



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 23-27, 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

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS
39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2

(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

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 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.
May 24	Girls Rugby Team at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic HS - 3:00 pm Varsity 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 HS & Stouffville SS - 3:45 pm (at Huron Heights) Rain date for Spring Concert at 7 pm
May 27	

Upcoming:

May 30	Ultimate Frisbee Team vs. Sir William Mulock SS & Huron Heights SS - 3:30 pm (Home Game) Flag Football Team at Sir William Mulock SS - 3:30 pm
May 31	Prom/Graduation Student Assembly, 9:50-10:20 Girls Rugby Team vs. Multiple Opponents - 3:00 pm (Home Game)
June 1	Music BBQ 3:00 - 6:00 pm Senior Boys Rugby Team Finals vs. Multiple Opponents time: tbd (Home Game)
June 2	Rain Date: Music BBQ 3:00 - 6:00 pm
June 3	

Message from the Principal

Our calendar is certainly filling up with all the end of year activities. Please be sure to join us for our upcoming Spring Concert next Wednesday evening. It will be great to be back in the cafeteria and enjoying the sounds of our students with all the work they have been putting into their practice.

This week we finished our IB exams and are so proud of all our students and the work they put into preparing for these exams along with the support of their teachers. We hope that all of our IB students take the opportunity to celebrate and relax this weekend after a very busy month.

Graduation plans are coming along and more information will be coming out to graduates and their families soon with full details. The Admin team will be meeting with all Grade 12 classes to review prom expectations and graduation plans on May 31st. We will be asking all families to confirm their attendance at graduation so that we know how many people to anticipate. Any graduates that have not paid their graduation fee need to do so by the end of this month.

Take care and enjoy the long weekend!
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.

Update - Spirit Wear and Grad Hoodies

All of the orders placed have been processed and submitted to our vendor. As soon as we receive the items at the school we will be distributing them to the students who made a purchase. We will make an announcement when they have arrived! Thank you.

NEW - Credit Success Program

This program is intended to complement ongoing communication and support provided by teachers and our Student Success Team (e.g. SERTs, Guidance, Student Success, Administration). The after-school program consists of dedicated time to complete outstanding classroom work for credits that are in risk (15 hours total). It will run on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from May 30 to June 17. Each class will be 90 minutes in length. If your child has been identified as a student who might benefit from additional support this semester, you will receive notice and a permission form. Students will receive a confirmation of their participation once all expressions of interest in the program have been received.

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.

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 will 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.

Sports Highlights

The **Varsity Girls Soccer Team** traveled to Richmond Green SS on Wednesday, after taking an early lead off of a free kick, surprise secret weapon striker Paradis K. secured our lead with a breakaway goal that snuck past their keeper giving us a 2 nil lead at the half. Richmond Green attempted a comeback but were continuously denied by our unbreakable defensive line anchored by Sana E.. Wildcats keeper, Mayson M., kept us alive with a number of outstanding saves. In our final push for victory, Cara T. sealed Richmond Green's fate with her second goal of the game off of a free kick that almost took their keeper's head off from over 30 yards out! We look forward to seeing everyone come out to cheer our girls on at our next home game on Tuesday after school at Shepperd's Bush against King City.

On Wednesday the **Senior Rugby Team** continued their winning ways by defeating Bill Hogarth S.S 29-0 and Stouffville DHS 28-7. After a slow start the boys regained their rugby prowess and outplayed 2 strong opponents. These boys scored 105 points in 4 games and only allowed their opponents to score twice. Great job boys, and congratulations to player of the day Brandon N.

A whole team effort was required yesterday when the **Baseball Team** took on St. Theresa Of Lisieux for their second game of the season. The team was in a tight defensive battle keeping the score low all game thanks to great starting pitching from Adian L. and closing pitching from Manny A. It was a great defensive game from the entire team with timely catches from Grayson K. and Julian S. in the outfield. After seven tough innings your wildcats came out with their second victory with a final score of 3 - 2 . Great job wildcats!

Music Highlights

The Music Department is hosting an IN PERSON concert on May 25th at 7pm in the Cafeteria. Seeing you and your family there would be so awesome. The students have been through a lot these past two years... fully online band, cafeteria echo chamber, back to online and then finally normalcy in the music room. All the ensembles are sounding awesome and the kids have shown amazing resiliency to get this concert together.

There is no charge to come to the show, but of course, donations are accepted (through School Cash Online).

At the show, you have a chance to win a camp bursary to the Interprovincial Music Camp, Blue Jays tickets (June 13, 7pm vs. Baltimore, 4th row), CAKE skin care products and the BEST seat in the house with unlimited snacks during the concert! We are selling your chance to win on SCO until May 24th at midnight, and in the lobby on Friday and Tuesday during lunch. Tickets are available for purchase through [school cash online](#) - 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10 and 15 for \$20. You also don't need to be at the concert to win!

Your support this year with our fund-raising initiatives have been amazing... we have raised almost \$13,000 that has all gone to replacing 10 (!) trombones, 2 baritone saxes, and 4 alto saxes. THANK YOU! Scott & Cheryl

Notices

NEW - NACCA is creating a new strategic plan and we want to hear from you! The survey is open from May 18 to May 31, 2022. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The first 100 participants will receive a \$25 gift card from Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant or Taste of the Islands. All survey participants will have a chance to win one of 25 \$100 Indigo gift cards. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - York Region District School Board is accepting applications for membership on the Board's Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC). PEAC supports, encourages and enhances parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. It represents the collective voice of parents who have children attending public schools in York Region. Interested parents/guardians and community members are invited to submit an online application form by June 15, 2022 or can request a copy of the form by emailing leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca or calling 905-727-0022 ext. 3650. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - You are invited to a virtual presentation in Tamil on the topic of Yogic Home Remedies on June 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Covid-19 continues to impact our lives. As such, we may find ourselves facing challenges that can be both stressful and overwhelming. Stress negatively affects our physical, emotional, mental and social well-being. Yogic remedies lead to lifestyle choices that can bring one towards a state of inner peace! This event is for students, parents, grandparents and caregivers! For more information and to register see [here](#).

NEW - The York Regional Police COMMUNITY SAFETY VILLAGE CAMPS are back! The goal of the camp is to provide a fun environment where students can learn how healthy lifestyle choices can impact them today and in the future. The camp includes interactive workshops and games, sports activities facilitated by police officers, tri-services representatives, CSV educators and camp leaders. The Summer Camp is hosted at the Community Safety Village of York Region located at 3291 Stouffville Road, in the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. For more information see [here](#).

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

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](#)

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](#).

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 - The Careers in Trades virtual evening session will take place on June 2, 2022 from 6:30-8:30pm. This free information session is for parents and guardians and their children in grade 7-12. Learn about the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship; a First Choice Pathway! For more information and to register see [here](#).

NEW - Exploring the College Experience: A Parent's Guide to Seneca College. Learn more about College diploma and degree programs, Dual Credits for high schools students, supports available for students while in College programs! Taking place on Tuesday, May 31 from 6-7pm. For more information see and to register see [here](#).

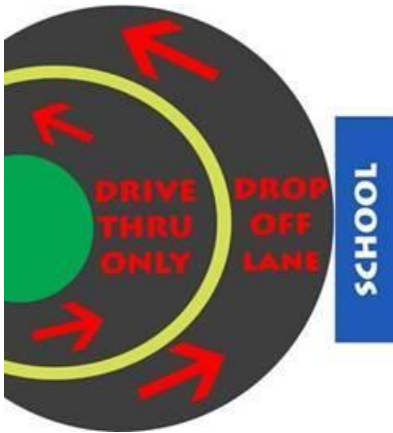
Check out the [YRDSB’s 2022 Summer Learning Opportunities website](#) to learn more about summer school options. Summer school registration is filling up quickly. Information can be located on the YRDSB’s [“How to Register”](#) page. Registration can be completed through a student’s My [Pathway Planner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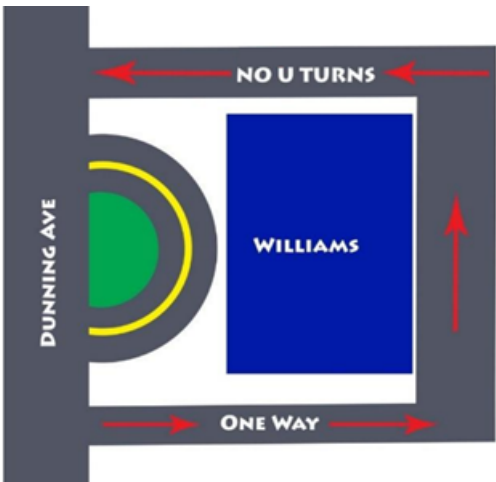
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

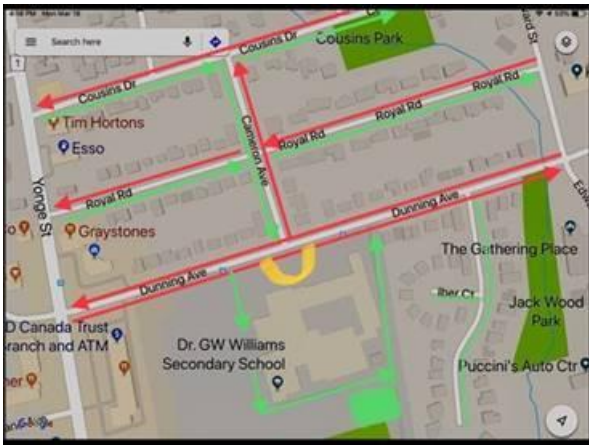
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

- No meeting scheduled in June