



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 2- 6, 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

This week:

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	Varsity Flag Football at Dr. JM Denison SS - 3:15 pm
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)

Upcoming:

May 9	IB Math Exam (9:00-10:30)
May 10	Girls Rugby Game at Huron Heights - 3:00 pm Varsity Girls Soccer Game at Dr. J M Denison - 3:30 pm
May 11	IB Biology Exam (12:00-12:45, 1:00-2:15) Varsity Flag Football at. Newmarket HS - 3:15 pm
May 12	Varsity Girls Soccer Game at Renaissance ESC - 3:30 pm Varsity Flag Football vs. Aurora HS - 3:15 pm (Home Game) CHEM 13 News Exam - Grade 12 IB English Exam (12:00-2:15)
May 13	

Message from the Principal

Our IB students, both Grade 11 & GRade 12 sat their first exams in over 2 years this week. We saw lots of nervous energy as they came into the school and the exam room but having heard them after their sessions we are confident that they will do well. It was great to see another example of things returning to 'normal' around the school.

Spring sports are gearing up and we are looking forward to getting out onto the fields once they are open to be able to cheer on the teams. We wish our two OFSAA badminton competitors good luck next weekend as they head to Chatham to compete.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the sunshine. To those continuing their fast through the weekend in anticipation of Eid celebrations with the new moon next week we wish you well.

Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

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.

<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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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.

YRDSB - News and Events

NEW 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, Active Travel Coordinator Reena Mistry is joined by Castlemore P.S.

Principal Leeanne Hoover-Joy, Curriculum Consultant Marlee Corcoran and City of Markham Traffic and Transportation Planning Manager Loy Cheah. Walking, cycling or using other active modes of travel to get to school has many benefits. It helps build community, fosters well-being and student achievement, benefits the environment and helps to create safer neighbourhoods. Learn more about how school boards and local schools are working with municipal and local partners to address barriers and help encourage more families to choose active travel. Listen [here](#).

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 Public Property Assessment Network Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is being awarded through the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) to one recipient in the OPSBA Central East Region for three school years – 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Scholarship recipients are students of strong character, who care deeply about their communities and furthering their own learning. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - 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](#).

NEW Settlement Education Partnership in York Region (SEPYR) is happy to provide a Jewish Heritage Month Live Tour exploring highlights of the spectacular new exhibits at the world-renowned Museum of the Jewish People to learn about the unique and ongoing story of the Jewish People. We will make stops on each of 3 expansive floors of the new building, where the diversity of the Jewish world is revealed through extraordinary artifacts, state-of-the-art displays, immersive video and world-class art. This event will be held on May 17, 2022 at 10 am. For more information and to register see [here](#).

NEW- Black Youth Helpline 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](#).

NEW - May 2-8, 2022 is Children's Mental Health Awareness week. See [here](#) for more details regarding exciting activities and web events for students and families throughout the week.

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. This **Youth-Led event**, in partnership with the York Regional Police Community Advisory Council, aims to raise awareness on Social Justice & Resiliency, Hate Crime & Diversity, Human Rights, and Mental Health in order to create a positive, safe, inclusive and equitable community for all through social justice and leadership. For more information see [here](#).

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.

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.

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 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.

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 drqwilliamss.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.

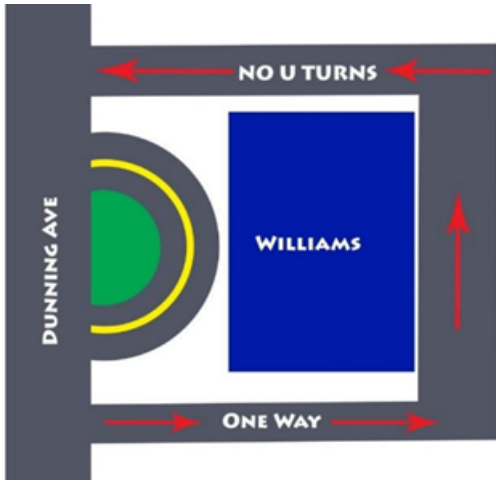
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

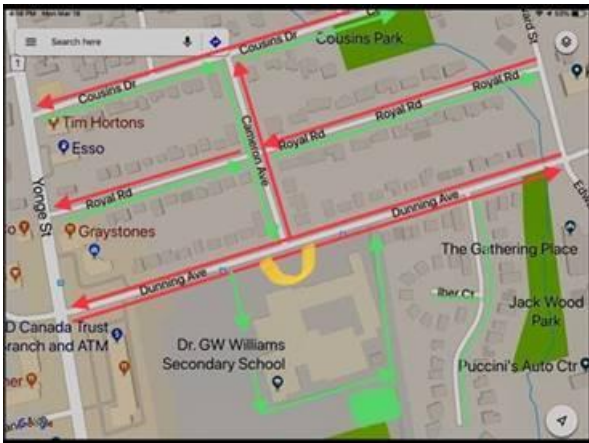
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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