



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: April 11 - 14, 2022

Trait of the Month: Fairness

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.

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
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Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
Attendance: [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](#)

This week:

Apr. 11	
Apr. 12	Term 3 Ends Waterloo Math Contest (FGH)
Apr. 13	Term 4 Starts International Day of Pink
Apr. 14	Vaisakhi (Sikh New Year Festival) Vaisakhi, also pronounced as Baisakhi, is observed by Hindus and Sikhs. It marks the beginning of Hindu solar New year. Vaisakhi marks the first day of the month of Vaisakha, is usually celebrated on 13 or 14 April every year and is a historical and religious festival in Sikhism.
Apr. 15	First Day of Pesah (Passover) Passover, Hebrew Pesah, or Pesach, in Judaism, holiday commemorating the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites, when the Lord "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus. Good/Holy/Great Friday - School Holiday Good Friday is also known as Holy Friday, and Great and Holy Friday. Good Friday commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming:

Apr. 18	Easter Monday - School Holiday Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday, which commemorates Jesus Christ's resurrection, according to the Christian Bible.
Apr. 19	Term 3 Ends Waterloo Math Contest (FGH) Jr. Badminton Game Semi Finals at Westmount CI 3:30 pm
Apr. 20	Term 4 Starts Sr. Badminton Game Finals at Markham PAN AM Centre 9:00 am
Apr. 21	Ridvan - Riḍván is a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith, commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he was a Manifestation of God.
Apr. 22	Holy Friday Orthodox Good Friday is celebrated Friday before Easter according to the Julian calendar and falls on April 22 this year. This day is also known as Great Friday, Holy Friday, and Holy and Great Friday.

Message from the Principal

As many students and families may have noticed today, an increase in staff absences has required us to become a bit more creative in providing programming for all students. We want to thank the students for their understanding and engagement today throughout the asynchronous learning (Grade 12 students typically) and study halls (Grade 9-11 students) that were necessary in order to continue classes. Keep in mind that with upcoming Significant Faith Days and the continued presence of COVID in the community, these high levels of absences without enough supply teachers to cover are likely to continue. We will continue to keep classes affected notified and apologize in advance that often these notifications come later in the evening or early in the morning as absences hit a critical level. Although our staff endeavour at all times to plan absences in advance, we can all appreciate that during this time while we carefully follow screening guidelines, prior to coming to school, these absences can come more last minute.

We appear to have more parents 'stopping\parking' in the driveway of the east lot at the end of the day blocking vehicles from leaving the school. There are many parking spaces at the back of the school and we would ask that parents\guardians park in one of those spots at the back to wait for students. We will need to begin asking drivers to leave and come back around if this does not improve on its own as it is getting dangerous. As a reminder, we try to maintain two lanes of traffic leaving the lot (one turning left and one turning right).

PRO TIP: The traffic is almost completely gone by ~2:35 (10 minutes after the bell). Come after that and you will be in and out very quickly. Your student has a few minutes to wrap up their day in the school and you will reduce your overall stress (we even open the front loop at that time for faster service).

As our winter season of sports wraps up I would like to congratulate our many teams and their coaches on great seasons. I was able to get out to a few games and was very proud to see the teamwork and commitment on the courts and rinks. A special thank you to our coaches who give so much of their time throughout the season to support our athletes.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Club Highlights

Words by Wildcats

Extra Extra! Read all about it! [The March issue](#) of Words By Wildcats is now available. Read intriguing opinion pieces, exciting entertainment articles, school sports coverage, and exclusive articles, all written by our hard working journalists.

Music

The Music Department is selling tasty, yummy and spooky Coffee Tea and Hot Chocolate in partnership with the Deadly Grounds Coffee Company! Your support will help us continue to replace instruments that are older than Mr. Harrison! Available to order on [school cash online](#) until April 19, 2022.

GWW World Languages Club

Hey Wildcats, From April 4th to 12th, the Interact-Rotary, Academic Assistance from a Distance, and the GWW world languages clubs will collaboratively be running a book drive! We are collecting books of all languages as well as age groups, from children's books to your parents' old classics and nonfiction books! There will be boxes set up at each school entrance, and both students and teachers are encouraged to bring in as many books as they can! The books will be sorted and donated to multiple local causes after collection. Bring those books in!

Sports Highlights

On Thursday night the junior girls volleyball team faced off against Thornlea secondary school in the YRAA championship finals. The match started off a bit rocky but our girls fought back to close the gap on the opposing lead. However, in the end it wasn't enough to take the win. Despite coming in second, Ms. Goodman and Ms. Williams are proud of you girls! Coming top 2 in a 30 team division is a great accomplishment! We can't wait for next season! Great job girls!

Info for Graduates - 2022

Attention Grade 12's. Do you reminisce about your time at Williams? Do you look forward to what the future holds? Do you wish to inspire others? Are you comfortable speaking in larger settings? If this sounds like someone you know, then this announcement is for you! It's that time of year again. Nominations for Valedictorian are open, and close on Wednesday, April 13th. Check out the post on Williams Instagram Page or the Grade 12 Guidance Google Classroom for a link to the nomination form, for your chance to be the voice of the graduating class of 2022! See Mr. Fuller or Mrs. Kelly if you have any questions

Great news grade 12 students! Grad Hoodies are now ready for order. You can check out the available sweater design, colour, size, and personalization options on the posters around the school, on the Dr. G.W. Williams' instagram account (@drgwwilliams), and in the poster attached [here](#). Available to order on [School Cash Online](#) until Monday, April 11, 2022.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating the graduates of 2022 with an in person graduation ceremony to be held at the [Aurora Community Centre](#). Please **save the evening of Tuesday, June 28, 2022** for this very important occasion. More details to follow.

We will be having the photographers back into our building to finish the Graduation portraits on April 26th, 27th and 28th. We will be contacting all Graduates who have not had their photo completed to book a time to be photographed. Notifications will be sent out early next week to all students who have not had their photo done. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Mckie in our main office at Ext. 152.

YRDSB - News and Events

NEW 2022-2023 Budget Consultation Process - YRDSB

York Region District School Board invites families and community members to participate in the annual budget consultation process. Public feedback provides the Board with important information about how the community would like to see YRDSB's budget allocated to better support student achievement and well-being. The results of the consultation will be used to inform the 2022-23 school year budget allocation. Please see [here](#) for more information. YRDSB has created a [survey](#) to gather community feedback into the budget process. The survey will be available for completion until Monday, April 25, 2022.

One Small Thing Campaign

YRDSB is once again encouraging staff and students to do "One Small Thing" to enhance their mental health and well-being. The One Small Thing concept is the belief that small and intentional actions or affirmations can lead to meaningful outcomes or change. At the start of the year, YRDSB launched a series of lessons for students focused on the ABCs of Mental Health ([Acknowledge, Bridge and Connect](#)). The One Small Thing campaign being rolled out in our schools, builds on that work to support positive mindsets and actions and is informed by students' and staff voices. The One Small Thing campaign will be released throughout the remainder of the school year through family mental health newsletters and social media with more exciting pieces coming! What one small thing can you do? Please see [here](#) for more information.

Notices

NEW April 13, 2022 is the **International Day of Pink**. The International Day of Pink is a day when communities across Canada and across the world unite to celebrate diversity and raise awareness about the need to stop homophobia, transphobia, discrimination and all forms of bullying. On this annual day in April, individuals wear pink to show respect for diversity and to demonstrate support for learning and working environments which are safe and inclusive of people from all different backgrounds.

NEW The Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre together with FSWC, CSYV, Azrieli Foundation, Facing History, and March of the Living is honoured to present an in person community-wide Yom HaShoah commemoration on Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 pm at Earl Bales Park. Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW *Periphery Curriculum Workshop* on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 6:30 PM 8:00 pm. No Silence on Race, the Ontario Jewish Archives and Facing History and Ourselves are pleased to launch Periphery film curriculum and educator resources. Periphery is an evocative photographic and film project that bears witness to ethnic diversity in the Jewish community. This event is to engage Jewish and non-Jewish teachers grade 8-12, adult educators, and community members in a conversation about the history and identities of multiracial and multiethnic Jews in Canada through Periphery curriculum. We will explore how to connect Periphery to learning and engagement in the classroom on issues related to intersectional identity, Jewish identity, race, antisemitism, multiculturalism in Canada and social justice. Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW TVO Mathify offers seamless school-to-home math learning with an interactive classroom tool, and free one-on-one, online after school math tutoring. Transform where and how Grade 4-11 students in Ontario learn math. Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW The Prime Minister's Youth Council is now accepting applications. This is a group of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues of importance to them and to all Canadians. The Prime Minister's Youth Council is one mechanism to support the Government's commitment to listen to young people in Canada and engage them in this dialogue. The deadline to apply is April 24, 2022. Please see [here](#) to apply.

NEW The Alliance of Educators for Black Students invites Black students who are graduating from a high school in the York Region District School Board to apply for our 2022 scholarships. The deadline is Monday, May 16, 2022. A.E.B.S. Scholarships will be distributed to students on June 8th, 2022. Please see [here](#) to apply.

NEW Join us for a free information session brought to you in partnership with Community Living York South, Spirit of Life and Inclusive School and Community Services of York Region District School Board. This virtual session in Mandarin and Tamil will provide information on funding and resources to families with developmental or physical disabilities and special needs. On Wednesday April 27th, 2022 from 6:30-8:00pm. Please see [here](#) for more information.

NEW YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. Please see their latest newsletter in the link below. [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#). April Edition

NEW Please see this [message from York Region Public Health](#) related to COVID-19 vaccine clinics being held during April.

Saturday, April 2, marked the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. During this month, Muslims all over the world celebrate by holding gatherings, offering special prayers at the mosque, reading the holy book Quran, and fasting from sunrise to sunset. Fasting is mandatory as it is one of the 5 pillars of Islam. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, in which they exchange gifts, cook special meals, and visit family and friends.

We wish all of our students and staff a happy Ramadan!

In partnership with the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, the YRDSB invites classes in grades 7 to 12, parents/guardians, and greater community to attend a virtual live tour of the World Holocaust Memorial Center on April 27th, 2022 (Holocaust Memorial Day) . See [Flyer](#) for more details.

On April 28th, 2022 there will be a “Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust” Session for Students from Grade 7 to 12. Jewish resistance under Nazi rule involved organized underground activities conducted against German occupation regimes in Europe during World War II. This presentation breaks the illusion that Jews were passive during the Holocaust. Please see [Flyer](#) for more details.

The Ancestral Voices author series, featuring Canadian authors of Indigenous, Caribbean and African ancestry and descent presents: Author & Storyteller Sherry Lawson on Thursday, April 14, 2022 from 7-9 pm. Please see [Flyer](#) for more details.

The Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA) Scholarship is awarded to students who are entering their first year of full time postsecondary studies and demonstrate academic excellence and a commitment to community service in order to break down barriers and build inclusive spaces. See [here](#) for more details. [Application deadline extended to April 14, 2022](#)

In solidarity with all of those in our community with family and loved ones impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, please [visit our website](#) to see some services currently available to families.

Update to Inclement Weather Day Procedures

Beginning in November 2020, Inclement Weather *Interim* Procedures were developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that many COVID-19 restrictions were recently lifted by the provincial government, [effective Tuesday, March 29, 2022](#), we will be returning to our previous practice for inclement weather. **This means that when student transportation (buses and taxis) are cancelled due to inclement weather, school will remain open to students.** You can find more information about winter inclement weather and school transportation cancellations on our [website](#).

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca to report absences. All absences must be justified with a reason.

If students are required to self-isolate due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, please indicate that in your email as this is coded differently and is not reflected on the attendance tally reported on the student report card. Additionally, your child's Vice Principal (Ms. Conlon A-Li, Mr. Gazaneo Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more of COVID-19 symptoms. Please see the screening tool [here](#).

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine), must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

Daily Announcements

Our announcements are posted to the school website each day for students and parents to access under the [News & Events](#) heading. We will have a text version of all announcements that will be updated each day. We hope that this addition will help our school community (and especially our remote learners that aren't here to hear the announcements each day) to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Guidance

Continuing Education

- **NEW** Continuing Education is offering several Pathway program opportunities this summer, including: Dual Credits, Youth Innovation by Design IDC Course, and in person Co-op (1 and 2 credit programs). Spaces are very limited in each program and will be decided on a first-come-first serve basis. Grade 12 students requiring 1 credit to graduate will be given priority in 1 and 2 Credit Co-op programs. [Click Here for more information.](#)

Dual Credit

- Registration is now open for Spring dual credits in Semester 2! These are condensed courses that begin mid-April to June. Please speak with your counsellor to enquire about registering.

New Construction SHSM

The Dr. G.W. Williams has been approved for a new Construction SHSM beginning in September 2022. Registration can begin immediately. Please speak with your counsellor for more information.

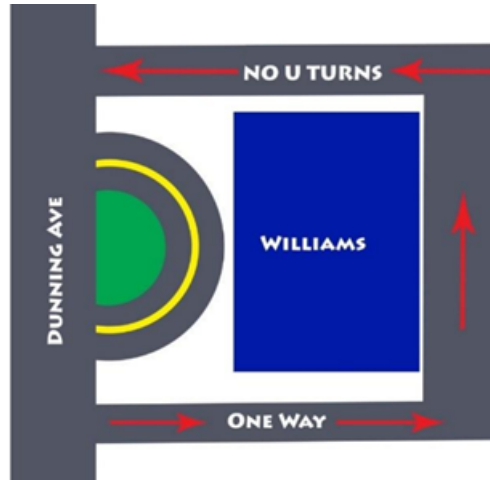
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

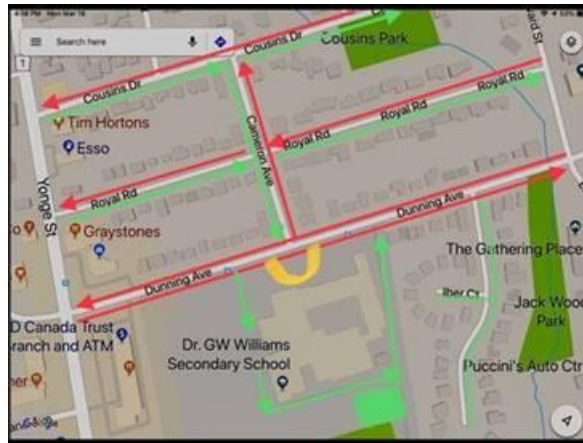
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 2:40, 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.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022
- Prom - Thursday, June 16, 2022
- Graduation Ceremony - Tuesday, June 28, 2022

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

- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2021-2022

- Monday May 16, 2022