



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of April 01 - 05 , 2024

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
Erin Gray, 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.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

April 01	Easter Monday - No school
April 02	
April 03	Math Contests: Euclid
April 04	Co-ed Badminton, York Region - Round 1 Parent/Teacher Interview Night, 6:30pm-8:30pm Math Contests: FGH
April 05	

Upcoming

April 08	Solar Eclipse - Early Dismissal (12:00 pm)
April 09	Summer School Registration opens
April 10	El al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) - Diamond Day
April 11	Small Ensemble Festival at U of T Scarborough, 7:00am-3:30pm
April 12	

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

As we embrace the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions within our school community, I am delighted to acknowledge the significant faith days that fall within the months of March and April. It is during this time that we celebrate the diversity that enriches our school environment. The spring brings with it a multitude of faith observances, including celebrations such as Holi, Purim, Nowruz, Ramadan, Easter, Vaisakhi, Ridvan, and Passover. These occasions provide us with opportunities to learn from one another and foster an environment of understanding and inclusivity.

As we look forward to the upcoming long weekend, I extend warm wishes to all those engaging in celebrations. Spring is a time of reflection, renewal, and hope, and I encourage each of you to take this opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones and cherish the blessings in your lives.

On Thursday next week we look forward to welcoming students and their families to our Teacher Interview Night for Semester 2. That evening in our library we will also be hosting pathways information from local colleges focusing on the variety of unique programs available to students as well as a book fair.

As a reminder, on Monday, April 8, we will have an early release day to ensure the safety of our students during the solar eclipse. YRDSB has adjusted transportation for that day so that those who travel by yellow school buses or school provided taxis will be picked up at noon. Unfortunately, in speaking with YRT they have not made adjustments to the school special routes and therefore students relying on these will need to make alternate arrangements.

Wishing you all a joyous long weekend filled with peace, love, and cherished moments.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

Manufacturing and Skills Trades Scholarship Program

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will provide financial assistance of \$5000 to two eligible students, who plan to attend a college/university/trade school/work apprenticeship programs in manufacturing or skilled trades related fields. Students must be in grade 12 and the deadline to apply is April 26, 2024. For more information, check out <https://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/scholarship-program/>

School Council Corner

Our next School Council meeting is Monday April 15th. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us that evening.

YRDSB and Community Notices

NEKS Korean Families Engagement Night

The Network of Educators for Korean-Canadian Students (NEKS) invites Korean families and community members to attend a workshop to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System. Families will be able to learn about the K-12 Ontario Education System with an emphasis on transitions from elementary to secondary school, post-secondary pathways, and Special Education. The workshop will take place on Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 6:00pm -8:00pm at Thornhill Secondary School. To register and for more information fill out the [google form](#).

Step out Dance Competition

Registration is now open for the 18th Annual Step Out Dance Competition featuring a variety of dance with high school and intermediate students competing in two divisions. The purpose of the event is to create a positive forum for students to get together, perform, compete, share and grow. Our school board is filled with many talented students, and this event is all about bringing students together and providing them with the opportunity to express themselves through the arts. The format of the show is similar to American Idol. Each team performs, and then is given feedback from judges. There will be prizes and

giveaways throughout the day and winners are announced at the end of the day. The competition will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 10am-2pm at Richmond Green Secondary School. Register your team by completing the [Step Out 2024 Registration form](#). Registration fee is \$115.

Guidance

Spring Dual Credit Courses - [REGISTRATION NOW OPEN](#)

Registration for the Spring/Intercession Dual Credits is now open. These courses run from the last week of April until the first week of June (7 weeks) but students have class TWICE a week.

The Spring Flyer can be found here www.yrdsb.cc/dualcreditflyer

Registration is here as always www.yrdsb.cc/dualcreditapp

2024 Summer Learning Opportunities - Click [here](#) for more details. [REGISTRATION THROUGH MYBLUEPRINT OPENS APRIL 9th](#)

- **Summer Pathway Programs** - There are several Summer Pathway Programs students can participate in and earn one to two credits, such as Cooperative Education (Co-op), Alternative Learning Experiential Program (ALEP), OYAP-Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, College Dual Credit courses and the Innovation Course at Y-Space in Markham. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Secondary Summer School** - Information to be available shortly. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Online Learning Secondary School** - The York Region District School Board provides learners a flexible approach to earning credits in the summer through Online Learning. Online Learning courses are taught by YRDSB teachers using Ontario's Virtual Learning Environment-BrightSpace by D2L. Students are not required to log in at a specific time each day. Classes occur online using an asynchronous model, with synchronous learning opportunities offered with the teacher. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Other Summer Programs** - Click [here](#) for more details.

2024-2025 Course Selection - Course selection verifications will be sent to parent/guardian emails on Thursday April 4, 2024.

Community Supports - Click [here](#) to see a listing of local community supports.

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 and the reason for the absence. 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 drgrwilliamsss.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.

Students are expected to be in their Period 1 classroom at the start of the day. Classes begin at 8:20 am. If a student arrives late for Period 1 and before 8:35 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 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 2023-2024

- Please use this [link](#)

Website Resources for Families and Students

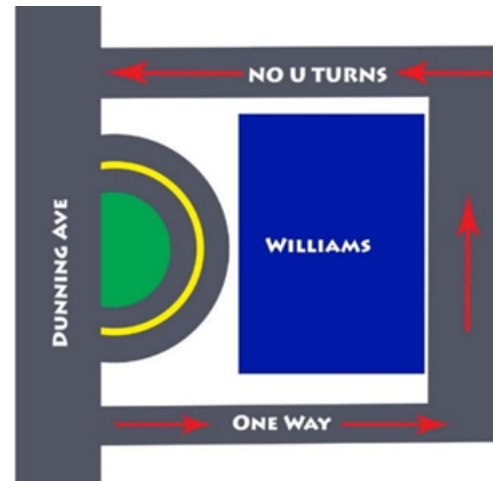
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

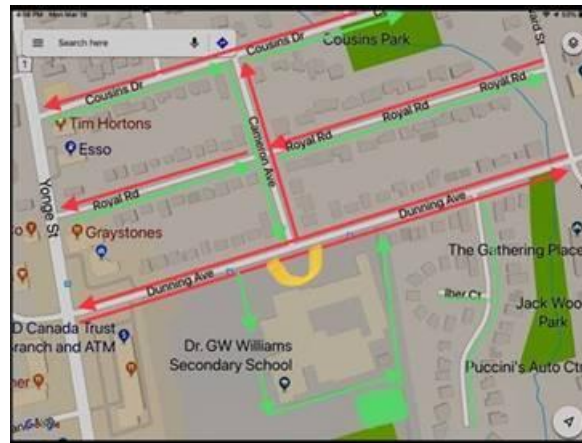
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Monday, May 6, 2024
- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

School Council Meetings for 2023-2024

- Monday April 15, 2024
- Tuesday May 21, 2024