



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Oct 9 - Oct 13, 2023

Trait of the Month: Courage

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  
Ken Arnott, VP (A-Le)  
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Li-Z)

### Contact Us

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### Phone Extensions:

Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

### Office Hours

7:45 am - 3:45 pm

### 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.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) (Instagram & Twitter)  
Attendance: [drgwilliamss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

### This week: SAFETY WEEK

Oct 9	Thanksgiving day (No school)
Oct 10	Boys Volleyball (Varsity) game vs Multiple schools, 3:30pm at Keswick High School SR Girls Basketball (Varsity) away game vs St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS, 3:45pm at St. Maximilian Kolbe
Oct 11	Boys Rugby/Girls Rugby vs Multiple teams, leave 8:45am - all day event at Fletchers Field Cross Country at Boyd Conservation Park - all day event
Oct 12	IB Information night at 7:00pm
Oct 13	IB Applications open

### Upcoming

Oct 16	Boys Volleyball (Varsity) game vs Multiple schools, 3:30pm at Dr. J.M. Denison SS Heads meeting, 3:15pm-4:30pm <b>School Council Meeting 7pm-9pm</b>
Oct 17	Interim Reports sent home electronically Boys Rugby/Girls Rugby, location TBA SR Girls Basketball (Varsity) home game vs. Sacred Heart at 3:45pm
Oct 18	Interim Reports sent home electronically Boys Volleyball (Varsity) home game vs Multiple teams at 3:30pm
Oct 19	Cross Country at Boyd Conservation Park - all day event SR Girls Basketball (Varsity) home game vs Newmarket HS at 3:45pm
Oct 20	PA Day

To support your family planning, the 2023-2024 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](#) and all confirmed events have been updated for 2023-2024 on our website now.

### Message from the Principal

Last week we had the opportunity to continue to honour the survivors of residential schools and their families as we recognized Orange Shirt Day & The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. As part of this learning, we continue to consider how important education is in raising awareness of residential schools and the damage done to indigenous people. We are very proud of our students and staff who engaged and some rich learning today connected to the curriculum in courses across the school.

Williams was the host to many colleges, universities and organizations at our Post-Secondary Pathways Evening last night. This evening is hosted annually by the local high schools and it was great to see so many out looking at future opportunities.

This past week we recognized our dedicated Caretaking Team and our teachers who are the heart of our educational community. We are grateful for all of their contributions that support the safe, healthy learning environment here at Williams.

For those who celebrate Thanksgiving, I wish you and your families a very happy celebration. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable long weekend, and you are able to take some time to partake in activities and experiences that bring you much joy and happiness.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

### School Notices

#### School Start-Up Forms

All students and parents are **REQUIRED** to complete the school start-up forms. Please visit <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/> to complete these now if you haven't already done so. Thank you to more than 900 parents that have already completed this important task!! Only 500 or so to go...

#### Teacher Interviews - October 26

Interviews will be booked using TeachAssist. More information will be sent separately closer to that date but it is advised that families set-up TeachAssist Parent accounts in advance of that to be able to book appointments. Instructions are available [here](#).

#### PA Day Agenda - October 20

Morning (150 minutes)

Topic: Equitable Assessment Practices Professional Learning Series #1 (60 min)

- exploring the fundamental principles of equitable assessment and evaluation;
- considering how assessment and evaluation practices can impact student achievement and well-being; and
- determining actionable next steps within our school

Topic: School Improvement Planning/Department Meetings (90 min)

- exploring high-impact instructional practices to support student improvement in alignment with the curriculum;
- developing resources and learning plans to consolidate foundational knowledge and skills in de-streamed grade 9 courses and across the curriculum;
- supporting Multilingual Language Learners in our classrooms.

Afternoon (150 minutes)

Topic: Planning with Multilingual Language Learners at the Forefront (30 min)

Self-Directed Module 2: Planning with Multilingual Language Learners at the Forefront. The purpose and goals of the STEP Framework are introduced, followed by time to explore both the structure and components within the Oral, Reading and Writing ESL Continua.

This module focuses on:

- Foundational principles in teaching multilingual language learners
- Introduction to STEP framework

Topic: Professionalism (15 min)

The Professionalism Introduction/Key Messages Module includes key messages based on Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

Topic: School Improvement Planning/Department Meetings (105 min)

- exploring high-impact instructional practices to support student improvement in alignment with the curriculum;
- developing resources and learning plans to consolidate foundational knowledge and skills in de-streamed grade 9 courses and across the curriculum;
- supporting Multilingual Language Learners in our classrooms.

**Williams is very excited to announce that our France, Belgium and the Netherlands in celebration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day has been approved! We still have a limited number of spots available for this trip. If you're interested in joining us, please use this link <https://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/2616793MC?authuser=0> to learn more about our trip and if you're ready, to sign-up. Any further questions can be emailed to [sarah.isber@yrdsb.ca](mailto:sarah.isber@yrdsb.ca) or [jordan.denton@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jordan.denton@yrdsb.ca).**

### **YRDSB and Community Notices**

[Latin Heritage Month Meet-and-Greet](#) - October 19

[Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship Information Night](#) - October 26

### **Do you need a computer?**

Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Working with York Region District School Board, they are offering affordable, renewed computer packages. Click [here](#) for more details.

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### **Guidance**

#### **Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship Information Night**

Attend a virtual open house on October 26th at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about the apprenticeship pathway! Students can start their apprenticeship while they are in high school. See flyer [here](#) for more details.

#### **Level Up! Unlock Your Future in the Skilled Trades Career Fair**

Grades 9-12 students are invited to attend this interactive career fair. The goal of this event is to inspire students to take their first step towards a career in industries that are constantly innovating, on the cutting edge of emerging technologies, and making a critical difference in people's lives. Students will have the opportunity to learn about Ontario's 140+ trades through interactive exhibitions and hands-on activities, while hearing directly from tradespeople and local employers about life-changing career opportunities. This field trip will take place on November 15 - please connect with Guidance to register.

#### **SHSM - Specialist High Skills Major Applications Open**

SHSM students participated in a Negotiations & Customer Service workshop as well as First Aid/CPR-C Training in the past week. The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program is for grade 11 and 12 students who wish to build their skills and resume through experiential learning in an area of interest. Our school offers the SHSM program in the following 5 sectors: Arts & Culture, Business, Construction, Health & Wellness, and Transportation. Book an appointment with your guidance counsellor to learn more!

Here are recent certifications, workshops, and field trips our SHSM students attended so far this school year:

- CPR-C with AED & Standard First Aid
- Negotiations and Customer Service
- Mock Lecture and Campus Tour at Rotman's School of Business, University of Toronto
- Live and Recorded Music Workshops at Metalworks
- Electrical Installation and HVAC Workshops on Trades Day at Centennial College

#### **Post-Secondary Fairs:**

- **Ontario College Fair** - October 18 from 5:00pm - 9:00pm and October 19 from 9:00am - 2:00pm at the Enercare Centre. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Ontario College Regional Fairs** - Events run from September 25 to November 2. See schedule [here](#).
- **Ontario Universities Regional Fairs** - Events run from September 25 to November 16. See schedule [here](#).
- **Ontario University Fair** - October 21-22 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from 10:00am - 5:00pm daily. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Virtual University Information and Q&A Sessions** - November 22 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. See [here](#) for more information.

#### **Post-Secondary Applications:**

- **How to Apply to Ontario Universities** - Click [here](#). Applications open September 21, 2023 and close January 15, 2024.
- **How to Apply to an Ontario College as a Canadian Student** - Click [here](#). Applications open in October and close February 1, 2024.
- **How to Apply to an Ontario College as an International Student** - Click [here](#).
- **Apprenticeship Pathway** - See [OYAP](#) and [ApprenticeSearch](#) for more information and book an appointment with your guidance counsellor.
- **Workforce Planning Board of York Region** - See [here](#) for work opportunities and book an appointment with your guidance counsellor.

\*Please see the Guidance Google Classroom for detailed information on important announcements.

## 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 [drgwwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwwilliamsss.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.

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## School Calendar for 2023-2024

- Please use this [link](#)

## Website Resources for Families and Students

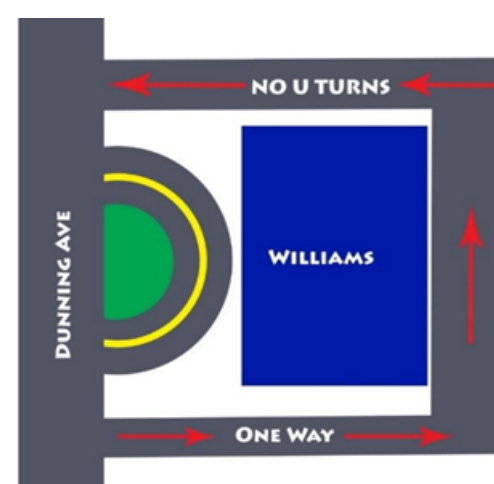
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

## Driveway and Parking Lot

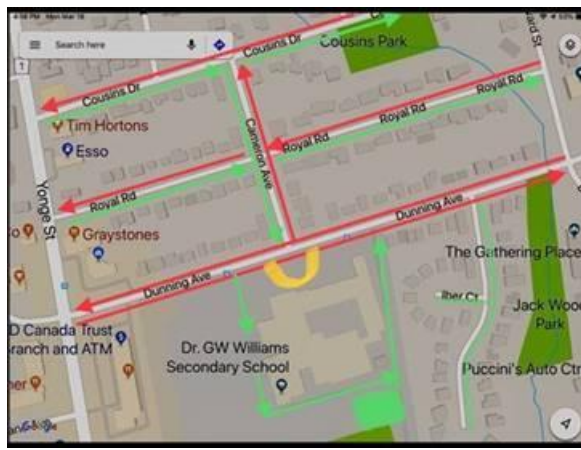
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Friday, September 22, 2023
- Friday, October 20, 2023
- Friday, November 17, 2023
- Friday, February 2, 2024
- Monday, May 6, 2024
- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

**School Council Meetings for 2023-2024**

- Monday October 16, 2023
- Monday November 20, 2023
- Wednesday February 21, 2024
- Monday April 15, 2024
- Tuesday May 21, 2024