



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Jun 5 - Jun 16, 2023

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.

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS

Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal
Susie Mitchell, 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

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: drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca

This week:

Jun 5	Wonderland Concert Band Festival at Canada Wonderland 9 am - 3 pm Flag Football vs Stouffville District SS. at Markham District HS. Leave home school at 1:30 PM. Game starts 3 pm.
Jun 6	Ultimate Frisbee YRAA Finals at Fletcher's Fields 9 am - 4:30 pm
Jun 7	Jr & Sr Boys Rugby Playoffs at Williams (Dismiss from class 12:20 pm) Staff BBQ in courtyard, lunch hour
Jun 8	Prom at The Manor 6 pm
Jun 9	

Upcoming

Jun 12	
Jun 13	EQAO Practice Assessment Grade 9 Math Locker Clean-out, Period 1 Grad Breakfast, Period 2 (Gown & Yearbook Distribution) Yearbook Distribution (Grades 9-11) - Period 3 & 4 (during lunches) Athletic Banquet, Cafeteria 5 pm
Jun 14	EQAO Math Assessment Gr 9
Jun 15	EQAO Math Assessment Gr 9
Jun 16	Grade 12 Period 1 Exams 8:30am (no Grade 12 classes)

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

Thank you to our Student Council for hosting the Student Appreciation BBQ during lunch hour today. There was food, fun and music throughout Period 3 and 4 in the back of the school and we couldn't have ordered better weather. It was nice to have some fun outside with the students again.

The exam schedule has been finalized and posted below. Hard copies are available in classrooms for students that might benefit from having a paper copy to highlight and record their exams. Please take careful note of the dates and times of all exams.

We have less than two weeks left of classes. Students need to remain focused on their summatives at this time and completing the final 30% of their course work. For those students that may have been struggling, now is the time to connect with teachers and ensure that they have completed all work prior to exams.

We are looking forward to the prom next week and the grad breakfast the following Tuesday. Last week we had the grad assembly and reminded all grads of their responsibilities for a safe prom and getting ready for graduation. Please ensure if you have a graduate that you review safety with them for this coming few weeks as this is a time when our students sometimes take more risks than others. We want everyone to have a positive completion to their final year here at Williams.

Our sports teams are into their finals and have had busy, successful seasons. We thank our coaches for their dedication to our teams with the early morning and after school practices as well as all the games and the behind the scenes organizing. We look forward to the upcoming Athletic Banquet to honour our athletes and coaches.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

June 2023 Exam Schedule

***the final exam schedule and exam expectations and guidelines have been emailed to families/students, please check your email**

Final examinations will be written from **Friday, June 16th to Monday, June 26th**. Grade 12 exams will be written prior to Grades 9-11 as per the schedule below. The final day for Grade 12 classes will be June 15th and final day for Grades 9-11 classes will be June 20th to accommodate for exams. Performance based exams are scheduled directly with the teacher. All other examinations begin at the times indicated in the chart below. Students are encouraged to check with their teachers regarding final assessments in the course as not all courses have final exams. The full exam schedule and final exam information will be provided to students/families in an email communication prior to May 30, 2023. Exam review day is scheduled for June 28, 2023 and a modified day schedule will be communicated with families.

Students must write their exam at school on the day and at the time for which it has been scheduled. If a student is absent for an exam, they will receive a mark of zero (0) for the exam. Final examinations will NOT be rescheduled to accommodate alternate activities which conflict with the timing of exams (i.e. vacations, employment commitments, appointments, etc.)

Date	Grade(s)	Period	Exam Start Time
Friday, June 16	Grade 12 Exams	Period 1	8:30am
Monday, June 19	Grade 12 Exams	Period 2	9:45am
Tuesday, June 20	Grade 12 Exams	Period 5	8:30am
Wednesday, June 21	Grades 9-12	Periods 3 and 4	8:30am
Thursday, June 22	Grades 9-11	Period 1	8:30am
Friday, June 23	Grades 9-11	Period 2	8:30am
Monday, June 26	Grades 9-11	Period 5	8:30am

Graduation

This year's **graduation ceremony** will be held on **June 26, 2023, 7 pm** at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex located at 100 Eagle St W. in Newmarket. Due to the size of the venue there is no cap on the amount of guests allowed. Please stay tuned for more details.

Return of Technology

All student loaner technology (Chromebooks/laptops) must be returned to the school by the beginning of the exam period. If students require their technology during the exam week, they should stop by the main office and speak with Mr. Gazaneo. All technology must be returned by the end of June.

YRDSB and Community Notices

Applications open for new Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) Members

The purpose of the Parent Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. Parents/guardians interested in serving as a member of PEAC are asked to submit an application by June 14, 2023. Please click [here](#) for more info.

Parenting Strategies for a Successful Summer Break

This free parent presentation is brought to you in a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families. Please click the [link](#) to register.

The Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter | June 2023

We look forward to continuing to develop opportunities for supporting Black students, families and staff within the York Region District School Board, in partnership with community partners. See [newsletter](#) for further information.

Guidance

- **YRDSB Summer Dual Credit - July 2023** - Dual Credits allow students in secondary school to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification. Students get to experience college while still in high school at no cost, earn high school credits and college credits at the same time in the same course, learn in college state-of-the-art facilities, explore different pathway options, and try something new. Please see course offerings [here](#) and register [here](#).
- **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.

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 drgwilliamsss.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

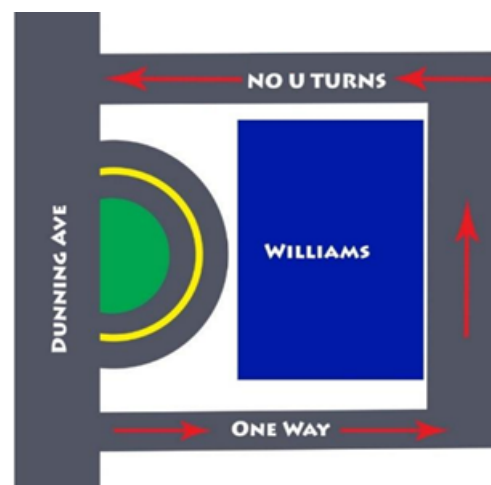
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

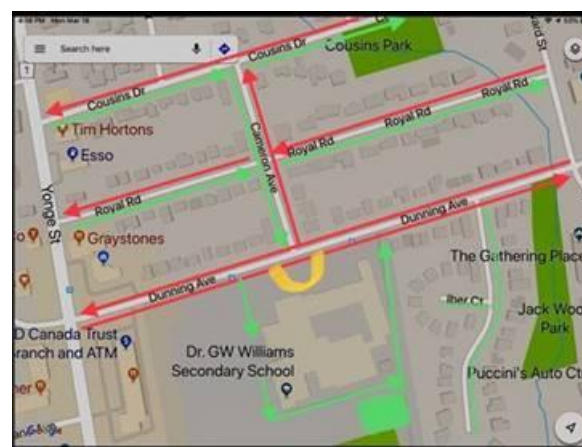
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- May 15

