

Willowdale Middle School



Beaver Computing Challenge

We are excited to celebrate the success of our students in the recent Beaver Computing Challenge! On Thursday, November 20th, 48 students from Grades 6-8 took part in this engaging online competition, which introduces computer science concepts and problem-solving skills.

The BCC is a fun, multiple-choice contest that builds computational thinking and logical reasoning. It's a great opportunity for students to showcase their abilities and spark interest in this growing field.

Thank you to all students who participated—your enthusiasm and effort are truly commendable! We hope this positive experience inspires you to continue exploring computer science, and we look forward to seeing you again next year. Thank you to Ms. Prugo for providing this opportunity!



Muskoka Woods - Grade 7 Overnight Trip

Parent/Guardian Information Night



We will be hosting a **VIRTUAL** Parent Information Night for our Grade 7 parents/guardians on **Tuesday, November 25th, beginning at 6:30PM,** relating to the Muskoka Woods overnight trip.

LINK TO INFORMATION NIGHT - [CLICK HERE](#)

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.



TRIP DATE: February 4 to 6, 2026

WMS Annual Winter Carnival



Willowdale's third annual Winter Carnival is fast approaching! Our entire school community is welcome to join us on the evening of **December 4th**, for a night of community and fun!

Families are encouraged to come play carnival games, and to enjoy each other's company to kick off the start of winter! All games will be played via the donation of canned goods (no money). This year, we will be supporting our local food banks.

The Winter Carnival will take place in our gymnasium, from 6:30PM - 8:00PM. We hope to see you there!



2025/2026 **NEW** WMS Spirit Wear

We are excited to announce that our 2025-2026 WMS Spirit Wear Hoodies are now available! After last year's overwhelming popularity, we've expanded our colour options to give students even more choice.

Online Sales:

Hoodies can be purchased through [SchoolCash Online](#) NOW!!

Students who order online will receive their hoodies by December 2, 2025.

In-Person Sales:

We will also be selling hoodies at our Winter Carnival on December 4, 2025. Please note: **CASH ONLY** for in-person purchases.

Prices are listed below. If you have any questions, please contact lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca

We can't wait to see our Wildcats proudly wearing their new spirit wear around Willowdale!



Scholastic Book Fair: December 1-5, 2025



WMS will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from December 1-5, 2025. All classes will have the chance to attend, and a schedule will be provided. Students will also have the opportunity to purchase before school from 8:30AM - 8:55AM and from 3:00PM - 3:30PM each day of the book fair.

We also invite parents and guardians to do some shopping at our book fair on the evening of December 4th (during our Winter Carnival), between the times of 6:30PM - 8:00PM.

Book Fair preview: [CLICK HERE!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact, lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca

Gr. 6 Overnight Trip to The Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre

We are excited for the upcoming Grade 6 trip to The Etobicoke Outdoor Education Center. The registration date has now passed.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the packing list for the trip.

Dates and Classes:

Trip 1: **Dec. 1-3** 6C Wyman, 6E Beaubien, 6I Miller

Trip 2: **Dec. 8-10** 6F Douglas, 6F Cooper, 6D Kerney

Trip 3: **Dec. 10-12** 6A Romeiro, 6B Clarino



tdsbCARES: Hurricane Melissa Appeal

Many have heard about the impacts Hurricane Melissa has had across the Caribbean. In Jamaica, Cuba and across the central Caribbean, the powerful storm triggered flash floods and landslides threatening lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. With a number of schools damaged or closed, nearly 477,000 children have experienced significant disruptions to their schooling with children forced to miss classes or study in temporary spaces that may not be equipped for proper learning. The TDSB has launched the *tdsbCARES: Hurricane Melissa Appeal*. Donate to support the ongoing relief efforts for those impacted across the Caribbean. [Learn More](#)

While donation-matching by the federal government runs until November 24, the TDSB campaign will run until **Tuesday, December 9**.

Donate to support ongoing relief efforts for those impacted across the Caribbean. [Learn More](#)



tdsbCARES: Hurricane Melissa Appeal
Support ongoing relief efforts.

Secondary School Open Houses - Grade 8's



To our Grade 8 families, please note that there are several upcoming Grade 9 Open Houses and Information Nights at our local high schools. These dates are fast approaching. Please find more information by clicking on this link: [Secondary School Open Houses](#)

WMS Grade 8 to 9 Transitions - Information Slides

[CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Key Dates

Specialized Programs - Application OPENS	November 24 th , 2025
Specialized Programs - Application CLOSES	December 12 th , 2025 @ noon

IMPORTANT LINKS FOR APPLYING - Please see below!

[Specialized Programs Q & A for Website](#)

[Form Submission-Specialized Programs 26/27](#)

[Specialized Programs Sharing Video Files](#)

[Specialized Programs Turning Pictures and Documents into PDFs](#)

[Important Timelines](#)

BENCHMARK CALCULATOR:

Please use this tool to calculate marks that are required in order to determine eligibility.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/cpao/Central-Program-Admissions-Office/Specialized-Programs/Applicant-Eligibility-Benchmark-Calculator>

Please contact CentralPrograms@tdsb.on.ca if you have questions about eligibility.

APPLICATION RUBRICS:

[CLICK HERE](#) for TDSB Specialized Program application rubrics.

TDSB Elementary and Secondary Specialty Programs

The TDSB offers a variety of Specialized Programs focused on the Arts, Math, Science & Technology, Leadership and more! Specialized Programs (formerly Central Student Interest Programs) are available at both the [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) level and are located within several schools across the system.

Based on direction from the Supervisor appointed at the TDSB by the Minister of Education, the decision has been made to change the application and admission process for Specialized Programs. Applications will be open during the week of November 24, 2025 and will remain open for three weeks.

Elementary

Applicants will be admitted based on an evaluated portfolio or audition video submitted with their application.

Secondary

Applicants must meet a report card benchmark (based on their 2024-25 report cards) to be eligible to apply. Applicants will be seated based on their overall applicant score; a combination of select report card marks connected to their program of choice and an evaluated demonstration of knowledge and skills.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/specializedprograms to learn more about program entry points, eligibility requirements, minimum report card benchmark, the required demonstrations of knowledge and skill, and the application and admission process.

All TDSB schools with Specialized Programs also host open houses in November, and we encourage you to take this opportunity to visit, learn more and ask questions about specific schools and programs.

If you have any questions about applying to a Specialized Program, please contact the Central Program Admissions Office at CentralPrograms@tdsb.on.ca.

Gr. 7 and 8 ESL YMCA Presentation

Our Grade 7 and 8 ESL students recently participated in an engaging presentation delivered by the YMCA. The session explored Canada's four seasons and helped students build vocabulary and background knowledge through interactive activities and visuals.

Students had the opportunity to share their own experiences, ask questions, and make connections to life in Canada. We are proud of their enthusiasm and the confidence they showed throughout the presentation.



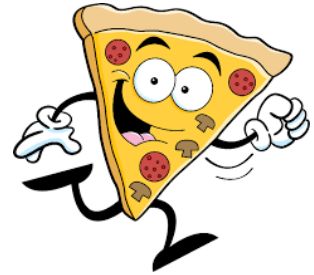
A special thank-you to our settlement worker, Svetlana Kravchenko, for organizing this wonderful learning opportunity!

Upcoming Pizza Lunches and NEW DATES!

Our final Pizza Lunches of 2025 will be on Tuesday, November 18th, Thursday, December 4th, and Tuesday, December 16th.

The deadline has passed to order pizza for the above date.

Our pizza dates for the new year will be as follow: January 13, January 28, February 9, February 26, March 10, March 25, April 14, April 29, May 14, May 25, June 9 and June 18. Pizza for the above dates will be for sale soon! **Stay tuned!**



Thank you to our parent volunteers for making pizza days possible at Willowdale MS!

WMS Sports Teams Practice Schedule

We've created a "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!](#)**



Grade 6 Trip to The Village at Black Creek

This past week, several of our Grade 6 classes (6E, 6F, 6/7F, and 6I) attended **The Village at Black Creek** for an engaging, hands-on learning experience. Students explored what life was like in 19th-century Ontario by participating in interactive workshops, touring historical buildings, and learning from costumed interpreters. The trip connected directly to their Social Studies unit on heritage and identity, helping students better understand early settler life and how communities have evolved over time. It was a fun and educational day filled with discovery, teamwork, and curiosity!



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

Going Outside and the Weather

Fall has arrived - the weather is changing, and winter is approaching. Daily, each student has a 35-minute lunch break that will be outside. As well, some gym classes will be outside weather permitting.

With all this in mind we encourage families to ensure their child is properly dressed for the weather. A light rain and below zero temperatures will not cause us to remain inside during these times.



Upcoming Parent Council Meetings

Our next Parent Council meetings will be taking place on **January 22, March 3, April 21, and June 1, 2026** beginning at 6:00PM in our school library.

We hope to see you there!



Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Monday, November 24, 2025	Specialized Program Application Process Opens
Tuesday, November 25, 2025	Gr. 7 Muskoka Trip Parent/Guardian Info Night (Virtual) at 6:30PM
	ESL Presentation
Thursday, November 27, 2025	Drama Club Trip to The Young People Theatre
Friday, November 28, 2025	ESL Presentation
December 1 to 3, 2025	Gr. 6 (6C, 6E, 6I) to Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre
December 1 to 5, 2025	Scholastic Book Fair @ WMS
Thursday, December 4, 2025	Pizza Day Lunch
	Winter Carnival Night & Scholastic Book Fair Night
December 8 to 10, 2025	Gr. 6 (6/7F, 6F, 6D) to Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre
December 10 to 12, 2025	Gr. 6 (6A, 6B) to Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre
December 12, 2025	Specialized Programs Application Closes at Noon
Tuesday, December 16, 2025	Pizza Day Lunch
Friday, December 19, 2025	Last Day of School
December 22 to January 2, 2025	Winter Break (No School)
Monday, January 5, 2026	School Resumes

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.