



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: April 4 - 8, 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/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

This week:

Ramadan - April 2 - May 1, 2022, also spelled Ramazan, is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

Apr. 4	Staff Meeting 2:40 - 3:55 pm Jr. Badminton Game at Cardinal Carter CHS 3:00 pm Jr. Volleyball Semi-Final Game at Bur Oak SS 3:30 pm Jr. Basketball Semi-Final Game at Richmond Green SS 4:00 pm Coed Curling Team Semi Playoffs at York Curling Club 2:30 pm EDSBY will close at 9 am to parents. Parents will not be able to book teacher interview times on EDSBY after this time. <i>Virtual Meeting Links to be sent to Families from the teachers</i>
Apr. 5	Waterloo Math Contests (Euclid) Sr. Badminton Game at Huron Heights SS - 3:45 pm <i>Virtual Meeting Links to be sent to Families from the teachers</i>
Apr. 6	Jr. Badminton Game vs. Huron Heights SS - 4:00 pm (Home Game) Tartan Day - <i>Tartans of all varieties are worn on Tartan Day, which recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Scots and their descendants in Canada.</i>
Apr. 7	Virtual Teacher Interview Night 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Apr. 8	

Upcoming:

Apr. 11	
Apr. 12	Term 3 Ends Waterloo Math Contest (FGH)
Apr. 13	Term 4 Starts
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. The date of Good Friday varies from one year to the next on both the Gregorian (Western) and Julian (Eastern) calendars.

Message from the Principal

Welcome to April and what might be spring. It is hard to say that with a straightface when it was snowing this morning!! This coming month is extremely busy and will be over before we know it.

Our winter sports team have had an amazing run this season. It was so great to be in a full gym of spectators last night for the Junior Boys Basketball. It has been hard not being able to split myself in enough ways to get to all the games for all of our teams though as they are all excelling. Monday night is going to be a big night for curling, volleyball and basketball as they all compete in semi-finals for their respective sports. Please take the opportunity to cheer on our Wildcats if you can!!

By now all families should have received Interim Reports and booked Teacher Interviews for next Thursday to discuss progress. The mid term reports will also be out later this month and hopefully will show some progress from the initial reports with the support of teachers and families for those that need that additional assistance.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Office Updates

Thank you for your information updates and information changes left on our Edsby Account. We do not monitor the Edsby account for any information changes. We only use the Edsby booking feature for our Teacher interview process. Please in future send in your requests to our School account or call the Main office and we will be happy to make the changes and update your child's records. You can reach us at 905-727-3131.

Club Highlights

Helping Hands Club Collects for the Aurora Food Pantry

The Helping Hands Club will be collecting food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry on **Saturday, April 2nd from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

Students will be collecting food from the following streets:

Davis Rd.	Childs Dr.	Henderson Dr.	Tamarac Trail	Casey Crt.
Richardson Dr.	Murray Dr.	Poplar Cres.	Thompkins Cres.	Caruso Gardens

We are asking if Williams students who live on these streets could leave some food donations on their front porch/driveway by 10 am on Saturday, April 2, 2002 that would be greatly appreciated. We will not be ringing any doorbells. It will be a drive by and pick up situation. Thank you for your generous support!

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!

MUN - Model United Nations Club

Model United Nations is up and running and we're looking forward to having our first ever in-person lesson next Monday, April 4th in the library after school! Regardless of your prior experience with MUN, it's easy to pick up and fun for everyone! If you're looking to improve your public speaking, learn transformative research skills, or join a new community, Model United Nations is the club for you! We hope to see you all there!

Sports Highlights

- On Tuesday afternoon the Jr. Boys basketball team took on Huron Heights in the sweet 16 of the YRAA playoffs. After a slow start, your Wildcats stepped on the gas and cruised to an 81-56 victory.
- On Wednesday the Jr. Girls volleyball team kicked off their playoff game against a very strong Richmond Hill High School. With a tough loss in the first set, the girls found their groove taking a win in the second. The 3rd set put the girls to the test, but they fought their way to a win after being down several points. The next match against Father Bresanni had us all on the edge of our seats! After winning the first set Williams and Bresanni fought point for point both pushing 30 points with the opposition taking the set. Williams redeemed themselves in the third and final set leaving no room for chance. The girls came out victorious and will be playing in the Semi finals next week! Congratulations girls and good luck in the Semis!
- For the first time since 1998/1999 The Dr. G.W. Williams S.S. has a team in the YRAA Junior Tier 1 final four basketball championships. In front of a packed house in the Williams gym your Wildcats battled with season rival Sacred Heart in a back and forth nail biter. Trailing early in the game, the junior boys turned up the intensity on "D" and stalled the Sacred Heart offense.. After 2 quarters of intense play the game was tied 52-52 with 33 seconds left. Final score Wildcats 55 Sacred Heart 53. The whole team would like to thank all the staff and students who came to the game and cheered us on to victory.
Semi Finals Monday April 4, 2022 at Richmond Green. Game time 4:00pm. All fans are welcome. Go Wildcats!!

Info for Graduates - 2022

NEW 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.

NEW 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.

NEW 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.

Notices

NEW 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.

NEW 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.

NEW 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.

NEW 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, 2002, 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 drgwwilliamsss.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.

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

Information regarding the 2022-2023 Secondary Virtual School

Emails were sent home to families regarding requests to change to the Virtual Secondary School learning model for the 2022-2023 school year. This includes start and end times, programs and offerings, etc.

- For more information please visit the following link.

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.

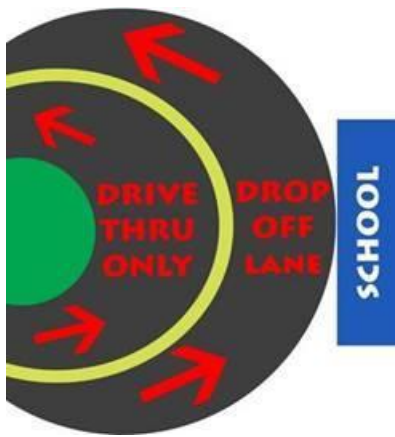
New Construction SHSM

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.

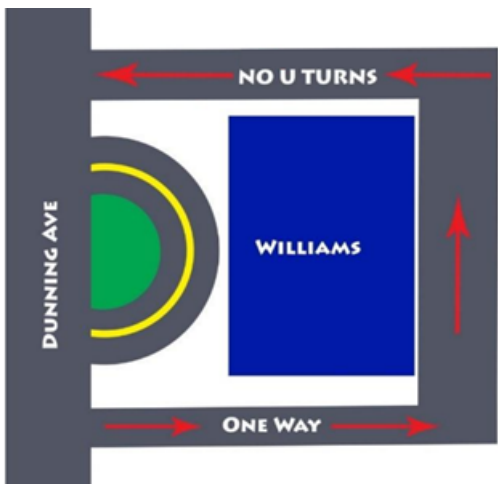
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

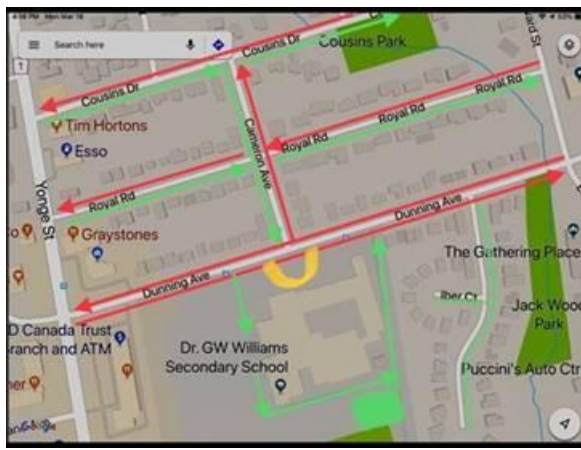
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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