



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 31 – June 4, 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](#))

All students online synchronous learning effective April 19, 2021.

Thu. Jun. 3	Full Disclosure: As per a recent ministry update, if a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or Grade 12 course when the course is approximately 75% complete, the withdrawal is not recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course after June 3, 2021, a withdrawal (W) is entered in the credit column, and the student's mark at the time of withdrawal will be recorded as a percentage in the achievement column of the transcript.
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Message from the Principal

Yesterday we were delighted to host Youth Speak for a workshop with 230 of our Grade 10 students. This presentation provided our grade 10 students an opportunity to connect and engage with two trained youth presenters from Youth Speak, Adam and Sumaira. The speakers shared their personal stories, while promoting a message of positivity and hope. We completed pre and post presentation surveys and are thrilled to hear from the students that they felt better after the presentation. Our Student Success teacher, Bo Veale, was responsible for organizing and we are thrilled she was able to bring this opportunity to our students.

Our office staff were busy at the school this week greeting our graduates picking up their gowns and lawn signs. We have already seen sightings of the lawn signs around Aurora. If your child is graduating and you haven't picked up a sign or they haven't received their gown to get their photo submitted for graduation please contact Margaret.mckie@yrdsb.ca. We will have staff in the office some days again next week to ensure everyone gets the items they need.

We have included below the information regarding upcoming Youth Immunization Clinics within Aurora, which was also emailed to families today. Increased vaccination rates will support our return to many activities so it is great to see the opportunity for almost all groups that are interested in being vaccinated.

As a growing school we are fortunate to be in a position to increase our staff next year and continue to add to the amazing team at Williams. This week the admin team has been busy having conversations with many great teachers looking to join the Williams team. This is always so exciting!!

Take care and stay safe!
Melissa Schmidt

The University of Waterloo Chem13 News Contest results are in!

Williams students performed extremely well in this tough contest that has a country average of 37%. Top results went to Marco Leung, Ben Charette and Ernest Tang, with a combined average of 55%. Special honours to Marco Leung who earned an Elemental Tile Award from the University with his top 100 finish (55th) in Canada/US, and top 200 (114th) Worldwide. This is in addition to his 14th place finish in the Canadian Chemistry Contest written in April. Congratulations Marco!

A big thank you to all the grade 12 chemistry contest writers for their continued hard work and perseverance in this tough contest. Way to go!

Notices

Fun Facts about June:

- › June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and conversely, June has the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.
- › June is derived from Juno, the goddess of marriage and therefore is known as a great month to get married.
- › In both common and leap years, no other month begins on the same day of the week as June.
- › June is international men's month.



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.

Message From Our Trustee: June edition of the [Trustee Newsletter](#) is now available on our Website > News & Events > Newsletters.

COVID-19 Youth Vaccination Clinics: See [flyer](#) 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.

Parent Engagement Event (Mandarin Session): [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.

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.

Contact Us

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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 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) 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)
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 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.

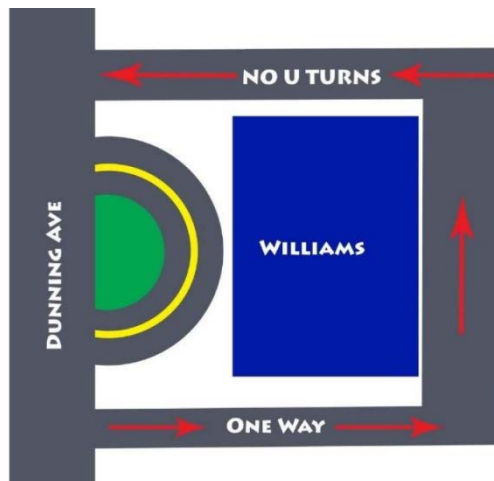
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

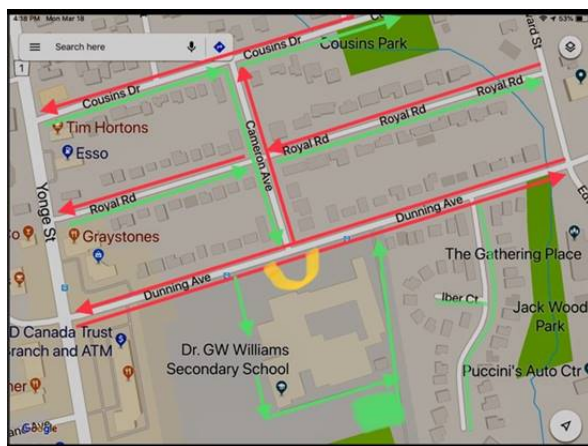
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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