



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 9- 13, 2022

Trait of the Month: Integrity

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/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
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Contact Us

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Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal
Diane Conlon, VP (A-Li)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Lo-Z)

Extensions:

Reception 0
Attendance 1
e 3
Guidance 4
Staff
Directory

Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40
Period 3 9:45-11:00
Lunch 11:00-11:50
Period 2 11:50-1:05
Period 4 1:10-2:25

This week:

May 9	IB Math Exam (9:00-10:30)
May 10	Girls Rugby Team at Huron Heights - 3:00 pm Girls Soccer Team at Dr. J M Denison - 3:30 pm National Denim Day - wear denim today! (see explanation under Notices)
May 11	IB Biology Exam (12:00-12:45, 1:00-2:15) Flag Football Team at Newmarket HS - 3:15 pm Senior Boys Rugby Team v.s. St. Joan of Arc & Sacred Heart - 3:00 pm (Home Game)
May 12	Girls Soccer Team at Renaissance ESC - 3:30 pm Flag Football Team vs. Aurora HS - 3:15 pm (Home Game) CHEM 13 News Exam - Grade 12 IB English Exam (12:00-2:15)
May 13	

Upcoming:

May 16	IB Spanish Exam (12:00-1:15, 1:30-2:30) Girls Soccer Team vs. Richmond Hill HS - 3:30 pm (at Sheppards Bush Soccer Fields) School Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
May 17	IB Spanish Exam (8:40-9:25) Girls Rugby Team at JM Denison SS - 3:00 pm Flag Football Team vs. Our Lady of the Lake - 4:30 pm (at Aurora HS)
May 18	IB Chemistry Exam (12:00-1:00, 1:15-3:30) Girls Soccer Team at Richmond Green SS - 3:30 pm Senior Boys Rugby Team vs. Bill Hogarth SS & Stouffville - 4:00 pm (Home Game)
May 19	Avogadro Chemistry Contest - Grade 11 (Period 4) IB French Exam (12:00-1:15, 1:30-2:30) Track and Field Event - YRAA Competition - 8:00 am (at Bill Crothers SS)
May 20	IB French Exam (10:00-10:45) Track and Field Event - YRAA Competition - 8:00 am (at Bill Crothers SS)

Message from the Principal

Spring is in the air and our spring teams have taken off! We are excited to have gotten our fields open this week for classroom use as well as practices and games.

A Wildcat Shout-Out is extended to Ms. Pin and Ms. Sakhuja for securing \$12000 worth of robotics equipment for our Robotics Club. The club entered their first competition this past weekend with Skills Ontario. Although not all of our equipment arrived in time for this competition the students learned about team work on a larger scale as they received support from other schools to allow the completion of their entry. The team has learned a lot and will continue to build to come out stronger next year. This was a great first year for the team and we are so proud of everyone's efforts.

The grad and prom committees are hard at work creating memorable opportunities for the Class of 2022. Prom tickets will go on sale shortly at a cost of \$85/person. Keep an eye on School Cash Online for the details. All students purchasing prom tickets will need to complete a permission form and attend the prom assembly to participate in prom.

We hope the students enjoy a longer weekend and use the opportunity to get outside in this nicer weather (although we know that our IB students are studying that can get done outside too). Staff have been busy with professional development today and have engaged in a variety of opportunities provided for them.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Info for Graduates - 2022

NEW Thank you to all grade 12's who voted for valedictorian for the Graduating Class of 2022. We had 8 wonderful candidates who all would have been excellent in the role. Congratulations to this year's valedictorian of the Graduating Class of 2022, Alex R.! We look forward to your address at our graduation ceremony.

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.

The grad fees have now been reposted for families on School Cash Online. There are 2 options: \$45 (+3% online fee) for those that still need a cap and gown and \$25.58 (+3% online fee) for those that already purchased a cap and gown in the fall. We want all students to be able to attend graduation should they choose. If the fee is a barrier to attendance, please speak to your child's Vice Principal or Guidance Counsellor and we are happy to support and ensure that your child can attend with their peers.

Club Highlights

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Buy a **Booster Juice** voucher to support your local school newspaper! 1 for \$6.50, 5 for \$31 and 10 for \$60. The vouchers can be purchased now through May 13, on [school cash online](#). Thank you for your support!

Williams Wildcats Robotics Team

Williams Wildcats Robotics Team submitted their videos for the 2022 Virtual Skills Competition, which was a combination of both a driver run(controller-driven) and autonomous run(program-code only) for 1 minute each. The students worked diligently, oftentimes staying late after school to build, code and test their robot. What makes this accomplishment more amazing is the fact that they didn't even have a competition robot one week prior. Due to back-order and shipment issues, Williams did not receive their robotics equipment in time so thankfully, Milliken Mills High School in Markham lent us one of their starter kit robots, which although was not a Super Kit, was enough for us to participate in the competition. They also reached out to Mulock SS in Newmarket who lent us some additional parts needed to get our robot competition ready. Despite all these challenges and time restraints, the team successfully achieved a combined score of 270 points. This was truly an example of resilience, innovation and collaboration within the Williams community as well as the supporting schools within the board. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together to help our team achieve these great results. We would also like to acknowledge the amazing work of our robotics club members who supported our Williams Wildcats Robotics team which included Edan K., Mark J., Haneen A. and Matteo G. They are remarkable students who have truly made Williams proud. Results were released this week, and although we didn't make the podium, we feel like we've already won after what we were able to achieve in such a short amount of time.

NATIONAL DENIM DAY is on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. For the past 25 years, on National Denim Day, we invite all Canadians to join a national movement in support of the fight against breast cancer. Help fund life saving equipment. Covid-19 has created a cancer screening backlog that will take years to overcome. Later diagnosis means a lower chance of survival. You can help! OUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER. Here at Williams we will be celebrating the day with pink ribbons and lots of denim!!

You can donate to the Williams Wildcats Team [here](#). Our goal is \$2000! Any amount large or small helps. Thank you for your support!!!

YRDSB - News and Events

Tune In YRDSB

Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. Here we will explore a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond. We look forward to inspiring learning through storytelling. On today's episode of Tune In YRDSB, we will give you a quick update on what's been happening around the board, and what we have to look forward to in the coming weeks! Listen [here](#).

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.

Centre for Black Student Excellence

YRDSB is pleased to launch the Centre for Black Student Excellence, a space committed to the promotion of Dismantling Anti-Black racism and amplifying voices that have been historically marginalized. Learn about upcoming events, scholarship opportunities, community partners and about the SHINE podcast. We hope you enjoy our [newsletter](#) for the Centre for Black Student Excellence! For more information see [here](#).

Notices

NEW - The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is running a video contest. In an effort to showcase the diversity of voice in public schools across the province, OPSBA is asking students, staff, and school communities to submit a short clip (three to five seconds) holding a small sign with the phrase/image: "I ❤️ Public Education". Participants can write this in their "first language" (which may or may not be English) or any non-English language typically spoken at home. The submissions will be used to create a two to three minute video showing the full range of diversity of ages, faces, voices, and places that make up our provincial public schools, and their collective love of learning and the shared values of public education. For more information see [here](#).

NEW - Celebrate Asian Heritage Month on May 31, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Experience different Asian cultures and participate in an online experience with fun games, a talent show, cultural displays and more. Everyone is welcome! For more information see [here](#).

NEW - York Region District School Board in a collaborative partnership with Women's Support Network is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers, educators, staff and the community! On Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 10 am. For more information and to register see [here](#).

NEW - May is South Asian Heritage Month. Students in Grades 4-12, Families and Staff are invited to join a virtual session on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 pm with the Honourable Navdeep Bains as he shares with us his journey, experiences and life lessons. For more information and to register see [here](#).

The Public Property Assessment Network Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is being awarded through the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) to one recipient in the OPSBA Central East Region for three school years – 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Scholarship recipients are students of strong character, who care deeply about their communities and furthering their own learning. *Applications due by May 20, 2022.* For more information see [here](#).

Are you entering grade 10 in September 2022? Do you self-identify as Black? Are you a YRDSB Student? Are you interested in earning a high school credit? *The Come Up* is a unique identity-affirming summer experience. Students will engage in meaningful discussions and activities that will empower them to pursue excellence in high school and beyond. Students will also earn a credit upon successful completion of the program. From July 6 - July 29, 2022 (Monday-Friday). *Register by May 21, 2022.* For more information or to register see [here](#).

Settlement Education Partnership in York Region (SEPYR) is happy to provide a Jewish Heritage Month Live Tour exploring highlights of the spectacular new exhibits at the world-renowned Museum of the Jewish People to learn about the unique and ongoing story of the Jewish People. We will make stops on each of 3 expansive floors of the new building, where the diversity of the Jewish world is revealed through extraordinary artifacts, state-of-the-art displays, immersive video and world-class art. This event will be held on May 17, 2022 at 10 am. For more information and to register see [here](#).

Black Youth Helpline National is pleased to announce that our STAY IN SCHOOL PROGRAM and support services for Canadian Youth is now Canadian wide!! The Black Youth Helpline is helping Canada's children and youth remain and succeed in school and community. For more information see [here](#).

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. May's Mental Health Newsletter has a focus on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. Please see their latest newsletter in the link below.

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. *Applications due by Monday, May 16, 2022.* A.E.B.S. Scholarships will be distributed to students on June 8th, 2022. Please see [here](#) to apply.

In solidarity with all 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.

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

Check out the [YRDSB’s 2022 Summer Learning Opportunities website](#) to learn more about summer school options. Summer school registration is filling up quickly. Information can be located on the YRDSB’s [“How to Register”](#) page. Registration can be completed through a student’s My [Pathway Planner account](#). Speak to your Guidance counsellor if you have any questions.

Mr. Fuller mark.fuller@yrdsb.ca Last Names A-H	Mr. Manson patrick.manson@yrdsb.ca Last Names I - Q	Ms. Durbacz sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca Last Names R - Z
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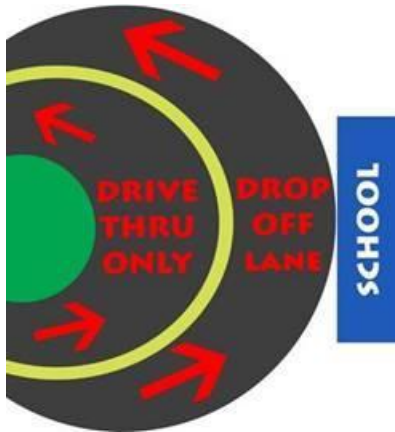
New Construction SHSM

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.

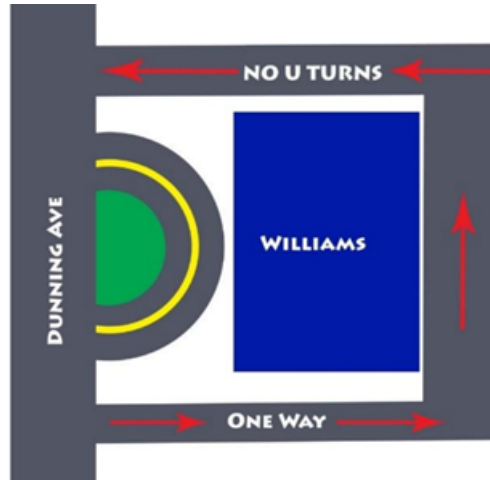
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

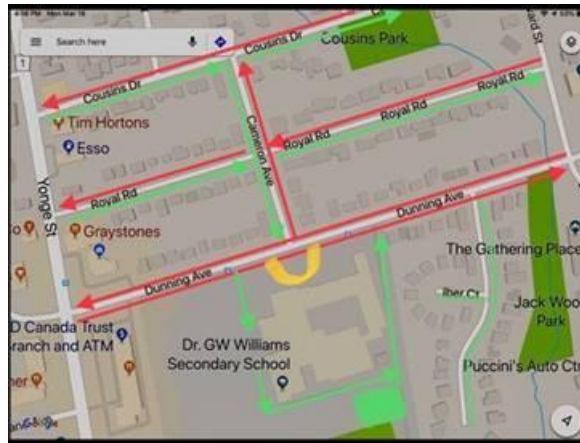
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

- 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