



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: June 20-24, 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://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

June 20	Leadership Team meeting 2:40-3:55 pm (Library)
June 21	National Indigenous People Day - This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. GRADE 12s ONLY: Block 4 Classes - Culminating Activity Day, Grade 12s (PM); Grade 12 Regular classes Period 1 & 2 Last Day of Regular Classes for Grades 9-11 Athletic Banquet - 5:00 - 8:00 pm, School Cafeteria
June 22	Block 1 Classes - Culminating Activity Day by appointment
June 23	Block 3 Classes - Culminating Activity Day by appointment
June 24	Block 2 Classes - Culminating Activity Day by appointment

Upcoming:

June 27	Block 4 Classes - Culminating Activity Day by appointment
June 28	Culminating Support Day Graduation Ceremony - 7:00 pm, Aurora Community Centre
June 29	Feedback Day P1 8:20 – 9:05 P2 9:10 – 9:45 P3 9:50 – 10:25 P4 10:30 – 11:05
June 30	PA DAY
	SUMMER HOLIDAYS!!

Message from the Principal

On Thursday night we celebrated prom with over 275 Wildcats! It was a wonderful evening. Be sure to check the post on our Instagram page to see how much fun the students were having right up until the end of the night. We want to thank the prom committee and their Staff Advisors (Ms. Shillum, Ms. Isber, Ms. Hoffschmidt and Ms. Kelly) for all the work they put in to make this event a success. Graduates are reminded to ensure that they have RSVP'd to graduation and submitted the graduation fee (\$45) on School Cash Online (please connect with Guidance or a VP if this is a barrier to your child's attendance at the ceremony so that we can support).

As we look ahead to next year, the school Google calendar on our website has already been updated with all the important dates that we are aware of at this time. Please note that the day after Labour Day (traditionally the first day for Grade 9 students) is a PA Day this year. We will be welcoming Grade 9 students on Wednesday September 7 and all students on Thursday September 8.

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.

YRDSB is currently seeking [feedback on Student Dress Code Policy #635](#) and input on potential changes through [an online survey](#). Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. All input will be considered and used to help inform revisions to Policy #635. In **November 2022, a draft** of the proposed policy revisions will be presented to the Board and Trustees for a first review. Until a revised policy on student dress code is developed and approved, we will continue to following the existing policy, last revised in 2014 ensuring that our practices are safe, equitable, inclusive for all students, and operate through a culturally relevant and responsive, anti-racist and anti-oppressive lens. Please take the time to add your input and encourage your child to do the same **prior to the deadline of June 30, 2022**.

Take care,
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.

Culminating Activities

Culminating activities will begin on June 21st at 12:15 p.m. for Period 4 Grade 12 students and June 22 for all other students. These semester end evaluations allow students opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the 'overall expectations' for each of their courses. Evidence collected over time

from observations, conversations, and student products supports increased reliability and validity of the evaluation of student learning. Teachers will be focusing on opportunities for individual students to demonstrate their full understanding of the curriculum expectations with the emphasis on those students that have not yet achieved level 1. Please connect with your child's teacher if you have any questions about the culminating activities in their class and your student's ability to demonstrate their learning in the course. If your child does not have a culminating schedule for a course in the culminating period and still has work to complete, teachers will be available on the culminating day, that corresponds to their class period, to help support the students. Make sure to check with the individual teachers whether they are available on - line or in person on that day. The [culminating schedule](#) is available on the GWW Website under News and Events.

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Info for Graduates - 2022

We will be celebrating the graduates of 2022 with an in person graduation ceremony.

Location: [Aurora Community Centre](#)

Address: 1 Community Centre Lane

Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm (graduates arrive at 6:00 pm)

All graduates and parents received an email with important information regarding graduation. Please ensure that you have reviewed that information for important next steps regarding the planning of our celebration. SchoolCash Online is open for the 'Graduation Add-ons'.

Notices

NEW - To celebrate South Asian Heritage Month, ESSAH welcomes educators, families and community to our Chai House Read-In. Structured like a café house, our event allows attendees to participate as both audience members and presenters. To be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information and to register see [here](#).

NEW - 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](#).

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.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. Please see the screening tool [here](#).

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

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

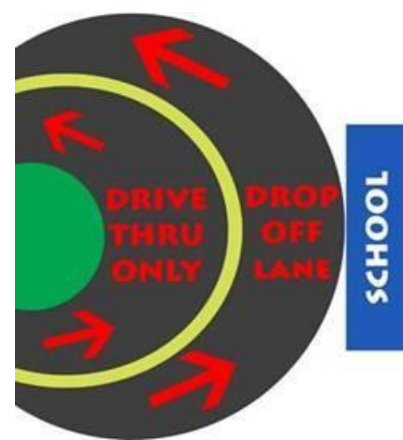
Want to learn a new language and earn a credit? Sign up through Indigenous Languages and International Languages Secondary Credit Program [website](#).

Safety and Community Notices

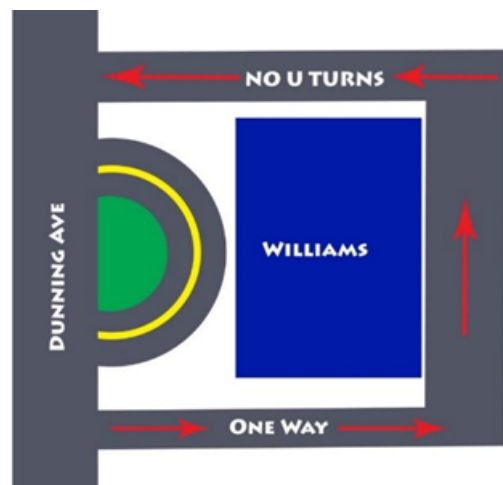
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

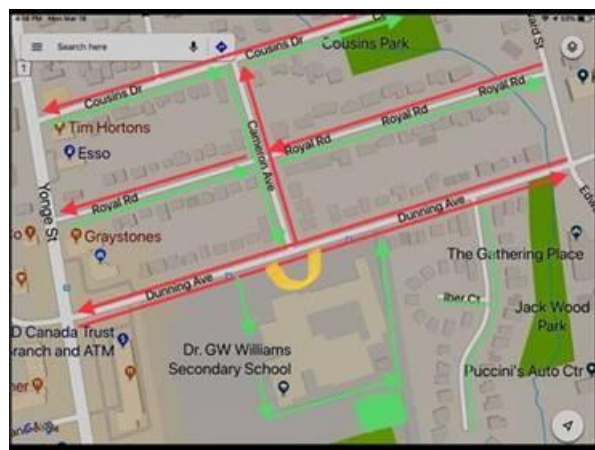
your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). Please see the maps below to support your efforts.



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

- Athletic Banquet, 5:00 - 8:00 pmpm, Tuesday, June 21, 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