



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: June 27-30, 2022

Trait of the Month: Perseverance

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://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>  
**Email:** [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

**Social Media:** [@drgwwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))  
**Attendance:** [drgwwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

## 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  
Guidance 3  
Staff 4  
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:

<b>June 27</b>	Block 4 Classes - Culminating Activity Day by appointment
<b>June 28</b>	Culminating Support Day <b>Graduation Ceremony - 7:00 pm, Aurora Community Centre</b>
<b>June 29</b>	Feedback Day P1 8:20 – 9:05 P2 9:10 – 9:45 P3 9:50 – 10:25 P4 10:30 – 11:05  <b>Lockers must be emptied with the door open and secured (locked) on the hasp by noon this day at the latest.</b> Belongs left behind will be removed and thrown out or donated to charity (as appropriate) after this date. Locker clean-out occurred on June 15th and students have been reminded multiple times since then to complete this task. Students in Grade 9-11 will be assigned the same locker and combination throughout high school.
<b>June 30</b>	<b>PA DAY</b>
	SUMMER HOLIDAYS!!

## Upcoming: 2022/2023 School Year

<b>September 5</b>	Labour Day
<b>September 6</b>	<b>PA DAY</b>
<b>September 7</b>	First Day of School for Grade 9's (Grade 10-12 <u>do not</u> attend)
<b>September 8</b>	First Day of School for Grade 10-12's (Grade 9 students also attend)
<b>September 9</b>	

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

The end of the year has arrived! This week students and staff have been busy working through culminating activities and supporting the demonstration of learning to improve overall student achievement.

On Tuesday night I had the pleasure of attending the Athletic Banquet honouring the contributions of our athletes throughout this year. It was great to celebrate with over 100 student athletes and coaches the successes they have had this year.

We look forward to celebrating our in-person graduation on Tuesday with our 300+ graduates and 1000 family members. To our graduates, we want to remind them that "It's about the journey, not the destination."

This will be our last Tell of the school year, on behalf of the administration and staff at Williams we wish all of our students and families a safe and restful summer. We have one retirement this year, Ms. Karen Armata after a long and dedicated career. We wish her well as she enters into this next phase of her life and thank her for the commitment to our students. Additionally, we want to thank Ms. Diane Conlon for her work at Williams over the last 4 years and wish her well as she moves onto Richmond Green SS for September. Her caring, dedicated approach to all student issues and her commitment to strong instructional practices has been greatly appreciated. We will be welcoming Ms. Susie Mitchell to Williams next year as the Vice Principal supporting the A-Li students and families.

See you in September!!  
All the best,  
Melissa Schmidt

The YRDSB Survey for Students & Families will take place from June 1-30 and is an opportunity for students & families to share their experiences of learning from the past school year. Student and family voice is important to us. The York Region District School Board will be conducting two surveys to collect feedback from students (Grades 7-12) and families (Grades K-12) to understand their experiences of learning during this school year. The surveys will be available to be completed online between June 1 and June 30, 2022. For more information see [here](#).

**We hope that parents will also take some time to provide us with input for our planning and programming. Check with your child to ensure that they have had the opportunity to complete the survey as well.**

## Bell Schedule for the 2022/2023 School Year

Our enrollment for next year is almost 1400 students and we anticipate having 90 full-time teachers. Due to our increase in size we will be returning to a 5 period day with school running from 8:20 am to 3:00 pm each day. Students will typically have a Period 3 (Grade 9 & 11) or Period 4 (Grade 10) lunch. Grade 12 students could have either lunch with a few students based on their course selection having a Period 2 lunch.

The schedule for Dr. G.W. Williams S.S. for the 2022-2023 school year is:

Schedule	Start	End
Homeroom (5 min)	8:20 AM	8:25 AM
Period 1 (75 min)	8:25 AM	9:40 AM
Period 2 (75 min)	9:45 AM	11:00 AM
Period 3 (75 min)	11:05 AM	12:20 PM
Period 4 (75 min)	12:25 PM	1:40 PM
Period 5 (75 min)	1:45 PM	3:00 PM

The [Student Summer Mental Health Well-Being Guide](#) is a collection of resources, events, and strategies/tips to support student well-being over the summer months. As we end the school year and enter the summer months, we pause to acknowledge moments of hope, courage, joy and resilience. We also acknowledge the many realities that impact our mental health and well-being. The summer months may look different for each household. However you and your family spend the summer months, we hope this guide can provide helpful tips for maintaining positive mental health and well-being.

### **WEEKLY NEWS FEED:**

#### **Notices**

**NEW** - Read the latest edition of the Jumpstart Newsletter! From the YRDSB Pathways department in Curriculum & Instructional Services. To read see [here](#).

**NEW** - The Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA) presents a workshop on Intergenerational Trauma and impacts following generations, often manifesting in physical and mental illness. June 21st from 7:00-8:00 p.m. For more information see [here](#).

The Nubian Book Club will be continuing for the summer of 2022. With the ongoing uncertainties around the pandemic, we will participate virtually once again. Please save the following dates for a 6:30 pm start: Thursday July 7, July 21, and August 4, 2022. This year's book club theme is, "It Matters: Identity and Solidarity". The mentor text will be "Beatrice and Croc Harry" by Lawrence Hill. This is a novel geared toward the youth. The aim with this year's book club is to centre and elevate student voice as the focus of discussion. For more information and to register see [here](#).

Centre for Black Student Excellence is 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 June [newsletter](#) ! For more information see [here](#).

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. June's Mental Health Newsletter for families and caregivers has a focus on the end of the school year and Navigating Uncharted Territories. Please see their latest newsletter [here](#).

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. Listen to the latest episode of the *Tune In YRDSB podcast* [here](#).

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#### **Guidance**

##### **YRDSB Secondary Online Learning Graduation Requirement & Opt Out Process**

Earlier this year, the Government of Ontario announced that students (beginning with those currently in Grade 10) must complete two Online Learning credits as a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Please [read more about the requirements for students and the opt out process](#). This information is available in multiple languages. For further information please visit our [Online Learning Graduation Requirement Frequently Asked Questions](#) for families.

##### **Indigenous Languages and International Languages Secondary Credit Program**

Want to learn a new language and earn a credit? Sign up through Indigenous Languages and International Languages Secondary Credit Program [website](#).

##### **NEW - Aquatic Leadership Program**

Part 1 of the Aquatic Leadership Program will be offered in the fall 2022. Successful students will be able to acquire the Healthy Living and Aquatic Activities Grade 10 credit (PAQ2O1) along with the Lifesaving Society's Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and Standard First Aid with CPR-C Certifications. Please speak with your guidance counsellor if you have any questions.

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#### **School Calendar for 2021-2022**

- Graduation Ceremony - 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 28, 2022

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

- Thursday June 30, 2022

#### **School Council Meetings for 2021-2022**

- No meeting scheduled in June

