

# Willowbrook Public School

## Monthly Newsletter



## OCTOBER 2024

Principal:  
Padmini Padiachy

Office Administrator:  
Emily Tassone

Follow us on Instagram:  
[@WB\\_Dragons](#)

Website:  
[www.yrdsb.ca/schools/willowbrook.ps](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/willowbrook.ps)

Email:  
[willowbrook.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:willowbrook.ps@yrdsb.ca)

**School Times:**  
Supervision begins at 8:25am

Entry 8:40am  
Recess 10:20 - 10:50am  
Lunch 12:30 - 1:30pm  
Dismissal 3:10pm

Dear Families and Community Members,

As we embark on another exciting school year, we want to extend a warm welcome back to all of our returning, and new Willowbrook families! We hope that your summer was filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable moments with loved ones. Now, as we set a course for the 2024-2025 academic year, we're focused on our priorities for achieving excellence! Our staff team at Willowbrook are eager to inspire all students, and set the stage for a year of growth, connection, and personal success. To start the month of September, students engaged in a variety of learning opportunities, which included the Caring and Safe schools presentations for all grades. Currently, everyone works to build positive, affirming learning and classroom spaces where mattering and belonging are key components to positive relationships, behaviours and attitudes.

### **Creating a Positive School Climate**

This year, our focus will be on cultivating a positive school climate that nurtures every individual. We believe that when students feel safe, valued, and respected, they can thrive academically and socially. We invite everyone to contribute to this environment by embracing kindness, empathy, and understanding. Together, we can create a space where everyone feels a sense of belonging. Our Wellness Zone and Student Voice initiatives continue to flourish with expressions of reflection, critical thinking and diverse perspectives. We look forward to sharing this with everyone at our upcoming School Council Meeting & Curriculum Night on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fostering Belonging, Inclusion and Equity**

Our commitment to inclusion and equity will guide our actions this year. Our Outdoor Family Movie Night was a huge success! Thanks to everyone for supporting the event and making purchases towards school fundraising. We are dedicated to ensuring that every student has access to the resources and support they need to succeed. Through collaborative initiatives and open dialogue, we aim to celebrate our diverse backgrounds and perspectives, fostering a school culture where everyone's voice is valued. Our upcoming Heroes Walk and Roll on October 17<sup>th</sup>, celebrates Family Heroes. Students have prepared heartwarming expressions of the heroes in their own family! This Family Engagement initiative will be fun for all and we look forward to your participation!

### **Striving for Academic Excellence**

We believe that every student has the potential to achieve greatness. This year, we will continue to focus on providing identity-affirming instruction and personalized learning experiences that challenge and inspire students to engage in critical consciousness and build their capacity as global citizens.

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Cont'd...

Using a series of posters to ignite critical thinking, all classes visited the foyer and chose to respond to questions on Social Justice and Human Rights. The lessons are engaging and student responses were insightful, demonstrating deep inquiry and application to lived experiences. Willowbrook teachers are dedicated to creating engaging lessons that not only innovate to meet academic standards but also ignite a passion and pride for learning. We encourage students to set ambitious goals and to embrace all challenges as opportunities for a growth mindset.

### **Engaging Parents and the Community**

Strong partnership with parents and the community is essential to our success at school. We invite you to participate in all our school initiatives, whether it's joining the Willowbrook School Council, volunteering for events, or attending workshops that support student learning and well-being. Your involvement not only strengthens our school community but also enriches the educational experience for our students.

### **Upcoming Events and Initiatives**

In the following pages you will see our upcoming events where we continue to foster community building and engagement. From Curriculum Night, to Parent-Teacher Interviews, Parent Engagement Workshops and YRDSB Parent Forums, we are excited to offer opportunities for connection, collaboration, and celebration. We encourage you to attend these events and share your thoughts and ideas as we work together to create a vibrant school culture at Willowbrook.

### **In Conclusion**

As we step into this new school year, let us carry forward a spirit of collaboration, positivity, and support. Together, we can make this year one of the best yet—a year where every student shines, every voice is heard, and every dream is pursued. Here's to a fantastic year ahead! Let's collaborate to make it one filled with learning, excellence, innovation, engagement and lasting memories.

*Sincerely,*

*Padmini Padiachy,*

*Principal*

# Willowbrook PS Staff List 2024/25

Randelia, Mehrunisa  
Esmaeili, Artemis  
Cardoso, Sofia  
Mateo-Adegbaaju, Jesica  
Salem, Risa  
Isenberg, Cheryl  
Fujs, Allison  
O'Neill, Tara  
Curci, Jordana  
Palmucci, Daniella  
Suess, Natalie/ Grapsas, Maria  
Gluck, Brandon  
Demarchi, Kevin  
Tjioe, Tracy  
Foglia, Juliano  
Arruda, Brian

Gaudio, Tina  
Taylor, Rebecca  
Morad, Bahareh  
Liu, Carrie  
Sylvester, Janice  
Salehi, Paniz  
Wu, Joann  
Thabendranathan, Mathura  
Shah, Komal  
You, Hyun  
Estrada, Kimberly

Basin, Alla  
Dobruna, Selma  
D'Ugo, Gabriel  
Lam, Ange  
Parina, Jessalyn  
Yen, Ann  
Vagenas, Nick  
Wong, Brian  
Yambao, Mikhail

Padiachy, Padmini  
Tassone, Emily  
Mehrabani, Shadi

K12-1  
DECE  
K12-2  
DECE  
GR1-1  
GR12-2  
GR23-1  
GR34-1  
GR4-1  
GR45-1  
GR5-1  
GR56-1  
GR67-1  
GR7-1  
GR78-1  
GR8-1

Community Class 1  
DSW in CCA-1  
DSW in CCA-1  
Community Class 2  
DSW in CCA-2  
ISW in CCA-2  
ISW in CCA-2  
ISW in CCA-2  
Community Class 3  
DSW in CCA-3  
DSW in CCA-3

SERT/Transitions  
SERT/SSC  
French  
Primary Music  
Music/Art  
Library/ESL  
Lead Caretaker  
Caretaker  
Caretaker

Principal  
Office Admin  
Secretary



# Willowbrook Public School

October 2024

## ***Health and Safety Family Communication***

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 23 to 27, 2024) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills, including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to [Board Policy #669.0](#) for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

## ***General Supports for Emotional Well-Being***

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- [KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- [York Hills Help Phone Line](#): 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)
- [Naseeha Helpline/](#)
- [2SLGBTQ+ Youthline](#)

## ***Start up***

### ***Forms***

Start up forms were sent home by YRDSB via email the 3rd week of September. Families were to log in using their child's gapps account and complete the forms by September 27th. These are necessary forms that must be completed, as they contain many consent authorizations, without which your child may not participate in various activities. If you have not already submitted your forms, please visit the following link:

[YRDSB School Start-Up Package](#)



# Willowbrook Public School

October 2024

## *Message from Our Trustee*

September 2024

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year.

**How Trustees Help** As school board trustees, we have a number of [roles and responsibilities](#), including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about [how we can help](#) and [how you can reach me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#)), our [newsroom](#) and Board podcast [TuneIn YRDSB](#).

**Our Priorities as a School Board** One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

**A New School Year** The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers or the school to speak about your child's transition and the supports that are available.

We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

**Partnerships with Families** We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our [family resources page](#), available from the homepage of [www.yrdsb.ca](#), gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the [Guide to the School Year](#) and [student learning resources](#). It also includes resources for [newcomers](#), [translation information](#) and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months.

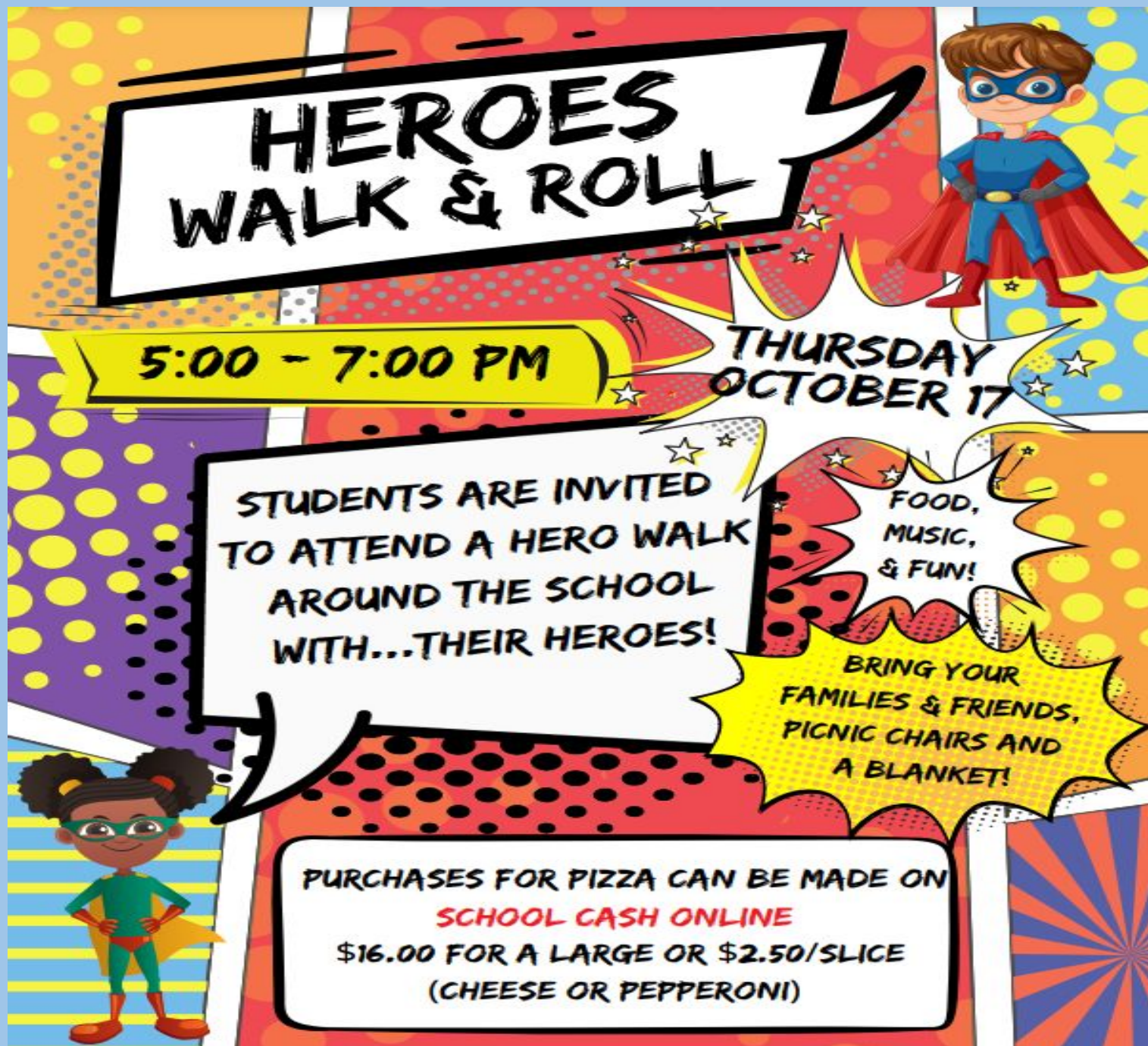
I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

Jenny Chen

Trustee, Markham Wards 1 and 8

# Willowbrook Public School

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The Walk and Roll for Heroes Evening will take place on October 17th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to walk with their heroes and bring their family and friends, along with picnic chairs and a blanket to enjoy the event. Registration and our heroes display will be in the gym. Music will kick off as the walk begins. For safety reasons, the parking lot will be closed from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



# ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE Therapy Dogs

OCTOBER 9TH: 9:20-10:05 AM

MS. CURCI

DROP IN SESSION (GROUPS OF 8)  
- OCTOBER 23RD: 9:20-10:20 AM

MR. DEMARCHI 6/7, MS. TJICE 7, MR.  
ARRUDA 8, MR. FOGLIA 7/8.  
5 MINUTES PER SMALL GROUP VISIT

COMMUNITY CLASS PROGRAM  
- OCTOBER 9TH: 11:00-11:45 AM

- MS. GAUDIO 11:00-11:15
- MS. SHAH 11:15-11:30
- MS. LIU 11:30-11:45

OCTOBER 23RD: 11:00-11:45 AM

MS. RANDELIA

OCTOBER 16TH: 9:20-10:05 AM

MS. ISENBERG

NOVEMBER 6TH: 9:20-10:05 AM

MS. CARDOSO

OCTOBER 16TH: 11:00-11:45 AM

MS. FUJS

NOVEMBER 6TH: 11:00-11:45 AM

MS. SALEM

DROP IN SESSION (GROUPS OF 8)  
- NOVEMBER 13TH: 9:20-10:20 AM

MS. PALMUCCI 4/5, MS.  
SUESS/GRAPSAS 5/6, MR. GLUCK 5/6,  
5 MINUTES PER SMALL GROUP VISIT

NOVEMBER 13TH: 11:00-11:45 AM

MS. O'NEILL

## What are Therapy Dogs?

Therapy dogs, alongside their owners, volunteer in settings like schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. They are trained to adapt to new environments and interact with diverse individuals. These interactions provide both physical and emotional benefits to many people.



# Willowbrook Public School

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## *Fresh from the Farm Healthy Fundraising*

Willowbrook Public School's first fundraiser for the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled to begin on Friday, September 27th, 2024 and will run until Monday, October 14th, 2024. We will be running a fundraiser "Fresh from the Farm" - selling bundles of vegetables and fruit. "Fresh from the Farm" promotes healthy eating and supports local farms and farmers across Ontario.



Two different "bundles" will be available for sale:

1. 14lb Vegetable Bundle (contains 5 lb potatoes, 3 lb carrots, 3 lb \yellow onions, 3 lbs sweet potatoes) for \$22.00.
2. 8lb Apple Bundle (contains 8lb Ambrosia apples) for \$24.00.

40% of all sales go back to support the school. Fruit and vegetable products are supplied by growers through various regions of Ontario. Please visit the website if you wish to learn more: [freshfromfarm.ca](http://freshfromfarm.ca). We encourage you to "Buy One, Donate One". This year we are partnering with The Richmond Hill Food Drive. You can purchase a bundle or two for your family and purchase a bundle to donate. Your purchase for the donation bundle will be sent directly to The Richmond Hill Food Drive on your behalf. Please indicate if you wish to purchase a bundle for donation on school cash online. All students will benefit from the funds raised. This year we are aiming to fund school initiatives such as grade 8 grad, subsidize class field trips, and scientists in the school. All payments are to be made on the School Cash Online system, and can be made anytime starting from Friday, September 27th, 2024. The last day will be Monday, October 14th, 2024. There will be one date in which your order must be picked up at the school. The exact date is not known at this time due to the nature of farmer's crops. The pick-up date will be between November 4 and December 5. Delivery/Pick-up date and further instructions will be provided to the Willowbrook community 10 days in advance.

There following are fundraising prizes: There will be 3 School Milestone prizes:

- a) If we sell 250 bundles, all students get a movie in the afternoon!
- b) If we sell 300 bundles, a staff member must kiss a fish!
- c) If we sell 350 bundles, afternoon activities and games!

Should you have further questions about this fundraiser, please contact Mr. D'Ugo at [gabriel.dugo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:gabriel.dugo@yrdsb.ca) or Ms. Grapsas at [maria.grapsas@yrdsb.ca](mailto:maria.grapsas@yrdsb.ca).

Thank you for your support,  
Willowbrook Fundraising Committee

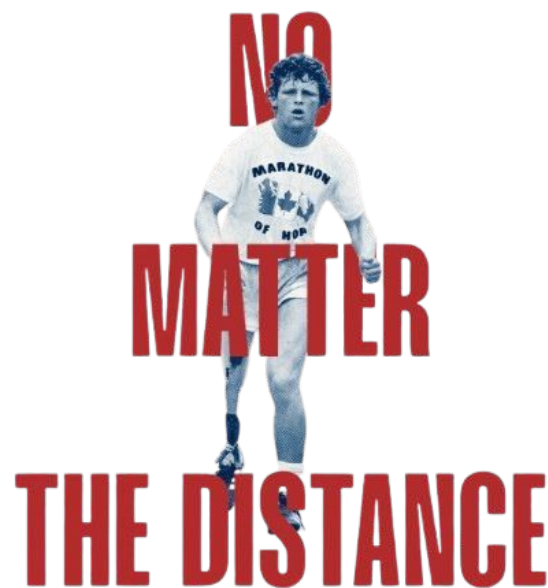


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Wet fields did not stop Willowbrook students from participating in the annual Terry Fox Run this year. On September 23rd, students eagerly walked to fundraise for cancer research and followed in the footsteps of one of our greatest Canadian heroes. Together, students helped raise \$670! If you haven't had a chance to donate, you still can by visiting:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/WillowbrookPSThornhill>



We are looking forward to meeting you on the evening of Thursday, October 10th. The evening will have two rotations for families to choose from, rotation A starting at 6:00-6:30pm and a second (repeat) rotation at 6:45-7:15pm. Families are welcome to attend either allotted times, where they will be able to meet their child's teacher and ask questions related to curriculum, classroom routines, etc. You will also have the opportunity to meet our rotary teachers who will be circulating the school. Also, during this evening, our library will be open from 3:15-4pm and 6:30-7:30pm for our annual Willowbrook Book Fair hosted by Ms. Yen, so please feel free to drop by!

# Willowbrook Public School

October 2024

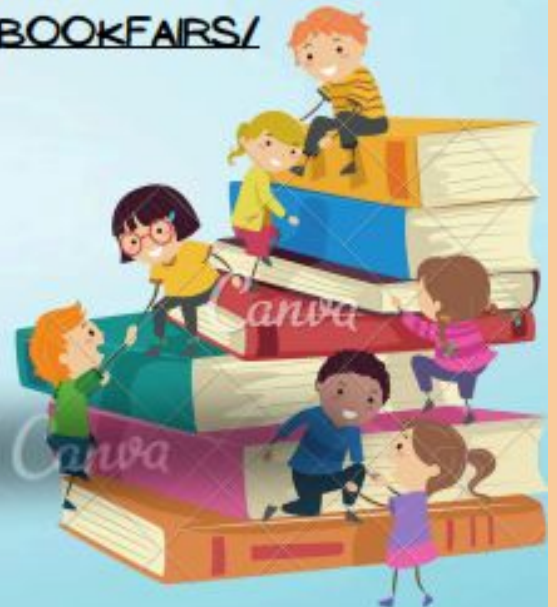
## WILLOWBROOK'S SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR FALL 2024

OCTOBER 7-10, 2024 (CLASSROOM VISITS  
SCHEDULED)

OPEN DAILY OCT. 7-10, 12:50-1:25PM

EVENING OCT. 10 3:15-4:00, 6:30-7:30PM

[HTTPS://WWW2.SCHOLASTIC.CA/BOOKFAIRS/](https://www2.scholastic.ca/bookfairs/)





## WILLOWBROOK'S HOT LUNCH MENU

2024/25 SESSION #1



### MONDAY'S

**HERO BURGER (11 weeks)**

Sept 30  
Oct 7, 28  
Nov 4, 11, 18, 25  
Dec 2, 9, 16  
Jan 6

### WEDNESDAY'S

**D'LITES SUSHI (13 weeks)**

Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Nov 6, 13, 20, 27  
Dec 4, 11, 18  
Jan 8

### TUESDAY'S

**SUBWAY (13 weeks)**

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Nov 5, 12, 19, 26  
Dec 3, 10, 17  
Jan 7

### THURSDAY'S

**GINO'S PIZZA WRAPS (13 weeks)**

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Nov 7, 14, 21, 28  
Dec 5, 12, 19  
Jan 9



### FRIDAY'S (PARENT COUNCIL)

**PIZZA PIZZA (15 weeks)**

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25  
Nov 1, 8, 14 (Thurs), 22, 29  
Dec 6, 13, 20  
Jan 10, 16 (Thurs), 24



Visit [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com)



## *Our Willowbrook Touchstone*

A few years ago, a group of students and staff collaborated to create a Willowbrook Touchstone for our school. This touchstone models the values and reflects the traits and qualities of what it means to be a Willowbrook student. Beginning next month, homeroom teachers will nominate students who exemplify this touchstone. They will be provided with an award certificate and their names will be published in our monthly newsletter. Below is our Touchstone below and it also resides in the main hallway of our school:

We put our smiles on every day, like a dragon breathing fire to light the path

At Willowbrook Public School we treat others with dignity, respect, and kindness

Our diversity is what makes our community and helps us grow

We respect each other's beliefs and ideas; we don't judge

We use the right words to convey our thoughts

We embrace a safe learning environment where no one is afraid

Learning and growing from our mistakes, we set high goals and put our best efforts forward in the classroom and on the playing field

We have fun along the way

Never backing down from a challenge, we encourage others to do and be their best

We are as green as the scales on a mighty dragon; caring about the environment is who we are

We support our friends in times of need

United we stand and divided we fall

Willowbrook Dragons

Watch us soar!

# Willowbrook Public School

October 2024



**The YRDSB has a tool on its website ([www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)) to provide translation of school board information in about 100 languages.**

<b>Arabic</b>	لدى مجلس إدارة مدارس منطقة يورك (YRDSB) أداة على موقعه الإلكتروني ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) لترجمة معلومات مجلس إدارة المدارس إلى حوالي 100 لغة.
<b>Farsi</b>	هیئت مدارس منطقه یورک YRDSB ابزاری برای ارائه ترجمه اطلاعات هیئت مدارس را به حدود 100 زبان در وبسایت ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) خود دارد.
<b>Gujarati</b>	YRDSB નું દૂલ તેઓની વેબસાઇટ ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) પર છે જે આશરે 100 ભાષાઓમાં સ્કૂલ બોર્ડ માહિતીનું ભાષાંતર પૂરું પાડે છે.
<b>Hebrew</b>	באתר האינטרנט של <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> (YRDSB) קיים כלי המתרגם מידע של מועצת בתי הספר ל-100 שפות.
<b>Korean</b>	YRDSB는 웹사이트( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> )에는 교육위원회 정보를 100여개 언어로 번역해주는 도구가 있습니다.
<b>Punjabi</b>	ਸਕੂਲ ਬੋਰਡ ਜਾਨਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਅੰਦਾਜ਼ਾ 100 ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) ਅਤੇ ਟੂਲ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਹੈ।
<b>Russian</b>	На веб-сайте YRDSB ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) предусмотрен инструмент для перевода информации Школьного совета примерно на 100 языков.
<b>Simplified Chinese</b>	YRDSB的网站( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> )上提供一种翻译工具，可将教育局的信息翻译成大约100种语言。
<b>Tamil</b>	YRDSB அதன் இணையத் தளமாகிய ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) இல் பரவலாக சபைத் தகவல்களை, சுமார் 100 மொழிகளில் மொழிபெயர்ப்பதற்கான ஒரு கருவியைக் கொண்டுள்ளது.
<b>Traditional Chinese</b>	YRDSB 網站 ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) 上設有一個工具，可將教育局資訊翻譯成約 100 種語言。
<b>Turkish</b>	YRDSB'nin web sitesinde ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) okul yönetim kurulu bilgilerinin yaklaşık 100 dilde çevirisini sağlayan bir araç bulunmaktadır.
<b>Urdu</b>	YRDSB کے پاس اس کی ویب سائٹ ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) پر سکول بورڈ کی معلومات تقریباً 100 زبانوں میں ترجمہ کرنے کی خاطر ایک ٹول موجود ہے۔
<b>Vietnamese</b>	YRDSB có một công cụ trên trang web ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) để cung cấp bản dịch của các thông tin từ hội đồng trường học sang khoảng 100 ngôn ngữ.

# Willowbrook Public School

October 2024

## Upcoming EVENTS

October 9 to November 14 - St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Visit (see flyer)

October 7-10 - Scholastic Book Fair, School Library (schedule by classroom)

October 10 - School Council Meeting 5-5:50pm

October 10 - Curriculum Night, Session 1 - 6-6:30pm, Session 2 - 6:45-7:15pm

October 10 - Scholastic Book Fair open to families 6:30-7:30pm

October 11 - Flag Football, Mount Alberts Lion's Club

October 14 - Thanksgiving (school closed)



October 15 - Cross Country Meet, Concord Thornhill Regional Park

October 17 - Heroes Walk and Roll 5-7pm

October 21 - P. A. Day (school closed to students)



October 22 - Picture Day

**Check out Willowbrook on Instagram! Follow @wb\_dragons to get great photos and updates of school events.**

