

# Willowdale Middle School



## Halloween @ Willowdale MS



This week, Willowdale will be having a Halloween haunted walk. On Wednesday, October 30, 2024. Each class will be invited down to experience the annual WMS Halloween tradition. On Thursday, October 31, 2024, classes will be engaged in an activity afternoon (dance, movies, games, etc.). We encourage our students to come dressed to impress on Thursday, October 31, 2024. All participation in Halloween related activities is optional.

## Halloween Initiatives Hosted by the Junior Council

The Willowdale Junior Council are hosting two upcoming exciting competitions this week. On October 28, 2024, we are inviting all our creative Willowdale students to enter their best spooky writing!

**Grade 6's will enter their best spooky joke.**

**Grade 7's will enter their best spooky poem.**

**Grade 8's will enter their best short, spooky stories.**



This week, classes started to decorate their classroom doors on the theme of Halloween! All students are reminded to keep decorations and writing, family and student friendly! Winners for the writing competition will be announced immediately following Halloween activities on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The door competition will be voted by all our Willowdale Community Members via Google Form. Announcement will be held immediately following Halloween day! Good luck Willowdale!

## 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.

## 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.

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.



## Mono Cliffs- Grade 6 Overnight Trip

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 will be posted to SchoolCash Online this coming week. A parent information night will be announced shortly as well.



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

If you have any questions, please contact, Ms. Wyman.

## Grade 8 High School Information

### Grade 8-9 Transition Information Night Hosted Virtually by WMS

We will be hosting an information session for our Grade 8 parents on November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM. The session will be held virtually, and a link will be sent out closer to the date to all Grade 8 parents/guardians.

### Northview Heights Open House Information for Central Interest Programs

Northview Heights Secondary School will be hosting their “Central Interest Programs” information night on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 6:30PM - 8:30PM. Please see the information poster [here](#)!

### Secondary School Open Houses - Grade 8's

To our Grade 8 families, we want to make you aware of 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](#)

### TDSB Secondary Central Student Interest Programs - Grade 8's

TDSB students have access to programs that offer unique opportunities and focus on a variety of interests. Check out the elementary Central Student Interest Programs [here](#).

### 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](#)

*Please note: There is a 'Translate' button at the top of the TDSB website that will translate the contents of the web pages to your preferred language.*

## Preparing for High School Webinars

The TDSB will host two *Preparing for High School Information Sessions*, including:

1. **[Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transitions](#)**: October 29, 2024 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Registration Link:** [https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tzXpk9qmTrmFOTCCreWMtw](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tzXpk9qmTrmFOTCCreWMtw)

This session will focus on the Top 10 Tips and Considerations in the Transition to High School. This presentation is designed to augment the work already taking place through secondary open houses and at the Grade 8 schools. For more information, visit the [TDSB Beyond 8 website](#).

2. **[Student Interest Programs](#)**: October 30, 2024 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Registration Link:** [https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MFibCA5VSoqLJqDF0B6QSg](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MFibCA5VSoqLJqDF0B6QSg)

The TDSB offers over 50 programs with a particular focus. These programs are for anyone who demonstrates an interest and passion in the particular program area. The Student Interest Program Webinar will provide more information about Secondary Schools without a Boundary, local programs, Out-of-Area Admissions and applying to Central Student Interest Programs (CSIP), including:

- Arts Focus Programs/Schools
- Exceptional Athlete Program
- Integrated Technology School
- International Baccalaureate Programs
- Leadership Pathway Program
- Math, Science & Technology Programs

**Application for CSIP programs opens on November 4 and closes on November 22, 2024 at 4 p.m.**

Requests for interpretation services can be made in the registration form and must be made no later than **Friday, October 25, 2024**. The recordings of these events will be available on the [TDSB Guidance site](#).

To further support students and families with the application process, TDSB staff will host two Central Student Interest Program Application Support Sessions to answer questions that students or families may have about the application. Live, online support will be available on the following dates:

- November 12 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. ([Click here to join](#))
- November 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. ([Click here to join](#))

## Students with [Special Education](#) Needs

Students with an exceptionality for whom a change in setting or program is being considered for Grade 9 will be discussed at the Annual IPRC Review. Students with an *Individual Education Plan (IEP)* and no formal identification will be discussed at the School Support Team (SST) meeting. Please note this meeting will occur with the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s).

# Elementary Central Special Interest Programs

Applications for elementary Central Student Interest Programs open soon. At the elementary level, we offer arts-focused programs at four different schools in the TDSB. Application for these school programs open on November 4, 2024 and closes on November 22 at 4 p.m.

Learn more about each of these programs on the [elementary central student interest programs](#) website. You can also review program and application requirements, get dates for upcoming open houses and webinars and all application timelines.

**October 30, 2024 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. - Student Interest Program Webinar**

Registration link: [https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MFibCA5VSoqLJqDF0B6QSg](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MFibCA5VSoqLJqDF0B6QSg)

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are asked to register for the event prior to the Webinar.

To further support students and families with the application process, TDSB staff will be hosting two Central Student Interest Program Application Support Sessions to answer questions that students or families may have about the application. Live, online support will be available on the following dates:

- o November 12 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. ([Click here to join](#))
- o November 18 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. ([Click here to join](#))

Families are encouraged to attend [Open Houses](#) for school- and program-specific information.

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

**Date:** November 27 Day (AM)

**Time:** 10:00am - 11:30am

**Date:** November 28 Evening (PM)

**Time:** 6:30pm - 8:00pm

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

**tdsb** | Special Education and Inclusion  
presents  
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Sessions  
Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

## WMS Picture Re-Take Day



**SMILE!** 😊

Our school picture re-day will take place on **November 8, 2024**. Please note this is only for students who missed picture day.



# Progress Reports & Parent-Teacher Interviews

On Tuesday, November 13, 2024, Willowdale students will receive their Progress Report.

Parent-Teacher interviews will take place in-person on Thursday, November 14, 2024 between 4 pm - 7 pm, and on Friday, November 15, 2024 between 9 am-12 pm. 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 15, 2024 is a PA Day, therefore, there will be no school for students.



## 2024/2025 WMS Spirit Wear ON SALE NOW!



Our Willowdale MS Spirit Wear hoodies were a big hit at Curriculum Night and we have loved seeing so many students wearing them around school these past weeks. 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](mailto:Lauren.ziebell@tdsb.on.ca) if you are interested to buy one. You can also purchase one on School CashOnline!

**[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE NOW!](#)**

## 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.

As the winter approaches families are encouraged to ensure that their children have the appropriate clothing (boots, hats, mittens/gloves etc.) for the weather.



## WMS Wildcats Sports Teams Update

### Grade 6 Flag Football

Our Grade 6 Flag Football team has won the North Region championship and will represent Willowdale at the City Championships! Goodluck, and we are all behind you cheering you on!

Thank you to Mr. Soriano for providing this very exciting opportunity for our students. Great job, Wildcats!



### Grade 8 Boy's Soccer



Willowdale hosted the Conference Finals for Grade 8 boys' soccer.

Despite a great effort, the Wildcats lost to St. Andrew's, ending the team's season.

Thank you to Ms. Hamdule and Mr. Mitrovic for their awesome coaching efforts!

## Cross Country City Championships



A huge congratulations goes to our cross-country runners who participated in the TDESAA City Championships. All runners gave it their best effort and represented Willowdale with pride.

Way to go, Wildcats!

Thank you to all of our coaches who made cross country possible this year!

## Grade 7/8 Flag Football

Our Grade 7/8 flag football team participated in two tournaments this past week.

On Monday, the Wildcats participated in a CFL Argo Day at Downsview Park. This tournament was filled with rep flag football teams from all over southern Ontario. Willowdale finished pool play with 2 wins and 1 loss, which qualified the team for the quarterfinals. Despite a great effort, the team lost by 2 points. This was great practice for their TDESAA tournament later in the week, where the Wildcats earned a Conference Finalists banner, finishing second in the North Region.

Thank you to Ms. Chantzis and Ms. Ziebell for their time and commitment to the team.



## Grade 6 Girls Soccer



Our Grade 6 girls' soccer team fought hard in the semifinals against Zion Heights this past Tuesday but came up a little short. We are extremely proud of how hard they played. There was great teamwork and effort.

Thank you to Ms. Wyman for her coaching efforts. Great job, Wildcats!



# WMS Wildcats Sports Calendar

Please click the link [HERE](#) to take you to our NEW weekly sports calendar! We will update this calendar each week 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.



## Pizza Lunches - Late Orders ONLY

This week, we successfully had our first pizza lunch of the school year. Thank you to our Parent Council for making this possible.

**FOR STUDENTS WHO MISSED THE ORIGINAL PIZZA DAY SIGN UP**, we have opened the [School Cash Online](#) system for students to purchase pizza for the remaining two pizza days. This is **ONLY** for late orders for the remaining two dates - if your child received pizza at the last pizza lunch, you do NOT need to order again! Please order now **ONLY** if you missed the last deadline. Refunds will not be given for duplicate orders; your child will just receive a double lunch on each day. If you are unsure if you have already ordered, in School Cash Online, please click on "HISTORY" at the top right of the screen to check.

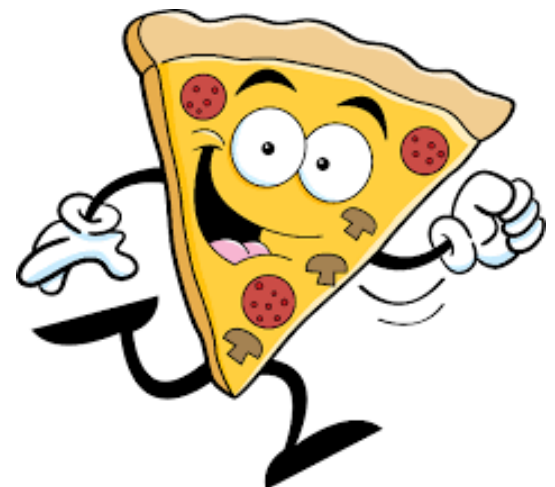
\$10.00 per pizza day (Total \$20.00), for 2 slices of pizza (pepperoni or cheese), a juice box and bag of chips.

If you have any questions, please email [djarczyn@sympatico.ca](mailto:djarczyn@sympatico.ca).

### Pizza Days:

Tuesday, Nov. 19th

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

Our next Parent Council meeting will be taking place on **Wednesday, November 27, 2024**, beginning at 6:30PM in our school library. We hope to see you there!



## Letter from Ward 12 Trustee Weidong Pei

Please click on this [link](#) to view the letter sent to parents/guardians from Ward 12 Trustee, Weidong Pei.



## Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Tuesday, November 5, 2024	ROM Trip - Grade 7 Students
Wednesday, November 6, 2024	8C Field Trip - Walk T.O. Kensington Market
Friday, November 8, 2024	Photo Retake Day
Monday, November 11, 2024	Remembrance Day assembly
Wednesday, November 13, 2024	Progress Reports go home
Thursday, November 14, 2024	6C Trip to the North York Public Library (AM)
Thursday, November 14, 2024	Parent-Teacher Interviews 4:00PM - 7:00PM
Friday, November 15, 2024	Parent-Teacher Interviews 9:00AM - 12:00PM
Friday, November 15, 2024	P.A. Day (No school for students)
Monday, November 25, 2024	Grade 7 Immunization Clinic
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
Mon., Dec. 9 to Wed., Dec. 11	Group 1 Grade 6 overnight trip to Mono Cliffs
Wed., Dec. 11 to Fri., Dec. 13	Group 2 Grade 6 overnight trip to Mono Cliffs
Dec. 23, 2024 to Jan. 3, 2025	Winter Break
Monday, January 6, 2025	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**

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](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.