



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: September 26 - 30, 2022

Trait of the Month: Courage

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
George Tsigaridis, 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 8:20-10:00
Period 2 10:05-11:15
Period 3 11:20-12:30
Period 4 12:35-1:45
Period 5 1:50-3:00

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
Email: dr.g.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

This week:

Sept 26	✳ Rosh Hashanah (The Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah)
Sept 27	✳ Rosh Hashanah
Sept 28	
Sept 29	Girl Field Hockey vs Tommy Douglas 4 pm at Dr. JM Denison HS Boys Soccer vs Our Lady of the Lake 3:30 pm SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs Newmarket HS 3 pm, at our school
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day (Day for Truth & Reconciliation) SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs Hodan Nalayah Secondary School leave GW at 8 am, full day tournament at Hodan Nalayah Secondary School

Upcoming

Oct 3	Girl Field Hockey vs Sir William Mulock SS 3:30 pm at Jr. JM Denison HS Boys Soccer vs Dr JM Denison 1:45 PM.
Oct 4	SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs Huron Heights SS 4 pm at our school Junior and Senior Boys Rugby 7's vs Denison, Keswick 1:30 pm at our school
Oct 5	✳ Yom Kippur (The holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism)
Oct 6	Boys Soccer vs Aurora HS 3 pm at our school. Cross Country 9 am at Boyde Conservation Area, Woodbridge
Oct 7	Photo Retake

To support your family planning, the 2022-2023 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#). Additionally, all tentative dates for our school events have been updated on our Google calendar on our [school website](#).

Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that it is now fall and that we are almost into October. The halls at Williams are alive with activity between the many clubs and teams that have started up again. We are working hard to capture all of the clubs on our website once the students and staff advisors finalize their meeting times and locations.

Now that the changes to the computer systems completed over the summer are almost fully synchronized we are hoping we will be in a position to begin the regular phone calls home during Periods 1, 4 and 5 regarding attendance. Expect that this will take place at some point next week. We will send a separate communication home to parents alerting the exact start date the day before. Please ensure that you continue to email or call into attendance with any absences moving forward.

We have continued to have some staffing adjustments due to additional staffing that has been added to the school. This is exciting news but will bring some teacher changes over the next week or so in some classrooms. Connected to this, I would like to take the opportunity to wish our Librarian, Lori Richards well as she embarks on her retirement effective September 30th. This is well deserved for Lori after a 32 year career in our board that started and ended at Williams!!

All the best,
Melissa Schmidt

Athletics Notices

We are excited to offer the following sports for the upcoming fall season:

- Girls Field Hockey
- Senior and Junior Boys Golf
- Senior and Junior Boys Rugby
- Coed Cross Country
- Boys Senior Soccer
- Girls Varsity Basketball
- Coed Junior and Senior Tennis

Students should be listening to announcements for information on try-outs. Students and parents can check the announcements on our website each day as well.

Notices

Student Mental Health

This newsletter is for families and caregivers, a focus on supporting a Mentally Healthy School Start. Please see [here](#) to view the newsletter.

Homeless Prevention Program

Information about York Region's Homelessness Prevention Program and Housing Stability Program for families. For more information, please see [here](#).

York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities Events and Programs

York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (York Region AACC) provides programs for Black Students Across York Region. Please see the [events web page](#) for details.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for [Truth and Reconciliation](#). The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Guidance

[YRDSB Night School Information](#)

[YRDSB Aquatic Leadership Program](#)

Important Updates

Grade 12 Families - please look out for email communication from the school regarding college and university applications and important dates.

Upcoming Events

- [Ontario Universities Fair](#) October 1-2, 2022, from 9:30 am to 5 pm, daily at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- [Ontario Colleges Fair](#) October 19, 2022 from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm and October 20, 2022 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Enercare Centre
- Post-Secondary Assembly - October 19, 2022
 - The Guidance Department will be holding an assembly during the school day for potential graduates to provide guidelines and instructions on how to proceed with post-secondary applications.
- ***NEW*** The Post-Secondary Fair for the Aurora/King area schools will be in the evening of October 26th at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School. We will share more information closer to the date of the event.

To help students make decisions about what post-secondary programs to apply to, families are encouraged to research post-secondary pathways with students using the following websites:

- <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/>
- <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/programs>
- <https://oyap.com/>

***Please note:** MyBlueprint is not updated with information regarding credits earned, SHSM status, volunteer hours, etc. Once we know that this problem has been resolved we will let you know.

School Calendar for 2022-2023

- Please use this [link](#)

Family Start-Up Forms

Parents/guardians received an email from YRDSB Update with important school start-up forms to complete. **It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions.**

The forms can be found at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>.

Secondary school students can complete the secondary school student form at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/students>. Elementary school students do not need to complete these forms.

You must be signed in to your child's student GAPPS account to complete the form.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the main office.

Williams School Yearbook

After two years of not being able to publish a full Yearbook, Williams Yearbook Team is in full swing preparing for a 2022-2023 full publication! Yearbooks are a special memento that students get to take away with them at the end of the school year as it highlights all events, sports, clubs, staff and of course students of that year. All grades are represented equally in the book and it is truly a representation of our school community. Purchase your beautiful hard copy today!

Will only be available for purchase on [School Cash online](#)!

Student Activity Fee Paid \$46 *Recommended
Student Activity Fee NOT Paid \$50

Terry Fox - Anything is possible

We have a fun day for the 42nd annual Terry Fox run on Sept 22. Thanks to all students who participate.

Here is Terry Fox's [gripping story](#) for today's youth by featuring his journey to bring awareness about cancer with his run, interviews with the Fox family members and one of Canada's leading Oncology specialists. Also students speak about what the Terry Fox Run has done for them personally.

Thanks for your support of this wonderful cause! Fundraising is taking place via [SchoolCashOnline](#).

Tune In YRDSB: South East Asian Youth Speaks Program

In this [episode](#) of the Tune In YRDSB podcast, join students and staff from the South East Asian Youth Speaks program as they talk about identity, culture, narratives, dismantling barriers and much more.

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 supports, and translation tools.

Student Leadership & Student Voice, Policy #672

The York Region District School Board regularly engages in reviewing its policies. Currently, the Board of Trustees has identified a need to review Policy #672 Student Leadership and Voice and Policy #635 Student Dress Code. As part of the review process The YRDSB consults extensively with students, staff and community members.

We encourage you to review this [slide deck](#) to build some context around Student leadership in our Board and fill out the surveys to provide your feedback. You will find the surveys on our [Board's Policy review page](#) along with an explanation of policy review. Scroll down the page and click on to find the links to the surveys.

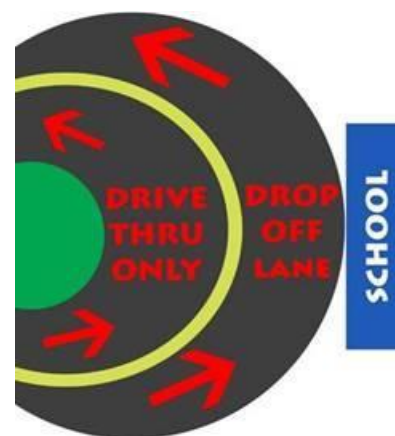
We thank you for your participation and your voice in ensuring our policies are reflective of our community of learners. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Your input will be considered and used to help inform revisions to the policies.

Safety and Community Notices

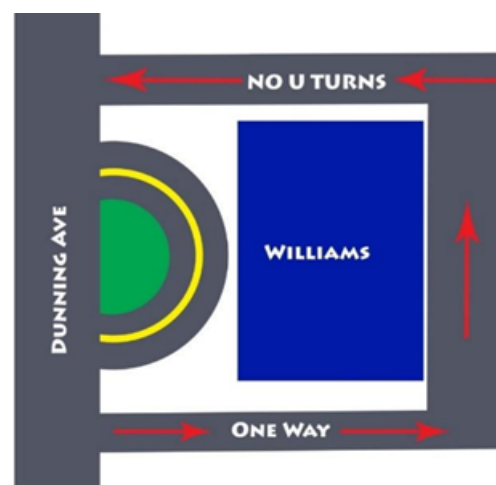
York Regional Transit (YRT) has announced a new Route 32 northbound trip, beginning September 14, to meet the afternoon bell time at Dr. G. W. Williams. This information won't be reflected on their website until November 6 but is included in this [flyer](#).

Driveway and Parking Lot

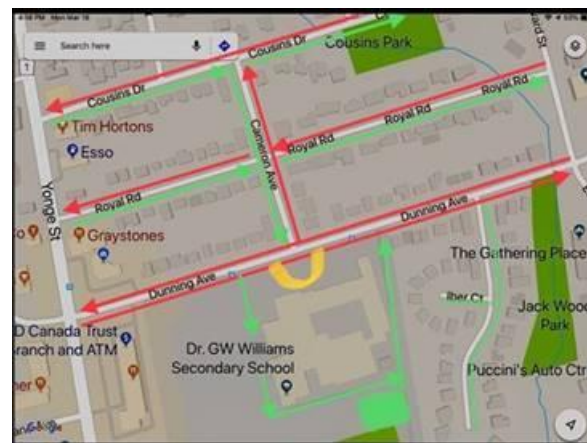
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

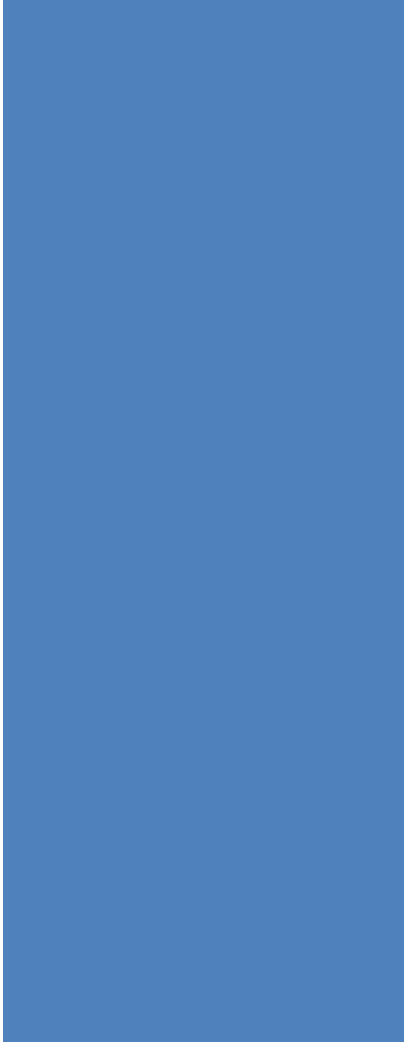


Please note that Dunning Avenue is a **no stopping zone**. This is noted by the signage along the street and on the map above you can see the red arrows on both sides of the street.

PA Days for Williams (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- October 21
- November 18
- February 3
- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023



- October 17
- November 21
- February 21
- April 17
- May 15, 2022