing these workshops for our Grade 6 students!



Newcomer / ESL Students High School Information Night at WMS



CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SETTLEMENT AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS IN TORONTO (SEPT)

Assisting Parents with Challenges during Transitions from Gr. 8 to Gr. 9



Speaker: Tara Latreille, Secondary School Guidance Counsellor

Join the session to learn about:

- Role of parents in transition period: Grade 8-9
- Secondary school readiness and expectations
- Work habits needed for success
- Options to improve English & Math
- Secondary School Diploma requirements
- School educators' advice to parents
- Q&A

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/4jPEWda>



When: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

For more information and registration, please contact settlement worker:

Svetlana Kravchenko at: 647-999-9385; e-mail: svetlana.kravchenko@cicscanada.com

*All CICS virtual sessions are protected by passwords for privacy protection and program quality assurance. Please register to obtain the Zoom meeting ID and password.

www.cicscanada.com

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 Financé par:  Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Secondary School Open Houses - Grade 8's



To our Grade 8 families:

Please note that there are several upcoming Grade 9 Open Houses and Information Nights at our local high schools. These dates are fast approaching. Please find more information by clicking on this link: [Secondary School Open Houses](#)

WMS Grade 8 to 9 Transitions - Information Slides

[CLICK HERE](#)

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](#)

Out-of-Area Admission Applications - [NOW OPEN!](#)

Please follow the instructions on this link if you are interested in applying.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Important Upcoming Dates for Grade 8 Students

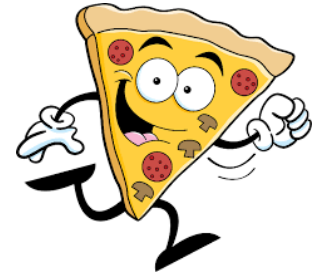
January 6, 2026	Out-of-Area Admission Application opens
January 23, 2026	Out-of-Area Admission Application closed at 4:00PM
February 9, 2026	myBlueprint Course Selection opens
February 27, 2026	myBlueprint Course Selection deadline

Upcoming Pizza Lunches

Our next block for pizza day lunches for the new year will be as follows:
January 28, February 9, February 26, March 10, March 25.

The deadline to order has already passed.

Thank you to our parent volunteers for making pizza days possible at Willowdale MS!



WMS Sports Teams Practice Schedule

We've created a "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 **March 3, April 21, and June 1, 2026** beginning at 6:00PM in our school library.

We hope to see you at our next meeting in March!



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

Grade 8 Graduation Hoodie

We are pleased to share that **Class of 2026** Graduation Hoodies are going back on sale one final time on [SchoolCash Online](#) starting today!

This will be the **last chance** to purchase a Grade 8 graduation hoodie, as the ordering window will be open for **three weeks only**. We encourage families who may have missed the initial sale to take advantage of this opportunity.

Additional details regarding delivery will be shared once the ordering window closes.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca.



Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Friday, January 23	Big Box Fundraiser is now OPEN
Wednesday, January 28	Pizza Day Lunch
February 4 to 6	Gr. 7 Overnight Trip to Muskoka Woods
Monday, February 9	Pizza Day Lunch
Tuesday, February 10	Superintendent Morgan visits WMS
Wednesday, February 11	Report Cards are sent home
	Willowdale Winter Olympics Day
Thursday, February 12	Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:00 to 7:00PM)
Friday, February 13	P.A. Day (No school for students)
	Parent-Teacher Conferences (9:00AM to 12:00PM)
Monday, February 16	Family Day (No school)
Wednesday, February 18	TDSB Day at the Marlies
Thursday, February 19	Grade 6 Civil Liberties Presentations in the Library
Friday, February 20	Grade 8 Science Fair
Tuesday, February 24	Social Media Presentation by Paul Davies -Student Assembly at 1:00PM -Parent Presentation at 6:30PM

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.