

Willowdale Middle School



The End of the 2024-2025 School Year is Upon Us

The 2024/2025 school year at Willowdale Middle School is drawing to an end.

It has been a year full of meaningful learning experiences and unforgettable memories.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible students for their enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication to learning every day.

We are also truly grateful to our Willowdale families for their constant support and involvement in your child's educational journey.



To our Grade 8 graduates, congratulations as you begin this exciting new chapter in high school. You will be greatly missed, but your positive impact on our school community will be felt for years to come!

The last day of school for this school year is **Friday, June 27, 2025**.

The first day of school for the 2025/2026 school year is **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**.
More communication about the first day of school will be communicated to families in late August.

We wish all Willowdale families a safe and joyful summer break filled with relaxation, happiness, and cherished moments together.

This will be our final "Willowdale Update" for the 2024-2025 school year.

Grade 6 & 7 Cineplex Movie Trip

Grade 7 & 8 students will be going on a trip to Cineplex at Empress Walk on **Monday, June 23** to watch the movie "How to Train Your Dragon." For information about the movie, please see the link [here](#)!

The following classes will be going on Monday: 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6F, 6/7F, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7/8F, 6/7/8I.

Students **MUST** arrive at Willowdale by 9:00AM, as we will be walking to Empress Walk at this time.

The movie for Gr. 6's begins at 10:00AM and the movie for Gr. 7's begins at 10:45AM.

Students can buy concessions at the movie theatre.

Students not going on the trip will be combined with other classes for the day.



Grade 8 Graduation Information

We are very excited to celebrate our Grade 8 graduating class of 2025!

The ceremony will take place on **Tuesday, June 24th** at **4:00PM** in the **Auditorium at Earl Haig Secondary School**. One ticket (which admits 2 guests) per graduate have been sent home today.

After the completion of our ceremony, **we will host a Graduation Reception (dinner/dance) for our staff and students** at Novotel Hotel North York (3 Park Home Ave.). **Students must bring their ticket with them.**

On Monday afternoon, students will be receiving an envelope with their tickets for both the ceremony and the dinner celebration.

Time: 6:30 - 10:00PM

Pick-up: Between 9:30PM - 10:00PM

If students are being picked up by other parents, or through other means of transportation, this must be communicated via e-mail to your child's teacher.

The deadline to purchase the graduation reception (dinner/dance) tickets has now passed. We will no longer be able to accommodate any late payments as the numbers have already been submitted to the venue.

CLASS OF 2025

You are cordially invited to
WILLOWDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S
Grade 8 Graduation

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

3:30PM - Graduates to arrive to Earl Haig Secondary School

4:00PM - Ceremony begins at Earl Haig Secondary School's Auditorium (100 Princess Avenue, North York)

2 Guests per Graduate

6:30 to 10:00PM - Reception for Students & Staff at Novotel Hotel
 (Parents are asked to drop off their child at
 3 Park Home Avenue, North York)

Between 9:30 to 10:00PM - Parents to pick up their child

Gr. 8 Graduation Rehearsal

This is a final reminder to our parents/guardians regarding the Gr. 8 graduation dress rehearsal. The rehearsal will be taking place on Tuesday (June 24) morning from 9:00 to 11:30AM. We will be taking attendance at Willowdale MS and walking to Earl Haig Secondary School.



If parents/guardians would like staff to dismiss their child from Earl Haig SS, please complete the Google Form [here](#).

If parents/guardians do not complete the form, students will be expected to return to Willowdale MS with the staff and they will be dismissed at 3:00PM, unless a parent/guardian comes to the school to sign them out. **We will not be accepting phone calls for permission to sign out.**

Yearbook Purchase and Distribution

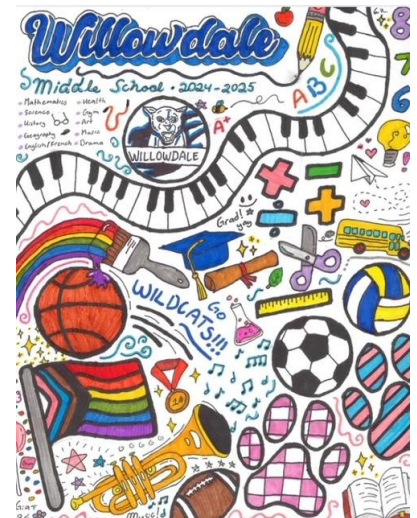
Our annual yearbook is looking amazing, filled with awesome student achievements, activities and a great memory of our school year. There are only a few copies left!

Yearbook Distribution Date: June 26th & 27th, 2025 (If you are unable to pick it up on these days, you can pick up your yearbook in September).

Cost: \$20.00

Where to Purchase: [School Cash Online](#)

Order Deadline: TODAY - Friday, June 20, 2025



Staff vs. Student Slo-Pitch

On Wednesday, June 18, Willowdale held a staff vs. students slo-pitch competition in the afternoon. Both staff and students played hard and showed off their skills. In the end, our staff defeated the students. Despite the drizzle both groups put in an amazing performance. Great job, Wildcats!



Track & Field City Finals



Congratulations to our amazing track and field athletes who represented our school at the City Championships at Birchmount Stadium on Tuesday, June 10th. Nikki in Grade 6 competed in shotput (*missing in photo*). Aryanna competed in Grade 7 in shotput. Leo in Grade 6 competed in the 80m and 200m dashes. Maya competed in the 400m race. Clara in Grade 8 competed in the triple jump. Elisa in Grade 6 competed in the standing long jump and finished 7th. And our top finisher, Kadijah in Grade 6 finished 4th in the 80m dash. Just being able to compete at the City Final Championships is a major accomplishment for our athletes because it means our

athletes are among the best in their event in the entire TDSB! Our athletes made themselves and our school extremely proud of their efforts. Special thanks to our dedicated coaches: Mr. Adamski, Ms. Douglas, Mr. Talbi, and Mr. Soriano for all their hard work. Great job, Wildcats!

Gr. 6 Math Olympics at WMS

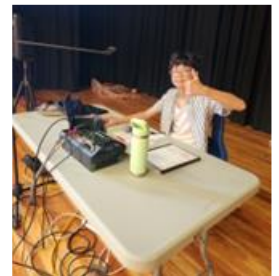
Willowdale Middle School buzzed with excitement on **Tuesday, June 17th**, as we held our very first **Math Olympics** for all Grade 6 students! It was a fantastic day of friendly competition, problem-solving, and a whole lot of mathematical fun.

Each Grade 6 class put their collective minds to the test in six different events, challenging their skills in everything from tricky brain teasers to mastering the intricacies of probability. Students fully embraced the thrill of competing against their peers, all vying for the ultimate title of Math Olympics champion.

The competition was incredibly close, making for a nail-biting finish! In the end, Ms. Stevenson's class proudly took home the bronze medal. Ms. Romeiro's class showcased their impressive skills, claiming the silver medal. And after a truly stellar performance, Ms. Kerney's class emerged victorious, earning the coveted gold medal and the grand prize of a pizza party! Congratulations to all our medalists!

This successful event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our amazing Math Club Executive and their wonderful mentor, Ms. Prugo. A huge thank you to them for all their hard work in organizing such a memorable day for our students.

We are thrilled with the success of our inaugural Math Olympics and are already looking forward to making this an annual tradition. Get ready, because next year we plan to make it even bigger and better!



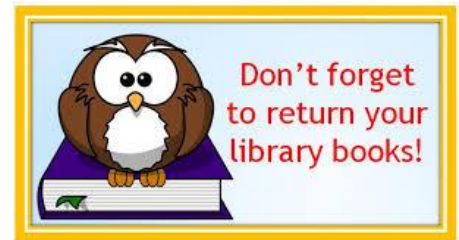
Gr. 6 Trip to Aga Khan Museum

Our Grade 6 students recently enjoyed a rich and engaging visit to the Aga Khan Museum. Through two hands-on art programs, students explored the importance of patterns in Islamic art and the beauty of Persian paintings. They examined motifs from the Museum's collection and created hexagonal clay tiles inspired by these designs. In the second workshop, students viewed centuries-old, illustrated manuscripts and experimented with watercolour and gold leaf to create their own vibrant artworks. The trip offered a meaningful opportunity to learn about art, history, and cultures from across the Muslim world, while promoting creativity, critical thinking, and inclusivity.



WMS Library Book Return

Please have your child return any outstanding school library books ASAP! There is a clear plastic bin inside the library where students can drop off any books that they may find in their desks, lockers, etc.



Locker and Desk Cleanout



We are asking all students to clean out their locker and desks before the end of next week. It is essential that students bring home all their belongings, as the caretaking staff will be doing a deep clean of the school over the summer break.

Students must bring their locks home, as new lockers will be assigned to students in September. Any locks left on lockers will be cut, and students will be responsible to acquire a new lock.

Lost and Found

There are many lost items (i.e., clothing, water bottles, lunch bags, shoes, etc.) in the front foyer of WMS. Students are asked to check our Lost and Found area to see if they have lost any personal items. Any items that remain at WMS after June 27 will be donated to charity or disposed of.




Black Girl Boss Academy

**Save the Date for Black E.S.T.E.E.M's Black Girl Boss Academy:
Black Girls Take Flight! Summer Academy (Aviation Focus)**


This immersive, aviation-themed experience will empower girls aged 11-14 to explore the world of flight through hands-on learning, STEM-based activities, and real-world industry insight. It's more than a program—it's a launchpad for leadership, confidence, and bold dreams in the skies and beyond.

Event Details:

 **Dates:** August 18-22, 2025 (August 23 is a trip backup day)

 **Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM daily

 **Location:** University of Toronto Scarborough Campus

 **Who:** Black girls, ages 11-14

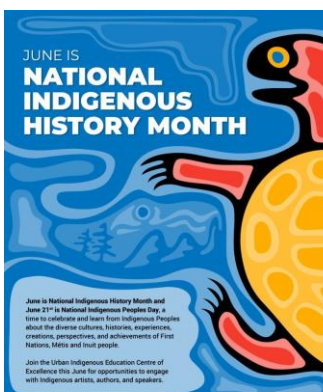
Why attend?

- Discover the science and wonder behind aviation
- Meet inspiring Black women in aviation and STEM
- Develop leadership, confidence, and teamwork skills
- Engage in hands-on STEM activities and flight simulations
- Build a sisterhood of support and encouragement
- Learn how big dreams can take flight—with you at the controls!

Registration opens soon—but for now, mark your calendars and get ready for takeoff. More details and the registration link will follow soon.

Have questions in the meantime? Reach out at info@blackesteem.org.

National Indigenous History Month



June is National Indigenous History Month and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It is a time to celebrate and learn from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples' diverse cultures, histories, contemporary contexts, perspectives, and achievements.

Join the Urban Indigenous Education Centre (UIEC) throughout the month of June for opportunities for staff and students to engage with Indigenous artists, authors, and speakers through various virtual workshops and panel discussions.

All month long, the UIEC is hosting several events and celebrations with Carolynne Crawley on decolonizing our relationships with the land, Alyssa and Conlin Delbaere-Sawchuk on honouring Métis history, as well as Elder Blu Waters hosting a session on Two-Spirit histories and contemporary realities.

On Friday, June 21, the TDSB recognizes National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day of significance for many Indigenous Peoples in the country we call Canada today. It marks the day when

the Sun is closest to the Earth. It is the longest day of the year and the shortest night. Many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples celebrate the Summer Solstice. It is a time that reminds us to remain grounded, humble and appreciative. It is usually celebrated by coming together with family and community for a feast.

Italian Heritage Month

The Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes Italian Heritage Month each June, a tradition since 2012. This celebration aligns with the [Italian Heritage Month Act](#), passed in 2010, which designates June as a time to honour Italian heritage across Ontario.

This year's TDSB theme is *La Dolce Vita: Celebrating the Sweet Life of Italian Culture*.



Embracing life to its fullest means enjoying a simple meal made with a few modest ingredients, enriched with love and shared with family and friends—often with music in the background and a focus on living in the moment. Italian culture values art, fashion, elegance, and a balanced lifestyle. These elements all contribute to this year's theme: *La Dolce Vita*.

An in-person celebration will take place at Newtonbrook Secondary School, featuring performances, presentations, and guest speakers. A video of the event will be shared soon for all to enjoy!

June is also [Seniors Month](#), and students from across the TDSB will mark the occasion by creating postcards featuring Italy's national flower. Each postcard will include a drawing or a heartfelt message and will be delivered to residents of Villa Colombo Home for the Aged throughout the month.

For highlights and more information, follow the Italian Heritage Month Committee below:

- X (formerly Twitter): [@ItalianHer1](#)
- Instagram: [@ItalianHeritageTDSB](#)

Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month



The Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month each June, a tradition since 2011. This celebration aligns with the Province of Ontario's [Celebration of Portuguese Heritage Act](#), passed in 2001.

As part of this year's celebration, all students, staff, and members of the TDSB community are invited to attend the annual **Portuguese Parade on Saturday, June 7, 2025**. Join this vibrant and colourful event that brings the Portuguese-speaking community together in celebration of Luís de Camões! If you are interested in participating in the parade, please visit [Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month](#) for additional information.

This year's TDSB theme is *A Festa of Food*. *Festa* means celebration in Portuguese—and no celebration is complete without food!

Throughout June, we will explore the Portuguese-speaking world through its rich and diverse culinary traditions. A special event featuring musical performances, guest speakers, and, of course, delicious food will be held at the Gallery of Portuguese Pioneers.

Follow the Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month Committee on Twitter: [@TDSB_PSH](https://twitter.com/TDSB_PSH)

Final Upcoming Dates

Mon., June 23	Gr. 6 & 7 Trip to Cineplex (How to Train a Dragon 2)
	Gr. 8 Assembly in the PM to discuss graduation (Tickets will be distributed for both the ceremony and dinner celebration)
Tues., June 24	Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony and Celebration
Wed., June 25	Report Cards sent home electronically
June 26 & 27	Distribution of Yearbook
Fri., June 27	Last Day of School
Mon., Aug. 25	School Office opens
Mon., Sept. 1	Labour Day (Holiday)
Tues., Sept. 2	First Day of School

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.