



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Friday June 19, 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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## Message from the Principal

This week we enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces in the school and appreciated all the material that was returned to the school. The staff that volunteered to come in and assist with the Material Retrieval days were so grateful to see so many smiling faces and to wish the students well as we head into the summer.

A highlight of our time in the building was the opportunity to personally congratulate and wish our graduates well. This certainly isn't the way we had hoped to end the year either. We look forward to the opportunity to celebrate them officially in the fall but we did try to make their last day a bit more special by marking it with a selfie of the occasion. We know it can't make up for the things that have been different this year but one day they will have this to show the next generation what it was like when they graduated. Today the board released a special musical send-off for our grads. Please see the details below and take a few minutes to watch the video.

Like me, I am sure many of you were anxiously awaiting the information today regarding the next school year from Premier Ford and Minister Lecce. Based on the information shared today, we look forward to working together in YRDSB in the coming weeks to outline the plan to support student learning in September. We are hopeful that we will be able to see everyone in the building with appropriate health protocols but are ready to do what it takes to support the best model for students in our board. Please be sure to follow all board communications for updates in the coming weeks. The board continues to gather input from parents, students and staff to support this planning.

Report cards will be emailed home by the board to families beginning on June 29. Please reach out this week if you have an email address to adjust.

Thank you for your ongoing support of students and teachers during the last 4 months. We know that students were successful because of all of the efforts between school and home.

Take care,  
Melissa

## Celebrating our Graduates

We are incredibly proud of our graduates and we know you are too! While we can't celebrate together this June, we're excited to share a few ways that you can help us celebrate the class of 2020.

### The Grad Cap Project

The Grad Cap Project is a way for members of our school communities to show their support for our graduates and to celebrate their achievements.

Staff members, students and families are encouraged to participate in the following ways:

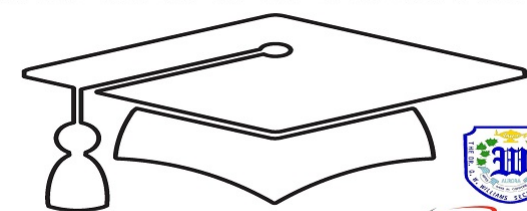
- Download the [YRDSB Grad Cap poster](#) and display it in a window for all to see.
  - You can also draw a custom Grad Cap image and display it.
- Flip your social media profile image to the Grad Cap image.
- Post the Grad Cap poster to your social media accounts with the hashtags #YRDSBgrad #GWWgrad

[Twitter Card Download](#)

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[Social Icon Download](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**CLASS OF 2020**



### Years in the Making Musical Send-Off

We all miss our students so much, and we wanted to say congratulations in a very special way so we put together a [musical send-off](#) with a very special guest. Please share this with your grad, and why not share it with your friends and family to help share some joy and celebrate the achievements of the class of 2020!

You can help to support the sharing of these musical send-offs by posting it to your social accounts or by reposting @YRDSB on Twitter or yrdsb.schools on Instagram. As well as our Instagram account [@drgwilliams](#).



Visit [YRDSB's graduation page](#) for more information and to access all of the materials and videos. You will also find video greetings from the Board Chair and our Student Trustees and a message from our Director.

### School Banners

In addition, feel free to stop by the school and take a photo of your grad in front of the congratulatory banner that has been affixed to the exterior of the school.

### Graduation 2020

Once we are able to plan graduation in the fall, we will need a way to easily reach our graduates. Today all grads received a form to complete with an email other than their GAPPS email (since it will close once they leave the school). Please check with your graduate to make sure they got this email and that they have submitted the required information. We will also post information on our website and social media platforms in the fall so everyone will be able to access the details once they are available.

**Congratulations Class of 2020!** We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments when we can all be together again.

## Williams Announcements

### **2019-2020 Yearbook**

Student who had purchased a yearbook for the 2019-2020 school year, the yearbook will be available in the fall.

### **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.

## 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](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)
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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.

**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](#).