



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Friday May 15, 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.*

Email: [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

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

## Message from the Principal

We hope that this message finds your families managing this new normal as best as can be expected. We know that although we are all weathering the same storm, the different boats that we are travelling in make our experience of this storm very different. Please know that we are thinking of our students and your families and looking forward to the opportunities to engage with you in person as soon as we can.

It is hard to believe that it has already been more than 2 months since we left school for the March Break and 6 weeks since our teachers entered into the Learning & Caring Plan through teacher led online instruction. I am very proud of the work that our teachers have put in to identify the priorities within their courses and create platforms to connect with our students. I am equally proud of the work that our students have been doing to engage in their learning and stretch themselves to meet the expectations in following a course online. We know that this has been challenging for everyone. Parents also need a shout out for your work. Without the support at home of both teachers and students this would be even more difficult than it is. I know that there have been bumps along the road and that we continue to reflect and refine with the directions that come from the Ministry and the board to address the changing needs. Thank you for your continued support as we respond to the information we receive and deliver.

Moving forward we will begin sending out the Williams' Tell with more regularity, perhaps not weekly but as we have information to share. We stopped sending the bulletin when we were in such a state of flux in March and April and there was regular information coming directly from the board. Now that we have settled into a bit more of a stable routine we have more information to share about activities and events.

We hope that you all enjoyed the video that the staff prepared and sent a few weeks ago. We had a lot of fun putting it together and were happy to reach out to each of you in this different way.

Please continue to do what you can to stay well as we see the restrictions in our communities begin to lift. We look forward to continuing to build on the learning that has been going on in our virtual classrooms and engaging with our students.

All the best,

Melissa

## Notice:

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](#).

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented issues and concerns for our community, our country and the world. As we focus on keeping ourselves healthy and containing the spread of COVID-19, we must also keep ourselves mentally well. For more information, please visit [Mental Health Resources for students and families](#). Students may contact Guidance to speak with a counsellor by booking an appointment using our [Google Form](#).

## Highlighting Our Students

### Science Contest

Annually over 600 students across Canada write the Chemical Institute of Canada's, Canadian Chemistry Contest. This year was the first ever online version of the contest. Two of our Williams students, Daniel Chen and Marco Leung wrote the exam and did extremely well! Marco was part of the top 5% invited to write the Canadian Chemistry Olympiad exam on May 25th. Top place finishers here can go on to represent Canada in the International Chemistry Olympiad competition. We thank Daniel and Marco for their dedication to keep learning and persevering in these times. We wish Marco the best of luck!

### PPE production

Luka Milanjov has been using his custom built 3D printer to assist with the production of face shields for use in long term care facilities in our area. His environmentally conscious design is a frame made from polylactic acid, which he describes as "a plastic polymer synthesized from corn". This means the plastic is renewable and will not have a large impact on the environment. Luka has made over 70 face shields that have already been donated to support front line workers. He believes that the best way to support during the situation we are in is to do what we each can to contribute while staying safe at home. We really appreciate the efforts Luka has made to make a difference!

### Celebrating Student Success

The York Region District School Board recently announced the names and accomplishments of the sixteen students who are this year's Celebrating Student Success recipients. Our own Christina Paraskevopoulos is one of the sixteen students from across YRDSB that was selected for her leadership and accomplishments. Christina's involvement in our Peer Mentor Group, assisting with the OneMatch Swabbing Event, Me to We, food drive and Relay for Life has contributed many positive benefits to the school and wider community. We are very proud to be able to recognize Christina as a Celebrating Student Success recipient this year.

### Teens in Focus

Last week the Town of Aurora recognized and celebrated youth in our community as part of National Youth Week. We were delighted that they recognized 7 of our students on their Instagram page [@aurorateens](#) for their contributions within our community. Congratulations to Cindy Chen, Kerwin Ho, Dylan Duff, Paige Leitch, Emma Pearson, Artin Khiabani and Luka Milanjov. Williams is better for each of their contributions! Check out the full story for each of them on our Instagram page [@drgwilliams](#).

## Williams Announcements

### New Native Studies course

Williams will be offering a new course, NBE3U/NBE3C. It is a unique Grade 11 English course that gives students the chance to explore the wealth and complexity of Indigenous writing and media in Canada. Students can take NBE3U/NBE3C in place of ENG3U or ENG3C or in addition to ENG3U or ENG3C. NBE3U/NBE3C is a compulsory Grade 11 English credit and meets the same curriculum expectations using distinctive content. It can also be taken as an additional elective credit.

### Course outline:

## Contact Us

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS  
39 Dunning Avenue  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 1A2

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

Extensions:	
Reception	0
Attendance	1
Guidance	3
Staff Directory	4

- Students will have a chance to read, discuss, and respond to literary texts, poetry, oral narratives, music, and multimedia projects created by some of Canada's outstanding Indigenous artists and writers. Through examining the four main strands - Identity, Relationships, Sovereignty, and Challenges - students will be able to see English Studies and Indigenous history in Canada both in new and exciting light.
- Indigenous culture is an integral part of Canada as a nation, but while many Canadians are now aware of the dark history of brutality against Indigenous peoples on these lands, most Canadians have not had a chance to meaningfully engage with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) culture and creativity. In this time of reconciliation, it is important for Canadians to gain a familiarity with and appreciation of Indigenous peoples as active, thriving, and creative people. This course aims to give students the opportunity to encounter Indigenous identity, and to think about and discuss our fraught and important relationships and their ongoing challenges.

Students interested in switching from the regular ENG3U\3C into this course should contact Guidance by May 20th. Please reach out to Guidance through this [Google Form](#).

### **Valedictorian Nominations**

The Valedictorian Process is now underway. Students can now nominate their peers for the important responsibility of Valedictorian. The Valedictorian should be a student whom they believe would be the best candidate to represent the Class of 2020. They will deliver a farewell speech on behalf of the graduating class to parents, staff, peers and community members at the graduation ceremony. All nominations must be completed by 11:59 pm on Thursday May 21, 2020. Students can access the nomination form via the Grade 12 Google Classroom.

### **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](mailto: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](#).

### **Cooperative Education Applications for Next Year**

Last week, an online application was sent to student's who were interest in applying to the co-op program for next year. Students who have not completed this application must complete it to be able to take part in this program. Please complete the online application [www.Bit.ly/coop2020-21](http://www.Bit.ly/coop2020-21) by May 22, 2020.

Please note students will only need 2 teacher reference and Ms. McIntosh will contact the teachers, students do not need to contact the teachers to ask them for permission to use them for this reference. If you have questions please email [maryann.mcintosh@yrdsb.ca](mailto:maryann.mcintosh@yrdsb.ca) and please indicated the contact time and number to reach you at.

## **YRDSB Community Announcements**

### **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](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](#).

### **Citizenship Classes**

Due to schools being closed, Citizenship classes will be available from home until at least May 29, 2020. If you have a question or would like to register for a class, please email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) or call 905-731-9557 / 905-305-4122. For more information about Citizenship classes, please visit [continued education](#).

### **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.

**This program is available at the following summer school locations:**

- Langstaff SS, Richmond Hill
- Milliken Mills HS, Markham
- Sir William Mulock SS, Newmarket
- Tommy Douglas SS, Vaughan

### **Build A Dream Digital Career Discovery Expo**

As a parent or guardian of a young woman, in grades 7 to 12, you are invited to attend the **Build a Dream Digital Career Discovery Expo** on Wednesday May 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Build a Dream 'at Home Edition' will give you and your daughter(s) the chance to explore a wide range of career paths in the skilled trades, science, technology, engineering, and emergency services. This FREE event will be packed with panelists, on-demand video libraries, DIY activities, games, prizes and more!

To register for this free event visit: [dreamathome.eventbrite.ca](http://dreamathome.eventbrite.ca)

Please note that registration is required and that space is limited.