



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Friday June 5, 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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School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

Instagram: [@drgwilliams](https://www.instagram.com/drgwilliams)

Contact Us

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Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

Message from the Principal

Many of us have been closely following the media and have experienced deep reactions when viewing responses worldwide to anti-black racism that is present in the deaths of black men, women and children over many years. It is important that as individuals we reflect on the emotions that the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing riots and protests have brought forward in us and members of our school community who are deeply affected by this violence. As a school, we have worked hard within our community to build a safe and inclusive space for all community members. We know that despite our best intentions, incidents like this highlight the real safety concerns that some members of our school community face. We need to support all members of our community to share their concerns and help us to continue to build upon successes and address any shortcomings in our work. We can't change what happened, we can commit our actions to do better. I am pleased to see this week that our student's @artsgww are expressing their feelings through their art work and sharing their thoughts and opening up the conversations that matter. In the words of Martin Luther King, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Those words couldn't be more true at this time. Now is not the time to be silent but to speak up and do what is right.

We sent a notice last night regarding setting up Edsby accounts to prepare for Student Material Retrieval and Return in the coming weeks. Those parents that already have active Edsby accounts do not need to take any action at this time. **Parents who had never set-up an Edsby account would have received an invitation via email last night.** Our apologies for any confusion in the initial messaging. **If you are not sure if you have an Edsby account, please use the email address this Newsletter was sent to as a login to the Edsby system. You may need to recover your password if you no longer know what it is.** More details on the process for accessing the school will be sent next week. Students will be able sign up for time to access the building during the week of June 15-19.

Planning for recognizing our graduates is ongoing. If you have ideas about ways we can highlight this milestone before the end of June, please forward your ideas to the school email account. A group of staff is getting together on Monday to review the board guidelines and determine next steps. We would love to hear from the school community.

Take care,
Melissa

Highlighting Our Students

HOSA

All of the members of HOSA and supervisor teacher (Ms. Almeida) would like to give an enormous thank you to Sydney Hoang - Williams HOSA president and chapter leader. She initiated the start of HOSA at Williams as a student in grade 10 and is graduating from our IB program this year to pursue post-secondary at the University of Waterloo. Congratulations and thank you Sydney for all your hard work and dedication to making HOSA a success!

Medical Math Competition

On May 28 and 29 a few of our Williams students participated in HOSA Canada's first ever *virtual* Spring Leadership Conference. These future health care professionals competed in various tests such as veterinary science, forensic medicine, and biomedical lab science. A big congratulations to Brian Park for placing 7th in the Medical Math competition.

PPE Production

A Group of Grade 10 student are hard a work creating 200 mask and shields to be sent to long term care facilities in need in our Area. Well done, Andrew Wen, Victor Su and Pepa Prochazka, you are making a difference in our community.

Williams Announcements

Valedictorian- Class of 2020!

Congratulations to Kerwin Ho, who has been named as the Valedictorian of the Graduating Class of 2020. Voted in by his peers, Kerwin has demonstrated an excellent commitment to academics, leadership, and the school community. Congratulations to Kerwin as well as all the wonderful nominees.

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. 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](#). 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

Post-Secondary Resource

Due to Post- Secondary School closures, apprenticeship programs, colleges and universities have created virtual tours available online for students who are interested in researching their educational options. For more information and to view the virtual tours, please click on these links: [Apprenticeship Programs](#), [Colleges](#), [Universities](#).

YRDSB Community Announcements

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. Google translate is available on our website.

Online Survey - Learning and Caring Plan

Your voice is important to us and we are asking for you to share your thoughts through a quick, [online survey](#). We are hoping to learn your thoughts and ideas in real-time about the [Learning and Caring Plan](#), until the end of this school year and to inform decision making for our return in September. You can participate anonymously and your responses will be confidential. As always, your participation is voluntary. Your responses will help our Board assess and inform best practices related to our programs and services.

Navigating Cyberbullying and Cyberviolence for Parents/Guardians of Grades 7-12 Students

Parents/Guardians are invited to this webinar and can register themselves for these 1-hour online safety webinars. **June 9 at 2:00 and June 11 at 7:00 pm.** There will be guest speakers from the field of cyber safety will advise parents/guardians on: navigating the risks of cyberbullying, sexual exploitation, and cyber violence; building healthy online relationships and safe spaces for students; and using the internet for positive purposes.

Regional Family Engagement

You are invited to join a unique and [FREE live tour from Beit Hatfutsot, The Museum of the Jewish People](#) live tour scheduled for **June 16th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.** The tour explores synagogues from diverse Jewish communities around the world including from the Caribbean, Egypt, Ukraine, Germany, India, Ancient Greece, Italy, and Poland. You will have the opportunity to view Beit Hatfutsot's world-renowned collection of synagogue models and their associated original artifacts.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please register using the [online registration form](#) by **June 12th** to book your spot for the live tour. This opportunity is made available for free to YRDSB students and their families. If you would like additional information about the tour and have any questions, please email YRDSB's Community Partnership Developer leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca. Alternatively, leave her a voicemail with your name and number at 905-727-0022 x 4101 and your call will be returned.

Black History Month Poster Contest Voting

During the month of February, York Region District School Board held a student poster contest to determine our official Black History Month poster for 2021. We received over 250 submissions, and a panel of experts has narrowed it down to four finalists. In order to determine the winner, the Board will be holding a virtual vote open to all YRDSB students and staff. Voting will take place via this [google form](#) that will also be distributed over social media. Last day of Voting will be **June 5.**

Summer School e-Learning

Included below is information regarding the Summer School e-Learning:

- Course dates: July 2, 2020 – July 27, 2020
- 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

J - P → Ms. Wilmshurst: debbie.wilmshurst@yrdsb.ca

Q - Z → Ms. Durbacz: 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](#).

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.
- 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](#).
