



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: April 18-22, 2022

Trait of the Month: Fairness

The mission of The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is to develop literate students who are innovative, well-rounded lifelong learners and critical thinkers. We aim to foster caring global citizens who maintain inclusive and respectful interactions with others.

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
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Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
Attendance: [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](#)

Contact Us

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Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal
Diane Conlon, VP (A-Li)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Lo-Z)

Extensions:

Reception 0
Attendance 1
e 3
Guidance 4
Staff
Directory

Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40
Period 3 9:45-11:00
Lunch 11:00-11:50
Period 2 11:50-1:05
Period 4 1:10-2:25

This week:

Apr. 18	Easter Monday - School Holiday Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday, which commemorates Jesus Christ's resurrection, according to the Christian Bible.
Apr. 19	Jr. Badminton Game Semi Finals at Westmount CI 3:30 pm
Apr. 20	Sr. Badminton Game Finals at Markham PAN AM Centre 9:00 am
Apr. 21	Ridvan - Riḍván is a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith, commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he was a Manifestation of God.
Apr. 22	Holy Friday Orthodox Good Friday is celebrated Friday before Easter according to the Julian calendar and falls on April 22 this year. This day is also known as Great Friday, Holy Friday, and Holy and Great Friday.

Upcoming:

Apr. 25	
Apr. 26	OSSLT - Grade 10 students (Period 1) Graduation Photo Day 1 of 3 Midterm Report Cards Distributed Jr. Badminton Game Finals at Markham PAN AM Centre 9:00 am
Apr. 27	OSSLT - Grade 10 students (Period 1) Graduation Photo Day 2 of 3
Apr. 28	Graduation Photo Day 3 of 3 IB Physics Exam (8:30-9:15; 9:30-10:45) IB Business Management Exam (12:00-1:15)
Apr. 29	IB Business Management Exam (9:00-10:45)

Message from the Principal

April brings much reflection and celebration throughout many cultures and communities within our school. As we get closer to spring, we wish everyone renewal for the coming season and best wishes during the various festivities that are honoured during this time.

As you may have noticed in the 'Upcoming Calendar' above, our Grade 10 students are looking ahead to their OSSLT on April 26 & 27 and our IB students are preparing for exams that begin on April 28. For our IB students writing exams, this particular year is challenging since they have not sat formal exams since January 2019. We know that they will be busy preparing in the coming weeks and know that they will do well. The IBO has put many supports in place and we are confident that our students will excel given their inquiry skills and love of learning.

In sports, we are in between seasons right now, however, our badminton teams are keeping sports alive through their tough battles on the court as they move towards semi-final and final playoffs. We are proud of all of our athletes and wish them excellent results on the court this week and next!

Now that Virtual School selections have been finalized we will be moving forward with timetabling and staffing for the coming year. Normally this process begins right after the March Break and takes us until June to finalize. This year we will be beginning the process after this long weekend and will need to be completed by June. Teachers are now entering mid-term marks and most students should be aware of their standing in their courses. Should changes need to be made to course selections for the coming year based on current results, students are encouraged to speak with their Guidance counsellor before April 22. Due to the tight timelines for timetabling, changes will not be made after April 22 until the timetable is completed later in June (and will only be possible if space is remaining in a course).

Take care and enjoy the long weekend,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Sports Highlights

Senior Badminton Team

This season the senior badminton team had 23 students represent The Dr. GW Williams SS in league play. The season started with almost 40 matches against Newmarket HS here in our gym. The team then traveled to Cardinal Carter and Huron Heights for more YRAA competition. After regular season play we qualified 9 students to play in a semi-final at Westmount Collegiate. After a long afternoon against 13 schools Williams qualified 6 players to the finals at the Pan Am Centre on Wednesday April 20th. Good Luck to the following teams:

Tier 2 Girls Doubles: Abhigna R. and Emily R.

Tier 1 Mixed Doubles: Rebecca X. and Ryan Y.; and Morgan W. and David Z.

Go Wildcats!

Junior Badminton Team

The junior badminton team is well underway with the semifinals taking place next week. We are fortunate to have nineteen teams participate in the Badminton season this year with 7 teams qualifying for the semifinals. We are very proud of the commitment and improvement of our players. Great job! The tournament begins at 3:30 pm at Westmount CI on Tuesday, April 19th. Wishing everyone all the best in their tournament!

We are thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating the graduates of 2022 with an in person graduation ceremony to be held at the [Aurora Community Centre](#). Please **save the evening of Tuesday, June 28, 2022** for this very important occasion.

We have closed the graduation fee in School Cash Online temporarily in order to realign the fee structure to incorporate the cap and gown fee that was paid by most students in the fall. Board policy dictates that graduation must be cost recovery and the most that can be charged is \$45.00/student (when holding the event at an arena) including the cap and gown cost. This fixed charge has not increased in at least 10 years. Due to COVID-19 we have now made the decision to not provide refreshments (other than water) at the event. This also supports us in lowering the cost as much as possible to remain as close to the fixed charge that we are able to apply to students graduating.

<p>In an effort to be transparent about the cost of graduation please see the breakdown below:</p> <p>Chair Rental and Runner for aisle \$2200 Staging, Sound, Lighting, Technology, Drapery \$7100 Rental of Aurora Community Centre \$870 Decorations and Rental of Truck to move materials back and forth \$295 Total \$10,465</p> <p>(This does not include awards, printing or programs, etc. that are covered by the school and community donors)</p>	<p>This year we have 320 graduates. Not all graduates will choose to attend graduation for a variety of reasons. If 295 graduates pay for and attend graduation that works out to \$35.50/student.</p> <p>Additionally, the grad cap and gown cost \$19.20 (+3% online fees) was already paid by most students in the fall prior to their grad photos.</p> <p>Actual cost of the graduation ceremony: \$54.70/graduate (assuming 295 pay to attend).</p>
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Next week we will be reposting the grad fees for families on School Cash Online. There will be 2 options: \$45 (+3% online fee) for those that still need a cap and gown and \$25 (+3% online fee) for those that already purchased a cap and gown in the fall. We want all students to be able to attend graduation should they choose. If the fee is a barrier to attendance, please speak to your child's Vice Principal or Guidance Counsellor and we are happy to support and ensure that your child can attend with their peers.

We will be having the photographers back into our building to finish the Graduation portraits on April 26th, 27th and 28th. We will be contacting all Graduates who have not had their photo completed to book a time to be photographed. Notifications will be sent out early next week to all students who have not had their photo done. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Mckie in our main office at Ext. 152.

YRDSB - News and Events

2022-2023 Budget Consultation Process - YRDSB

York Region District School Board invites families and community members to participate in the annual budget consultation process. Public feedback provides the Board with important information about how the community would like to see YRDSB's budget allocated to better support student achievement and well-being. The results of the consultation will be used to inform the 2022-23 school year budget allocation. Please see [here](#) for more information. YRDSB has created a [survey](#) to gather community feedback into the budget process. The survey will be available for completion until Monday, April 25, 2022.

One Small Thing Campaign

YRDSB is once again encouraging staff and students to do "One Small Thing" to enhance their mental health and well-being. The One Small Thing concept is the belief that small and intentional actions or affirmations can lead to meaningful outcomes or change. At the start of the year, YRDSB launched a series of lessons for students focused on the ABCs of Mental Health ([Acknowledge, Bridge and Connect](#)). The One Small Thing campaign being rolled out in our schools, builds on that work to support positive mindsets and actions and is informed by students' and staff voices. The One Small Thing campaign will be released throughout the remainder of the school year through family mental health newsletters and social media with more exciting pieces coming! What one small thing can you do? Please see [here](#) for more information.

Notices

NEW The South Asian & Tamil Women's Collective (WOW) in collaboration with ESSAH and ETSS invites self-identifying South Asian and Tamil, female/non-binary, grades 5 to 12 students to attend a Virtual 2022 Annual Well-Being Conference. This virtual conference will be held on Wednesday, May 11th and Thursday, May 12th, 2022 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Please see [here](#) for more information.

The Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre together with FSWC, CSYV, Azrieli Foundation, Facing History, and March of the Living is honoured to present an in person community-wide Yom HaShoah commemoration on Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 pm at Earl Bales Park. Please see [here](#) for more information.

Periphery Curriculum Workshop on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 6:30 PM 8:00 pm. No Silence on Race, the Ontario Jewish Archives and Facing History and Ourselves are pleased to launch Periphery film curriculum and educator resources. Periphery is an evocative photographic and film project that bears witness to ethnic diversity in the Jewish community. This event is to engage Jewish and non-Jewish teachers grade 8-12, adult educators, and community members in a conversation about the history and identities of multiracial and multiethnic Jews in Canada through Periphery curriculum. We will explore how to connect Periphery to learning and engagement in the classroom on issues related to intersectional identity, Jewish identity, race, antisemitism, multiculturalism in Canada and social justice. Please see [here](#) for more information.

TVO Mathify offers seamless school-to-home math learning with an interactive classroom tool, and free one-on-one, online after school math tutoring. Transform where and how Grade 4-11 students in Ontario learn math. Please see [here](#) for more information.

The Prime Minister's Youth Council is now accepting applications. This is a group of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues of importance to them and to all Canadians. The Prime Minister's Youth Council is one mechanism to support the Government's commitment to listen to young people in Canada and engage them in this dialogue. The deadline to apply is April 24, 2022. Please see [here](#) to apply.

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students invites Black students who are graduating from a high school in the York Region District School Board to apply for our 2022 scholarships. The deadline is Monday, May 16, 2022. A.E.B.S. Scholarships will be distributed to students on June 8th, 2022. Please see [here](#) to apply.

Join us for a free information session brought to you in partnership with Community Living York South, Spirit of Life and Inclusive School and Community Services of York Region District School Board. This virtual session in Mandarin and Tamil will provide information on funding and resources to families with developmental or physical disabilities and special needs. On Wednesday April 27th, 2022 from 6:30-8:00pm. Please see [here](#) for more information.

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. Please see their latest newsletter in the link below. [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#) April Edition

Please see this [message from York Region Public Health](#) related to COVID-19 vaccine clinics being held during April.

In solidarity with all of those in our community with family and loved ones impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, please [visit our website](#) to see some services currently available to families.

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca to report absences. All absences must be justified with a reason.

If students are required to self-isolate due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, please indicate that in your email as this is coded differently and is not reflected on the attendance tally reported on the student report card. Additionally, your child's Vice Principal (Ms. Conlon A-Li, Mr. Gazaneo Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more of COVID-19 symptoms. Please see the screening tool [here](#).

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine), must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

Daily Announcements

Our announcements are posted to the school website each day for students and parents to access under the [News & Events](#) heading. We will have a text version of all announcements that will be updated each day. We hope that this addition will help our school community (and especially our remote learners that aren't here to hear the announcements each day) to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Guidance

NEW Check out the [YRDSB's 2022 Summer Learning Opportunities website](#) to learn more about summer school options. Registration information can be located on the YRDSB's "[How to Register](#)" page. Registration opens April 19, 2022 and can be completed through a student's My Pathway Planner account. Speak to your Guidance counsellor if you have any questions.

Mr. Fuller

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Continuing Education

- Continuing Education is offering several Pathway program opportunities this summer, including: Dual Credits, Youth Innovation by Design IDC Course, and in person Co-op (1 and 2 credit programs). Spaces are very limited in each program and will be decided on a first-come-first serve basis. Grade 12 students requiring 1 credit to graduate will be given priority in 1 and 2 Credit Co-op programs. [Click Here for more information.](#)

Dual Credit

- Registration is now open for Spring dual credits in Semester 2! These are condensed courses that begin mid-April to June. Please speak with your counsellor to enquire about registering.

New Construction SHSM

The Dr. G.W. Williams has been approved for a new Construction SHSM beginning in September 2022. Registration can begin immediately. Please speak with your counsellor for more information.

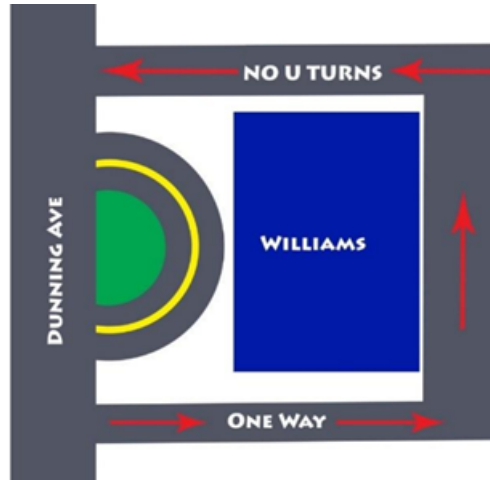
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

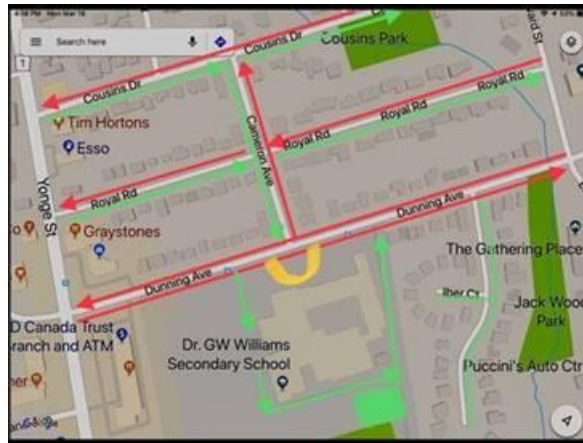
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 2:40, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, we ask that you make arrangements to meet your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). Please see the maps below to support your efforts.



There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.



If you MUST come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. DO NOT block the driveway waiting. There is one-way traffic in the west entrance and on the south (back) side of the school. **It is two-way traffic on the east side of the school, however, during the end of the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot.** This makes a significant positive impact on safety for all and makes it easier and less stressful for everyone. When you are able to enter the east lot, do not make U-turns anywhere in the east parking lot from Dunning Avenue to the south parking lot. Making a U-turn in this area creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians and other vehicles. If you need to turn around, please pull into a parking spot and carefully back out.



Please note that Dunning Avenue is a **no stopping zone**. This is noted by the signage along the street and on the map above you can see the red arrows on both sides of the street.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022
- Prom - Thursday, June 16, 2022
- Graduation Ceremony - Tuesday, June 28, 2022

PA Days for Williams (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2021-2022

- Monday May 16, 2022