

# Willowdale Middle School



## Reminder -Grade 8 Graduation Photo Retake Day



A final reminder that any Grade 8 student who missed our first graduation photo day, please be prepared to have your picture taken on **Tuesday, May 6** in the morning only. Students who qualify for this are asked to please come prepared and on time to have their picture taken.

## NEW Pizza Day Dates

Our new block and final days of pizza will be on the following days:

- May 13
- May 27
- June 11
- June 23



Registration for our pizza days is now open. Registration closes on **May 7**. The cost is \$40.00 for all four pizza days (May & June) which includes: 2 slices of cheese or pepperoni pizza; 1 Juice box; and 1 small bag of chips. School Cash Online is now open for you to order. Please visit [School Cash Online](https://sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca).

This initiative is proudly organized by the School Parent Council, and all funds raised will go toward enhancing the students' learning experiences at our school. Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy pizza while supporting a fantastic cause!

If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to [sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca). Thank you to our parents for their ongoing support, and a special thank you to our School Council volunteers for their hard work and commitment!

## Grade 6 EQAO

The EQAO dates for our Grade 6 students to write the EQAO tests are June 2-11, 2024. 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!](#)

## 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.

## Student Drop-Off

We are asking parents for their co-operation when dropping off students in the early morning for music practice. Please do not drive into the north side parking area, nor the back of the school (school yard) when dropping off your child for music practice. This becomes a safety issue with students coming to school and for staff driving in the lot to park. Please drop off your child in the loop, or on the East side of the parking lot. We thank you for your co-operation in helping to ensure our students' and staff's safety.

## Annual Willowdale Art Show



On May 22, Junior Council is once again hosting an Art Show celebrating heritage from around the world. Each class will be invited to vote for their favourite pieces. Submit any paintings, drawings, sculptures, pastel art for consideration to Ms. Clarino by May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is open to all students at Willowdale. We look forward to seeing the beautiful art!

## Gr. 5 & 6 Visits to Willowdale MS

We are happy to welcome the incoming Grade 5 & 6 students from our feeder schools for a tour at Willowdale MS. Our feeder schools will be visiting WMS on **Friday, May 9**. Cameron PS and Churchill PS will join us in the morning, and Yorkview PS, Pleasant PS and Rockford PS will join us in the afternoon.

**WELCOME**  
**Grade 5's**

We will be hosting a virtual Parent Information Night for our parents of incoming students. This will take place on **Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00PM**. We will forward a link to our feeder schools closer to this date.

We look forward to meeting our new incoming students and their parents!

# Yearbook Cover Contest

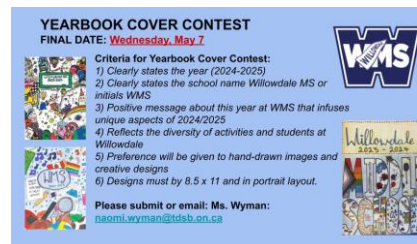
Are you interested in participating in our annual WMS yearbook cover contest? If you are, please ensure you meet the following parameters:

**DUE: Wednesday, May 7th**

## Criteria for Yearbook Cover Contest:

- 1) Clearly states the year (2024-2025)
- 2) Clearly states the school name Willowdale MS or initials WMS
- 3) Positive message about this year at WMS that infuses unique aspects of 2024/2025
- 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)



# Asian Heritage Month

Asian Heritage Month has been proudly recognized by the TDSB every May since 2007. The Province of Ontario celebrates it with the Asian Heritage Act in 2005, and it has been officially designated across Canada since May 2002.

This year's Asian Heritage Month theme, *Asian Canadians Up and Rising*, celebrates the strength, resilience, and achievements of Asian Canadian communities. It recognizes individuals and groups who have contributed to shaping Canada's past and present, while also highlighting emerging voices and future leaders.

For students and staff in the TDSB community, this theme serves as an opportunity to explore stories of perseverance and embrace the unique identities that contribute to both the school community and to the diverse Asian diaspora in Canada. By learning about and celebrating these diverse perspectives, schools can promote inclusivity, equity, and a deeper appreciation for Asian Canadians.

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, we speak more than 120 languages. According to the 2023 Student Census, 46% of TDSB students self-identified as Asian.

# Asian Heritage Month Celebration with Trustee



There will be an Asian Heritage Month celebration hosted by Trustee Pei, Trustee Hastings and the Toronto Asian Parents Association at Early Haig Secondary School on Saturday, May 3, 2025. For more information, please see the attached flyer on our website.

# Jewish Heritage Month

When the Province of Ontario passed the *Jewish Heritage Month Act* in 2012, it recognized the important contributions that Jewish Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.

Since its inception in 2015, the [TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee](#) (JHC) aims to do just that. The Committee aims to celebrate Jewish heritage and culture in impactful, innovative, and inspirational ways for students - with the fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate providing the core goal of this work.

The JHC is pleased to present two educational programs for May 2025 that have been vetted and approved by TDSB staff.

## Being Jewish in Ontario

This brand-new collection for middle and high school educators contains a 10-minute short film and lesson plans with supporting materials in English and French. It explores what it means to be Jewish today through the voices of youth and their family members.

Students learn how Jewish immigrants throughout Ontario built a sense of community, belonging, and opportunity during the early 20th century, despite facing societal exclusion. Through stories of individual and collective action, this history not only educates youth about a specific heritage, but also highlights a universal connection to the generational efforts that foster positive, lasting legacies for vibrant community life and contributions to all Canadians today.

Please visit the [Being Jewish in Ontario](#) website to access the film and learning resources. Being Jewish in Ontario is a partnership between [Facing History and Ourselves](#) and the [Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre](#).

## The Children's Republic

This play is written by Canadian playwright Hannah Moscovitch and produced by the Harold Green Theatre Company and Koffler Arts. It casts local Toronto actors, including high school students, and relays the heartfelt and inspirational tale of [Dr. Janusz Korczak's](#) selfless journey to bring safety to Polish-Jewish orphans within the Warsaw Ghetto. His struggle to advocate for children's rights and shelter his orphans from the horrors of the Holocaust ended with his death in 1942. The Children's Republic is a powerful and true story of beauty, heroism, and legacy in a world devoid of freedom and even the necessities of life.

[Please see the play's flyer for locations, dates, and times.](#) The JHC is offering complimentary tickets for TDSB secondary school students. Seating is very limited, so please register as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Shari Schwartz-Maltz at [shari.schwartz-maltz@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:shari.schwartz-maltz@tdsb.on.ca).

## YMCA Newcomer Youth Program



On April 29, the Grade 8 ELL students gathered for an informational and inspiring talk led by Mason Wong from the YMCA Newcomer Youth Program. He spoke to students about the importance of balancing life and taking care of both physical and mental health.

Students discussed the stress of school, family, and adjusting to a new life. Mason also explained the importance of finding a balance between rest, activity, social life and responsibilities in order to help reduce stress and build a healthy life balance.

Students learned simple tips like being active everyday, talking about their feelings and making time for self-care.

## School Council Message - Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Hello Willowdale Middle School Families.

As a token of thanks to the WMS Staff, we are hosting a breakfast on **Thursday, May 8th**. This is a great way to show your appreciation to ALL of the WMS teachers, employees and school staff! We are looking for contributions to the breakfast.

- Foods can be dropped off between **3:15-4:00pm on Wednesday, May 7th**.
- Food can be dropped off outside the office to a School Council representative. You are welcome to make or bring something store bought.
- Please ensure items are nut-free.
- A note stating the ingredients and name of the homemade food would be appreciated.

If you are contributing food, please sign up on the form linked below. There are fields with items already listed for which you're welcome to sign up or include your contribution on a blank line.

[Click here to access the google form](#)

If you prefer to donate a small amount of money, that is also welcome. School Council would use that money to purchase additional items for the breakfast (e.g., coffee) depending on the quantity of food and donations. If you choose to donate money, please bring cash in an envelope marked "Staff Breakfast" to either your child's teacher or the office. You are welcome to bring cash any time between now and Wednesday, May 7th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to  
*Meg Boyle, on behalf of the WMS School Parent council*

[sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.willowdalemiddleschool@tdsb.on.ca)

Mobile: 416 428 8290



## Grade 8 Graduation Hoodies

Our annual Grade 8 graduation hoodies are now on sale. Hoodies will be in black, with our Willowdale logo and writing in white and royal blue.



Adult sizes (Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large) are available.

The cost of the hoodies is \$40.00. Please order your hoodie and pay on [School Cash Online](#).

**The deadline to order is May 22, 2025.**

Hoodies will be distributed to students in early June.

## Reach Ahead Program

The Grade 8 to 9 Reach Ahead credit course is available only in person. If your child is interested in applying, please see the link for more information: [Conedsecondarycreditprogram](#)

Please see under the **Continuing Education Summer School 2025** heading.

## Upcoming School Council Meetings

Our next School Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**, beginning at 6:30PM in our school library.

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



## Indoor Shoes

**Spring is here!** This means that our field is very muddy, as the ground continues to melt. It is essential that all students bring indoor shoes to wear while inside the school. We thank you for your assistance with this.



## Virtual Math Workshops

Families with students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are invited to attend a virtual workshop which will provide parents with practical strategies to support their child's math learning at home, building confidence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. A third workshop has been added for Tuesday, May 6. For more information and to register, please see the flyer attached on our website.



## Summer Camps for Children on the ASD Spectrum

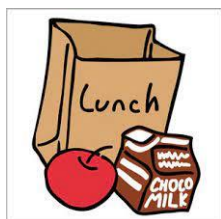
Please see attached on our website the Surrey Place Community Resource Directory (Section 3: Recreation and Community Services, pg. 42). Programs and services change frequently, and families are encouraged to call agencies to find out specific details of service availability.

## Discussion on Mental Health

Silverthorn Collegiate will be presenting a session on Mental Health hosting Michael Landsberg. This session will be taking place on Tuesday, May 6. Tickets are free when you sign up using the QR code in the flyer. For more information, please see the flyer attached to our website.

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

## 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

## Elementary Summer School 2025



The Elementary Literacy and Numeracy Summer School Program offers the opportunity for students to continue learning in the summer.

Programs are offered in-person at various locations to students in Kindergarten to Grade 8, from **July 2 to July 25, 2025**. A remote program is available for students in Grades 6 to 8.

### Registration Information:

- Program Dates and Hours - Monday, July 2 to Friday, July 25, 2025, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Registration is online. To fill out an application, please click on the school registration form link: [Elementary-Summer-School](#)

### Afternoon Jays Camp RBI Summer Edition

[RBI Summer Edition](#) is a free afternoon baseball-for-development program for Grades 3 to 8 hosted at 13 schools. Throughout July, students registered for half-day morning summer school can opt to join the RBI Summer Edition program for the afternoon. Please note that spaces are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the afternoon, students will engage in a wide range of recreational activities including cooperative games, arts and crafts, team-building, and inclusive baseball training. Throughout July, the program runs from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, with the opportunity to extend to 5:30 pm for aftercare. After TDSB summer school ends, students can register for a full-day program from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm during the first two weeks of August. **Please note** – students enrolled in the afternoon program must bring their lunch.

**Note:** Jays Camp RBI Summer Edition is a distinct and separate program from the TDSB's Elementary Summer School program. The registration link for Jays Camp is provided at the end of each participating



elementary summer school's form. We encourage everyone to review the specific details, procedures, and policies for both programs in the registration requirements before enrollment.

Please note that limited spaces are available for all programs.

## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Mon., May 5	Red Dress Day (National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited People)
Tues., May 6	Gr. 8 Graduation Photo Retake Day
Wed., May 7	Final School Council meeting for the year- 6:30PM in Library
	Region Track & Field Day at Esther Shiner
Thur., May 8	Staff Appreciation Breakfast hosted by School Council
Fri., May 9	Gr. 5 Visits to Willowdale MS
Tues., May 13	Pizza Day
Wed., May 14	Junior Achievement Day
	GAUSS Math Contest
	Forest of Reading Conference
Fri., May 16	Gr. 7 School Vaccination Clinic
	Gr. 8's visiting Northview Heights SS (PM)
Thur., May 22	Junior Council Art Exhibit in Cafeteria
Tues., May 27	Pizza Day
Wed., May 28 - Fri., May 30	Grade 8 Graduation Trip to Montreal
Mon., June 2 to Wed. June 11	Gr. 6 EQAO Writing
Wed., June 4	Conference Finals for Track & Field at Esther Shiner
Fri., June 6	P.A. Day (No School)
Mon., June 9	Music Festival at Wonderland
Tues., June 10	Track & Field City Finals at Birchmount
Wed., June 11	Pizza Day
Thurs., June 12	CODA Concert at 6:30PM in Gymnasium
Mon & Tues., June 16 & 17	Gr. 7 Dental Clinic
Mon., June 23	Pizza Day
Tues., June 24	Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony and Celebration
Wed., June 25	Report Cards sent home
Fri., June 27	Last Day of 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.