



## Williams' Tell Weekly - Parent Edition

Week of: June 28 - July 2, 2021

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/>

Social Media: @drgwwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))

This is the final newsletter of 2020-2021. Wishing you a fabulous summer!

Mon. June 28	<b>Textbook and Material Returns - complete <a href="#">Google Form</a> to book an appointment</b>  8:20-3:00 PM: <b>Credit Conferencing and Rescue Day (All Secondary Schools)</b> These days are to support all students - (Grades 9 -12) in achieving credit success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers will support student completion of outstanding learning tasks.</li><li>• Teachers are encouraged to provide students involved in credit-rescuing activities on this day with information by Monday, June 14 and/or Wednesday, June 23 so that students may come prepared.</li><li>• ALL teachers of credit courses will be involved in credit conferencing and credit rescue activities and will not be delivering lessons.</li><li>• Class attendance will not be taken.</li></ul>
Tues. June 29	<b>PA Day - No classes</b> <b>Textbook and Material Returns - complete <a href="#">Google Form</a> to book an appointment</b>

### Message from the Principal

Congratulations to our Class of 2021!! We are grateful that we had a beautiful (albeit windy) day on Thursday to celebrate the 185 graduates that came with their families to the school for our drive thru graduation celebration. As a perfect wrap-up to an unusual year, we held an unconventional graduation event that allowed our students and families to come together in small groups to celebrate the achievements of our students. Our dedicated staff, led by the graduation committee were committed to ensuring that our graduates were acknowledged and celebrated before they leave Williams for the last time. Many of you may have even seen the clip from [CTV News](#) highlighting the celebration (If you haven't seen it, check out the story linked to their website-"Special send-off for Aurora students"). Our neighbours even got into the fun with signs recognizing the graduates and many families came with decorated vehicles to mark the occasion. We hope that this event was a memorable way for our students and families to wrap up this year. The celebrations aren't over yet though! We are still looking forward to the virtual graduation ceremony on July 5<sup>th</sup>.



Today we greeted many students coming to return textbooks, instruments and technology so that we can prepare for the coming school year. Anyone that still has materials to return but did not receive a personalized return email can click the link above to book an appointment for Monday or Tuesday (June 28 or 29).

We also have a number of staff who are 'graduating' from high school one last time!! On Tuesday the bell will ring one last time and close the chapter for three teachers who have completed long, dedicated careers serving students through academics and extra-curricular activities at Williams. We wish Mr. Bowles, Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Schultz well as they gain more freedom to spend with family and friends and pursue other passions in their lives. On behalf of the students, we thank them for their many years of dedication to the teaching profession and wish them well.

Every year there are a few staffing changes as we go from one year to the next. This year we want to thank Mr. Avery, Mr. Flavelle, Ms. Hopkins, Mr. Jeddi, Ms. Misquitta, Ms. Mo, Ms. Oprea and Ms. Woodruff for their commitment to Williams and wish them luck in their future. A few teachers will be on leave for all or part of next year for a variety of pursuits: Ms. Haynes, Ms. Kozai, Ms. Shillum and Ms. Yong and we look forward to their return before long.

As a growing school, almost 1400 students next year, we have had the benefit of hiring many new staff as well. We will look forward to introducing all of our new staff in the fall when we return to classes.

Over the summer we look forward to continued good news about the progress of vaccinations and control of COVID-19 to support a more typical return to the school year. We already know that students and staff will be in school all day, every day and we hope that continued positive reopening experiences this summer will support the Ministry of Education being able to allow more opportunities for us to return to the full variety of activities that makes Williams such a vibrant learning environment.

On behalf of the staff at Williams I personally want to thank our entire school community for coming together over this last year and supporting one another through the many challenges and changes that we have faced. It has not be easy for everyone. As a school community we were comforted with the support from students and parents throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing all returning students in September. Grade 9 students will begin on September 9 and the remainder of the school will begin on September 10.

Take care and stay safe this summer!  
Melissa Schmidt

### Notices

#### 2021 Online Summer Programs for Children, Youth and Families

Please visit [website](#) for a comprehensive list of opportunities, including those that are continuing and new programs and services, for children, youth and families.

#### Indigenous Languages and International Languages Elementary and Credit Registration for Fall 2021 now open!

Indigenous Languages and International Languages is pleased to let you know that registration is now open for 2021-2022 Elementary and Secondary programs. See [flyer](#) for more information.

#### Summer Up Programs:

[SUMMER UP 2021 - FLYER](#)

[GLOBAL HEALTH MINI-MASTERS](#)

[BRIGHTS LIGHTS IN THE LAB](#)

Contact Us  
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(P) 905-727-3131  
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Staff Directory 2  
Guidance 3

## MATHEMATICS - SOLVING MATH PROBLEMS IN EVERYDAY CONTEXTS

**2021-2022 Secondary Model** – as sent to all families by YRDSB on June 17th

Secondary schools are continuing to timetable for the 2021-2022 school year, keeping in mind requirements from the Ministry of Education and public health protocols. Beginning in September, pending confirmation from the Ministry of Education, we anticipate all secondary students to be attending school daily for the full school day. Our Board will continue to use the modified four course semester model (i.e., a rotation of two courses per day on a weekly basis). You will receive more information with schedules as timetables are finalized.

Please see this [video](#) regarding next school year’s learning model. We wish you and your loved ones a very safe, happy and enjoyable summer. There is so much to look forward to in the coming months and we can’t wait to welcome our students, staff and families back in person.

### **York Region Employers are Hiring!**

Learn how to connect to the Job Bank mobile app to seek your summer job. See [flyer](#) for more information.

### **Virtual Model Parliament**

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario is happy to announce the launch of a NEW Virtual Model Parliament Program. This program will culminate in a 2-day online debate on December 10th and 11th, 2021. See [flyer](#) for more information.

### **Nubian Book Club**

Each year Nubian Book Club has explored aspects of Blackness through reading and discussion. This summer they wish to explore how abolitionist teaching could aid in the quest for Black students to have educational freedom. Their conversations will work to support youth to identify and triumph over barriers while holding systems accountable for change. See [flyer](#) for more information.

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### **YRDSB Student and Family Surveys (Deadline Extended to June 29, 2021):**

All students in Grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the Student Survey. Families of students in Grades K-12 are invited to complete the Family Survey. Surveys are available online until June 29 and will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

The surveys will provide the Board and our schools with valuable information about the learning experiences of students and families this year. Results will be used to guide Board and school planning to support student achievement and well-being.

Students and families have received an email with a link to their respective surveys. For your convenience, copies of the surveys are available on the Board website. The Family Survey will be available online in:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese \(simplified\)](#)
- [Chinese \(traditional\)](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Gujarati](#)
- [Hebrew](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Tamil](#)
- [Turkish](#)
- [Urdu](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

As our first partners in education, we value input from families and encourage parents/guardians to complete the survey. The information provided will be anonymous, considered confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Please contact Research Services at [research.services@yrdsb.ca](mailto:research.services@yrdsb.ca) if you have any questions or visit the [Board website](#) to learn more.

### **International Languages (IL) Fall Program- Credit Courses 2021-2022**

Students can earn credits while learning a language. International Languages offers over 15 languages for students in Grades 9 to 12. Level 3 language credit courses can even be counted towards college and university acceptance.

Please see our credit course offerings on our website: [IL Credit Program](#)

### **Registration for YRDSB Students**

The course offerings and sites are available on [My Pathway Planner](#) login page. Students can register through My Pathway Planner from June until September 10<sup>th</sup>. For assistance, view the [My Pathway Planner Tip Sheet](#). Print a copy of the sign-off sheet and obtain parent/guardian signature before submitting the registration form on the first day of classes at the selected language site.

If you do not have the opportunity to register through ‘My Pathway Planner’ before September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 .After **September 13<sup>th</sup>**, please complete the [online registration form](#) and submit it to the selected language site on the day of registration. Start dates are available in the [International Languages Credit Course Brochure 2021-2022](#)

Thank you again for your interest in our programs. Please do not hesitate to e-mail us if you have any questions: [international.languages@yrdsb.ca](mailto:international.languages@yrdsb.ca).

### **FALL 2021 Dual Credit is Now Open!**

This year, due to the current situation, we have been able to confirm that almost all of the dual credits will be delivered on-line. We have 2 lab-based courses that we may be able to offer face to face if public health and school board protocols permit in September. We will open the registration for the winter and spring dual credit offerings later in semester 1 once we have further details.

Course offerings, scheduling details and more information can be found in our flyer: [www.bit.ly/YRDSBdualcreditflyer](http://www.bit.ly/YRDSBdualcreditflyer) Please note that courses are subject to change.

### **How to register your students:**

1. Ensure that the student meets the dual credit eligibility criteria: The primary focus group for dual credit courses is for senior YRDSB students who:
  - face significant challenges in completing the requirements for graduation
  - Are credit deficient
  - Have left school before graduating
  - NEW: There are a few course offerings that are specific for certain SHSM sectors (ICT and JCT). The dual credit for those students can be counted towards their SHSM major courses.
2. Priority will be given to grade 12 students, other applicants will be considered but placed on a waiting list including grade 11 students.
3. Students will complete an online application with their GAPPS account using the following link: [www.bit.ly/YRDSBdualcreditapp](http://www.bit.ly/YRDSBdualcreditapp)
4. Once the student has been approved, they will receive a copy of the their completed application in their GAPPS email
5. Signed and completed dual credit applications should be sent electronically to the regional dual credit teacher.

At this time, please contact the students who have chosen the Dual Credit program through My Pathway Planner (they will have a YYY4X holding code in their course requests) to encourage them to register for their particular course of interest if they are scheduled for Semester 1 only.



Please encourage interested students to register as soon as possible as seats for each of the courses are limited.

**Seneca Info Session on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8:30pm.** Please see the student and teacher bit.ly sites for more information.

### **Summer Dual Credits**

We still have spaces! Course offerings, scheduling details and more information can be found in our flyer: <http://bit.ly/summerdcflyer>.

### **Credit Conferencing and Rescue Day (All Secondary Schools) on June 18 and June 28**

These days are to support all students - (Grades 9 -12) in achieving credit success.

- Teachers will support student completion of outstanding learning tasks.
- Teachers are encouraged to provide students involved in credit-rescuing activities on this day with information by Monday, June 14 and/or Wednesday, June 23 so that students may come prepared.
- **ALL teachers of credit courses will be involved in credit conferencing and credit rescue activities and will not be delivering lessons.**
- **Class attendance will not be taken.**

### **Attention Retiring Students:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to ensure that all retiring students from York Region District School Board - whether they are graduating or moving school boards - have the opportunity to download their Google Workspace for Education files as found in their Google Drive. The updated [Student Retirement Form](#) includes a Google Takeout checkbox and hyperlink to additional instructions. Due to the size of some Drives and the potential time to create the zip file, it is recommended that steps, as outlined below, not be done on a public/school computer.

Visit [Google Takeout](#) and login with your YRDSB Google Account.

1. Select the Google Apps and Services you want to export your data and documents from, and select the option to receive the file as a download via email (depending on the size of your Google account, this could take several hours). Use the .zip file option.
2. Once the Google Takeout email arrives, use the links to download your archived data and documents to the personal computer, USB/external drive and/or the personal Google Drive that you wish.
3. You can "unzip" the archives and then upload the data and documents to a new personal Google Account or use the files and documents in Microsoft Office or other applications.

Need More Help? Support resources from Google are available on [how to download your Google data](#). You can also contact ServiceDesk for ongoing technical support.

### **Interact Aurora Inn From the Cold Fundraiser!**

Hey everyone! The Interact Rotary Club of Newmarket-Aurora has organized a fundraiser for Inn From the Cold, a shelter in Newmarket that provides free services such as housing, internet, and meals for the homeless and at-risk. In exchange for your donation they are also offering a prize draw where 3 gift-cards (up to \$100!) are able to be won for various delicious restaurants around Newmarket and Aurora! Every \$5 donation will give you one entry to the raffle (i.e \$20 would be 4 entries), and winners will be chosen on the 29th. They are hoping for a goal of \$500, and are collecting donations through GoFundMe. If you can't donate, sharing this fundraiser with your friends and family would GREATLY help. More information is on their instagram (@interactrotary\_aurora)!

Here's the link to the GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/8ce29c71>

**The Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)** will be awarding Scholarships of \$1,000 to each selected recipient. Selection is based on students' involvement and dedication to their community and academic achievements. One outstanding student that excels in these areas and demonstrates that they have gone above the and beyond will receive the President's award.

Application forms can be picked up at your school's guidance office or by contacting the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA).or downloading it from the website. <https://macca1987.com/>

### **Learning Disabilities Association Parent Conference 2021**

In this presentation, Dr. John McNamara will present the latest information about what learning disabilities are, the underlying causes of learning disabilities, and how we can think about how to effectively support children and youth with learning disabilities. Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. See [flyer](#) for more information.

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**June is National Indigenous History Month:** In June, we commemorate National Indigenous History Month 2021 to recognize the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. To learn more, visit Government of Canada's [website](#).

**Mental Health Resources:** Please visit our website for a quick reference guide to [Mental Health Resources](#).

**Engaging in Conversations With Our Children about Anti-Asian Racism:** This session provides an opportunity for families to learn more about Anti-Asian racism and includes dialogues and strategies for guardians/parents to advocate for and support their children. Please see [flyer](#) for more information.

**COVID-19 Vaccine for Youth Age 12-17:** [Fact Sheet](#) is available on our Website > News & Events > Newsletters.

**Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter:** [June edition](#) of the newsletter is available on our website.

**Parent Engagement Event (Mandarin Session- Updated):** [Flyer](#) for more information on how to use your child's report card as a tool to encourage and affirm their learning and achievements is available on our website.

June is Pride Month around the globe. It is a time that many people in the 2SLGBTQ+ community (Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and additional identities) reflect on the leaders and activism of our past and present, along with the future we are working to create. In honour of Pride Month, York Region District School Board will be hosting a flag raising ceremony. Please visit YRDSB [website](#) for more information.

**Virtual Black Parent/Guardian Workshop Series:** Navigating Secondary School and Beyond. Click here for [flyer](#).

**Bike Month 2021 (May 31 - June 30):** See [flyer](#) for two Ways to WIN this Bike Month!

### **Education Interrupted: Parent Engagement for Liberation Webinar**

This webinar series will engage parents & caregivers, scholars and community leaders in dialogue to imagine what a meaningful anti-racist model of parent/caregiver engagement could look like. Visit [flyer](#) for more information.

### **2021 Summer Learning Programs Available**

During the month of July, YRDSB continues to offer credit and non-credit summer school program opportunities for elementary, secondary and adult students. Traditional in-class face-to-face summer programs will move to a remote learning delivery model. Visit [flyer](#) for more information.

### **Guidance**

- Click [here](#) to find out more information about the YRDSB's 2021 Summer Pathway Programs offerings.

**Drop-In Virtual Support for Students**

There are virtual drop-in sessions available every morning, from 8:30 am - 11:00 am, in order to provide a go-to place for students to ask general questions and get extra support while learning from home during their asynchronous days. The sessions will be supported daily by a (SERT) Special Education Resource Teacher. Students should check the Guidance Google classroom to access the link for the drop-in sessions.

**Student Attendance**

Thank you to everyone for supporting us with our efforts to increase the tracking of student attendance. To ensure we can continue to support student engagement and well-being we require accurate attendance records. **Parents\guardians are required to justify every student absence with a reason.**

Students currently attending the adaptive model must contact via email ([drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)) or phone call (905-727-3131, ext. 1) prior to 9 am in the morning regarding a student absence.

For any student over 18, they are responsible for reporting their own absences unless they have completed a [Consent Information Sharing For Students at the Age of Majority](#) form.

If you have any questions about your child’s attendance or supports available at the school, please contact your child’s Vice Principal:  
Mr. Brar ([Harmandeep.brar@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Harmandeep.brar@yrdsb.ca))  
or their [Guidance Counsellor](#).

**Report It**

Our schools should be safe, welcoming and inclusive places for everyone. It is important that students know what to do if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

- There may be situations when you can safely step in and intervene and help.
- Talk to an adult at school, family member or other trusted adult.
- Report the event without the person involved knowing using our online reporting tool, Report It.

Report It lets you share information about inappropriate student behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination. You can use the online form to report:

- bullying, drugs, cheating, vandalism, harassment, violence or any other inappropriate behaviour
- incidents of discrimination or hate, including anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, sexism, transphobia or other forms of hate

You can report events that happen at school, at school-related events, online or off school property if it negatively affects a student or the school climate. You can also choose to make a report anonymously.

Complete reports are shared with the school to investigate and respond. Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. Using the Report It tool is a way of standing up for each other and for ourselves. You can find Report It on the homepage of the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.

**211 Ontario**

Ontario 211 is a free and confidential helpline that connects you to community and social services in your area 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in over 150 languages. If you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter, call 2-1-1, search <https://211Central.ca/>, text 21166. Live chat & email service is also available.

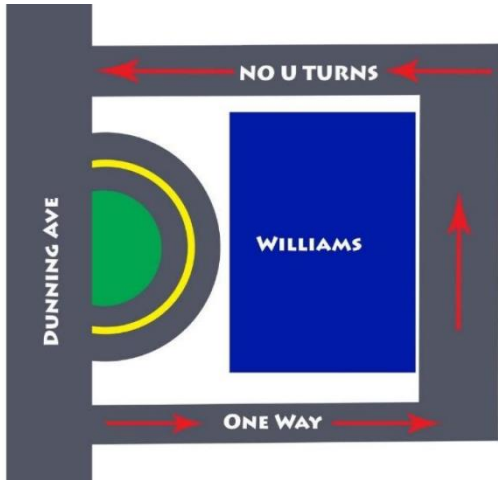
**Driveway and Parking Lot**

The safety of all students must be everyone’s first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

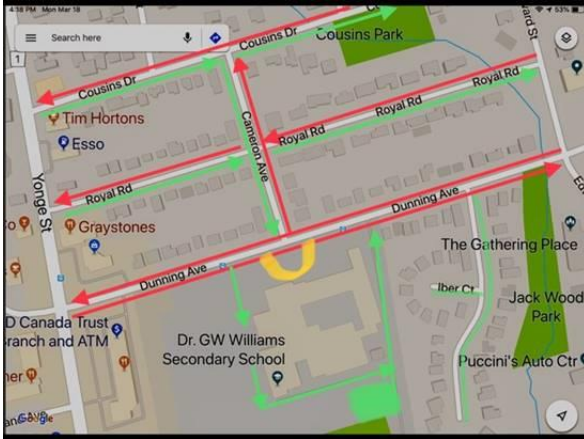
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 11:00, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distancing, 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.



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 morning pick-up time you will have noticed the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot. This adjustment has made 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. Our School Council previously worked with local by-law officials to identify areas within the neighbourhood that parents can pick up their students. Please note the arrows in green and red to support the effective flow of traffic in the area.

Thank you for your cooperation with this!

**School Calendar for 2021-2022**

Labour Day	Monday, September 6, 2021
Board Holiday	Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Board Holiday	Wednesday, September 8, 2021
First Day Grade 9	Thursday, September 9, 2021
First Day Grade 10-12	Friday, September 10, 2021
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 11, 2021
Winter Break	Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021
Family Day	Monday, February 21, 2022
Mid-Winter Break	Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022
Good Friday	Friday, April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	Monday, April 18, 2022
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23, 2022

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

1. Wednesday, September 1, 2021
2. Thursday, September 2, 2021
3. Friday, September 3, 2021
4. Friday, November 19, 2021
5. Friday, February 4, 2022
6. Friday, May 6, 2022
7. Thursday, June 30, 2022