

# Willowdale Middle School



## Grade 6 Boys Basketball Update - CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS!



On March 3rd, our Grade 6 Boys Basketball team competed in both the semi-finals and the conference finals. It was a day filled with resilience, teamwork, and exciting moments on the court.

The semi-final matchup against Highland Middle School set the tone for the day. The game was an intense back-and-forth battle, with the lead changing throughout. Showing great composure under pressure, Willowdale pulled ahead in the final minutes to secure a 29-26 victory and earn a spot in the finals.

The momentum carried into the Conference Finals against Bayview Middle School, which proved to be another thrilling game. In a contest that came down to the final possessions, Willowdale secured the win by a single point with a final score of 32-31 to capture the Northern Conference Championship.

Winning the Northern Conference is a tremendous accomplishment for our student-athletes, and we are very proud of their dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Willowdale will now proudly represent the Northern Conference as the team advances to the City Finals next Thursday.

A special thank you to Mr. Lee, and volunteer Mr. Mak, for their dedication and support in coaching the team. Way to go, Wildcats! Good luck in City Finals!

Go Wildcats! 🐾 🏀

# Canadian Olympians Visit WMS!

On Thursday, March 5, Willowdale had the exciting opportunity to welcome three members of Canada's Olympic Bobsleigh Team to our school to meet with and speak to our students. Athletes Luka Stoikos, Cynthia Appiah and Mark Zanette visited Willowdale and shared their experiences competing at the Olympic level.



During their visit, the athletes spoke with students about their journeys in sport, the dedication required to compete at a high level, and the importance of perseverance, resilience, teamwork, and setting goals. Students were excited to hear firsthand what it takes to represent Canada on the world stage and had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the sport of bobsleigh.

Meeting Olympic athletes in person was an inspiring experience for our students and a memorable moment for everyone involved.

We would like to thank athletes Mark, Cynthia and Luka for taking the time to visit Willowdale and share their stories of inspiration with our students. 🇨🇦

A special thank you to our student MC's and tech support who did an amazing job running the assembly: Jacob M., Reya J., Matty B., Niki A., Viola T.



## Toronto Raptors 905 Trip



On Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> a group of our students had the exciting opportunity to attend a Raptors 905 game. The game was full of energy, great plays, and plenty of excitement as students cheered on the team throughout the afternoon.

Students enjoyed experiencing a live basketball game, watching the fast-paced action on the court, and taking in the atmosphere of the arena alongside their classmates. The final score was a loss of 123-121, making it a close and thrilling game right down to the final moments.

It was a memorable experience for everyone who attended and a great chance for students to come together and enjoy a professional basketball game.

A special thank you to Ms. Wyman and Ms. Ziebell for organizing this opportunity for our students. 🏀

## Toronto Holocaust Museum Trip - Grade 6

This week, our Grade 6 students visited the Holocaust Museum in North York as part of their learning for history. During the visit, students explored a variety of exhibits that included historical artifacts, photographs, and survivor testimonies that documented the events of the Holocaust.

Students had the opportunity to learn about the historical timeline, the experiences of individuals and families during this time, and the impact these events had on communities. The visit supported classroom learning and allowed students to engage with primary sources and real-life accounts connected to this period in history.

Thank you to Ms. Wyman for organizing this learning opportunity for our Grade 6 students.



## Willowdale Participates at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual MSEO!

Twenty-four of our Grade 7 and 8 students took their talents to the big stage yesterday for the 19th Annual Mackenzie Science and Engineering Olympics (MSEO). Hosted by the high school students at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute, this prestigious event is a full-day gauntlet of hands-on, inquiry-based challenges.

The MSEO isn't just about being a "science whiz"—it's a high-pressure environment where students must master cooperation, negotiation, and rapid-fire problem-solving across chemistry, biology, engineering, math, and computer science.

We are incredibly proud of how our students represented Willowdale. Our Grade 8 teams truly leveraged their experience, delivering a standout performance to secure two first-place finishes and a second-place result. Beyond the accolades, it was inspiring to see our students collaborating to tackle complex engineering builds and scientific mysteries. They proved that while individual knowledge is great, teamwork is the ultimate catalyst for success.

Congratulations to all our participants for their hard work and school spirit. We're already looking forward to even greater success at the 20th annual games next year!

A big thank you also goes out to Ms. Prugo and Ms. Teplitz, who made this experience possible.



## Grade 8 Graduation Trip Information - **LAST CHANCE!!!!!!!**

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. **WE ONLY HAVE A FEW SPOTS LEFT!!**



**The deadline to register for the Ottawa trip is March 27, 2026.**

For information about the trip and how to register, please see [HERE](#) for details.

Presentation slides can be found [HERE](#)!

**Trip Dates: June 10 to June 12, 2026**

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

**Tour Web Code:  
EQZ26PL**

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

We look forward to an amazing graduation experience for our Grade 8 students.

## Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Team Update

Congratulations to the Grade 6 Girls Volleyball team on their amazing season. A few weeks ago, our girls won their pool by going 5-0. In the playoffs, they won 2 games before finally losing in the conference final to a very strong Bayview Middle School team.



The girls showed a ton of dedication and hard work in practice and in their games and they were rewarded with a banner. This is the first volleyball banner for the Grade 6's in more than 10 years.

Thank you to our assistant coaches: Viola, June, and Grace. We couldn't have done it without you!

A huge thank you to Ms. Beaubien and Mr. Soriano for their leadership with the team!

Great job, Wildcats!

## Grade 6-8 All Gender Ball Hockey Team Update

Congratulations to the Grade 6-8 All-Gender Ball Hockey team on their amazing season. The team hosted a tournament at Willowdale coming in second place in their pool with a 2-2 record. That qualified the team for the playoffs before they lost to the eventual conference champions, Don Valley Middle School.

Our team shows great potential with most of our players in Grade 6 and plenty of returning players. Thank you to Mr. Soriano for coaching our team this year! Let's go, Wildcats!

## Grade 6-8 Ice Hockey Update

Our Grade 6-8 All-Gender Ice Hockey Team wrapped up an incredible season this week as they competed in the quarterfinals against St. Andrew's Middle School. The game took place at The Rinx and featured a challenging matchup, with Willowdale entering as the 8th seed against the top-ranked team in the city.

Despite the tough draw, our team played with tremendous determination, teamwork, and spirit. Willowdale gave St. Andrew's a strong run for their money, battling hard throughout the game and showing great resilience on the ice. The final score was 4-2, with one of St. Andrew's goals coming on an empty net late in the game.



We are incredibly proud of the effort, sportsmanship, and teamwork shown by our players all season long. Congratulations to the entire team on a fantastic year representing Willowdale.

Thank you to our coaches, Mr. Weidenfelder and Ms. Ziebell. 🙌👉

## 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 **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!



# Social Media and Online Safety Presentation

We are pleased to share that TDSB-trained facilitators are offering **free Livingworks safeTALK training sessions for parents and caregivers.**

SafeTALK is a half-day (3-4 hour) suicide alertness training designed to help participants understand the principles of suicide alertness, recognize signs that someone may be struggling, and respond in ways that connect individuals to the support they need. This important learning opportunity empowers families and caregivers with practical tools and increased confidence to help keep our community safe.

**Saturday, March 7th**  
**10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**150 Borough Drive**

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to register using the provided link or QR code.

# Greek Heritage Month @ the TDSB

“The TDSB is proud to recognize Greek Heritage Month during the month of March. This heritage is also celebrated across the Province of Ontario through the [Hellenic Heritage Month Act, 2019](#). The Act notes that March is significant for the Hellenic community, with Greek Independence Day observed each year on March 25.

Proclaiming March as Hellenic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to remember, celebrate, and educate future generations about the achievements and contributions of Hellenic Canadians. This year marks the eleventh year of recognizing Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB. The theme for 2026 is:

**Celebrating Identities: From Alpha to Omega**  
**«Γιορτάζοντας Ταυτότητες: Από το Άλφα στο Ωμέγα» “**

## 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              |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Monday, March 9 (all week) | Dance classes begin for all classes             |
| Tuesday, March 10          | Pizza Day Lunch                                 |
|                            | Superintendent of Education visits WMS          |
| Wednesday, March 11        | Gr. 8 ESL Trip to Brick Labs                    |
| Thursday, March 12         | Gr. 6 Boys Basketball team at City Finals       |
| March 16 to 20             | <b>MARCH BREAK (No school)</b>                  |
| Wednesday, March 25        | Pizza Day Lunch                                 |
| March 31 to April 1        | Skills Trade Presentations                      |
| Tuesday, April 3           | <b>Good Friday (No School)</b>                  |
| Monday, April 6            | <b>Easter Monday (No School)</b>                |
| Tuesday, April 7           | Gr. 8 Graduation Photo Day                      |
|                            | Superintendent of Education visits WMS          |
| Wednesday, April 8         | Therapy Dogs visit Gr. 7's                      |
| Tuesday, April 14          | Pizza Day Lunch                                 |
|                            | Fire Drill                                      |
| Thursday, April 16         | 7F, 7M, 8F, 8M Trip to Molière Théâtre          |
| Tuesday, April 21          | School Council Meeting at 6:00PM in the Library |
| Wednesday, April 22        | Speech Competition at WMS (all grades)          |
| Thursday, April 23         | Fire Drill                                      |
| Monday, April 27           | Fire Drill                                      |
| Wednesday, April 29        | Pizza Day Lunch                                 |
| April 30 to May 1          | Rugby Workshops                                 |

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.