



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: September 19 - 23, 2022

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.

Contact Us
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Administrative Team
Melissa Schmidt, Principal
George Tsigaridis, VP (A-Li)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Lo-Z)

Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff 4
Directory

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://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

Social Media: [@drgwwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
Attendance: drgwwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca

This week:

Sept 19	Powley Day Day of Mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - moment of silence, 1pm School Council Meeting, 7 pm Library (Agenda)
Sept 20	
Sept 21	Student Leadership & Student Voice and Student Dress Code policy consultation
Sept 22	Student Council Grade Rep Election 42nd Annual Terry Fox Run
Sept 23	PA Day (No school)

Upcoming

September 26	✳ Rosh Hashanah (The Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah)
September 27	✳ Rosh Hashanah
September 28	
September 29	
September 30	Orange Shirt Day (Day for Truth & Reconciliation)

To support your family planning, the 2022-2023 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#). Additionally, all tentative dates for our school events have been updated on our Google calendar on our [school website](#).

Message from the Principal

Our Guidance team has worked with students to navigate many course changes and we are pleased that we were able to resolve almost all requests to support students across the school. Williams continues to grow and our school population is almost 1400. This is great but also brings its own unique challenges! The students have been very understanding and cooperative as we adjust to a 5 period day due to the increased size of the school. In order to support the classes that are in session over the lunch hour we have closed the classroom hallways (with the exception of the need to meet with a teacher or attend the Student Services\Student Success area).

Yesterday was the club fair in the library over the lunch hours. It was amazing to see so many enthusiastic students and staff offering many opportunities for engagement across the school. In the next week or two we will be finalizing the clubs list (although it will continue to grow all year) and post the information on our website so that students and parents can access the information about what clubs are offered, when and where they meet.

As we continue to grow we also continue to add staff and make staffing adjustments that support the entire school. This is always positive but can result in some adjustments across classes.

This week we provided a virtual Safe and Caring Schools assembly with important information for all students. The admin team also visited all classrooms to meet students and answer any questions they might have. By now, hopefully all students will have received the School Start-Up permission forms to their GAPS accounts. Please ensure that these forms are completed and submitted as soon as possible.

We continue to experience challenges with the timing of some of our school bus routes at the end of the day. The change in timing of our school day as well as driver shortages has contributed to these challenges. We are working with STS and Landmark and have expressed the difficulty this provides for students/families who may have after school commitments (work, extra-curricular) or caregiving for younger family members. We hope it will be resolved soon but anticipate that delays may continue for a short time.

Our cafeteria is not yet ready to open. As soon as we have a firm opening date from the new service provider we will make an announcement to students. We received information today that the opening will not happen before September 26. As soon as we have the date we will make announcements for students and update the Parent Tell.

I invite all parents\guardians to join us on Monday evening in the library for an in-person School Council meeting. Come out, meet the admin and fellow parents to learn more about the Williams school community. We will also be holding the School Council elections for the coming year. Please see the [agenda](#).

All the best,
Melissa Schmidt

Athletics Notices

We are excited to offer the following sports for the upcoming fall season:

- Girls Field Hockey
- Senior and Junior Boys Golf
- Senior and Junior Boys Rugby
- Coed Cross Country
- Boys Senior Soccer
- Girls Varsity Basketball
- Coed Junior and Senior Tennis

Students should be listening to announcements for information on try-outs. Students and parents can check the announcements on our website each day as well.

Notices

Student Mental Health

This newsletter is for families and caregivers, a focus on supporting a Mentally Healthy School Start. Please see [here](#) to view the newsletter.

Homeless Prevention Program

Information about York Region's Homelessness Prevention Program and Housing Stability Program for families. For more information, please see [here](#).

The Power of Positive Parenting

Free Parent Presentation for parents and caregivers. This is a virtual session on September 21, 10:00 am - 11:30 am. For registration and more detail, pls see [here](#).

York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities Events and Programs

York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (York Region AACC) provides programs for Black Students Across York Region. Please see the [events web page](#) for details.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for [Truth and Reconciliation](#). The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Guidance

[YRDSB Night School Information](#)

[YRDSB Aquatic Leadership Program](#)

Upcoming Events

- [Ontario Universities Fair](#) October 1-2, 2022, from 9:30 am to 5 pm, daily at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre
- [Ontario Colleges Fair](#) October 19, 2022 from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm and October 20, 2022 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Enercare Centre
- Post-Secondary Assembly - October 19, 2022
 - The Guidance Department will be holding an assembly during the school day for potential graduates to provide guidelines and instructions on how to proceed with post-secondary applications.

To help students make decisions about what post-secondary programs to apply to, families are encouraged to research post-secondary pathways with students using the following websites:

- <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/>
- <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/programs>
- <https://oyap.com/>

School Calendar for 2022-2023

- Please use this [link](#)

School Start-Up Forms

At the start of each school year, schools share with families a package of information about the school. Families will also receive a copy of the [Guide to the School Year](#) booklet in the coming weeks. We also ask families to complete some important forms. These forms are now available online. [Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account (students must be logged into their GAPPS account to access their personalized form).

- You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.
- The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.
- Frequently asked questions and additional information on [how to complete the forms](#) (<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/node/2754>) are available on the Board website under [Family Resources](#) (click on the "Need Help" link for Family Start-Up Forms).

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students, whether they are attending school in person or participating in remote, online learning. Your child's school will access the information.

Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the main office.

Student Leadership & Student Voice, Policy #672

The York Region District School Board regularly engages in reviewing its policies. Currently, the Board of Trustees has identified a need to review Policy #672 Student Leadership and Voice and Policy #635 Student Dress Code. As part of the review process The YRDSB consults extensively with students, staff and community members.

We encourage you to review this [slide deck](#) to build some context around Student leadership in our Board and fill out the surveys to provide your feedback. You will find the surveys on our [Board's Policy review page](#) along with an explanation of policy review. Scroll down the page and click on to find the links to the surveys.

We thank you for your participation and your voice in ensuring our policies are reflective of our community of learners. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Your input will be considered and used to help inform revisions to the policies.

42nd annual Terry Fox Run! Sept 22

The entire school will be participating! Schedules as below:

- Grade 9 classes period 2A 9:45 – 10:20
- Grade 10 classes period 2B 10:25 – 10:55
- Grade 11 classes period 5A 1:45- 2:20
- Grade 12 classes period 5B 2:25 – 2:55

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

Thanks for your support of this wonderful cause! Fundraising is taking place via SchoolCashOnline.

Student Council Grade representative elections

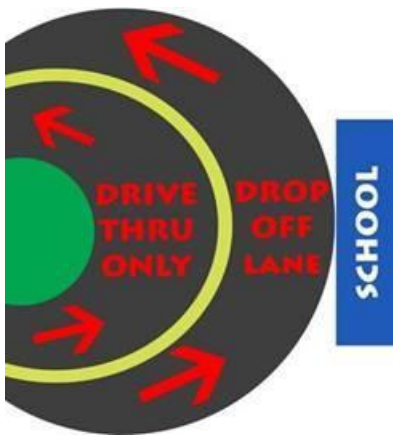
Elections are here! Interested students must complete the application form posted on the Junior and Senior Announcement Google Classroom by 3pm on September 22nd.

Safety and Community Notices

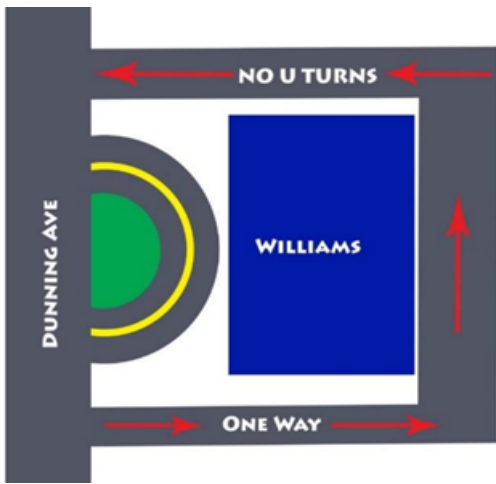
York Regional Transit (YRT) has announced a new Route 32 northbound trip, beginning September 14, to meet the afternoon bell time at Dr. G. W. Williams. This information won't be reflected on their website until November 6 but is included in this [flyer](#).

Driveway and Parking Lot

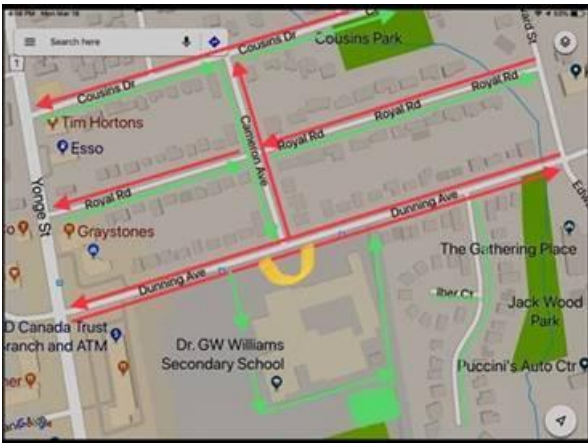
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses 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:

- September 23
- October 21
- November 18
- February 3

- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- February 21
- April 17
- May 15