



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of Mar. 18 - 22 , 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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(P) 905-727-3131  
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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](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

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|--------|---|
| Mar 18 |   |
| Mar 19 | Toronto Reference Library Trip, 8:40am - 2:30pm                           |
| Mar 20 | Hub Markham Trip, 8:20am - 1:00pm   |
| Mar 21 | G.W. Williams SS & Aurora HS Proposed Boundary Change Public Meeting, 7pm |
| Mar 22 |   |

### Upcoming

|        |                                    |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Mar 25 | Interim Report Cards e-distributed |
| Mar 26 | Interim Report Cards e-distributed |
| Mar 27 |                                    |
| Mar 28 |                                    |
| Mar 29 | Good Friday (No School)            |

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 head into the March Break, I hope that each of you is looking forward to a well-deserved break filled with relaxation, fun, and quality time with loved ones. This pause in our regular routine offers a valuable opportunity to recharge our batteries and come back refreshed and rejuvenated for the remainder of the semester.

I encourage our students to truly embrace this break from your studies. Take the time to engage in activities you enjoy, pursue your hobbies and passions, and simply take a moment to breathe. Remember, a healthy balance between work and play is essential for your overall well-being and academic success. Use this time to recharge your energy and come back ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the remainder of the semester.

Parents, your continued support and partnership in your child's education are invaluable. Thank you for entrusting us with their academic journey and for your ongoing involvement in their growth and development. We look forward to meeting with many of you at our upcoming Teacher Interview Night on April 4th.

Today, on International Women's Day, let us also take a moment to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women around the world. This day serves as a reminder of the progress we've made towards gender equality and the work that still lies ahead. I encourage all members of our community to reflect on the important role that women play in shaping our society and to continue striving for a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

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/>

#### OSSTF District 16 invites you to participate in the Human Rights Day Poster Competition 2024!

The competition is open to all YRDSB students in grades 9 to 12, with \$300 awarded to the winner. Applications and posters must be uploaded to the Google Form by 3:30pm on Friday, March 29, 2024. For further details, please see your teacher or a member of the Guidance Department.

[2024 Human Rights Poster Competition](#)

### School Council Corner

We encourage all members of the school community to participate in the information regarding the potential boundary changes for the new Dr. G. W. Williams site by logging into the meeting on March 21. For more information and to pre-register for the meeting, visit the [YRDSB School Boundary and Presentations website](#). Email: [planning.services@yrdsb.ca](mailto:planning.services@yrdsb.ca). Our next School Council meeting will be on April 15, 2024 in the Williams library.

### YRDSB and Community Notices

#### March Break Family Day

The Toronto Holocaust Museum invites families, parents, grandparents and children ages 10 and older to join us for a special Family Day Program on Wednesday, March 13 to engage in learning and dialogue about the Holocaust. The program runs from 1:00pm - 4:30pm at The Toronto Holocaust Museum, 4588 Bathurst Street and admission is complimentary for all registrants. [W AODA Compliant - THM March Break Family Day.docx](#)

## Arts Camp at White Pine

Camp White Pine will host a unique and intensive week-long immersion camp in visual, studio and performance art programs/experiences for Grades 7-12 YRDSB students. At White Pine camp, each camper is encouraged to discover and explore their identity through supported risk-taking and positive collaboration with peers, staff artists and camp leaders through intensive and extended art opportunities.

The application deadline is Friday, March 22, 2024 at 11:59pm. For more information about the camp, the application process, and pricing, please read the Application Information Package [2024 Camper Application Information](#)

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### 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. **Deadline March 15th**

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### Guidance

**2024 Summer Learning Opportunities** - Click [here](#) for more details.

- **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 emailed to parent/guardian emails on Thursday April 4, 2024.

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

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

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.

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### School Calendar for 2023-2024

- Please use this [link](#)

### Website Resources for Families and Students

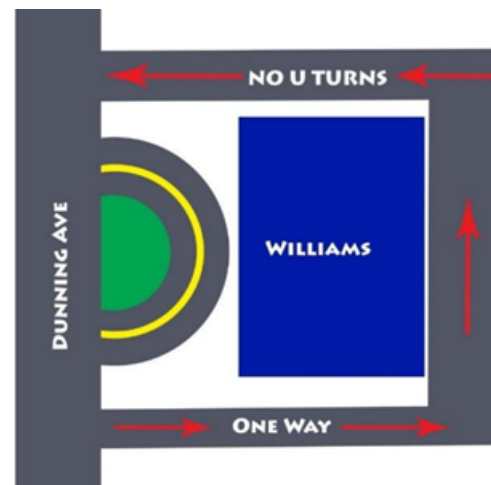
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

### Driveway and Parking Lot

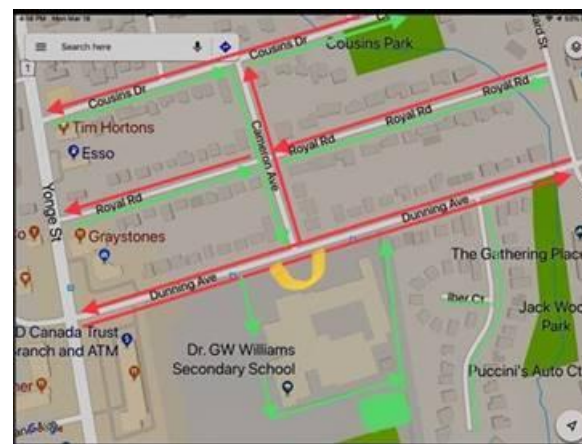
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- 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

