



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Jan 23 - Feb 3, 2023

Trait of the Month: Optimism

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

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 8:20-9:40

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)

### This week:

Jan. 23	Curling Team Game vs Tommy Douglas at York Curling Club 2:30 Grade 9 Math EQAO Assessment, Day 2
Jan. 24	Locker cleanout for all students (End of Period 1) The Power of Positive Parenting <a href="#">presentation</a> <a href="#">Three Part Series on Poverty</a>
Jan. 25	Last Day of Semester 1 classes International Holocaust Day <a href="#">Rhapsody</a> Documentary at Anne Frank PS (Grade 9+ students and parents) 6:30 pm <a href="#">Let's Talk Day</a>
Jan. 26	Exams - Period 1 classes
Jan. 27	Exams - Period 2 classes <a href="#">Advocacy and Allyship</a> - RSVP Deadline

### Upcoming

Jan. 30	Exams - Period 3 classes <a href="#">De-streaming Monitoring: Student and Staff Survey (G 9 and 10)</a> - Survey (Staff) due date
Jan. 31	Exams - Period 4 classes
Feb. 1	Exams - Period 5 classes
Feb. 2	<b>Exam Feedback Day</b> Period 1 8:20-8:50 Period 2 8:55-9:25 Period 3 9:30-10:00 Period 4 10:05-10:35 Period 5 10:40-11:10 Lunch 11:10-12:00
Feb. 3	<b>PA day, no school</b>

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

As semester one draws to a close we are looking ahead to the first set of final exams in 3 years. For our Grade 12 students, these are the first exams they have written since Semester 1 of their Grade 9 year. For the rest of our students, this is the first set of exams they have ever written. As a staff we are very aware of the significance of this for students and the preparation necessary to support students in every grade to confidently completed final course requirements in all subject areas. Teachers have spent a great deal of time reflecting on assessment practices and considering a variety of ways to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning. Students and staff have been extremely busy since we returned from the winter break fulfilling the requirements of the 30% culminating work to demonstrate and evaluate academic achievement (our exams are one element of this in some courses). Please reach out to your child's subject teacher PRIOR to the end of the semester if you have concerns. Teachers will also be reaching out to parents if they have concerns about credit attainment so that there are no surprises when report cards are issued.

All students received their confirmed courses for Semester 2 at the beginning of the school year. Many have already connected with Guidance if changes were needed. We continue to complete staffing for the upcoming semester and refining room assignments. Students will receive an emailed timetable prior to the start of semester 2 once all details have been updated and finalized. Given ongoing issues with communication between TeachAssist and our new Student Management System students should rely on the email received from the school for accurate timetable information.

Course selection assemblies were held the first week back in January in preparation for this process to occur in February. More information will follow on timelines and students will be notified when My Pathway Planner has been fully updated to represent all options for the coming year. We encourage students to use the next few weeks to research their options, ask questions and then 'choose once and choose wisely' as staffing decisions are made based on student course selections and timetable changes are limited after the fact.

We wish all our students success as they navigate through this upcoming exam period.  
Melissa Schmidt

### NEW Exam Schedule for Semester 1 - Thursday, Jan. 26 - Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023

Please refer to the final exam information [here](#) and detailed exam schedules indicated [here](#). Parents and students are reminded to not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, work, etc. during examination times. \*In the event that one of the exam days is declared an inclement weather day by the Board (i.e. school buses are cancelled), the exams regularly scheduled for that day will be advised later.

### 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!](#) **Deadline to purchase Feb 15, 2023.**

**Student Activity Fee Paid \$46 \*Recommended**

### **Locker Cleanout - Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

On Tuesday, January 24 at the end of period 1, all students will clean out their lockers. They are to throw out garbage, food, take home dirty clothes, etc.

### **Grade 9 Math EQAO Assessment**

Due to inclement weather conditions and transportation services being cancelled on Jan 19, the writing of the Grade 9 Math EQAO Assessment are CANCELLED on that day. They will be rescheduled to Friday, Jan 20th and Monday, Jan 23.

### **Notices**

#### **Advocacy and Allyship**

York Region District School Board is excited to host a 3 part engagement session with families to learn and discuss how educators, families and communities can work together to challenge bias, dismantle oppression, strengthen advocacy and allyship skills in order to support the achievement and wellbeing of students and families. Please click [here](#) for details.

#### **Arts Camp Application and Selection Process for Secondary Students**

Celebrating over 30 years on the shores of a private lake in the Haliburton Highlands, Camp White Pine is host to a unique yearly camp for Grades 7-12 York Region District School Board students. Arts Camp is an intensive week-long immersion in visual, studio and performance art programs and experiences. [Information](#) regarding the application and selection process for secondary students wishing to attend YRDSB Arts Camp.

#### **Let's Talk Day**

In recognition of Mental Health awareness and for helpful resources for classrooms, [families](#), and staff.

#### **The Power of Positive Parenting**

Free Parent [Presentation](#). Triple P- The Power of Positive Parenting. January 24 10:00am to 11:30am.

#### **Three Part Series on Poverty**

All parents and guardians are welcome to attend any or all of the free virtual [workshops](#) about poverty, housing rights and resources in York Region.

**360°kids** believes that every young person deserves a safe place to call home. Since our founding in 1989, 360°kids has continued to provide a full complement of programs and services aimed at assisting at-risk and homeless youth. For more information see [here](#).

#### **Families and Schools Together**

'[Families and Schools Together](#)' is a play and art therapy based program that allows families to come together. A program that will help reduce caregiver isolation by connecting with other families in the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

#### **Town of Aurora No Idling**

Did you know that the Town of Aurora is now idle-free? The Town of Aurora [anti-idling policy](#) states that as a motorist you MUST turn off your vehicle after 5 consecutive minutes of idling, unless in traffic. You can do other things to support the environment in the community by turning off your vehicle anytime you are stopped for more than 30 seconds. This will help Aurora's goal to reduce 80% of greenhouse gases by 2050. Please also consider carpooling your students to school. Many vehicles are picking up one single student. Work together to do our part in the Williams community!!

#### **The Rhapsody Film Screening**

YRDSB families, educators and students (Grade 9+) are invited to join the screening of The [Rhapsody](#), a documentary about a Polish Canadian composer/Holocaust survivor, Leo Spellman. It will be hosted at Anne Frank Public School Jan 25, 2023.

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### **Guidance**

#### **\*IMPORTANT UPDATES\***

- **Course Selections** open on February 16 and are due by February 24th.
  - Using the pathway planner on myBlueprint, students can:
    - Indicate they are not returning to GWW for the next school year.
    - Opt out of the e-learning requirement (if students are in grade 9 or 10).
    - Express interest in taking a summer school course this year. Please note this is not registration - that will happen later this spring. If a student intends to take summer school, do not select that course for next year.
- **Night school registrations** are open for Semester 2 - please sign up on myBlueprint > Continuing Education > Explore Courses > Submit a course and remember to print off the permission form and submit it to your guidance counsellor.
- **Graduates of 2023** must complete and submit their volunteer hours by **Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023**.

#### **\*NEW\* Aquatic Leadership Program for Semester 2 Open**

YRDSB runs an Aquatic Leadership Program in partnership with the Town of Aurora, The City of Markham and the City of Vaughan. Second semester we will be offering Part 2 of the course at the Aurora and Markham sites and Part 1 at the Vaughan site. Students do not need to live in the municipality in order to take the course. Please [see flyer](#) for more information.

#### **Dual Credit Registrations for Semester 2 Open**

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. Please see [here](#) for more detailed information.

- 2023 Winter Dual Credit Course List 2023 Winter [HERE](#)
- Dual Credit Application Form [HERE](#)

#### **Post-Secondary Pathways**

- **If students are applying to Ontario colleges:**
  - They will need their Ontario Education Number (OEN). Please watch the [How To Apply To Public Colleges in Ontario Video](#).
- **If students are applying to Ontario universities:**
  - They will need their School Number, Student Number and Temporary PIN. Please watch the [101 - How - to Videos](#).
- **If students are going into the skilled trades:**
  - Please visit [OYAP](#), [Skills Ontario](#) and see your Guidance Counsellor.

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/>

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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. 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. 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.

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## **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.

## **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.

## **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](#).

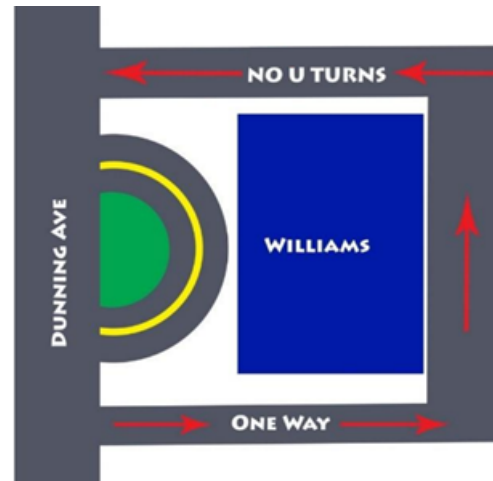
We continue to work with YRT to provide an improved experience for our students riding the 426 buses at the end of each day. Please remind your students to line up single file to board the buses and to stay behind the sidewalk (on the field) until the buses arrive and begin loading. This is important for everyone’s safety.

## **Driveway and Parking Lot**

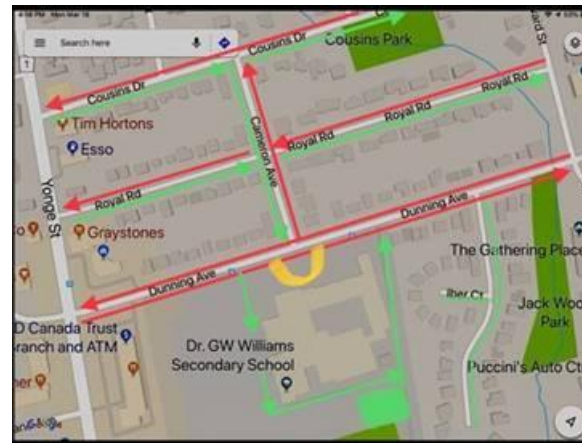
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- February 3
- May 5
- June 30

**School Council Meetings for 2022-2023**

- February 21
- April 17
- May 15