



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Mar 27 - Apr 7, 2023

Trait of the Month: Honesty

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.

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS

Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal
Susie Mitchell, VP (A-Le)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Li-Z)

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Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40
Period 2 9:45-11:00
Period 3 11:05-12:20
Period 4 12:25-1:40
Period 5 1:45-3:00

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:

March 27	Choir meets every Monday in room 122, 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm (No experience needed) Interim Reports distributed electronically (March 24-27) Prom ticket available through School Cash Online - Maximum 300 tickets available Ramadan, began on Mar 22 evening - Apr 21 (Islam)
March 28	'Live the skilled life!' Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) presentation 3 pm - 4:30 pm library (Families and students welcome)
March 29	'Change by Coffee' - Last day accepting recycled clothes and accessories in donation box in the library,
March 30	Parent/Teacher Interview Night 6:30pm-8:30pm (please schedule a time through TeachAssist Parent Portal https://ta.yrdsb.ca/live/parents/ instructions sent by email on March 22) 'Change by Coffee' Thrift event, P3 & 4, cafeteria
March 31	'Change by Coffee' Thrift event, P3 & 4, cafeteria Last day to purchase graduation cap and gown, school cash online

Upcoming

April 3	Choir meets every Monday in room 122, 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm (No experience needed)
April 4	Math Contest: Gr 12 - Euclid (P1 & 2 in cafeteria)
April 5	Math Contest: Gr 9 - Fryer, Gr 10 - Galois, Gr 11 - Hypatia (P1 in cafeteria) Last day to purchase Prom ticket through School Cash Online (unless max of 300 tickets sold is reached sooner)
April 6	1st day of Passover (Judaism)
April 7	Easter Good Friday. (Easter Monday Apr 10) No school.

To support your family planning, the 2022-2023 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#). Additionally, all dates for school events are continually updated on our Google calendar on our [school website](#).

The proposed YRDSB 2023-2024 school year calendars have been sent to the Ministry for review and approval. These calendars may be accessed on the [YRDSB website](#).

Please note: Calendars are not official until they receive formal Ministry approval which is expected in late May 2023. Our Google calendar will be updated online as soon as Ministry approval is received.

Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that it is now spring and we are looking ahead to graduation for our Grade 12 students and scheduling for the coming school year for the rest of the school.

Graduates should make sure they purchase their cap and gown (before March 31) and plan for the prom (tickets on sale from March 27-April 5, or until max of 300 tickets are sold). As a school that is committed to equity of access for all, please speak to any administrator, Ms. McKie or Ms. Zegers if we can assist in any way to ensure that students are capable of engaging in these transition activities. Sometimes just the opportunity to make smaller payments over time can make it easier for all families to engage in school activities. Subsidies also exist for those in financial need.

Next Thursday evening we look forward to welcoming many of you into the school to discuss the progress of students during this semester. Please be certain to book appointments with your child's teacher using TeachAssist. If you have any trouble booking an appointment, please contact the main office and they will assist by sending your child's teacher(s) an email to have them book an appointment for you.

The months of March and April provide significant opportunities for celebration and reflection in many of the faith groups within our school community. We want to wish everyone celebrating the following significant faith days of: Nowruz, Ramadan, Passover, Easter (Western and Eastern), Vaisakhi, Ridvan as well as a number of other faith days quality time with family and friends reflecting on their reasons for this season and fresh starts as many move into a new year.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

Teacher Interview Night, March 30 (6:30pm - 8:30pm)
(Interim Reports distributed electronically March 24-27)

Teacher Interview Night will be in-person during the evening of March 30. Parents/guardians who are unable to meet in person during Teacher Interview Night are encouraged to connect with the teacher about their student's progress. Details about how to schedule teacher interviews using 'TeachAssist' are sent through a letter to families on March 22.

Info for Graduates - 2023

We are pleased to announce that this year's graduation ceremony will be held at **Ray Twinney Recreation Complex on Monday, June 26, 2023**. All grade 12 students have been attached to the SCOL item: Graduation Ceremony and Reception + Cap and Gown Fee. This fee finances the Graduation Ceremony including a gown and cap for your child to keep. If you haven't already please visit [School Cash Online](#) asap to pay the fee and select your gown size. Orders for the gown and caps will be placed at the end of March so it is very important that all graduates pay the fee and select their gown size. Thank you!

Save the Date: Prom 2023

Prom is approaching quickly, and the staff of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School is pleased to celebrate this occasion with grade 12 students on **Thursday, June 8, 2023 at the Manor Event Venue** at 16750 Weston Road, King. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM and end at 10:30 PM. Doors close promptly at 6:30 PM. The evening's events will include dinner at 7:00 PM followed by dancing. Prom will be supervised by school board staff and the York Regional Police.

In order to attend, students must complete and return all necessary forms provided to them, and attend the grade 12 assembly. Proof of ticket purchase is required.

Tickets will be available for purchase through School Cash Online, from Monday, March 27th -Wednesday, April 5th (ticket sales may close early if max is reached).

Please Note:

- Due to venue size, only 300 tickets will be sold to this event. Don't delay in purchasing your ticket. If finances are a barrier, please see your alpha VP so they can assist PRIOR to sales closing. We want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to attend that would like to (within the capacity of the venue).
- Upon initial release, only one ticket per student may be purchased.
- Priority is offered to students currently attending Dr. G.W. Williams.
- Individual ticket price is dependent on whether or not the student activity fee has previously been paid. All ticket sales will be reviewed to ensure the correct payment amount has been demonstrated.
- If unable to attend prom, no refunds will be issued.
- If space remains at the end of the initial selling period, the opportunity to purchase guest tickets will begin on Monday, April 17th and end on Thursday, April 20th on a first come first served basis. Further information around guest ticket sales will be available after April 5th.
- Any questions should be directed to amanda.kelly@yrdsb.ca

Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement

Students are now required to earn two Online Learning credits to earn their OSSD, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with working and learning in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives. Please click the [link](#) for further details.

Live the skilled life! Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

According to the Conference Board of Canada, it's estimated that **Ontario** will face a **shortage** of 560,000 **skilled** workers by 2030. **Apprenticeship** is a post-secondary pathway that allows students to get paid while learning. It's an alternate pathway to college and university where graduates are **debt free**. If any of this sounds interesting, please join us in the school's **library** with your child on **March 28** from **3 - 4:30 pm** to learn more. We are excited to have Linda Alati, a pathways consultant, join us to discuss the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (**OYAP**). Please use this [link](#) to let us know if you will be attending the presentation.

'Change by Coffee' Thrift event

Interested in purchasing recycled clothes and accessories with your friends! 'Change by Coffee' is hosting a thrift event just for you. The merchandise will be collected via your donations from Mar 21 Tues to Mar 29 Wed. Go through all your unwanted items and drop them into the donation box in the library. The selling event will take place during **Periods 3 & 4, Mar 30 Thurs and Mar 31 Fri** in the cafeteria. All proceeds will go towards educating and supporting our community. Please ask your friends and family for donations.

YRDSB and Community Notices

Passover (Judaism)

Pesaḥ (Passover) commemorates the departure of Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The festival of Passover is celebrated for eight days, the first two and last two days are observed as holy days. The evenings of the first and second days of Pesaḥ begin with Seder meals (festive meals and the telling of the Passover story). The final day of Pesaḥ marks the Israelites' crossing of the Reed Sea, as related in The Book of Exodus

Easter

Easter is celebrated by Christians as a holiday. It represents the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament and the revelation of God's salvific plan for all of humankind. The Bible says that Jesus Christ died on a cross on a day called Good Friday. He was resurrected and came back to life on Easter Sunday.

Ramadan (Islam)

Ramadan, began on Mar 22 evening, is a holy month of fasting and contemplation for Muslims. Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is referred to in the Qu'ran as a blessed month in which the teachings of the Qu'ran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). During Ramadan, most Muslims fast during the hours of daylight and increase their focus on prayer and contemplation. At the end of each day the fast is traditionally ended with a prayer and a light meal called the iftar. Ramadan is considered a time for Muslims to recommit themselves to cultivating spiritual renewal within themselves and their communities, as well as practicing compassion and generosity for others. Schools acknowledge this time through activities that promote understanding and learning for all students, while being respectful and making space for learners that are fasting or observing Ramadan. During this time of reverence and renewal, we extend our good wishes to staff, students, parents and members of the Muslim communities who will be observing Ramadan.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), Spring 2023

The spring administration of the OSSLT is scheduled to occur between March 1 - April 26, 2023. The test is online and will be open to eligible students who did not participate or were not successful in the fall administration. The majority of our students wrote the test in the fall so that students would have a second opportunity to achieve their literacy graduation requirement as early as possible, with only the second result considered.

Guidance

- **Full Disclosure is May 8, 2023** - Semester 2 courses dropped by this date will not show on a student's official transcript.
- **Course Selections** for the upcoming school year are now closed. Please have students see their alpha guidance counsellor if they have any questions or concerns.
- Please note that **Summer School Registrations** will open in late spring. Students must enrol officially through their pathway planner even though they've expressed interest in their course selections.
- **Summer Pathways Programs** - Please see [this flyer](#) for Summer Dual Credits, Youth Innovation by Design, and Co-op summer opportunities for students. Students can register using the links provided.
- **Graduates of 2023** must complete and submit their volunteer hours by **Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023**.

Attendance Procedures

Extended Absences

Planned absences of three or more consecutive school days require the completion of an "Extraordinary Absence" form at least one week in advance of the

leave. The form is available in the Attendance Office. The process includes obtaining signatures from teachers and a school administrator. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on all work missed.

Parents/guardians should contact the Attendance Office to indicate when their child will be absent. The Attendance Office can be reached at 905-727-3131 ext. 100. If the attendance secretary is busy please leave a voice message OR send an email to drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca. If a student leaves school resulting in a late or an absence to a class period, they are to go to the attendance office to sign out. If a student arrives late for Period 1 and before 8:45 a.m., they are asked to report directly to their class where their homeroom teacher will let the office know the time of arrival. If the 8:20 bell has rung, students are asked to stand in the hallway for the anthem and announcements to be completed before proceeding to their period 1 class. For any other period, whenever a student arrives at school after the first scheduled class period has begun they are to report to attendance to sign in.

Students are expected to be in class by the times listed above.

Students, parents, and staff have a role to play in ensuring that students attend classes regularly and punctually. Students are responsible for:

- attending all scheduled classes, and being on time;
- being prepared for classes, and participating fully in the planned learning activities;
- reporting absences (preferably in advance), and presenting proper documentation to staff, and covering the material missed when they are absent.

Absences must be both valid and authorized by a parent. Examples of valid reasons include illness, bereavement, medical appointments, court appearance, etc. If no phone call, e-mail, or note is received by the school, the absence will be considered "truant". Truancies are unacceptable.

Students who have been signed out of classes by a parent/legal guardian cannot remain on school property.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students aged 18 and older and students who have declared their independence must report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner. Where possible, notify the school in advance by calling the school and leaving a message on the answering machine or emailing the school's attendance address.

If a student is unable to attend school and will miss more than two school days, homework may be requested from the Guidance Department and picked up at the school. Teachers require 24 hours to complete homework requests. If a student is absent due to a prolonged illness, he/she may be required to provide a medical note.

School Calendar for 2022-2023

- Please use this [link](#)

Website Resources for Families and Students

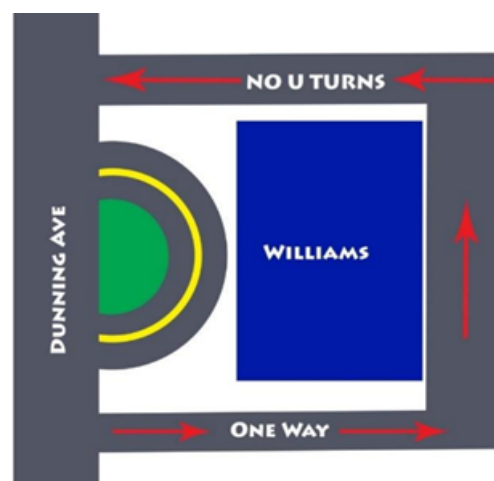
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

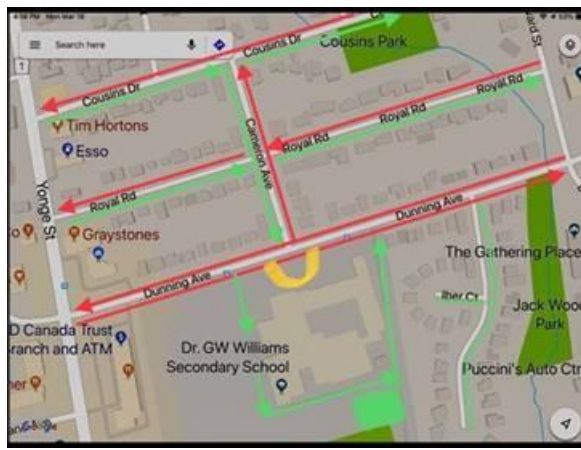
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 3:10, 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.

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

- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- April 17
- May 15