

Willowdale Middle School



Parking Lot and School Drop Off / Pick Up Safety

To ensure the safety of all students, staff, and families during busy drop-off and pick-up times, please keep the following important guidelines in mind:

- **Slow Down:** Drive cautiously and be mindful of your surroundings.
- **Stay Right in the Loop:** When dropping off, always stay to the right to keep traffic flowing smoothly.
- **No Stopping in the Middle:** Avoid stopping in the middle of the loop, as it creates congestion and safety risks.
- **Bus Area Must Stay Clear:** Please do not block the designated bus area.
- **Watch for Pedestrians:** Pedestrians crossing the sidewalk and pathways have the right of way. Be alert and patient.
- **Staff Parking Lot (North Side):** Parents/caregivers are not permitted to drop off students in the staff parking lot on the north side of the school.



Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and organized environment for everyone at Willowdale Middle School. Your efforts each day make a big difference!

PA Day - Friday, November 29, 2024

All families are reminded that **Friday, November 29, 2024** is a **PA Day**, therefore, there will be no school for students.



Somali Heritage Month Poetry Contest - 6C

During the month of October, Ms. Stevenson's 6C class participated in the Somali Heritage Month Poetry Contest. Working in seven groups, the instructions were to write a poem describing the meaning of the quote, "*The absence of knowledge is the absence of light*" for Somali Heritage Month. 6C did this, while also incorporating the school subjects: Language, Art, Social Studies, Music, Math, Science, and Gym, and specifying the meaning of that quote for each of the individual topics. Each group did one subject, and Ms. Stevenson submitted all of them as a class. Our hard work paid off, as we got 3rd place and received a \$50 Indigo gift card as well as a pizza party as a reward. This whole experience was not only fun for the students, it taught them all the meaning of the very powerful quote and they got to practise their poetry skills throughout the writing process too!

Written by Maya from 6C

Please check out the wonderful poems by our students in 6C [HERE!](#)

Social Media and Online Safety Presentation

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE SAFETY AN EVENING FOR PARENTS WITH PAUL DAVIS

TOPICS INCLUDE

SOCIAL MEDIA
SMARTPHONES
DIGITAL TRAILS
CYBERBULLYING
SNAPCHAT
SEXTING
ONLINE GROOMING
& PRIVACY



WILLOWDALE MS
DECEMBER 5, 2024
6:30 PM

We are VERY excited to announce that we will be hosting Paul Davis, a social media and online safety expert and educator to discuss smartphone use, digital trails, cyberbullying, social media (Snapchat, Instagram, etc.), amongst other topics of interest!

Paul Davis will be leading a student assembly during the day on December 5th at 1:30PM in our gym, for all our Willowdale MS students.

WE INVITE OUR PARENT & CAREGIVER COMMUNITY to an evening in-person presentation on December 5th from Paul Davis, hosted at Willowdale Middle School starting at 6:30PM. This invitation is also extended to the parents & caregivers of our feeder schools.

If you are interested to join us, we ask that you complete a small Google Form so that we can plan appropriately for the correct number of people attending. [CLICK HERE!](#) Please share this link with any parent from our feeder schools you think will be interested in attending.

Muskoka Woods Overnight Trip - Grade 7 Parent Information Night (Virtual)

We will be hosting a VIRTUAL Parent Information Night for our Grade 7 parents/guardians on **Tuesday, November 26th, beginning at 6:30PM**, relating to the Muskoka Woods overnight trip. The cost of the trip is \$375 and is now live on [SchoolCashOnline](#).

LINK TO THE LIVE 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 5 to 7, 2025

Mono Cliffs - Grade 6 Overnight Trip

We would also like to share with you the [Mono Cliffs information Slides](#). Thank you to all of the parents/caregivers that attended our virtual information night, hosted by Ms. Wyman.

Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre is owned and operated by Toronto District School Board. Our Grade 6 students will be going on an overnight trip, supported by our TDSB Outdoor Education resources. The cost of the trip is \$150. This is now live on [SchoolCashOnline](#). The deadline to pay is Friday, November 29, 2024.



Date	Classes
December 9 to 11, 2024	6A, 6C, 6D (Group 1)
December 11 to 13, 2024	6B, 6F, 6/7F, 6I (Group 2)

We would also like to share with you the [Mono Cliffs information Slides](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Wyman at Naomi.wyman@tdsb.on.ca.

Grade 6 Field Trip - The Village at Black Creek

This week, our Grade 6 students attended The Village at Black Creek to participate in an “Artifact Discovery” interactive program. Thank you to Ms. Romeiro for organizing this exciting learning opportunity for our students.



WMS Cooking Club

Our WMS cooking club has been a huge success. We would like to share with you some pictures from this past Tuesday, where our students learned how to make chocolate chip cookies!



Parent/Guardian Learning Session: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Date: November 27 Day (AM)

Date: November 28 Evening (PM)

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

For more information, and the meeting links, please click [here!](#)

Grade 8 High School Information

Grade 8-9 Transition Information Night Slides

Click [HERE!](#) for the slides shared during our parent information night.

If you have any questions, please e-mail our Guidance Teacher: lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca

Secondary School Open Houses - Grade 8's

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

Other Important Grade 8-9 Transition Information

- [TDSB Beyond 8 website](#)
- [Out-of-Area Admissions](#)
- [Secondary Schools without a Boundary](#)
- [Grade 8 Transition Year - At a Glance](#)

Earl Haig Secondary School Open House



Earl Haig Secondary School will be holding their annual Grade 8 open house on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. This will highlight Grade 9 programs and include a school tour.

Families are reminded that Earl Haig Secondary School is closed for "Out-of-Area Admissions" and students from Willowdale MS may only attend Earl Haig Secondary School if it is designated as your home school ([check here](#)), or if your child is accepted into a "Central Student Interest Program". (The deadline to apply for CSIP was November 22nd, at 4:00PM)

Newtonbrook Secondary School Open House

NEWTONBROOK Secondary School

Thursday, November 28, 2024

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 pm

5:50 – 6:05 p.m. – register, view displays & enjoy delicious treats
from our culinary program

Presentations begin at 6:05 PM

Presentations

Performance from the Band
Video from the Dance Team
Student Services Information

Distinctive Programs:

Specialist High Skills Major Programs
Extended French and French Immersion Programs

Student Guided School Tours to Follow Presentations

Cafetorium
155 Hilda Avenue
416-395-3280

Mental Health Support Information

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- 1 KIDS HELP PHONE** 1-800-668-6868
 You can reach a professional counsellor at Kids Help Phone in English or French 24/7 by calling 1-800-668-6868. Our phone service is also offered in over 100 languages including Plains Cree, Severn Ojibwe, Ukrainian, Russian, Pashto, Dari, Mandarin and Arabic with the help of trained interpreters.
OR TEXT 686868
 A volunteer crisis responder receives the text and lets you know they're here to listen.
- 2 SUICIDE CRISIS LINE** CALL OR TEXT 988

tdsb
WELL-BEING
GUIDE


what's up walkin'

- 3 LGBT YOUTHLINE** TEXT 647-694-4275
- 4 MOBILE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM** SERVICE AT 416-808-2222 OR 9-1-1 IN AN EMERGENCY.
- 5 BLACK YOUTH HELPLINE** 416-285-9944 OR INFO@BLACKYOUTH.CA
- 6 TORONTO COMMUNITY CRISIS SERVICES** DIAL 211 AGE 16 AND UP
 By dialing 211, anyone in the city can access this free, confidential service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TCCS provides a community-based, client-centred response to mental health crises and wellness checks, without police involvement.

WMS Wildcats Sports Teams Update

Grade 8 Girls Basketball

The Grade 8 Girls Basketball team participated in two tournaments this past week.

The Wildcats were invited to the Sir Alexander Mackenzie Senior Public School Annual Invitational Tournament. Willowdale came out strong, and did not look back. The Wildcats won the tournament, beating their rival Milne Valley in the finals. Congratulations to Maya V, who won tournament MVP, Elena Y, and Nya P, who made the tournament all-star team.

On Thursday, the Wildcats played in Pool A of the North Region TDESAA tournament at Zion Heights Middle School. Willowdale lost a close game to MacMillan, despite a great effort. Willowdale next played against the host, Zion Heights and was up 14-10 at halftime. Unfortunately the game ended unexpectedly. We are waiting to find out the results and what will happen with this game. In the final game of the day, Willowdale won big against Bayview. Way to go, Wildcats!



Grade 8 Boys Volleyball



The Grade 8 Boys Volleyball team played in their first of two round robin tournaments this past week. The team travelled to St. Andrew's MS and played against the hosts, Glenview SPS, and Windfield MS. Despite a great effort, Willowdale fell in 3 sets to St. Andrew's and Windfields, before winning in three sets against Glenview. We look forward to carrying this momentum into our next tournament on November 27th.



Let's go, Wildcats!

WMS Wildcats Sports Calendar - November

Please click the link [HERE](#) to take you to our sports calendar! We will update this calendar regularly to reflect known practices, games, and tournaments for our sports teams. If you have any specific questions, please reach out to the coach of the specific team you are inquiring about.



2024/2025 WMS Spirit Wear ON SALE NOW!



We still have a few hoodies for sale. Hoodies cost \$45 for the screenprint version and \$60 for the embroidered version. Please see Ms. Ziebell or contact her at Lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca if you are interested to buy one. You can also purchase one on [SchoolCashOnline](#).

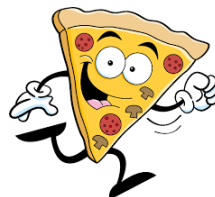
We will also be selling hoodies in person at our Winter Concert on Thursday, January 16th, 2025.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE NOW!](#)

Upcoming Pizza Lunch Dates

Pizza Days:

Thursday, Dec. 19th



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

Upcoming Parent Council Meetings

New Date!

Due to a scheduling conflict, we need to reschedule our next Parent Council meeting. It will now take place on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**, beginning at 6:30PM in our school library.



At this meeting, we will be making a motion to amend the current by-laws to change the number of parent members from six (6) to a minimum of six (6) members. This will ensure we can effectively discuss and align on key decisions for WMS. We want to ensure that families are aware of the proposed amendment and this will be voted on at the next School Council meeting.

Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Monday, November 25, 2024	Grade 7 Immunization Clinic
Tuesday, November 26, 2024	Muskoka Woods - Grade 7 Overnight Trip Parent Info Night
Thursday, November 28, 2024	Prologue Performance "Sultans of Strings"
Friday, November 29, 2024	P.A. Day (No school for students)
Thursday, December 5, 2024	Presentation by Paul Davis on Social Media Safety @ 6:30PM
Mon., Dec. 9 to Wed., Dec. 11	Group 1 Grade 6 overnight trip to Mono Cliffs
Tuesday, December 10, 2024	Parent Council Meeting - WMS Library - 6:30PM
Wed., Dec. 11 to Fri., Dec. 13	Group 2 Grade 6 overnight trip to Mono Cliffs
Wed., Dec. 18, 2024	Officer Tony visiting WMS
Thur., Dec. 19, 2024	Pizza Day
Dec. 23, 2024 to Jan. 3, 2025	Winter Break
Monday, January 6, 2025	School resumes
Thursday, January 16, 2025	Winter Concert - WMS Gymnasium - 6:30PM
Fri., January 17, 2025	P.A. Day (No school for students)
Wed., Feb. 5 to Fri., Feb. 7, 2025	Grade 7 Muskoka Woods Trip

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, or to send a written note, or email to 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.