



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of April 15 - 19, 2024

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  
Erin Gray, 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.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

<b>April 15</b>	Beat Around the World 3:00-5:00pm Leadership Team meeting 3:15-4:30 pm Europe Trip Boston Pizza fundraiser 5:00-9:00 pm (Reservations recommended) - be served by our Williams student servers <b>School Council Meeting at 7:00pm</b>
<b>April 16</b>	Semester 2/Term 2 starts OSSLT Periods 1- 3 in the Library
<b>April 17</b>	Elementary Basketball Tournament OSSLT Periods 1- 3 in the Library York U Jazz Festival
<b>April 18</b>	Business SHSM trip to Dave & Busters
<b>April 19</b>	

### Upcoming

<b>April 22</b>	Earth Day
<b>April 23</b>	First Day of Passover
<b>April 24</b>	Elementary Basketball Tournament SHSM Skills Competition
<b>April 25</b>	Midterm Report Cards e-distributed DECA International Career Development Conference (April 25-May 2, 7 students)
<b>April 26</b>	Midterm Report Cards e-distributed

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

It was great to see so many families out for Teacher Interview Night on April 4. We also really appreciated the time some of our college partners took to come and present to those interested in the many unique programs and opportunities there are available when students pursue a college pathway. It is amazing to see how things have changed in post-secondary since many of us were there.

Monday is the last day of Term 1 in Semester 2. That means on Tuesday our half courses are switching (Civics\Careers, Theory of Knowledge\French) and teachers are finalizing their mid-term grades. Mid term report cards will be sent home electronically between April 25-29. There is still lots to be done in many of the classes as we look ahead to the last part of the semester. As the weather gets nicer, please continue to support us to encourage your young people to stay engaged and keep up with their best work.

Monday (April 15) we will be holding our 5th School Council meeting of the year beginning at 7:00 pm in the Library.. Our Chair has spent time reviewing the School Council Constitution and will be sharing her insights with those gathered on how we might bring our Williams Constitution into alignment with the updated YRDSB policy on Parent Engagement. As usual, we will also hear from our Student Representative, Teacher Representative and the Admin on recent happenings at Williams. If you are able we highly encourage you to join us.

Monday (April 15) is also the Boston Pizza fundraiser for our students that will be heading to Europe in June and participating in the commemoration ceremonies for the anniversary of D-Day. If you have yet to make dinner plans and are able, please reserve a table at Boston Pizza between 5-9 pm and be served by some of the Williams 'Celebrity' servers.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

### School Notices

#### Manufacturing and Skills Trades Scholarship Program

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will provide financial assistance of \$5000 to two eligible students, who plan to attend a college/university/trade school/work apprenticeship programs in manufacturing or skilled trades related fields. Students must be in grade 12 and the deadline to apply is April 26, 2024. For more information, check out <https://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/scholarship-program/> or email Richard Casagrande at [richard.casagrande@yrdsb.ca](mailto:richard.casagrande@yrdsb.ca)

#### School Council Corner

Our next School Council meeting is Monday April 15th. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us that evening.

#### IB Exams

The IB exams are fast approaching, between April 25th and May 17th, grade 11 and 12 IB students will write their externally assessed IB exams. IB parents were emailed the expectations for students before, during, and after exam times along with the exam schedule. Although we have done our best to ensure that IB exams do not interfere with the running of school, we do ask that all students be mindful that these exams are taking place.

#### YRDSB and Community Notices

## Spectator Code of Conduct

As a Board, we value the participation of students, families, caregivers, and others at school events and activities. School sports, arts and cultural events may create future memories for some students and may build school spirit and community.

While it is important to have fans in the stands and the audience, being a spectator at any of our schools is a privilege. The Spectator Code of Conduct, which is a new addition to the [Caring and Safe Schools Policy #668](#), aims to ensure that these events are positive, fun, and safe for everyone. All spectators must follow the Spectator Code of Conduct in order to attend school events.

**Note:** The term spectator refers to anyone attending and watching a school event. The term spectator also applies to anyone participating in a school event (i.e., a team member whose team is not currently playing).

## April is Sikh Heritage Month

The month of April is proclaimed as Sikh Heritage Month as per [The Sikh Heritage Month Act of 2013](#). As we begin the month of April, staff, students and their families are encouraged to join Canadians who will be coming together to celebrate how Sikh Canadians have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and Canada's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric. This month during the month of April, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi, which marks the creation of the Khalsa and the Sikh articles of faith.

## Step out Dance Competition

Registration is now open for the 18th Annual Step Out Dance Competition featuring a variety of dance with high school and intermediate students competing in two divisions. The purpose of the event is to create a positive forum for students to get together, perform, compete, share and grow. Our school board is filled with many talented students, and this event is all about bringing students together and providing them with the opportunity to express themselves through the arts. The format of the show is similar to American Idol. Each team performs, and then is given feedback from judges. There will be prizes and giveaways throughout the day and winners are announced at the end of the day. The competition will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 10am-2pm at Richmond Green Secondary School. Register your team by completing the [Step Out 2024 Registration form](#). Registration fee is \$115.

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## Guidance

**Semester 2 Full Disclosure Date** - Courses dropped before May 7, 2024 will not show on a students' transcript. Courses dropped on or after May 7 will be reflected on the student's transcript with the mark at the time of withdrawal. Please keep in mind that students need to be enrolled in a minimum of 3 day school courses to maintain full time student status.

## Spring Dual Credit Courses - **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

Registration for the Spring/Intercession Dual Credits is now open. These courses run from the last week of April until the first week of June (7 weeks) but students have class TWICE a week.

The Spring Flyer can be found here [www.yrdsb.cc/dualcreditflyer](http://www.yrdsb.cc/dualcreditflyer)

Registration is here as always [www.yrdsb.cc/dualcreditapp](http://www.yrdsb.cc/dualcreditapp)

**2024 Summer Learning Opportunities** - Click [here](#) for more details. **REGISTRATION THROUGH MYBLUEPRINT OPENS APRIL 9th**

- **Summer Pathway Programs** - There are several Summer Pathway Programs students can participate in and earn one to two credits, such as Cooperative Education (Co-op), Alternative Learning Experiential Program (ALEP), OYAP-Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, College Dual Credit courses and the Innovation Course at Y-Space in Markham. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Secondary Summer School** - Information to be available shortly. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Online Learning Secondary School** - The York Region District School Board provides learners a flexible approach to earning credits in the summer through Online Learning. Online Learning courses are taught by YRDSB teachers using Ontario's Virtual Learning Environment-BrightSpace by D2L. Students are not required to log in at a specific time each day. Classes occur online using an asynchronous model, with synchronous learning opportunities offered with the teacher. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Other Summer Programs** - Click [here](#) for more details.

**2024-2025 Course Selection** - Course selection verifications will be sent to parent/guardian emails on Thursday April 4, 2024.

**Community Supports** - Click [here](#) to see a listing of local community supports.

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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.

Parents/guardians should contact the Attendance Office to indicate when their child will be absent and the reason for the absence. The Attendance Office can be reached at 905-727-3131 ext. 100. If the attendance secretary is busy please leave a voice message OR send an email to [drgrwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgrwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca). If a student leaves school resulting in a late or an absence to a class period, they are to go to the attendance office to sign out.

Students are expected to be in their Period 1 classroom at the start of the day. Classes begin at 8:20 am. If a student arrives late for Period 1 and before 8:35 a.m., they are asked to report directly to their class where their homeroom teacher will let the office know the time of arrival. If the 8:20 bell has rung, students are asked to stand in the hallway for the anthem before proceeding to their period 1 class. For any other period, whenever a student arrives at school after the first scheduled class period has begun they are to report to attendance to sign in.

Students are expected to be in class by the times listed above.

Students, parents, and staff have a role to play in ensuring that students attend classes regularly and punctually. Students are responsible for:

- attending all scheduled classes, and being on time;
- being prepared for classes, and participating fully in the planned learning activities;
- reporting absences (preferably in advance), and presenting proper documentation to staff, and covering the material missed when they are absent.

Absences must be both valid and authorized by a parent. Examples of valid reasons include illness, bereavement, medical appointments, court appearance, etc. If no phone call, e-mail, or note is received by the school, the absence will be considered "truant". Truancies are unacceptable.

Students who have been signed out of classes by a parent/legal guardian cannot remain on school property.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students aged 18 and older and students who have declared their independence must report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner. Where possible, notify the school in advance by calling the school and leaving a message on the

answering machine or emailing the school's attendance address.

If a student is unable to attend school and will miss more than two school days, homework may be requested from the Guidance Department and picked up at the school. Teachers require 24 hours to complete homework requests. If a student is absent due to a prolonged illness, he/she may be required to provide a medical note.

### School Calendar for 2023-2024

- Please use this [link](#)

### Website Resources for Families and Students

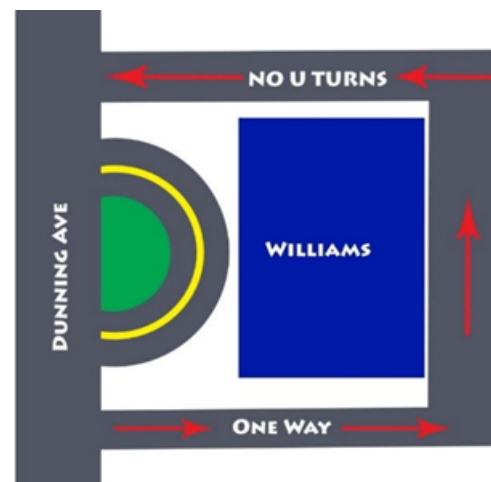
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

### Driveway and Parking Lot

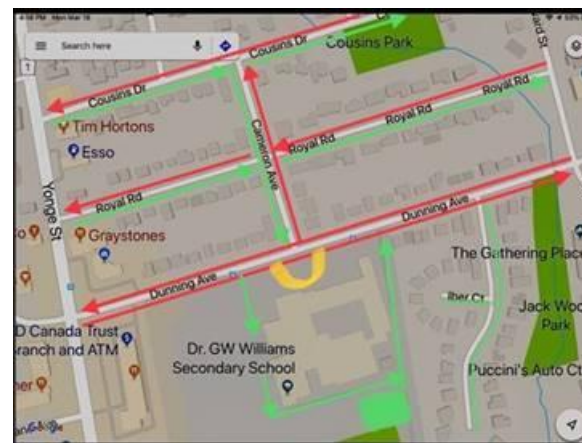
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 3:10, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, 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.



If you **MUST** come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. **DO NOT** block the driveway waiting. 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 the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot.** This makes 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.

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

- Monday, May 6, 2024
- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

### School Council Meetings for 2023-2024

- Monday April 15, 2024
- Tuesday May 21, 2024

