



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Mar 6 - Mar 24, 2023

Trait of the Month: Initiative

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.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

This week:

March 6	Staff Meeting, 3:15-4:30
March 7	Cafeteria Re-Opens
March 8	
March 9	Covenant House Speaker presents for Gr 12 Human Development classes P1 & P2
March 10	
March 13-17	March Break, no school

Upcoming

March 20	Leadership Team Meeting, 3:15-4:30 pm
March 21	
March 22	
March 23	
March 24	Interim Reports distributed electronically (March 24-27)

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](#).

Message from the Principal

Over the last week the admin team (myself, Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Gazaneo) visited every classroom to review safe schools procedures. We discussed our commitment to addressing any incidents of discrimination or racism within our school and encouraged all students and staff to support our caring and safe school environment by speaking up regarding any concerns. Students are asked to speak to any caring adult in the building or submit non-urgent concerns via ReportIt on our website (we reminded students that anonymous reports often are difficult to resolve and we also want the opportunity to follow-up with any student sharing concerns to let them know their concerns have been addressed). We also reminded students about appropriate bathroom use (no loitering, use only for intended purpose-toilet and urinal use and washing hands) and laws regarding smoking and vaping within 20m of school property. Finally we spoke about locker use and the importance of ensuring lockers are locked, combinations are not shared and that items found within lockers are the responsibility of the student registered for that locker.

Thank you to all of our students and the hard work of our Guidance department we have completed the course selection process for the 2023-2024 school year. Over the next few months we will be working through course selections and staffing to provide a timetable for students. As a reminder, we are working with a new student management system this year and therefore we expect the process to take a little longer than usual. Please be patient with the Guidance and Admin teams as we work through this process in an effort to create a result that supports students positively. Course offerings are based on student enrollment and the Guidance team will begin communicating with any students that have selected courses that are under-enrolled shortly to ensure that final course selections are accurate before we fully begin the timetabling process. This will allow all students' needs to be considered equally when building the timetable.

As we head into the March Break, please ensure that everyone has the opportunity to step away from school for a change of pace and much needed rest and relaxation before we head into the final quarter of the year. Interim report cards will be sent home electronically the week after the break and Teacher Interviews will be held on March 30th. More information will be shared soon regarding booking of interviews.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

Teacher Interview Night (Mar 30), Secondary Interim Report Card (Mar 24 - 27)

Teacher Interview Night will be in-person during the evening of March 30. Parents/guardians who are unable to meet in person during Teacher Interview Night are encouraged to connect with the teacher about their student's progress. Details about how to schedule teacher interviews will be forthcoming in the next William's Tell and through a letter to families a week prior to Teacher Interview Night.

Compass Foods Cafeteria

We have just received news that our cafeteria (now run by Compass Foods) that they will be re-opening on Tuesday this coming week.

Battery and E-Waste Recycling Club

Attention, environmentally-minded students! If you have a passion for protecting the planet and an interest in technology, we invite you to join the Battery and E-Waste Recycling Club! Our **bi-weekly meetings** start on March 2nd in room 209, right after school. Even if you can't commit to joining, we still need your help: please bring any used batteries or small E-waste items you have lying around so we can recycle them properly. Together, we can make a real difference and promote sustainability in our community!

Save the Date: Prom 2023

Prom is approaching quickly, and the staff of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School is pleased to celebrate this occasion with grade 12 students on **Thursday, June 8, 2023 at the Manor Event Venue** at 16750 Weston Road, King. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM and end at 10:30 PM. Doors close promptly at 6:30 PM. The evening's events will include dinner at 7:00 PM followed by dancing. Prom will be supervised by school board staff and the York Regional Police.

In order to attend, students must complete and return all necessary forms provided to them, and attend the grade 12 assembly. Proof of ticket purchase is required.

Tickets will be available for purchase through [School Cash Online](#), from **Monday, March 27th -Wednesday, April 5th**.

Please Note:

- Due to venue size, **only 300 tickets** will be sold to this event.
- Upon initial release, **only one ticket per student** may be purchased.
- Priority is offered to students currently attending Dr. G.W. Williams.
- Individual ticket price is dependent on whether or not the student activity fee has previously been paid. All ticket sales will be reviewed to ensure the correct payment amount has been demonstrated.
- If unable to attend prom, no refunds will be issued.
- If space remains at the end of the initial selling period, the opportunity to purchase guest tickets will begin on Monday, April 17th and end on Thursday, April 20th on a first come first served basis. Further information around guest ticket sales will be available after April 5th.
- Any questions should be directed to amanda.kelly@yrdsb.ca

Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement

Students are now required to earn two Online Learning credits to earn their OSSD, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with working and learning in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives. Please click the [link](#) for further details.

Live the skilled life!

According to the Conference Board of Canada, it's estimated that **Ontario** will face a **shortage** of 560,000 **skilled** workers by 2030. **Apprenticeship** is a post-secondary pathway that allows students to get paid while learning. It's an alternate pathway to college and university where graduates are **debt free**. If any of this sounds interesting, please join us in the school's **library** with your child on **March 28** from **3 - 4:30 pm** to learn more. We are excited to have Linda Alati, a pathways consultant, join us to discuss the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (**OYAP**). Please use this [link](#) to let us know if you will be attending the presentation.

Extended Study Tour Opportunity - 80th of D-Day

Williams is planning a trip to France, Belgium and the Netherlands in celebration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day and we're so excited to offer this potential travel opportunity to our students! If you're interested in learning more about this trip, join our Google Classroom using the code **cdwrnks** and check out the March 2nd PowerPoint for more information. If you're ready to sign up, visit eftours.ca/enrol and enter code **2616793MC** or call **1-800-263-2806**. Any further questions can be emailed to sarah.isber@yrdsb.ca or jordan.denton@yrdsb.ca.

Thank you!

Sarah Isber & Jordan Denton

Grade 12 Art student at Aurora Cultural Centre

Since 2011, the Aurora Cultural Centre has showcased upcoming artistic talent from the graduating students across Aurora. This year, they received 84 submissions from 53 students. Some of our Grade 12 students have entered their artwork in the Mayors Celebration of the Arts at the Aurora Town Hall. The work will continue to be on display until May 18, 2023. Click [here](#) for more details.

Music Department

Choir Meeting

Do you like to sing? Missing vocal music class already? Our choir will meet every Monday in room 122 from 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm. We are looking for all voice parts and no experience is necessary.

Our 3 amazing concert bands at the Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival

On Feb 16 Thursday, our 3 amazing concert bands performed at the Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival. The OBA Festival is the second largest festival in Canada, and Williams was represented amazingly well by our student!

Here's the results:

- Grade 9 Concert Band – won a Gold and also a Brass Excellence Award
 - Grade 10 Symphonic Band – won a Gold Award and also a Rising Star Award (for an especially musical performance)
 - Grade 11/12 Wind Ensemble – the first time performing such challenging music – won a GOLD award, and also a Percussion excellence award.
- All 3 bands were invited to Musicfest Nationals!**

We want to say a huge congratulations to all our musicians and also to Mr. Harrison and Ms. Wilson. Thank you for representing Williams so well. They should be very proud of these fantastic accomplishments!

YRDSB and Community Notices

Wind Turbine Design Challenge for Secondary Students at Humber College

Team Design Challenge for Grade 10 - 12 Students on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Deadline Mar 16. Click [here](#) for more details.

Navigating through Negative Self-Talk

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. Event is on March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m, use this [link](#) to register.

Black Mental Health Week 2023

March 6 - 12, 2023 is [Black Mental Health Week](#) in Ontario. This yearly event works to amplify the voices of Black communities and bring much-needed awareness to the historical and current effects of systemic, anti-Black racism on mental health and wellness.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), Spring 2023

The spring administration of the OSSLT is scheduled to occur between March 1 - April 26, 2023. The test is online and will be open to eligible students who did not participate or were not successful in the fall administration. The majority of our students wrote the test in the fall so that students would have a second opportunity to achieve their literacy graduation requirement as early as possible, with only the second result considered.

Fostering Your Child's Emotional Resilience (培養孩子的情緒適應力/ 培养孩子的情绪适应力)

This session in Cantonese and Mandarin will introduce key strategies of how parents can encourage their child to express their feelings. 這講座將讓大家學習如何有效的鼓勵你的子女表達他們的情緒 這講座將學習如何有效的鼓勵你的子女表達他們的情緒
Mandarin Session: Monday, March 6th, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm. Please click [here](#) to register.

Guidance

- **Course Selections** are now closed. Please have students see their alpha guidance counsellor if they have any questions or concerns.
- Please note that **Summer School Registrations** will open in late spring. Students must enrol officially through their pathway planner even though they've expressed interest in their course selections.
- **Summer Pathways Programs** - Please see [this flyer](#) for Summer Dual Credits, Youth Innovation by Design, and Co-op summer opportunities for students. Students can register using the links provided.
- **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 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

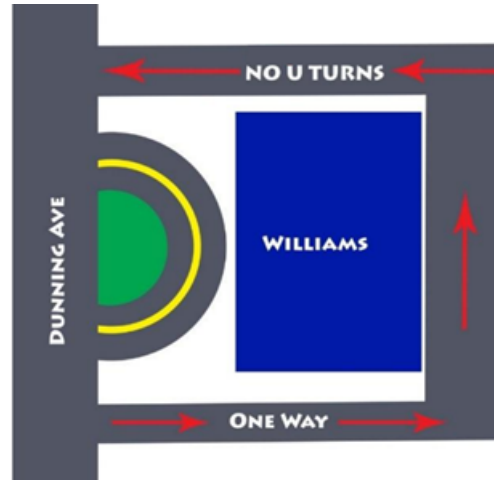
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

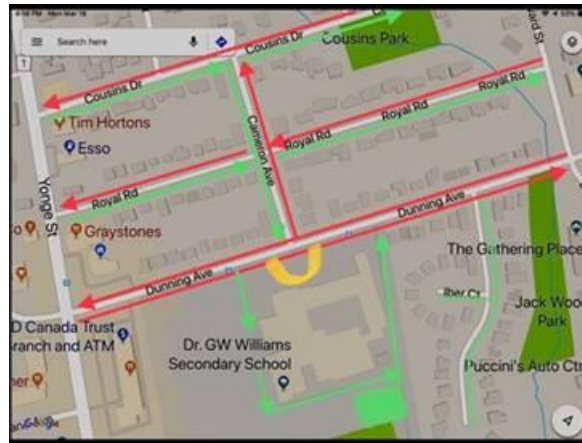
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- February 21 - [Minutes](#)
- April 17
- May 15