

Willowdale Middle School



Muskoka Woods - Grade 7 Overnight Trip



TRIP DATE: February 5 to 7, 2025

We would like to wish our Grade 7 students and staff going to Muskoka Woods next week an amazing trip, filled with fun and lasting memories.

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.



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.

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

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](#)

Course Selection

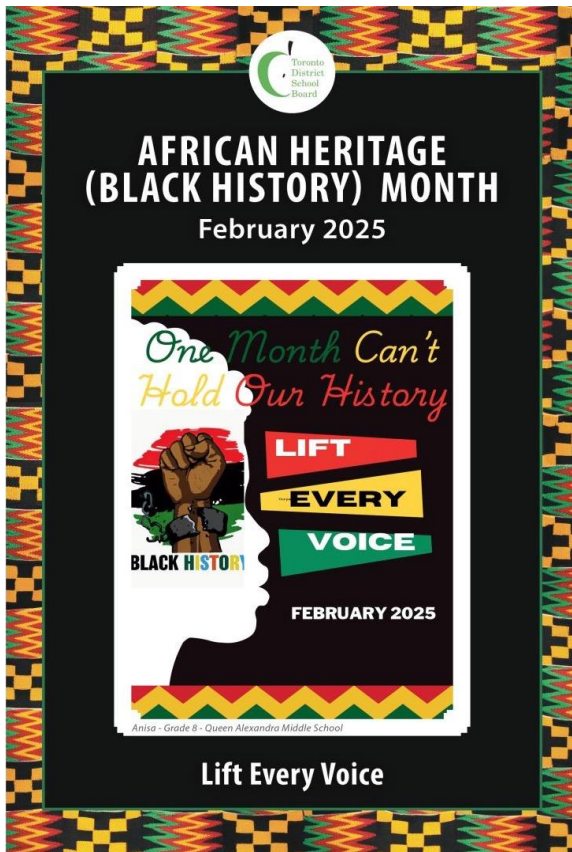
Students will be completing their course selection with our guidance counselor, Ms. Ziebell, at school, between February 11th - 18th. Each class will have a designated time and will be provided with course selection sheets for the high school that they will be attending. We remind students and parents/caregivers 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

Important Upcoming Dates for Grade 8 Students

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

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:

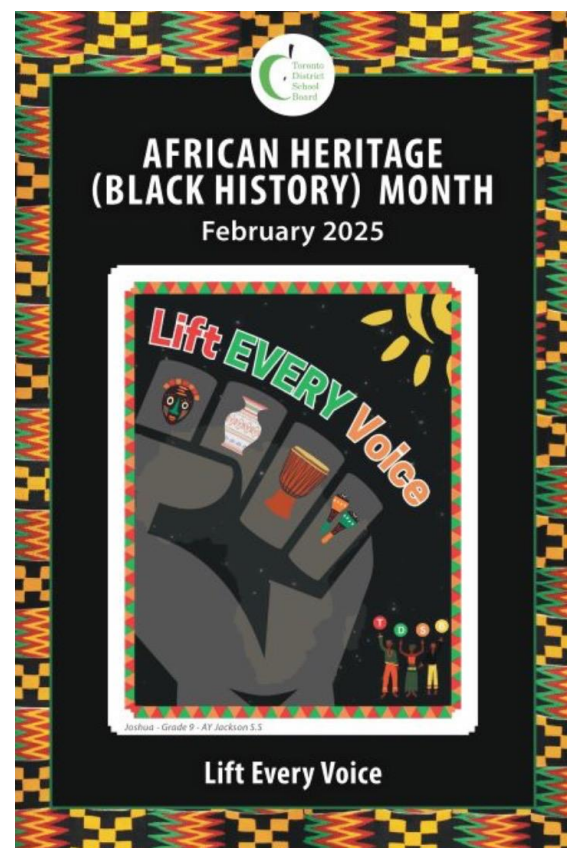
African Heritage (Black History) Month Virtual Launch Celebration

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.

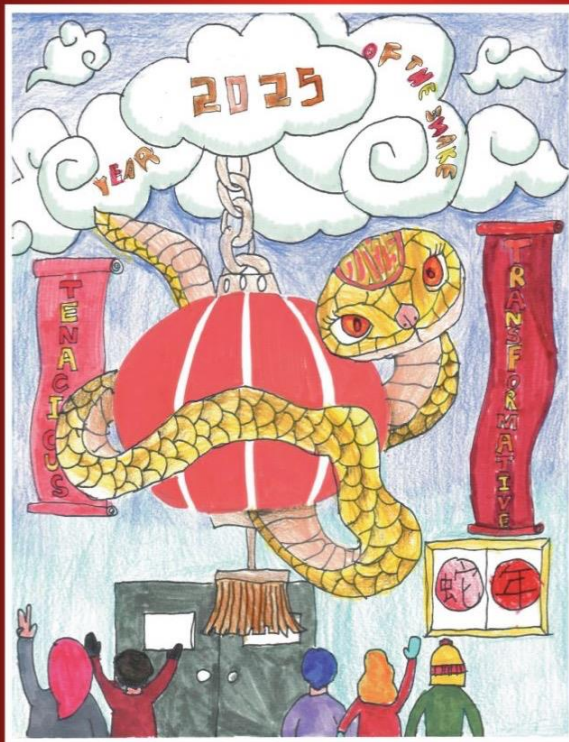
The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most significant holidays of the Chinese heritage. The date is determined by the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, and the celebration lasts 16 days. This year, the first day began on Wednesday, January 29. Festivities can include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

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.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE NOW!](#)

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:
Tuesday, February 4th
Wednesday, February 19th

Calling All Pizza Lovers! We Need Your Help!



Get ready for some cheesy goodness! Our next pizza lunch is just around the corner on Tuesday February 4th, and we need our amazing parent volunteers to make it happen! We're looking for friendly faces to help from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM outside the office. Tasks include setup, checking in students, serving pizza, handing out napkins, and helping with cleanup. It's a fun way to get involved in your child's school and see all the smiling faces enjoying their pizza! Even 30 minutes of your time is a huge help and greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please email sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca.

Let's make this pizza lunch the best one yet!



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

Grade 8 Graduation Trip Information - Montreal

The Grade 8 graduation trip to Montreal will be taking place on **May 28 to May 30, 2025.**

WE HAVE A FEW SPOTS LEFT – SIGN UP NOW!

Tour Web Code:

EPRSBUS

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

A non-refundable deposit of \$195 is required upon registration.



Slides from presentation - [Click Here](#)

Parent Information Letter - [Click Here](#)

Trip Sign up Instructions - [Click Here](#)

Draft Itinerary (may have small changes) [Click Here](#)

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. 5 to Fri., Feb. 7, 2025	Grade 7 Muskoka Woods Trip
Wed., Feb. 12, 2025	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

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.