



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: April 25-29, 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/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
Attendance: [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](#)

Modified Schedule OSSLT - April 26 + 27

Period 1	8:20 - 9:55 AM (95 minutes)
Period 2	10:00 - 11:10 AM (70 minutes)
Lunch	11:10 - 12:10 PM
Period 3	12:10 - 1:15 PM (65 minutes)
Period 4	1:20 - 2:25 PM (65 minutes)

This week:

Apr. 25	
Apr. 26	OSSLT - Grade 10 students (Extended Period 1 8:20-9:55 am) 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 (Extended Period 1 8:20-9:55 am) 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)

Upcoming:

May 2	Eid al-Fitr - Marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. An occasion for special prayers, family visits, gift giving and charity.
May 3	
May 4	
May 5	Speak Out Conference (9:00-2:30)
May 6	PA Day - no school for Secondary students IB Math Exam (12:00-1:30)

Message from the Principal

As we reflect on Earth Day in this bright sunshine today we hope that the celebrations that have and continue to occur this month across our community bring a sense of hope for new beginnings and positive outcomes in the coming months. When we think of our roles and the intersectionalities of the various roles we hold in the world this quote from Jane Goodall gives some perspective, "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

This week teachers submitted mid-term marks for students. We want to remind everyone that we are at the halfway point in the semester and there are many opportunities to demonstrate continued learning in courses. Mid-Term report cards will once again be sent electronically beginning later next week. Please reach out to classroom teachers or any of the supports in the school: Guidance, Student Success, Special Education, or Vice Principals if you have concerns about supporting your child's learning at Williams. We have a number of opportunities available that can be of assistance.

The spring sports season is now upon us and this week our coaching staff has committed to the following sports in the coming season: Varsity Boys T2 Baseball, Varsity Girls T2 Soccer, Varsity Girls Flag Football, Senior Boys T2 Rugby, Varsity Girls T2 Rugby, Varsity T2 Ultimate, Track and Field and Mountain Biking. Thank you to all of the teaching staff that have volunteered their time for the coming season.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Sports Highlights

Congratulations to all senior badminton members who competed this season. Yesterday we had 6 students compete at the Pan Am Centre in the YRAA finals. After some tough badminton matches our students displayed wildcat pride both on and off the court. Congratulations to Kathy L. and Anna L. placing 4th in Tier2 girls doubles; Morgan W. and David Z. placing 7th in Tier 1 Mixed Doubles and Rebbi X. and Ryan Y. qualifying for Tier 1 OFSAA mixed doubles. Great work by all. Go Wildcats!

Info for Graduates - 2022

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.

In an effort to be transparent about the cost of graduation please see the breakdown below:

Chair Rental and Runner for aisle \$2200
Staging, Sound, Lighting, Technology, Drapery \$7100
Rental of Aurora Community Centre \$870

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.

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.

Decorations and Rental of Truck to move materials back and forth \$295 Total \$10, 465 (This does not include awards, printing or programs, etc. that are covered by the school and community donors)	Actual cost of the graduation ceremony: \$54.70/graduate (assuming 295 pay to attend).
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The grad fees have now been reposted for families on School Cash Online. There are be 2 options: \$45 (+3% online fee) for those that still need a cap and gown and \$25.58 (+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 valuable 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 - All youth are invited to attend the York Regional Police Community Advisory Council 2nd Annual Social Justice Youth Conference on Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Community Safety Village in Whitchurch-Stouffville. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - The Police Community Advisory Council invites students who live in York Region to submit an original poster or video that promotes the theme of *Resiliency Through Community*. One winner from each grade 7 to 12 for the poster contest and three winners for the video contest will be recognized at the YRP International Human Rights Day Celebration on December 8, 2022. Each winner will receive a \$200 cash prize. Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW - The CBCC Program provides mentorship, advocacy, promotion, and investment in Black business training and development for young entrepreneurs. The CBCC presents *Elevate Black Business*, a young entrepreneur info zoom session on April 27, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW - Spring into Spring (SiS) is an annual celebration of the new season, encouraging participants to spend more time being active outdoors throughout the month of April. Schools across Ontario can promote walking, biking, scooting, skateboarding, pogoing, and other fun ways to get to school or around the neighbourhood. Spring is the perfect time to get active outdoors! Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW - YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. May’s Mental Health Newsletter has a focus on Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week. Please see their latest newsletter in the link below.
[May Mental Health Newsletter](#)

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.

In solidarity with all 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

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 mark.fuller@yrdsb.ca Last Names A-H	Mr. Manson patrick.manson@yrdsb.ca Last Names I - Q	Ms. Durbacz sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca Last Names R - Z
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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.

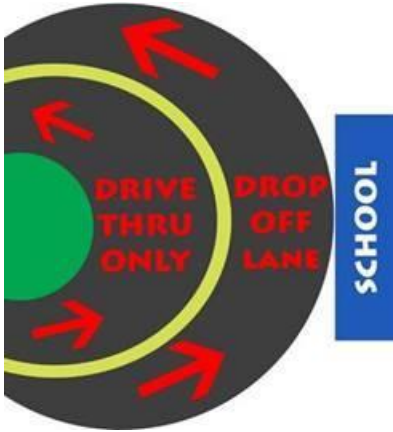
New Construction SHSM

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.

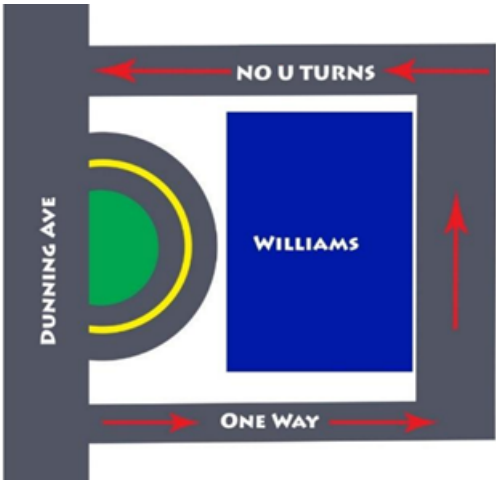
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

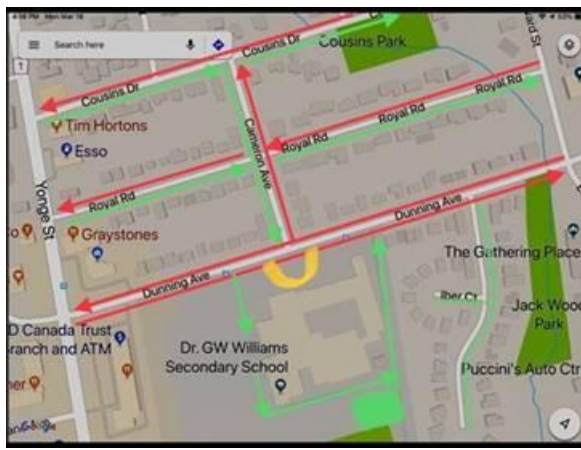
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave 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

- 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