



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 16-20, 2022

Trait of the Month: Integrity

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

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:

May 16	IB Spanish Exam (12:00-1:15, 1:30-2:30) Girls Soccer Team vs. Richmond Hill HS - 3:30 pm (at Sheppards Bush) Ultimate Frisbee Team vs. Renaissance & Mulock - 3:30 pm (at Newmarket HS) Flag Football Team vs. Our Lady of the Lake - 4:30 pm (at Aurora HS) Virtual School Council Meeting - 7:00 pm See here for the meeting agenda and zoom link.
May 17	IB Spanish Exam (8:40-9:25) Girls Rugby Team at JM Denison SS - 3:00 pm
May 18	IB Chemistry Exam (12:00-1:00, 1:15-3:30) Girls Soccer Team at Richmond Green SS - 3:30 pm Senior Boys Rugby Team vs. Bill Hogarth SS & Stouffville - 4:00 pm (Home Game) Baseball Team vs. St. Theresa of Lisieux - 3:30 pm (at Richmond Green Sports Centre and Park)
May 19	Avogadro Chemistry Contest - Grade 11 (Period 4) IB French Exam (12:00-1:15, 1:30-2:30) Track and Field Event - YRAA Competition - 8:00 am (at Bill Crothers SS)
May 20	IB French Exam (10:00-10:45) Track and Field Event - YRAA Competition - 8:00 am (at Bill Crothers SS) Baseball Team vs. Richmond Hill HS - 3:30 pm (at Lambert Wilson Park)

Upcoming:

May 23	**no school today** Victoria Day - is a federal Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday preceding May 25. Initially in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday, it has since been celebrated as the official birthday of Canada's sovereign. It is informally considered to be the beginning of the summer season in Canada.
May 24	Girls Rugby Team at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic HS - 3:00 pm Girls Soccer Team vs. King City SS - 3:30 pm (at Sheppards Bush)
May 25	Senior Boys Rugby Team vs. Newmarket HS & Bill Crothers - 3:00 pm (Home Game) Spring Outdoor Concert at 7 pm Baseball Team vs. Our Lady Queen of the World CA - 3:30 pm (at Lambert Wilson Park)
May 26	Ultimate Frisbee Team vs. Newmarket & Stouffville - 3:45 pm (at Huron Heights) Rain date for Spring Concert at 7 pm
May 27	

Message from the Principal

Thank you to all our students, parents and staff who are supporting our safe driveways at the end of the day. With the nice weather and so many walking to and from school we have seen a huge difference in the parking lots. We really appreciate everyone's cooperation and support on these safety issues.

On April 27th I had the honour of participating in the annual YRDSB Celebrating Student Success awards. Each year the YRDSB chooses students from across the system to recognize for their contributions within the school and community. This year they chose 16 students and of those 2 were from Williams—Artin K and Allyson S. Congratulations to our awards winners! Their contributions within our school community are greatly appreciated and we are thrilled they have been recognized out of the many students within the board.

Please take a moment to speak to your students about their arrival at the beginning of the day and after lunch. We have noticed that with each passing day we have more and more students arriving late to the building and therefore late to classes. It is difficult for classes to get started and completed the planned learning when so many students are arriving late. Students should be in their class by 8:20 am which means they need to arrive to the building by 8:15 at the latest. After lunch they should return by 11:45 as afternoon classes begin at 11:50 am.

We have begun preparing for next year and are busy assigning staffing and organizing course requests to be able to develop a timetable for students. Please note that we are moving to a 5 period day and will return to our pre-COVID school hours (8:20-3:00) beginning in September.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Students who are in Semester 2 MTH1W1 math classes are required to take the Math EQAO test which will be held on June 14 and June 15.

If your child was in MTH1W1 in first semester and is not in MTH1W1 second semester, then they do not have to write the EQAO math test. Anyone in this situation who does want to write the math EQAO is to see the Vice-Principal Diane Conlon in the main office.

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.

The grad fees have now been reposted for families on School Cash Online. There are 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.

NEW - Prom Information

Attention Grade 12's: You are cordially invited to attend this year's prom, themed, "A Royal Ball". Spend the evening in regal style, celebrating with friends, while dining, dancing, and capturing our best smiles in the photo booth. To purchase tickets, be sure to complete a Prom attendance form, and if required, the Prom guest form. Both forms are located on the Graduating class Google Classroom, or outside rooms 204, 216, 219, 246, and 251. Only when you return your forms will you be able to secure tickets, and sign up for your seating arrangements. Ticket sales began on May 11, and run through May 30th. Listen to the announcements, and head to the Graduating Class Google Classroom for more details. See Ms. Shillum, Ms. Isber, Mrs. Kelly, or Ms. Hoffschmidt with any questions.

Club Highlights

Rock Climbing Team

Our Rock Climbing Team recently participated in the YRAA YRDSB climbing competition. It was a rocky ascent but we finished out on top, as our school finished 3rd overall in the school board. Congratulations! A special congratulations to Emily R. who placed 9th overall in the Elite Division, Ken T. who placed 12th overall in the Sport Division, Thomas O. who placed 1st overall in the Recreational Division and Arta E. who placed 12th overall in the Recreational Division.

Sports Highlights

Badminton Team

Congratulations to Rebecca X. and Ryan Y. who played some amazing badminton at the Ontario Championships in Chatham Ontario last week. On day one Ryan and Rebecca won both their matches advancing to the quarter finals. On day 2 Ryan and Rebecca lost a very close match, to the team that won the gold medal. They then won their next match putting them into the bronze medal semi final. After one of the best matches of badminton they unfortunately lost. These two students represented our school and our region like champions. Please give Ryan and Rebecca a huge congratulations. Go Wildcats



On Tuesday May 10, 2022 we celebrated **NATIONAL DENIM DAY**. For the past 25 years, on National Denim Day, all Canadians are invited to join a national movement in support of the fight against breast cancer. Help fund life saving equipment. Covid-19 has created a cancer screening backlog that will take years to overcome. Later diagnosis means a lower chance of survival. You can still help!

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.

Here at Williams we celebrated the day with pink ribbons and lots of denim!!
You can still donate to the Williams Wildcats Team by scanning the QR code or see [here](#).

Our goal is \$2000! We are currently at \$172.00 Any amount large or small helps.

Thank you for your support!!!



YRDSB - News and Events

NEW - Student Success Awards

Recently, the York Region District School Board hosted their annual Celebrating Student Success Awards evening. At this event, out of the 128,000 students in York Region, 16 were recognized for their exemplary leadership, efforts, and paths to making an impact. Of those 16 awarded, 2 were from Williams.

Congratulations to Artin K. and Allyson S.. You have done our school proud, and have each made a significant impact in your own unique way. Congratulations Artin and Allyson!

NEW - YRDSB Seeking Nominations For SEAC Organization Representation

In accordance with the Education Act: [Regulation 464/97, Special Education Advisory Committees](#) each school board is required to establish a Special Education Advisory Committee. The Special Education Advisory Committee of the York Region District School Board is responsible for making recommendations to the Board with respect to any matter affecting the establishment and development of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the Board. Members are expected to attend one meeting per month during the school year at 7 p.m. at the YRDSB Education Centre in Aurora or virtually during the current pandemic. The new term for membership will begin on November 15, 2022 ending November 14, 2026. For more information see [here](#).

Tune In YRDSB

Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. Here we will explore a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond. We look forward to inspiring learning through storytelling. On today's episode of Tune In YRDSB, we will give you a quick update on what's been happening around the board, and what we have to look forward to in the coming weeks! Listen [here](#).

Welcome to Tune In YRDSB's new sub-series SHINE. In this series, we will celebrate Black excellence in its many forms. Today's episode features Dr. Olubimpe Ayeni and is hosted by Mawuli Chai. Lister [here](#).

Notices

NEW - The war in Ukraine is affecting YRDSB students, staff, families and communities. As a school board, we rely on and support international efforts for peace and reconciliation. We also remain committed to learning and working from anti-racist, anti-oppressive, anti-colonial and traumainformed frameworks and to ensuring that our schools and workplaces remain safe, welcoming and equitable places where students and staff feel safe, affirmed, respected and protected. Families and educators can support children and youth in understanding and coping with the impact of the war in Ukraine. Most children and youth are resilient and will cope well with the support and caring of their families, teachers, friends, and other caring adults. In light of the current war in Ukraine and our ongoing commitment to the Student Well-Being and Mental Health goals outlined in the Director's Action Plan (DAP), the York Region District School Board School Psychology and Social Work staff have collaborated with CRES Partner, COSTI Immigrant Services to offer three supportive mental health gatherings for parents/caregivers, students grades 6-8, and students grades 9-12. For more information and to register see [here](#).

● Parent/Caregiver Virtual Session: June, 1, 2022, 6:30-7:30 pm ● Students Grades 9-12 Virtual session: May 30, 2022, 4:00-5:00 pm

NEW - BFCN (Black Foundation of Community Networks) is proud to launch its 8th Annual Scholarship Directory, a free detailed and accessible compilation of 50+ available scholarships, awards, and bursaries for youth pursuing post-secondary education primarily at the undergraduate level. This directory was created to support Black students and their family, parents, educators, coaches, and guidance counselors search, find, and apply for scholarships, awards and bursaries. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - Health and Safety Monthly Message: The Bugs of Summer. Working in the great outdoors can mean being exposed to biting insects such as ticks and mosquitoes. Refer [here](#) for safety tips and information on hazards associated with mosquitoes and ticks.

Celebrate Asian Heritage Month on May 31, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Experience different Asian cultures and participate in an online experience with fun games, a talent show, cultural displays and more. Everyone is welcome! For more information see [here](#).

York Region District School Board in a collaborative partnership with Women’s Support Network is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers, educators, staff and the community! On Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 10 am. For more information and to register see [here](#).

May is South Asian Heritage Month. Students in Grades 4-12, Families and Staff are invited to join a virtual session on Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 pm with the Honourable Navdeep Bains as he shares with us his journey, experiences and life lessons. For more information and to register see [here](#).

Are you entering grade 10 in September 2022? Do you self-identify as Black? Are you a YRDSB Student? Are you interested in earning a high school credit? *The Come Up* is a unique identity-affirming summer experience. Students will engage in meaningful discussions and activities that will empower them to pursue excellence in high school and beyond. Students will also earn a credit upon successful completion of the program. From July 6 - July 29, 2022 (Monday-Friday). Register by May 21, 2022. For more information or to register see [here](#).

Black Youth Helpline National is pleased to announce that our STAY IN SCHOOL PROGRAM and support services for Canadian Youth is now Canadian wide!! The Black Youth Helpline is helping Canada’s children and youth remain and succeed in school and community. For more information see [here](#).

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](#)

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

NEW - Grad Award Applications are due by Monday, May 16th at the following link. - <https://forms.gle/3KJ8nQK9PrFKmaGYA>

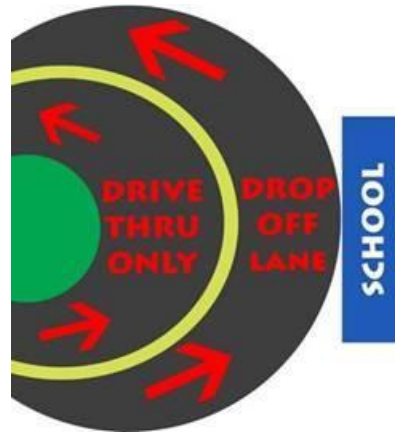
Check out the [YRDSB’s 2022 Summer Learning Opportunities website](#) to learn more about summer school options. Summer school registration is filling up quickly. Information can be located on the YRDSB’s [“How to Register”](#) page. Registration can be completed through a student’s My [Pathway Planner 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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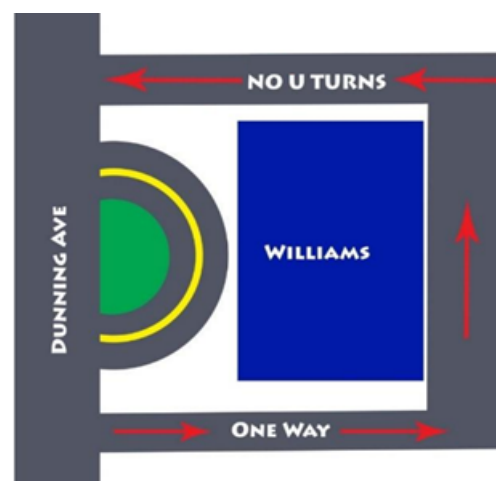
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

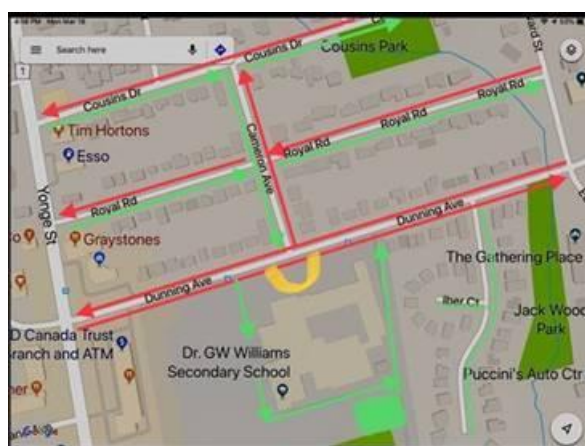
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2021-2022

- Monday May 16, 2022

