



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 28 - April 1, 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

This week:

Mar. 28	Sr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Our Lady of the Lake SS & Dr. J. M. Denison SS - 3:30 pm (Home Game) Parents/guardians to create Edsby accounts, if you do not already have one (if an Edsby account has not been created, an invitation will be sent to create one)
Mar. 29	Jr. Boys Basketball Team vs. Huron Heights SS - 4:00 pm (Home Game - Playoffs) Edsby opens up at 9:00 am for booking for Virtual Teacher Interview Night
Mar. 30	Interim Reports will be distributed electronically to parents / guardians / 18+ students via the Electronic Distribution Process.
Mar. 31	Interim Reports will be distributed electronically to parents / guardians / 18+ students via the Electronic Distribution Process. IB Trivia Night - 2:40pm Sr. Badminton Game at Cardinal Carter CHS - 3:00 pm
Apr. 1	

Upcoming:

Apr. 4	Staff Meeting 2:40 - 3:55 pm Jr. Badminton Game at Cardinal Carter CHS 3:00 pm Virtual Meeting Links to be sent to Families from the teachers
Apr. 5	Waterloo Math Contests (Euclid) Sr. Badminton Game at Huron Heights SS - 3:45 pm Virtual Meeting Links to be sent to Families from the teachers
Apr. 6	Jr. Badminton Game vs. Huron Heights SS - 4:00 pm (Home Game)
Apr. 7	<i>Virtual Teacher Interview Night 6:30 - 8:30 pm</i>
Apr. 8	

Message from the Principal

It was great to have everyone back in the building this week in a bit more relaxed state but still being respectful of one another's needs and the fact that we continue to be in a pandemic. We have noticed that although the mask mandate has been removed in the province, our students and staff are still actively choosing to wear masks for the most part to continue to protect themselves and one another as needed. We all agree that it is nice to now have a choice.

Our winter sports are still going strong given the late return to sports after the winter holidays and our spring sports are starting up. It was nice to welcome spectators into the building for games on Tuesday this week as well!!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Music Soup Fundraiser this week. It was great to return from the break on Monday and be surprised to receive the soup to warm us up this week (although we knew it was expected on the 21st it was still a surprise on the first day back).

Teachers have been updating Interim Marks this week to provide an early snapshot into student progress. The Interim Report cards will be sent electronically next week and Teacher Interviews will be held virtually once again on April 7. Please watch your email for the details on Edsby opening

Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Helping Hands Club Collects for the Aurora Food Pantry

Are there any students who still need [Community Involvement](#) hours? Join the Helping Hands Club! We are looking for volunteers on **Saturday, April 2nd from 9:45am - 2:00 pm**. We will be picking up donations and dropping them off at the Aurora Food Pantry. Students will be collecting food in local neighborhoods. More details to follow next week. Please come to Student Success for more information and permission forms. Sign up closes by the end of day Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

Club Highlights

Over the March Break, four of GW Debate Club's teams competed at the Abbey Park Junior Debate Tournament! Our debaters once again did incredibly well, exceeding our expectations. Congratulations to Sophia H. and Lucy Q., whose team qualified to the Quarterfinals, as well as Baran A. and Parmis R., who qualified all the way to Finals and WON THE TOURNAMENT! Special mention to Baran who also got 8th speaker overall in the tournament. Great job to all debaters and we hope to see you continue achieving great things in the spring and summer!

Sports Highlights

- On Tuesday the Junior Boys Basketball Team were victorious over Mulock 55-54. Trailing by as many as 15 points in the final quarter, Yonatan A. mounted a ferocious come back that was capped off by Tim A. hitting 2 free throws with 8 seconds left to take the lead and win. Yonatan led the victory with 32 points.
- On Thursday the Junior Boys Basketball Team traveled to Sacred Heart and battled it out in a very physical and fast game. Once again, trailing by 8 points with less than 3 minutes left in the game the comeback was on. The Juniors scored 10 unanswered points and pulled out the victory 66-64 and first place overall. Led by Yonatan A. and Tim A. with 28 and 19 points respectively. Great job Boys!!

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
Guidance 3
Staff 4
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

- *Fans are encouraged to come watch the Junior Boys Basketball Team take on Huron Heights in the first round of the playoffs on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 4:00 pm in the gym. First 100 fans get in free.*
- Last night, the Junior Girls Volleyball Team had their last games of the regular season. They fought hard through each game! The team lost the first match in three games, but ended up winning the second very important match by coming back from behind. Big shout out to Emma for her consistent play at the net, as well as Erica for coming in clutch with her serves! Overall the team finished the regular season third in the North Division. Good luck in the playoffs next week!

Notices

The Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA) Scholarship is awarded to students who are entering their first year of full time postsecondary studies and demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to community service in order to break down barriers and build inclusive spaces. See [here](#) for more details.

YRDSB and the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students (AEMS) is excited to offer our second annual Muslim Virtual Student Conference on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 from 9:00 am - 3:15 pm. PILLARS to Well-Being is an opportunity for self-identified Muslim students from grades 9-12 to engage in interactive, community-led workshops that will center their identity and well-being. See [Flyer](#) for more details.

Inclusive School and Community Services is hosting A Caregiver Engagement Event In Partnership with PFLAG York Region on Wednesday, April 6th 2022 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. See [Flyer](#) for more details.

Please read this important newsletter from YRDSB, regarding GAPPs Profile Images on our [school website](#).

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.

The Summer Mentorship Program gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over 4 weeks in July. [Read more here!](#)

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.

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

Information regarding Secondary Virtual School for 2022-2023

- In April 2022, students and families will be asked to select their learning model for the 2022-2023 school year. We will share information in the coming weeks about when and how to select your learning model and other information to help you make an informed decision. This will include start and end times, programs and offerings, etc.
- Families and students should expect to remain in the selected model for the full school year.
- Secondary Virtual School will offer Gifted and Community Classes. An offering of core courses will be available to students, however, specialty programs will not be offered virtually (including French Immersion, the Arts, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, Specialist High Skills Majors and High Performance Athlete). Specialty programs will continue to be offered through in-person learning.

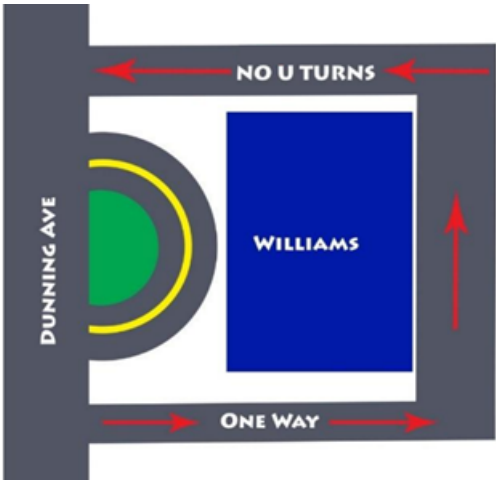
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

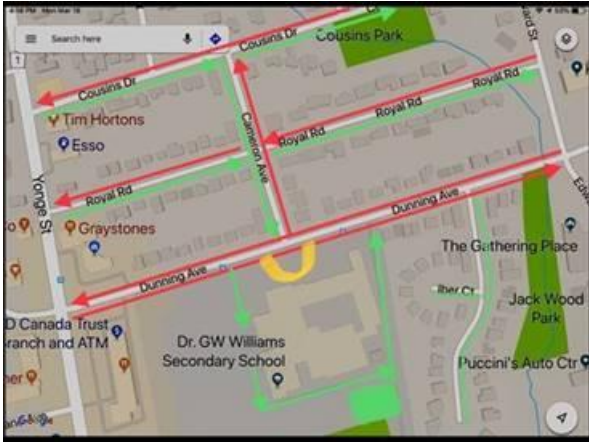
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

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