

# Willowdale Middle School



## Willowdale Speeches at the TDSB Speech Arts Finals

Willowdale sent our finalists, Katelyn M. (Grade 6), Jacob M. (Grade 7), and Ashley P. (Grade 8) to the TDSB Speech Arts Festival this week at Don Valley MS.

Our students did a fantastic job presenting their speeches. Katelyn and Ashley scored third place at the Finals.

We are very proud of all of our speakers for their commitment and hard work to represent Willowdale at the Festival.

Congratulations on a job well done!



## WMS Student, Spenta, Represents our School at Queen's Park



This spring, our school community has something special to celebrate. Grade 8 student **Spenta K.** was selected to serve as a **Legislative Page** at the **Ontario Legislative Assembly** in Toronto - an achievement that reflects academic excellence, leadership and strong community involvement.

During her time at Queen's Park, Spenta played an important role supporting the daily work of the Legislative Chamber. Pages deliver messages, assist Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), and help ensure that the day-to-day proceedings of the Legislature run smoothly. At the same time, they gain a unique behind-the-scenes look at how Ontario's provincial government operates.

The selection process for the Legislative Page Program is highly competitive. Applicants must submit a detailed application, including an essay highlighting their academic achievements, extracurricular involvement, leadership roles and their interest in government and public service. Spenta's selection is a testament to her dedication, curiosity and commitment to learning.



Each day began early, with Pages arriving by 8:00 a.m. to prepare for the legislative session ahead. In addition to their responsibilities in the Chamber, Spenta also took part in learning sessions about parliamentary procedure and had the opportunity to meet several leaders, including the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, **Donna Skelly**, Premier **Doug Ford**, and local MPP and Solicitor General **Michael Kerzner**.

One of the highlights of the experience was meeting students from across the province, forming new friendships, and sharing a unique educational experience that encouraged leadership and civic engagement.

Spenta's accomplishment is a proud moment for the school community, highlighting the impact of student leadership and the value of experiential learning opportunities.

We are so happy that Spenta had this wonderful opportunity, and we are very proud of her!

Great job, Spenta!

## Gauss Math Contest of WMS

Willowdale will be hosting the Gauss Mathematics Contest on May 20th. This exciting opportunity, organized by the University of Waterloo, invites students to challenge themselves with engaging and thought-provoking mathematical problems.

The contest encourages students to apply their problem-solving skills, think critically, and explore mathematics in a fun and meaningful way. We look forward to seeing our students take on this challenge and showcase their mathematical thinking.



Best of luck to all participants!

# Festival Winds Visits the Toronto Symphony Orchestra



On Monday April 27, the Festival Winds took part in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's school concert series. This program offers school day concerts for students and introduces the wonderful world of orchestra and orchestral music to the next generation! This year's theme was *Fiesta Sinfonica*. In *Fiesta Sinfónica*, a lively selection of orchestral works spanning the Americas is shared. From the elegance of a Mexican danzón to the fire of Argentine tango, this concert offers a glimpse into the many sounds, rhythms, melodies, and colours that have inspired audiences around the world", Unknown, Unknown.

*Grade 7-12 Study Guide, Fiesta Sinfonica*, TSO, Toronto, Ontario, 2026.

## Grade 8 Reach Ahead Credit - Summer 2026

The Toronto District School Board Continuing Education department is pleased to offer the Reach Ahead Program for incoming Grade 9 students. This July, students have the opportunity to take *Technology and the Skilled Trades (TAS101)* in-person and earn a credit toward their OSSD before beginning high school.

This program supports a smooth transition to secondary school by helping students build confidence and become familiar with high school expectations.

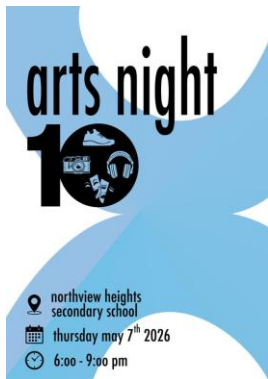
Registration opens on April 28. For more information, please visit the [Reach Ahead website](#).

### Program locations include:

- Central Technical School
- Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute
- Western Technical-Commercial School
- David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute
- West Humber Collegiate Institute
- Westview Centennial Secondary School

**tdsb** | Continuing Education

## Arts Night at Northview Heights



Northview Heights SS' Arts & Cyber Department invites the Willowdale MS community to the 10th Annual Arts Night on Thursday, May 7, from 6:00-9:00 PM at 550 Finch Ave. W. (Please park in the east lot and enter through Entrance 11).

Join them to celebrate student artists, musicians, dancers, and actors with art exhibits, live performances, food for sale, and free face painting and henna.

All are welcome!

## WMS Track and Field Day - Updated Date



Willowdale Middle School Track and Field Day has been postponed to June 1st due to the field conditions. This highly anticipated event provides students with the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities, demonstrate sportsmanship, and enjoy a day of friendly competition with their peers.

We look forward to a great day of energy, enthusiasm, and school spirit!

Thank you to all of our students who came out and tried out for the Track and Field team this past week!

## Reminder for the Upcoming Immunization Clinic At WMS

We would like to remind you that nurses from Toronto Public Health will be visiting our school Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, to administer the next dose of the hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines to Grade 7 students with a consent form.

These vaccines are essential for protection against hepatitis B and HPV, and two doses are required for full protection. If you missed any vaccines during the first clinic, you can still catch up at this time.

Please remember to wear a short-sleeved or loose-sleeved top and eat something before being vaccinated.

Parents and/or legal guardians with questions related to immunization, please call 416-338-7600 and select option 2 for immunization or visit [toronto.ca/SchoolVaccines](https://toronto.ca/SchoolVaccines).

## 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 **June 1, 2026** beginning at 6:00PM in our school library.

[Click here](#) to view the minutes from our previous meeting on April 21, 2026.



## Grade 6 EQAO



The EQAO dates for our Grade 6 students to write the EQAO tests are June 2-9, 2025. The tests measure student performance in reading, writing and mathematics based on the expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum.

TDSB EQAO Guide for Parents- Click [HERE!](#)

## Helmet Safety

Wearing a helmet is one of the simplest—and most important—ways students can stay safe while biking, scootering, skateboarding, or rollerblading. As the weather warms up and more students are active outdoors, it’s a great time to remind everyone that helmets help protect against serious head injuries and can significantly reduce the risk of concussion.

At the middle school level, students are gaining independence and often traveling to and from school on their own. Developing strong safety habits now is essential. A properly fitted helmet should sit level on the head, cover the forehead, and be snug enough that it doesn’t move around.

We encourage all students to make helmet use a non-negotiable part of their routine. Families can support this by ensuring helmets fit properly and by modeling safe behaviours at home. Let’s work together to keep our students safe, active, and protected all season long!



# Yearbook Cover Contest

Are you interested in participating in our annual WMS yearbook cover contest? If you are, please ensure you meet the following parameters:


**DUE: Tuesday, May 12th**

## Criteria for Yearbook Cover Contest:

- 1) Clearly states the year (2025-2026)
- 2) Clearly states the school name Willowdale MS or initials WMS
- 3) Positive message about this year at WMS that infuses unique aspects of 2025/2026
- 4) Reflects the diversity of activities and students at Willowdale
- 5) Preference will be given to hand-drawn images and creative designs
- 6) Designs must be by 8.5x11 and in portrait layout.

Please submit or email Ms. Wyman at [Naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca).



**YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST**  
**FINAL DATE: Tuesday May 12. Voting May 14th**



**Criteria for Yearbook Cover Contest:**

- 1) Clearly states the year (2025-2026)
- 2) Clearly states the school name Willowdale MS
- 3) Positive message about this year at WMS that infuses unique aspects of 2025/2026
- 4) Reflects the diversity of activities and students at Willowdale
- 5) Preference will be given to hand-drawn images and creative designs
- 6) Designs must be by 8.5 x 11 and in portrait layout.
- 7) It is recommended to leave a border around the edges

**Please submit or email: Ms. Wyman:**  
[naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca)

# Rugby Workshops at WMS - Updated Date



**NEW DATE:** Willowdale is excited to host a special rugby clinic for our students! On June 17 and 12<sup>th</sup>, TIRF Rugby will be visiting our school to lead introductory rugby workshops.

# Water Guns/Soakers/Blasters

Students and parents are reminded that water guns, soakers or water blasters of any kind are not permitted at school at any time. If they are found on school property, they will be confiscated immediately, and returned only if a parent comes to pick them up. We appreciate parents' co-operation and support in speaking with their child about this issue.

# 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



## Asian Heritage Month

“The TDSB has proudly recognized the month of May as Asian Heritage Month since 2007, following official recognition by the Province of Ontario in 2005 and the Government of Canada in 2002.

This year’s TDSB theme is *Asian Heritage: Roots, Connections, Innovations*. This theme underscores the deep roots that affirm identities, the strong connections shaped through collective cultural pride, and the future innovations that will continue to strengthen communities and create opportunities for Asian Canadians in Canada and around the world.

The TDSB is the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada. Nearly one-quarter of students were born outside of Canada, and collectively, more than 120 languages are spoken across the system. According to the 2023 Student Census, 46 percent of TDSB students self-identified as Asian.

This May, the Asian Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee has assembled a range of educational opportunities. These include an author reading for students, a panel discussion featuring TDSB educators, and a session focused on discovering traditional Asian heritage dance.

Students, staff, and community members are invited to attend the Asian Heritage Month Virtual Launch Celebration on **May 6 at 1 p.m.** This live webinar will feature speakers and student performances while offering opportunities to deepen learning about Asian heritage. [Join the Microsoft Teams event here.](#) “

## Jewish Heritage Month

Jewish Heritage Month is recognized each May in Ontario following the passage of the Jewish Heritage Month Act in 2012, which acknowledges the important contributions Jewish Canadians have made to Ontario’s social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.

At the TDSB, Jewish Heritage Month provides an opportunity to recognize Jewish history, identity, and culture, and to support learning that promotes understanding, belonging, and respect across school communities.

This year, schools can explore *Being Jewish in Ontario*, an educational resource designed for middle and secondary classrooms. The collection includes a short film of approximately 10 minutes, along with lesson plans and supporting materials available in English and French. The resource explores what it means to be Jewish today through the voices of Jewish youth and their family members, while also examining how Jewish immigrants across Ontario established a sense of community, belonging, and possibility during the first half of the twentieth century, despite experiencing societal exclusion.

The resource highlights both specific Jewish historical experiences and broader, universal themes of identity, belonging, and collective action. The film and learning materials are available at [www.beingjewishinontario.org](http://www.beingjewishinontario.org).

## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Monday, May 4	6F Trip to Ripley's Aquarium
Tuesday, May 5	8D Trip to the ROM
	Junior Achievement for Gr. 8's (AM)
Wednesday, May 6	Gr. 7 Vaccination Clinic (Toronto Public Health)
	Staff Appreciation Breakfast hosted by School Council
Friday, May 8	French Classes on Trip to Berkeley- Théâtre Français
Monday, May 11	Track & Field Area Qualifier at Esther Shiner
Wednesday, May 13	Forest of Reading Conference
	Drama Club Performance (Shrek Jr.)
Thursday, May 14	Pizza Day Lunch
	Junior Achievement for Gr. 8's (AM)
Friday, May 15	Gr. 8 Visit to Northview S.S.
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day (No School)
Tuesday, May 19	ESL students visit the YMCA (AM)
May 20 & 21	TPH Gr. 7 Dental Screening Clinic
Wednesday, May 21	Gr. 5 Parent-Information Night (Virtual) at 6:00PM
Thursday, May 21	Gr. 5 Students visit WMS
Friday, May 22	JR Council Art Gallery at WMS
Monday, May 25	Pizza Day Lunch
Tuesday, May 26	7F & 7M Trip to Ripley's Aquarium
Wednesday, May 27	Gr. 6 Choir at Wonderland
Thursday, May 28	Therapy Dogs for Gr. 8's
Friday, May 29	8C Trip to the ROM
Monday, June 1	School Council Meeting at 6:00PM in Library
Monday, June 1	WMS Track & Field Day
June 2 to 9	Gr. 6 EQAO Writing
Tuesday, June 2	Track & Field Conference Finals at Esther Shiner
Wednesday, June 3	CODA Music Concert at 6:30PM
Friday, June 5	P.A. Day (No school for students)

Tuesday, June 9	Pizza Day Lunch
	City Championship for Track & Field at Birchmount
June 10 to 12	Gr. 8 Trip to Ottawa
June 11 & 12	Gr. 6 Trips to Aga Khan
Wednesday, June 17-18	Rugby Workshops
Thursday, June 18	Pizza Day Lunch
Monday, June 22	Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony and Celebration
Wednesday, June 24	Pizza Day Lunch
	Activity Afternoon
	Report Cards are sent home electronically
Thursday, June 25	Last Day of School for Students
Friday, June 26	P.A. Day (No School for students)

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.