



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Apr 24 - May 5, 2023

Trait of the Month: Fairness

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
Susie Mitchell, VP (A-Le)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Li-Z)

Contact Us

39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2
(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

Phone Extensions:

Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

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.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

This week:

April 24	Fire Drill P2
April 25	Rain Day - Fire Drill P2
April 26	
April 27	Science Centre Field Trip
April 28	IB Business Management Exam: Gr 12 Rm 106 & 107, 8:30 am - 10:45 am

Upcoming

May 1	IB Business Management Exam: Gr 12 Rm 106 & 107, 8:30 am - 10:45 am
May 2	12th Day of Riḍván (Bahá'í) IB Physics Exam: Gr 11 Rm 106 & 107, AM
May 3	MidTerm eDistribution CPR/First Aid training for SHSM Gr 12 IB Physics Exam: Gr 11 Rm 106 & 107, AM IB Language & Literature Exam: Gr 12 Rm 232 & 233, 12 pm - 2:15pm
May 4	MidTerm eDistribution CPR/First Aid training for SHSM Gr 12 IB Language & Literature Exam: Gr 12 Rm 232 & 233, 1 pm - 2:45 pm Quebec City School Trip (May 4-7)
May 5	PA Day. No school. Wesak (Buddhism) MidTerm eDistribution Quebec City School Trip (May 4-7)

To support your family planning, the 2022-2023 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](#).

The proposed YRDSB 2023-2024 school year calendars have been sent to the Ministry for review and approval. These calendars may be accessed on the [YRDSB website](#).

Please note: Calendars are not official until they receive formal Ministry approval which is expected in late May 2023. Our Google calendar will be updated online as soon as Ministry approval is received.

Message from the Principal

As we head towards the end of the year we are reminded just how many amazing opportunities are happening at Williams. Students and staff are engaged in so many curricular and extra-curricular events at this time that compliment the curriculum expectations in our courses. Be sure to check out our [daily announcements](#) posted on our website for more details.

This week teachers are submitting mid-term marks for students. We want to remind everyone that we are at the halfway point in the semester and there are many opportunities to demonstrate continued learning in courses. Mid-Term report cards will once again be sent electronically beginning later next week. Please reach out to classroom teachers or any of the supports in the school: Guidance, Student Success, Special Education, or Vice Principals if you have concerns about supporting your child's learning at Williams. We have a number of opportunities available that can be of assistance.

Have a great weekend celebrating our planet for Earth Day 2023!

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

Quebec City Trip

Attention students who have registered and paid for the Quebec City trip. There will be a mandatory meeting for parents and students on Monday April 24th at 7pm in the library. Please ensure that you check the google classroom for any missed details.

PROM

Grade 12's if you have purchased a ticket to Prom, permission forms are available outside of rooms 204, 255, and 219. Anyone attending Prom must complete this form. Table sign ups begin Monday, April 24th during periods 3 & 4 at the Prom table in the foyer. In order to sign up for a table, you will need to present your completed permission form and be verified as having paid. Guests will not be registered at tables until their permission forms and attendance at Prom have been approved by administration. Each attendee must register for themselves, in person, for their seat at a table, others may not do so for you. If you have purchased a guest ticket, whether for a student at GW or another institution, see Mrs. Kelly asap in room 204.

Table seating will close on Friday, April 28th at the end of fourth lunch.

YRDSB and Community Notices

The Come Up - Navigating Secondary School and Beyond: Please see information on The Come Up summer program is a unique in-person course offered to self-identifying Black students in the York Region District School Board. Registration and workshop series information [here](#).

Sikh Heritage Month: Preserving Our Past Please join us on April 26 at Woodbridge College to commemorate our first Sikh Heritage Month Celebration with YRDSB. This event is open to all staff, families, students and communities. For more information see [here](#).

Sex Trafficking and Youth Exploitation: In a collaborative partnership with Women's Support Network, the York Region District School Board is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. For more information see [here](#).

NCCM May Workshops for Families and Communities: YRDSB Families are invited to join NCCM & YRDSB for 2 virtual sessions in May. May 10th for a virtual session about Building an Understanding of Anti-Black Islamophobia. May 16th for a virtual session on Know Your Rights: Muslim Students and Families. For more details see [here](#).

Fast Track Student Conference & Career Expo 2023: Graduating students who are pursuing the apprenticeship and workplace pathways are invited to attend the Fast Track Student Conference. Please see [attached](#) for more details.

Community Periphery Film Screening-Jewish Heritage Month Event: All are invited to join Sara Yacobi-Harris from No Silence on Race for a community viewing of The Periphery Film. On May 16th at Richmond Hill SS. See [flyer](#) for details.

City of Vaughan: The City of Vaughan's Recreation Department has organized Youth Week from May 1st-17th; a week of free activities for youth aged 10-17. Please see [here](#) for more information.

Wesak (Buddhism)

Wesak, also spelled Vesak or known as the Buddha Day. It is the most important day of the year for Theravāda Buddhists. Coming on the full moon, it commemorates the birth, awakening, and passing away (parinibbana) of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, a holiday traditionally observed by Buddhists in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Festival of Ridván

The Festival of Ridván (pronounced Riz-wan) commemorates the anniversary of the declaration of Bahá'u'lláh of His prophetic mission to his followers in 1863, proclaiming His identity as the promised Manifestation of God. Ridván is celebrated over the twelve day period that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the Najibiyyih Garden just outside of Baghdad and across the Tigris River. Bahá'u'lláh later referred to it as "The Garden of Ridván". Ridván can be translated as "Paradise". The dates for the Festival of Ridván are determined from the date of another Bahá'í Holy Day – Naw Rúz (held on the Equinox), and will therefore vary from year to year between April 20 – 22.

2023 AEBS Scholarships for Black Students

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 2023 scholarships. Please see [flyer](#) for further information. The deadline to apply is **Monday, May 22nd, 2023 before 11:55 p.m.**

April Triple P Parenting Sessions

Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Guidance

- **2023 Summer School Registrations Closes June 9th** - The York Region District School Board will once again be offering acceleration (in-person) and reinforcement (remote) courses during the summer. The hours for all courses are 8:45 a.m to 3:33 p.m. with two 15-minute scheduled breaks and a 40-minute lunch period. Please have your student register on myBlueprint > Continuing Education > Explore Courses and return the signed permission form to the Guidance Office.
 - Acceleration courses start Wednesday, July 5 and end Friday, July 28.
 - Session 1 for reinforcement courses start Wednesday, July 5 and end Monday, July 17.
 - Session 2 for reinforcement courses start Tuesday, July 18 and end Friday, July 28.
- **Full Disclosure** is May 8, 2023 - Semester 2 courses dropped by this date will not show on a student's official transcript.
- **Course Selections** for the upcoming school year are now closed. Please have students see their alpha guidance counsellor if they have any questions or concerns.
- **Graduates of 2023** must complete and submit their volunteer hours by **Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023.**

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 drgwilliamss.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.

School Calendar for 2022-2023

- Please use this [link](#)

Website Resources for Families and Students

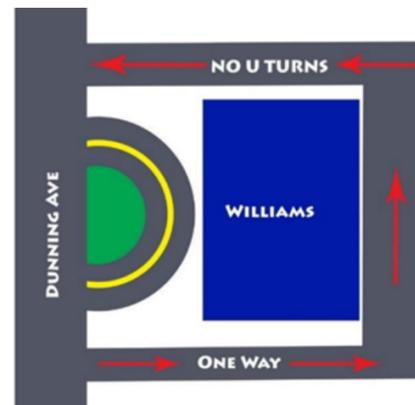
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

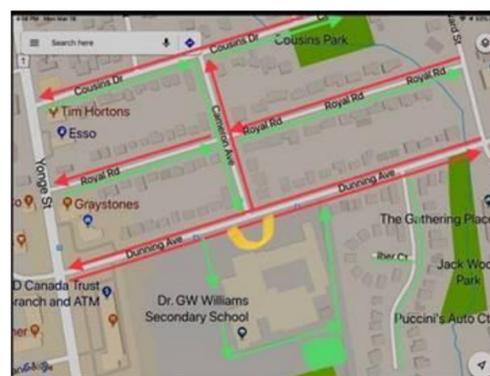
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- April 17
- May 15

