



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 30 - June 3, 2022

Trait of the Month: Perseverance

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 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	Virtual Prom/Graduation Student Assembly - 9:50-10:30 am Girls Rugby Team vs. Multiple Opponents - 3:00 pm (Home Game)
June 1	Music Year End BBQ 3:00 - 6:00 pm Senior Boys Rugby Team Finals vs. Multiple Opponents time: tbd (Home Game)
June 2	<i>Rain Date: Music Year End BBQ 3:00 - 6:00 pm</i>
June 3	

Upcoming:

June 6	
June 7	
June 8	
June 9	Arts Night
June 10	

Message from the Principal

The admin were so excited to participate in our first Music Night in 3 years this week. Clearly by the turnout at the school, so were many of our parents and families!! What a wonderful evening and we were so glad to welcome families into our building once again.

There has been a mad scramble today for our Grade 12 students to finalize their plans for prom. Thank you to all parents for your support in the background signing forms and submitting them so that we can open up the ticket sales for each student. We now know that prom will be a viable event however, all tickets must be PAID for by Monday night as we have to confirm numbers at the venue on Tuesday. As always, if any students need financial support to attend prom or if payment on Monday is a barrier please connect with either Guidance or admin so that we can support. We want to ensure that all students can participate.

With the warmer weather, we have had a few incidents recently where students have brought water guns onto school property. Today we had a community member come forward after observing a number of our students purchase water and cap guns from a local dollar store and overheard their discussions to bring them to school. Because of the proactive actions of that community member we were able to meet with all students involved as they returned after lunch, confiscate items and follow-up with parents.

Safety for all students and staff is our number one priority at Williams. We interrupted classes this afternoon with an announcement to remind all students that toys like water guns or cap guns can be mistaken for actual weapons, and they make people feel uneasy (especially in light of recent events here and abroad). The Caring and Safe policies of YRDSB related to suspensions & expulsions indicate that expulsion should be considered for anyone possessing a weapon or replica weapon at school. It is extremely important that students do not bring any weapons or replica weapons onto school property. We would appreciate it if all families could discuss this over the weekend so that we continue to support a safe school for all.

As we enter into June in the coming week we begin to wrap up teams, clubs, course work and begin to enter a phase of celebration. We ask all students to remember that the time remaining is an important time to ensure that they demonstrate their fullest achievement in each of their courses. Also, they should take the opportunities that exist to work with their teachers between now and the end of June. More details will be coming out shortly on how the culminating activity period will work this semester but all families need to be aware that the expectations are for in person work throughout this period.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

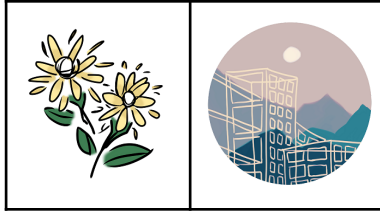
Info for Graduates - 2022

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.

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.

Club Highlights

Change by Coffee and Williams Art Council are uniting forces to fundraise for Anduhyaun Inc., an emergency shelter servicing Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women with or without children fleeing violence. Beautifully designed by artists from our school. Buy for yourself, friends or parents and support the cause. Make sure to buy your tote bags ASAP since there are limited quantities for each of the two designs. See below for tote bag designs. Tote Bags are \$15 each and will be on sale till June 7, 2022 on [school cash online](#). Check out our Instagram [@artsgww](#) for full details! Pick up: June 13-17th



Sports Highlights

Our **track and field team**, made up of 50 of our best runners, jumpers and throwers, participated in the YRAA Championships on May 19 and 20 at Bill Crothers Secondary School. Competing against over 40 schools, and 2000 athletes from across York Region, our Wildcats did not disappoint. To qualify to move on to the Central OFSAA Championships, athletes had to place in the top 6. Some events had over 90 competitors, but our athletes showed NO FEAR! All the hard work at practices finally paid off with our Wildcats qualifying for 18 events in total! Wow! What an accomplishment! Congratulations to the following athletes who placed in the top 6 in their events and earned a spot in the Central OFSAA Championships taking place this week: Alex R., Daniel G., Bianca C., Siara W., Ethan C., Timothy A., Connor H., Payton B., Cohen B., Kishon K., Willem M. and Umair A.. Special mention goes out to our senior boys 4x400m relay team made up of only two seniors Alex and Connor, grade 10 Umair and grade 9 Williëm - who stepped up at the last minute to run in the senior race. Alex, Willem and Umair, incredibly and shocking to everyone watching, held onto the lead for the first three legs of the race, only to be passed in the final leg by a junior national sprint champion. They were the obvious underdogs who surprised everyone with a 2nd place finish in their heat - earning them a spot at Centrals. Way to go Wildcats!

On May 25, the **senior boys rugby team** continued their winning ways by defeating Newmarket HS 32-0 and Bill Crothers 20-14. During the Newmarket game rookie Hubert G. in his first rugby game ever was like the flash running down the sideline to score not 1 but 2 tries. In the final game of the day against Bill Crothers, your team showed wildcat spirit and character in their win over Bill Crothers. We were down 14-5 at the half, but your wildcats clawed and fought hard to come back to beat them 20-14. This time it was Jerry L. who could be seen flying down the sideline to score 2 tries in this come back win. Great day boys. Congratulations on finishing the season 6-0. Finals next week. Go Wildcats!

Congratulations to the Williams **varsity baseball team** who finished the regular season 3-1. Everyone fought hard every game, through adversity and injuries, by giving it their all. Playoff standings are pending, so keep the spirit and let's go Wildcats!

Music Highlights

Our *Spring Concert* this past Wednesday, May 25 was a fabulous evening of music. The audience was treated to terrific instrumental performances from all grades. Congratulations to all students and staff involved with this evening and special thanks to Mr. Harrison and Ms. Wilson as well as our student emcees Katelyn Y. and Charlie K. Congratulations as well to Alex R. on his inaugural conducting with the grade 9s. Thanks also to Ms. Draper, Ms. Chow and Ms. Denton who came and supported our students and families throughout the evening. To get a small taste of the evening, be sure to check out the finale on our Instagram - [@drgwilliams](#).

Notices

NEW - Celebrate active modes of transportation like cycling and wheeling along with other students and staff across Ontario during **Bike to School Week - May 30-June 3, 2022**. Bike to School Week is a free and fun week-long celebration for kids of all ages and abilities. For anyone who can't walk or cycle to school every day, we encourage you to try choosing an active mode of travel two or three times a week, or consider parking and walking a block to decrease the pollution around your school. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. June's Mental Health Newsletter for families and caregivers has a focus on the end of the school year and Navigating Uncharted Territories. Please see their latest newsletter [here](#).

NEW - Aurora Performing Arts Festival, presented by Marquee Theatrical Productions, in partnership with the Town of Aurora, is an exciting performance opportunity for children and youth. Do you enjoy singing, acting or dancing? Then this is the competition for you! Deadline to register is June 1, 2022. For more information see [here](#).

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 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](#).

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](#).

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. Listen to the latest episode of the *Tune In YRDSB podcast*. This episode features Principal Debbie Linkewich speaking with four students about their participation in the student hackathon. Learn more about what a hackathon is and how students benefit. 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

Summer School

Summer school registration is filling up quickly. Please register through [my pathway planner](#) and return your sign off sheet to your guidance counsellor as soon as possible. Visit the [YRDSB Summer school website](#) for more information.

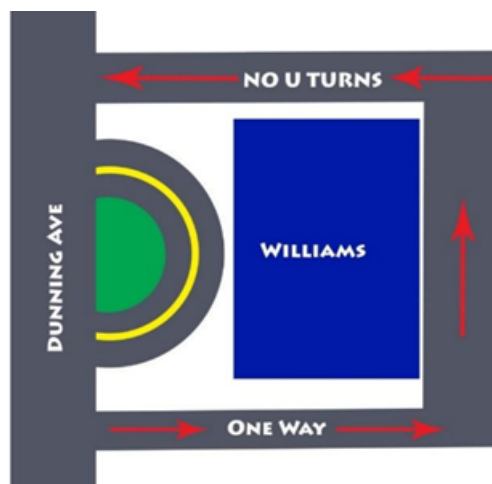
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

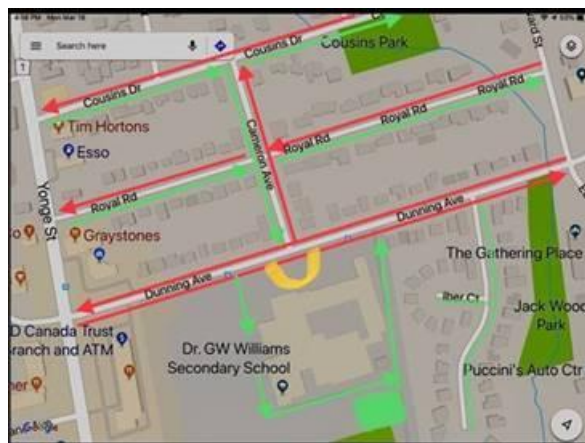
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

- Arts Night - Thursday, June 9, 2022
- Prom - 6:00 - 10:30 pm , Thursday, June 16, 2022
- Graduation Ceremony - 7:00 pm, 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

