



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Sept 11- Sept 22, 2023

Trait of the Month: Courage

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.

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS

### Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal  
Ken Arnott, VP (A-Le)  
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Li-Z)

### Contact Us

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### Phone Extensions:

Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

### Office Hours

7:45 am - 3:45 pm

### Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40

Period 2 9:45-11:00

Period 3 11:05-12:20

Period 4 12:25-1:40

Period 5 1:45-3:00

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>  
Email: [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

### This week:

<b>Sept 11</b>	School Pictures p1 (grade9) p2 (grade 12) p4 (grade 11) p5 (grade 10)
<b>Sept 12</b>	School Pictures *repeat schedule with other half of grade classes Newcomer Student Event Period 1
<b>Sept 13</b>	Virtual Grade Assemblies
<b>Sept 14</b>	Club Fair During Lunches (library)
<b>Sept 15</b>	Eve of Rosh Hashanah SHSM- Customer Service & Negotiations IB Student orientation Trip - Cedar Glen

### Upcoming

<b>Sept 18</b>	Post-Secondary Assembly (P5) Heads Meeting - Library (3:15-4:30 pm) School Council - Library (7:00-8:30 pm)
<b>Sept 19</b>	<b>SHSM - CPR &amp; FIRST AID</b>
<b>Sept 20</b>	<b>SHSM - CPR &amp; FIRST AID</b>
<b>Sept 21</b>	Terry Fox Run
<b>Sept 22</b>	<b>PA day (No school)</b>

To support your family planning, the 2023-2024 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#). Additionally, all dates for school events are continually updated on our Google calendar on our [school website](#) and all confirmed events have been updated for 2023-2024 on our website now.

### Message from the Principal

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for the fantastic turnout we had at our Grade 9 day this past Tuesday. It was truly heartwarming to see so many parents actively engaged in welcoming our newest students to the Williams family. Your presence and support make a significant difference for the success and engagement of your students.

As we kick off the new school year, I'd like to emphasize the importance of attendance. Regular attendance is not only a legal requirement but also crucial for your child's academic progress. If your child is unable to attend school, please remember to report their absence to our attendance office. All absences must be accompanied with a reason for the absence. Our automated system will be calling home after Period 1, 4 and 5 to update you on your child's attendance. Please call the school right away if the reason for the absence has not been provided or if you believe your child is in attendance and our records are showing they are absent. There are a variety of supports available at the school should your child need support with attendance. Please reach out to their Guidance counsellor or Vice Principal.

If you have come to the office or called the school you may have noticed a few new faces and voices. We are happy to have Mr. Ken Arnott, Retired Principal assisting us while Ms. Mitchell is away this semester. Additionally, Ms. Froats has joined us in Reception, Ms. Akin in Budget, Ms. Fang in Registration and Data Management and Ms. Sosa in Guidance. Each of these staff are a welcome addition to our office and we thank you for your understanding and support as our new team learns about all the amazing students, families, staff and programs we have at Williams.

Lastly, I'd like to extend an invitation to all parents to attend our first school council meeting and elections on September 18th. Your participation in the school council is a valuable way to contribute to the decision-making process and stay actively involved in your child's education. As promised last year, we will also have the site drawings for the new Williams building for everyone to see. If you live in the neighbourhood east of Bayview you have likely already noticed that construction has officially begun. I look forward to meeting many of you that evening. A reminder and agenda for that meeting will be sent out next week.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School. Together, we can make this school year a resounding success for all our students.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

### Message from the Trustee

September 2023

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to

volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Melanie Wright  
Trustee, Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville

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## **School Notices**

### **TeachAssist for parent and student**

TeachAssist is a platform for students and parents to access the student record information. Students can see their courses and progress on TeachAssist. Parents can access TeachAssist through the use of the parent portal. Please click this [link](#) for instructions.

### **School Photo Days are coming!**

School Photo Days are scheduled for next week both Monday September 11 and Tuesday September 12. Students will be called down with their class over both days as follows:

Grade 9 students – Period ONE (M/T)

Grade 10 students – Period FIVE (M/T)

Grade 11 students – Period FOUR (M/T)

Grade 12 students – Period TWO (M/T)

Students can visit the Guidance Google classroom for specific information on which days their class will be photographed.

### **Terry Fox Run- Thursday, September 21st**

On Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> the entire school will be participating in the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Terry Fox Run!

This will be occurring during 2<sup>nd</sup> period on this day.

The neighbourhood route will be guided by the PALS team who will point students in the right direction. Teachers will accompany their class.

Thanks for your support of this wonderful cause! Fundraising should be available shortly via SchoolCashOnline in support of the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research.

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## **YRDSB and Community Notices**

### **Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program**

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12. Click [here](#) for registration information.

### **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - September**

At YRDSB, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where mental health is prioritized and nurtured. Together, let us create a school community that embraces mental wellness, celebrates diversity, and supports one another on this incredible journey of education and personal growth. YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. Click [here](#) for more details.

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## **Guidance**

### **Remote Night School Registrations Open**

The Night School program will move to a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous). Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:45 p.m from October 5, 2023 to February 1, 2024. Click [here](#) for course offerings. Students can register through myBlueprint > Continuing Education > Explore Courses. Please submit the sign-off sheet to your alpha guidance counsellor.

### **Upcoming SHSM Events**

- Friday, September 15 - Business sector students are invited to attend a full-day workshop on Negotiations and Customer Service. Students will be excused from their classes to attend this in-school workshop.
- Tuesday, September 19 - Wednesday, September 20 - Grade 12 SHSM students are must attend First Aid/CPR-C Training. Students will be excused from their classes to attend this in-school training.

### **Grade 12 Post-Secondary Assembly**

All grade 12 students will attend an in-school assembly at 2:00pm to learn more about possible pathways after high school and application processes.

### **Newcomer Community Event**

Newcomer students and their families and friends are invited to attend our Newcomer Community Event that will be held on Thursday, September 28 from 1:45pm – 4:00pm in our school library. Come learn more about our school and free community resources and support.

### **Aurora Area Post-Secondary Fair**

Join us on Thursday, October 5th from 6:00pm - 9:00pm at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and speak to representations from Apprenticeships, Employment Services, Ontario Colleges, and Ontario/Canadian Universities.

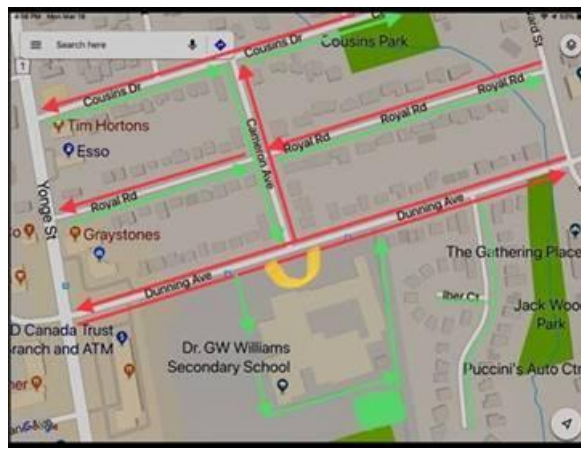
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## **Attendance Procedures**

### **Extended Absences**

Planned absences of three or more consecutive school days require the completion of an "Extraordinary Absence" form at least one week in advance of the leave. The form is available in the Attendance Office. The process includes obtaining signatures from teachers and a school administrator. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on all work missed.





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.

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

- Friday, September 22, 2023
- Friday, October 20, 2023
- Friday, November 17, 2023
- Friday, February 2, 2024
- Monday, May 6, 2024
- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

**School Council Meetings for 2023-2024**

- TBA