



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Friday June 12, 2020

*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.*

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## Contact Us

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## Message from the Principal

We are looking forward to seeing our students next week as they come to empty their lockers and return texts, library books, athletic uniforms, musical instruments, etc. before the beginning of summer.

Please ensure that you have booked an appointment in Edsby. Thank you for working through this new system to book these appointments. We will continue to use this system in the coming year for Teacher Interview Bookings as well so the work we have done now will benefit us in the future.

All students/families will receive a personalized reminder regarding Material Retrieval over the weekend. This email will provide their locker number, combination, textbooks assigned to courses they are registered in, library books to return, technology to be returned (Grade 12s).

There is important, updated information regarding summer school that I would encourage everyone to take a look at below. The board and Ministry continue to look at a variety of opportunities to continue learning in the coming months.

Take care,  
Melissa

## Highlighting Our Students

### PPE

Throughout our time away from G.W. Williams, Emily Rudyk has been making a variety of masks and donating them to the members of our community. She has continued to make masks to help others through this the covid19 period and even has a video tutorial. We appreciate all your contributions to our community.

## Williams Announcements

### Material Retrieval and Return

Next week on Monday to Thursday we will be welcoming students to come back into the building **by appointment only**. If you forgot to make an appointment through Edsby, please contact the school via our email account to see if there is any space remaining.

- Students are expected to return all board owned equipment such as library books, textbooks, musical instruments, etc. Loaner technology may be kept for the summer **IF** the student is returning to a YRDSB school in September. If a student is graduating or leaving the board the equipment must be returned next week.
- Textbooks will be returned to the cafeteria. If a student has lost a textbook they will be able to pay for the replacement text using SchoolCashOnline.
- All student lockers must be emptied with the lock secured on the hasp inside the open locker. Students must take everything home with them (including garbage/recycling).
- Our graduates will have an opportunity to have a special graduation "selfie" snapshot while they are at school next week. This will be taken by staff and emailed to the student and their family.

### NEW! Course -Leadership & Peer Support

Does your child love helping others? Are they comfortable in leadership roles? Is community important to them? Do they thrive in team environments and enjoy working with people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, they would benefit from considering this new course offering beginning in September. We have been fortunate to receive additional staffing through Supports for Students funding to offer this new course and provide mentoring opportunities across the school to engage students in building resiliency skills and supporting their peers.

This grade 11 full credit course is being offered at Williams, beginning September 2020. The program is designed to help further develop student's leadership, interpersonal and communication skills while building their resume. Students will organize and participate in practical hands-on experiences while utilizing teamwork and mentoring opportunities throughout the school.

Interested students should reach out to [Guidance](#) right away to look at adding this course to their timetable for September.

### Williams Virtual Cookbook

In an effort to inspire, connect, comfort and help all of us with the daily task of cooking at home, we are curating a virtual pocket cookbook "What's Williams Cooking?" Students, Staff, Parents/Community are invited to contribute a favorite recipe or contribute a great take out meal to support our local restaurants. Please send your submission to [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca). Questions, comments and ideas are always welcome.

### Mental Health Resource

As we focus on keeping ourselves healthy and containing the spread of COVID-19, we must also keep ourselves mentally well. Guidance has created a quick reference guide for students who may need assistance. Please refer to the attachment for reference or visit [Mental Health Resource - Quick Reference Guide](#) on our schools website.

### Graduating Students

Student Council at Dr. G. W. Williams S. S. would like to highlight the wonderful Grade 12s graduating students this year on our Instagram [@gwwseniors2020](https://www.instagram.com/gwwseniors2020). We will be creating "future spotlights" for any graduate who wishes to participate.

Graduating students can send Student Council a photo of yourself, name, and post-secondary plans and council will create a little collage for you. It's a great way to celebrate each other's accomplishments and your journey at Williams. For students who are under 18 years old, please have a parent or guardian complete the following [permission form](#) and send it along with your picture and post-secondary plans. Please either complete this permission form either with an electronic signature or by printing it out and scanning it. Send the completed permission form and picture/ post-secondary plans to Ms. King at [hailey.king@gapps.yrdsb.ca](mailto:hailey.king@gapps.yrdsb.ca)

## YRDSB Community Announcements

### Mental Health Support Group

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues. PCMH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. PCMH believes in the promotion of family-centered principles of care.

- Does your child's anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or behaviour challenges make parenting difficult? Parents for Mental Health is providing a virtual Meeting **Monday, June 15, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.**

PCMH envisions a future in which children and youth with mental illness enjoy a high quality of life in welcoming and supportive communities. For more information and resources, please visit [www.pcmh.ca](http://www.pcmh.ca).

### Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC)

The Parent, Family and Community Engagement Committee (PEAC) is looking for new members. PEAC meetings are generally scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month. Members are required to attend a minimum of six meetings and will have opportunities to participate in other workshops and events. The first meeting date for the new membership is November 12, 2020.

- Parents/guardians interested in serving as a member of PEAC are asked to [submit an electronic application using the Google Form](#) by **June 15, 2020 (final deadline)** or calling **Education and Community Services at 905- 727-0022 ext. 2242** to submit a paper application. Further information about the role of PEAC may be found at the Ontario Ministry of Education website [School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees](#).

### Supporting Online Learning

While schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year, we will continue to support your child's learning and well-being. We know that learning at home looks different for each family. We have developed a number of resources and tips to help students and families, including:

- [How to log in and use online learning platforms](#), including Google, Edsby and D2L. Short videos are also available.
- [Tips for families to support online learning](#).
- [Student Tech Help form](#) for support with student technology provided by the Board and accessing online learning platforms.
- [Mental health and community resources](#) for students and families.
- [Resources for students with special education needs](#).

To learn more about our [Learning and Caring Plan](#), access these resources and more, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/covid19](http://www.yrdsb.ca/covid19). Google translate is available on our website.

### **NEW!** Summer School e-Learning

While schools remain closed, we continue to offer credit and non-credit summer school program opportunities for elementary and secondary students.

- Elementary Summer School (Grades 6-8)
- Summer School e-Learning (Secondary credit courses)
- Secondary Summer School (Acceleration courses, Credit Recovery/Reinforcement)

All programs will be offered in a remote learning environment with a mix of synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous learning. YRDSB continues to follow direction from the Ministry of Education and public health authorities to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. If there are any changes to our program delivery model, we will communicate those changes.

### **NEW!** Credit Upgrade - Grade 11-12 Math, Science, English Offered First 2 weeks (Session 1)

This credit upgrade mark will show up twice on the credit counselling summary because of full disclosure. The upgrade can be obtained in 2 weeks which is half the time of our accelerated program. Sign up using MYPathwayPlanner.

### Summer School e-Learning

Summer School Registration period for YRDSB students: **May 8, 2020 (noon) – June 25, 2020 (noon)**

Process:

- Choose a course, please note students may take only ONE summer school course, either online or in-person: Summer School e-Learning Courses.
- Contact your alpha Guidance Counsellor by email to obtain permission. Include the course chosen and verify you have the necessary prerequisite.

Last Names: A - I → Mr. Fuller: [mark.fuller@yrdsb.ca](mailto:mark.fuller@yrdsb.ca)

J - P → Ms. Wilmshurst: [debbie.wilmshurst@yrdsb.ca](mailto:debbie.wilmshurst@yrdsb.ca)

Q - Z → Ms. Durbacz: [sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca](mailto:sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca)

- Complete your Summer School e-Learning registration online at: [Summer School eLearning Registration](#).
- For further details and information please visit: [YRDSB Summer School e-Learning](#).

### Already signed up for Summer School? Please read this...

We have heard from YRDSB Continuing Education that some students have been double dipping and choosing the same course in both traditional e-Learning and Summer School Remote Learning. We currently have 190 students who are "double dipping". Students may only choose 1 and drop the other asap. Below is a chart that references the difference between the two.

	Summer School e-Learning	Secondary Summer School Remote Learning
Delivery Model	Online for entire course	Hybrid – online with possible face to face delivery (depending on Ministry directive)
Learning Platform	Brightspace D2L	Google Classroom/other Board approved platform
Course Content	Ministry authored (teacher modified)	Teacher Designed
Time	Flexible (6hrs per day min.)	8:45 a.m. – 3:33 p.m. (depending on Ministry directive)

If the student has chosen their summer course via MYPATHWAY – the course is a Secondary Summer School Remote Learning course. These classes begin July 6th. If the student has chosen their summer course via CONNECTTOLEARN – the course is a traditional e-learning course. These classes begin July 2nd.

Students signing up via MYPathway will choose a location for their course. Please note that students may receive an email in their gapps e-mail account stating that the location has changed. This in no way means that the course is cancelled but moved to another site. The benefit of Remote Learning (on-line) is that we don't have to cancel courses in the traditional way. Courses with low enrollments can be combined with students from other locations. School Sites are only being used for administrative purposes.

**NEW! Summer School (Spanish & Mandarin)**

Grade 8 Reach Ahead 2020 Summer Credit – Language Program & Grade 9 to 12 Students (Spanish & Mandarin)

- Grade 8 students can now take a Grade 9 credit course this summer in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Grades 9 to 12 students can now take Level B or C summer credit courses in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Prerequisites are not required for any Level B international languages course.
- This is an 18-day program (July 6 - 29, Monday to Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:33 p.m. daily) for one credit introductory (Level B) international languages course.

Register online using [myPathway Planner](#). Please refer to the My Pathway Planner [tip sheet](#) to register.

**Distance Learning Adult Programs Available**

We are still offering adult programs through distance learning. Improve your skills at home.

Courses available include:

- Adult Literacy and Basic Skills · English as a Second Language · Citizenship Classes · Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada

You can access learning by phone or online. You can register and start learning at any time.

- If you have a question or would like to register for a class, please: · Email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca).
- Call 905-731-9557 or 905-305-4122 and leave us a message.

**Reminder:**

By order of the Minister of Education, all publicly funded schools in Ontario will be closed until the end of this school year to interrupt the spread of COVID-19. Transportation services, continuing education, permit activities, before and after care programs and daycare are also closed. All school site amenities, including outdoor fields and play structures are closed to the public. Please visit the Board website for [more information](#).

During the school closure related to the current Pandemic, please refer to the attached links for more YRDSB information regarding [Novel Coronavirus Updates](#) and [Coronavirus FAQ](#).