

Willowdale Middle School



Halloween @ Willowdale MS



This coming week, Willowdale will be having a Halloween haunted walk. On Thursday, October 30, 2025. Each class will be invited down to experience the annual WMS Halloween tradition. On Friday, October 31, 2025, classes will be engaged in an activity afternoon (dance, movies, games, etc.). We encourage our students to come dressed to impress on Friday, October 31, 2025. All participation in Halloween related activities is optional.

Selecting a Costume Appropriate for School



Halloween is a favourite day for many students while others do not celebrate this event. Willowdale MS is working hard to ensure that we have an inclusive day for all members of our community. Central to this commitment is a focus on costumes worn at school.

Dressing up for Halloween is fun and exciting, but this day also provides an opportunity to discuss costume choices with our children. Dressing in a way that reduces a culture to a caricature suggests that a specific culture is less important than others. We ask that parents and students be sensitive as they select a costume to wear at school, as certain costumes are viewed as offensive, inappropriate and/or discriminatory to many different cultures/peoples, and as a result can cause harm to members of that community and the TDSB community. Additionally, parents and students are reminded that it is important to be aware of the potential negative and triggering impact violent images and/or scenarios can have on students and families with varying lived experiences and backgrounds.

Let's Go Blue Jays!

Today, Willowdale students showed their school and team spirit by cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays! The halls and classrooms were filled with blue as students and staff proudly wore their Blue Jays gear and colours. The entire school came together outside for a big Blue Jays cheer and a group photo to capture the excitement. It was a fun and energetic day celebrating our hometown team and showing our Willowdale pride before the Blue Jays play in the World Series. Go Jays Go!



TDSB Day @ the Marlies - Field Trip

We are excited to offer all of our students a field trip opportunity to the Toronto Marlies ice hockey game!

Date: February 18th, 2025 @ 11:00AM

Transportation to the Game: School Bus

Cost: \$25.00 (includes ticket and school bus)

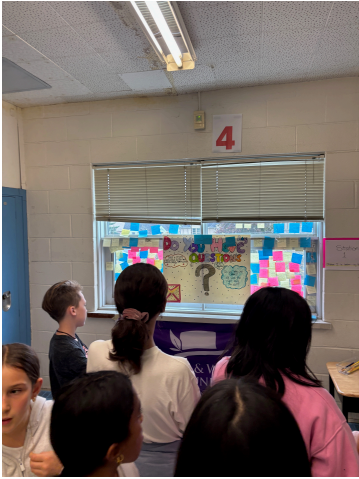
Tickets are ON SALE NOW on SchoolCash Online

THE DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS NOVEMBER 3rd.

There will be no late orders accepted.



Secret Pathways



This year Willowdale participated in Secret Path Week created by the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund that runs October 17 - October 22. The Junior Council created an interactive walk through the school and field with four stations for students to reflect on Chanie's story and how we can move forward in the process of reconciliation. The event concluded with classes doing two laps around our field to commemorate Chanie's attempted walk home.

Grade 8-9 Transition - WMS Parent Information Night

We are excited to invite our **Grade 8 families** to our **Grade 8 to 9 Transition Information Night** at Willowdale Middle School on **Thursday, October 30th, 2025, at 6:30 PM** (in-person).

This important session will provide families with valuable information about:

- **TDSB Central Student Interest Programs** (such as Specialized Schools, Arts, STEM, and IB)
- **Regular program options** and pathways available to students
- **Course selection timelines** and key steps in the transition process
- **Tips and resources** to help support your child's successful move to high school

This evening is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the exciting opportunities available to our students as they prepare for Grade 9.

We look forward to seeing our Grade 8 families there!

Grade 8 Grad Trip Information Night - Virtual



We are excited to announce that Willowdale Middle School will be hosting a **Grade 8 Graduation Trip Information Night** on **Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00 PM**.

This session will be held **virtually**, and a link to the live presentation will be shared with families on Monday. Our 2025/2026 trip destination will be Ottawa! We look forward to sharing all the details – including the dates, and cost – during the information session.

We can't wait to begin planning this memorable celebration for our Grade 8 students! 🌟

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](#)

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 10, 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.

Student Nutrition (Snack) Program

We are pleased to be able to offer the Student Nutrition Program again this year to support the health and well-being of Willowdale students. The Student Nutrition Program is part of our school plan to support student success. Students will be offered snacks on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's.

The morning meal will consist of 2 to 3 food groups: bread/grains, fruits/vegetables and/or dairy. Our program follows the daily requirements that Toronto Public Health sets out for Student Nutrition.

Central to our menu planning is student allergies and dietary restrictions. If you would NOT like your child to participate in this snack program, please contact the school.



WMS Picture Re-Take Day



SMILE! 😊

Our school picture re-take day will take place on November 4, 2025.

Please note this is only for students who missed picture day.

Progress Reports & Parent-Teacher Interviews

On **Wednesday, November 12, 2025**, Willowdale students will receive their Progress Report.

Parent-Teacher interviews will take place in-person on **Thursday, November 13, 2025** between 4PM - 7PM, and on **Friday, November 14, 2025** between 9AM - 12PM.

Teachers will be sending out information soon on how to schedule an interview and select a time.

If you wish to discuss your child's progress with one of their rotary teachers, you are encouraged to reach out to them.

All families are reminded that **Friday, November 14, 2025** is a PA Day, therefore, there will be no school for students.



Literacy and Numeracy Program @ WMS

We are excited to share that our **Numeracy and Literacy Program** will be starting soon! This program is designed to help students in Grade 7 and 8 strengthen their math and reading skills through fun, engaging activities and small group support. Sessions will take place **after school on Mondays and Wednesdays**, with an additional **numeracy session on Wednesdays during lunch**. We encourage students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to build confidence and enhance their learning in a supportive environment. If you would like your child to participate or have any questions, please email **Ms. Hamdule** (melody.hamdule@tdsb.on.ca) for numeracy and **Ms. Chantzis** (angeliki.chantzis@tdsb.on.ca) for literacy.

Classes will begin the week of **Monday November 3** and will run until **January 26, 2026**.

After School Skills Development Program

TDSB would like to inform you about an exciting opportunity to participate in an After-School Skills Development Program for students with Autism. This program is open to TDSB students in Grades 4 - 10 with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This program helps students build social-communication skills through weekly virtual sessions.

While engaging in leisure activities, students will:

- Practice turn-taking
- Communicate thoughts and feelings
- Engage and cooperate with others
- Build empathy
- Identify personal feelings
- Apply strategies to regulate emotions and behaviours



The program will run every Tuesday from November 25, 2025 to February 24, 2026 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. Please note that to participate in this program, students will need access to a device, as well as internet connection.

[Click here](#) for more information!

EMA Athletics Tryout Form

[CLICK HERE](#) to see our step-by-step Reference Guide which will assist Parents/Guardians in completing the EMA Athletics Tryout and Participation form on-line.

EMA Account Creation

[CLICK HERE](#) to see our step-by-step instructions on how to start the account creation process. This will help parents/guardians fill out any EMA (Excursion Management Application) -i.e., permission forms on-line.

Grade 7/8 Girls Soccer



On October 22nd our Gr. 7/8 Girls Soccer team played in the Conference Finals at Don Mills Collegiate. They won the semifinals game against Woodbine 5 to 1 and then faced JB Tyrrell in the Conference Finals. The game was a dramatic rollercoaster. Willowdale took an early lead 2 to 0 but JB Tyrrell came back before half time taking the lead 3 to 2. After outstanding resilience, effort and teamwork, Willowdale scored twice in the last five minutes to lock the lead and win the North Conference Championship after more than a decade.

Willowdale is absolutely proud of the members of our Girls' Soccer Team: Ella, Kadijah, Iyla V. Shannon, Georgia, Viola, Ayla LeeElisa, Arina, Grace, Kruna, Achila, Alisha, Claire and Tiffany. You have the hearts of champions and deserve to represent the North in the City Championship games on October 30th at Cherry Beach.

Two more wins, Wildcats!!!

Grade 8 Boys Soccer

Congratulations to our Grade 8 Boys Soccer Team on an exceptional effort in the conference semi-finals! After battling back from a 3-1 deficit, the Wildcats showed incredible determination to tie the game and force overtime, where they narrowly lost on a golden goal. We're proud of their perseverance, teamwork, and school spirit throughout the season!



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 Overnight Trip to The Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre

Grade 6 parents are invited to attend a virtual meeting about the **Grade 6 TDSB Etobicoke Outdoor Education Center (EOEC) trips on Tuesday, November 4th at 6:30 PM.**

This session will be held **virtually**, and a link to the live presentation will be shared with families closer to the date. Parents are encouraged to fill out the EMA forms and SchoolCashOnline payment (\$150).

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

We would really like each student to attend. Please join the information session or reach out to your child's teacher for support.

For more information please look at the following links: [EOEC Website](#), [EOAC Parent Presentation](#)

Parking Lot & Drop Off/Pick Up Reminders

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We continue to experience traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up times. To ensure everyone's safety, **please do not park in the school parking lot** – spaces are reserved for staff and buses only.

If you're driving, **use the car loop for drop-off and pick-up**. Park on the **right side of the loop** if space allows, or along **Ellerslie Avenue**. Please drive slowly and watch for students and staff crossing.

Students: Upon arrival in the morning, please go directly to the **back field**, not the front of the school, as there is no supervision and it poses safety risks.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe!



Lunch Box Program



The Lunch Box program continues to be a success! 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!

Monday	Mr. Souvlaki
Tuesday	Umami Sushi
Wednesday	bar Burrito
Thursday	Mr. Sub
Friday	Swiss Chalet

The restaurants are as follows:

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.

Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Tuesday, October 28, 2025	Grade 8 Graduation Trip Information Night @ 7PM (Virtual) 6C and 6E Trip to Danforth Ave (Walking Tour)
Thursday, October 30, 2025	Grade 8-9 Transition Information Night @ 6:30 PM - WMS Grade 8 Girls Soccer City Championships Haunted Halloween Walk at WMS
Friday, October 31, 2025	Halloween
Tuesday, November 4, 2025	Photo Re-take Day (for students who were absent the 1 st day) Gr. 6 Parent Information Night (virtual) to overnight trip to Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre
Thursday, November 6, 2025	3 rd Pizza Day Lunch
Friday, November 7, 2025	Gr. 7 Immunization Clinic
Monday, November 10, 2025	Central Student Interest Program application process opens Grade 7 Trip to Little Canada Museum (7F, 7M, 7C, 7D)
Thursday, November 13, 2025	Parent-Teacher Interviews (4:00 to 7:00PM)
Friday, November 14, 2025	P.A. Day (No school) Parent-Teacher Interviews (9:00AM to 12:00PM)
Monday, November 17, 2025	Grade 7 Trip to Little Canada Museum (7A, 7B, 6/7F, 6/7/8I)

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.