

Willowdale Middle School



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day

On Tuesday, September 30, 2025, Willowdale MS honoured **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day**. On this day, we recognized the legacy of the residential school system for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. We remembered the thousands of children who were murdered and buried in unmarked graves. Students and staff at Willowdale MS wore orange shirts and held an assembly in the morning. When the students returned to class, they were asked to reflect on the Calls of Action and write a word on an orange piece of cloth to recognize reconciliation. The orange cloths were then tied in the front of our school on our trees and railings to demonstrate our acknowledgement of the truths of Residential Schools in Canada, and to honour the survivors and the thousands of children who died.



Thank you to our staff and students for their contributions in highlighting the importance and significance of this day.



Terry Fox Run @ WMS



LA FONDATION
TERRY FOX

On Thursday, September 25th, 2025, Willowdale Middle School participated in the annual Terry Fox Run. All students had an opportunity to do their personal best and know that "Anything's possible if you try; dreams are made possible if you try." Students at Willowdale ran an average of 8.6 laps around the field. Each lap is 500m so the average person ran 4km. The top students ran 9km. Bravo, Willowdale!

TO DATE IN 2025, WE HAVE RAISED \$2,948.00.

Top Class Fundraisers: Gr 6: **-6F** Gr. 7: **-7C** Gr. 8: **-8F**
 Top Runners: Shuya D.(6D), Jovan K.(7F), Boris M.(8B), Liam L.(8B),
 Kamyab M.(8B), and Viola T.(8B)
 Class with the highest average laps: **6/7F, 7F, 8F**



6B, 6C, 8B, & 8D Trip to the North York Central Library

On Monday, September 29th, four classes from Willowdale Middle School had the unique opportunity to attend a special cultural program at the North York Central Library. The event, titled *Indigenous Hand Drumming and Singing*, offered students a meaningful introduction to traditional Indigenous music and storytelling.

Led by an Indigenous cultural educator, the program featured live hand drumming performances and traditional songs that reflect the rich history, spirituality, and connection to the land that are central to many Indigenous cultures in Canada.

This experience was both educational and inspiring, helping to deepen students' understanding of Indigenous traditions while supporting WMS's ongoing commitment to equity, inclusion, and Truth and Reconciliation.

Thank you to the North York Central Library for hosting this enriching event, and to our teachers for making this valuable learning experience possible!



WMS Picture Day



Our school picture day, will take place on **October 15, 2025.**

SMILE! 😊

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](#).

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:

Cross Country



For students who are on the Cross-Country team, the meet will be held at Earl Bales Park on **Monday, October 6th**. Parents are reminded that they must complete the [EMA \(permission form\)](#).

For information on the Cross-Country meet and the map, please click here: [Earl Bales Park](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Cooper (Mark.cooper@tdsb.on.ca) or Mr. Weidenfelder (Mathew.weidenfelder@tdsb.on.ca).

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!](#)

Current and Upcoming WMS Clubs

We're excited to share that a variety of school clubs will be starting up in the coming weeks! Clubs are a great way to explore your interests, try something new, and connect with classmates outside of the classroom. Students are encouraged to listen carefully to daily announcements for information about meeting times, locations, and sign-up opportunities. Don't miss out on the chance to get involved and be part of the fun!

More details will be shared in our future *Weekly Updates*.

TO DATE, WE HAVE ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING CLUBS:

- Junior Council for our Grade 6 students (Day 1 at 11:30AM)
- Drama Club (will be creating the musical theatre performance of Shrek Jr.) for Grade 6-8 students (Dates/Times TBD)
- WMS Grade 7/8 Band (See schedule above)
- Junior (Grade 6) Choir (Tuesday & Thursdays at 11:30AM)
- Chess Club (Day 3 at 11:30AM)
- Girls Basketball Intramural Club for our Grade 7/8 students (Day 4 at 11:30AM)
- Anime Club (Day 3 at 11:30AM)
- Art Club (Dates/Times TBD)
- Running Club (Monday's at 3:00PM)



WMS Theatre Production Audition Information

We are so excited to announce auditions for our school play! Every student will be part of the production, but auditions will help us assign specific roles.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the audition information sheet and the Google Doc to sign up for an audition time!

Audition Dates:

 Tuesday, October 7 @ 3:00PM

 Wednesday, October 8 @ Lunch



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.

Inclement Weather Days



A reminder that supervision at school begins at 8:45AM every day. If it is raining, staff will permit students to enter the school at 8:45AM (not earlier), and they will be supervised inside. Entry time is 8:50AM so we ask that all students are at school for this time. Any student who arrives after 9:00AM will be recorded as LATE. Please ensure your child arrives to school on time.

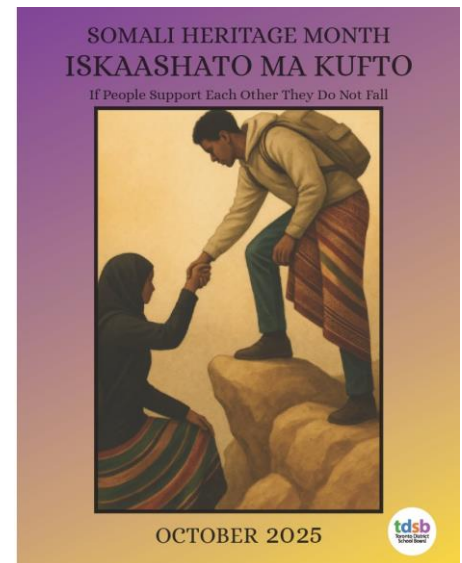
Somali Heritage Month - October

The TDSB is proud to recognize Somali Heritage Month in October. In addition, the Province of Ontario proclaimed the [Somali Heritage Week Act in 2020](#), officially recognizing June 25 to July 1 as Somali Heritage Week. This act honours the economic, political, social, and cultural contributions of Somali Canadians across Ontario.

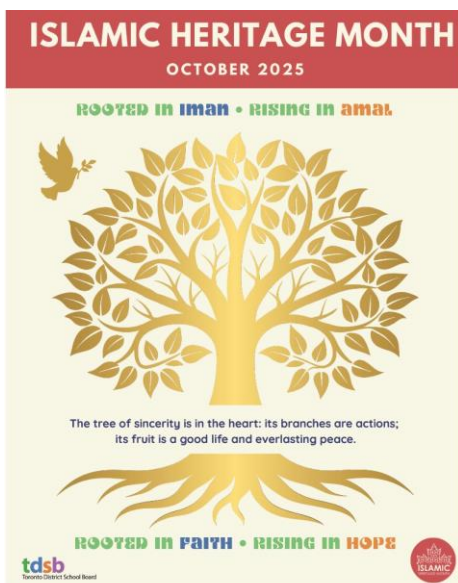
This year's theme, *Iskaashato ma kufto - If people support each other, they do not fall*, is a Somali proverb that emphasizes the importance of unity and mutual support. It reflects the commitment to building strong environments where cooperation, care, and shared responsibility help individuals grow and succeed together.

To stay connected and learn more, follow the Somali Heritage Month Planning Committee on X at [@SomaliHM@TDSB](#), where daily messages will be shared throughout October.

Happy Somali Heritage Month at the TDSB!"



Islamic Heritage Month - October



The TDSB has proudly recognized Islamic Heritage Month every October since 2016. Across Canada, Islamic Heritage Month has been celebrated in various ways since 2007, and in Ontario, it was formally established through the [Islamic Heritage Month Act](#) in November 2016.

This year's theme, *Rooted in Īmān (faith), Rising in Amāl (hope)*, invites students, staff, and community members to reflect on the strength of faith and the power of purposeful action. It encourages learning about Islamic traditions and values while fostering a sense of hope and unity.

Throughout October, a variety of educational opportunities will be offered to students across the TDSB to explore Islamic history, customs, and contributions. These include workshops and classroom resources designed to deepen understanding and celebrate the rich heritage of Muslim communities.

To learn more and stay connected, follow the Islamic Heritage Month Committee on Instagram at [@tdsb_ihm](#).

Happy Islamic Heritage Month at the TDSB!"

Latin-America History Month - October

The TDSB has proudly recognized Latin-America History Month every October since 2016. Across Canada, October has been officially designated as Latin American Heritage Month since 2018, following the passing of the [Latin American Heritage Month Act](#). This year's TDSB theme, *Our Journey Continues, Abriendo Caminos*, highlights the resilience, strength, and cultural pride that continue to carry communities forward.

Abriendo Caminos, meaning "opening pathways," reflects the work done across generations to build opportunities, affirm identities, and create space for present and future voices to emerge. The theme celebrates both past achievements and future successes, acknowledging the rich histories of these lands and their original peoples—before and after 1492, which marked the beginning of a centuries-long genocide of millions of Indigenous people (Galeano 38).*

Throughout October, the Latin-America History Month Planning Committee has organized a variety of educational opportunities for TDSB students, staff, and community members to learn more about Latin-America history and heritage. One featured opportunity is a learning session with local Toronto artist Beny Esguerra from New Tradition, who will introduce students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 to the powerful tool of Afro-Indigenous Colombian music.

The TDSB is pleased to announce an in-person Latin-America History Month Celebration on **Wednesday, October 8 at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute**. Guests are invited to join us at 9 a.m. for a light reception, followed by a formal program from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. [Please RSVP for planning purposes](#). A recording of the event will be posted to the TDSB website for all to enjoy.

To stay connected and learn more, follow the Latin-America History Month Planning Committee on X at [@TDSBLAHM](#), where daily quotes and announcements will be shared.

Happy Latin-America History Month at the TDSB!



Mental Health Resources



Student mental health and well-being is always our priority. We are here to help with anything you need to support your mental health and well-being and to help you navigate the tools and resources you may need. Please see the link for additional information and resources:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/1IBoLc0NBh7FDQnyxoBuK2w1Sm2AfKrx/edit?filetype=microsoftpresentation>

PA DAY - Friday, October 10th



Friday, October 10th is a P.A. Day and there will be no school for our students.

In addition, on October 13th, Willowdale will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, and re-open on October 14th.

First Pizza Day Lunch



A reminder that our first pizza lunch will be taking place this coming **Tuesday, October 7!**

Upcoming Parent Council Meetings

Our next Parent Council meetings will be taking place on **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**, beginning at 6:00PM in our school library. We hope to see you there!



Important Upcoming Dates

SAVE THE DATE	
Monday, October 6, 2025	Cross Country Meet at Earl Bales (Leaving WMS at 10:30AM)
Tuesday, October 7, 2025	1 st Pizza Day Lunch (You must order by Sept. 29)
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	Grade 6 Boys Soccer Tournament @ WMS
Thursday, October 9, 2025	Grade 8 Boys Soccer Tournament @ WMS
	Grade 6-8 Girls Bordenball Tournament @ Highland MS
Friday, October 10, 2025	P.A. Day - No School for Students
Monday, October 13, 2025	Thanksgiving Holiday - WMS is Closed
Tuesday, October 14, 2025	Grade 7 Boys Soccer Tournament @ WMS
Wednesday, October 15, 2025	Picture Day
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Grade 7/8 Girls Soccer Tournament @ WMS
Friday, October 17, 2025	ESL Newcomer Presentation (Grade 8)
Monday, October 20, 2025	Grade 8 All Gender Flag Football Tournament @ Milne Valley
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	Parent Council Meeting - 6:00PM WMS Library
Wednesday, October 22, 2025	2 nd Pizza Day Lunch (You must order by Sept. 29)
	Grade 6 All Gender Flag Football Tournament @ Milne Valley
Tuesday, October 28, 2025	Grade 8 Graduation Trip Information Night @ 7PM (Virtual)

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.