



## Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: June 7-11, 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](#))

**Schools remain closed for Face-2-Face Learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year.**

### Message from the Principal

We are thrilled at Williams to announce some phenomenal news from the University of Waterloo Avogadro Chemistry Contest. Brian Park, grade 11 student, achieved **1<sup>st</sup> place worldwide** (out of 2974 students) with a **PERFECT SCORE!**

Overall our contest writers averaged 70%, 15% higher than the country average. With Richard Zheng, David Zu and Brian achieving top 200 in Canada/US out of 1586 students. Truly fantastic!

Congratulations to all the writers for their hard work and effort. Way to go! Thank you also goes to our Assistant Head of Science, Karen Almeida who supported students through this contest.

In light of Doug Ford's announcement on Wednesday regarding graduations, we recognize that there are a number of questions now emerging regarding face-to-face celebrations. The board is currently waiting to receive further direction from the Ministry of Education, which they have indicated will be shared shortly. Once received, the board will review that direction, taking into account that any on-site, face-to-face recognition of our graduates will need to consider a number of factors. This will include engaging with York Region Public Health for their direction as we must ensure that we continue to prioritize the safety of our students, families and staff. As soon as we receive more direction at a school level we will be sharing that information. Our graduation committee, who has been working tirelessly since February will continue our work to prepare for awards, issuance of diplomas, pick-up of materials and our virtual graduation. We know how hard our students have worked to get to this point and we want to acknowledge them. Thank you to everyone who has come by to pick up the lawn signs and have started to acknowledge our graduates in the community. We enjoyed getting to see many of the students in the last week as they dropped by.

If you have not yet had a chance to complete the School Climate Survey we encourage you to check your email for the link and spend a few minutes sharing your thoughts with us. The information gathered from our students and families is important to contribute to our school planning for student achievement and well-being. This past Tuesday, Period 5 teachers provided time for all students to complete the survey in their classes so that we could receive as much input as possible from all of our students. Those students without Period 5 classes were emailed and encouraged to take some time to complete the survey during their spare. Thank you in advance for your time in supporting us to ensuring our work is meaningful to our students and families.

Take care and stay safe!  
Melissa Schmidt

### Notices



**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!

**National Public Works Week - Design A Plow Contest:** Draw, paint or colour to showcase public works in our communities. The theme for the design is Public Works, Stronger Together. Contest ends June 4. Winning designs will be announced in June. Click [here](#) for more information.

### YRDSB Student and Family Surveys now available

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 18 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.

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

Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Staff Directory 2  
Guidance 3

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.

**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.

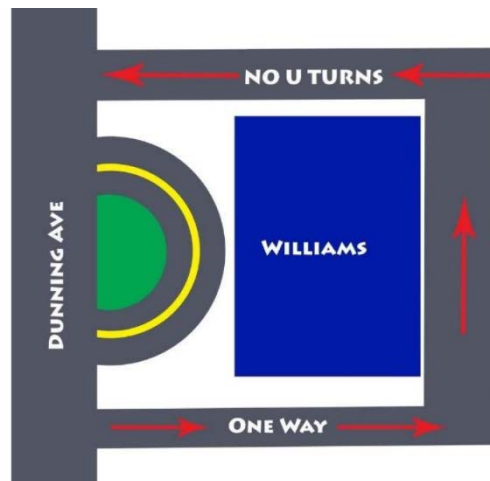
**Driveway and Parking Lot**

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

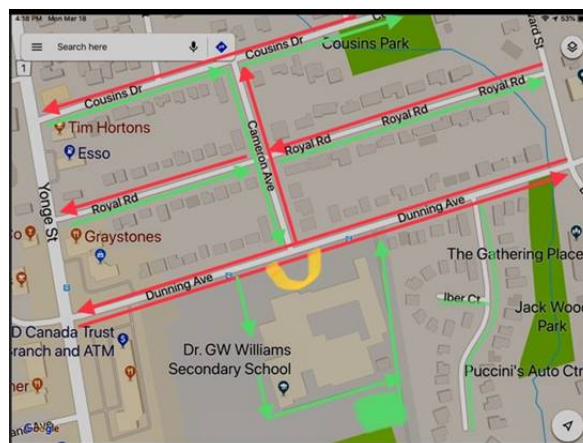
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses 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 2020-2021

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

- Tuesday, June 29, 2021