

Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Nov. 28 - Dec. 9, 2022

Trait of the Month: Empathy

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
George Tsigaridis, 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

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

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

This week:

Nov. 28	Grad Photos Curling Team vs. St. Theresa at York Curling Club 2:30 pm Senior Girls Volleyball vs Sutton DHS, Keswick HS at our school 3:30 pm
Nov. 29	Grad Photos Ice Hockey Team vs. Huron Heights at Magna Centre 2:45 pm Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball vs Sutton District at our school 3:30 pm Introduction to Mental Health
Nov. 30	Grad Photos Courses dropped by this date will not show on a student's transcript
Dec. 1	Grad Photos Ice Hockey Team vx. Alexander Mac HS 3:00 pm Skill Trade&Tech Inclusivity Series
Dec. 2	Elementary Music Concert

Upcoming

Dec. 5	Curling Team vs. Huron Heights at York Curling Club 2:30 pm Senior Girls Volleyball vs Our Lady of the Lake, Keswick HS at Our Lady of the Lake CHS 3:30 pm York Region Immunization clinic
Dec. 6	Ice Hockey Team vs. Huron Heights at Aurora Family Leisure Complex 3:00 pm Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball vs Keswick HS at Keswick HS 4 pm
Dec. 7	
Dec. 8	Ice Hockey Team vs. Sutton HS at Georgina Sutton Arena Hall 2: 30 pm Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball vs Dr J M Denison at Dr J M Denison SS 4 pm
Dec. 9	

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

The school council met on Monday evening and learned about the equity initiatives we are taking in the school. I encourage parents to come out to our next meeting in February to learn more about what is happening and reach out to the Chair, Kathy Duncan or myself if you have ideas of topics you would like to see discussed.

We had a wonderful celebration last night with close to 500 students at the semi-formal. It was great to see all the students together and enjoying themselves.

Our staff engaged last week in a day of professional development focused on Identity Affirming Classrooms and Mental health initiatives as well as Equitable Assessment practices. The learning was rich and the staff are very engaged in the ongoing reflection of our practices to support student well-being and achievement. As a Principal it is wonderful to have such committed staff working on these important topics.

By now, you should have received your child's mid term report cards electronically. Thank you for your patience as the board continues to work through the transition in our Student Management System. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about their progress.

All the best,
Melissa Schmidt

Literacy Corner

Dr. G.W. Williams S. S. has applied to the **Learning & Engagement Accelerator Fund** for a grant that would allow us to start a living library. Our chances of getting this grant increase with the more community support it has. The Living Library project challenges stereotypes, stigma, prejudice and discrimination by presenting students with many different lived experiences existing in our local context. It promotes tolerance, celebrates differences, and encourages understanding of people with lived experiences from a variety of cultural, social, or lifestyle backgrounds. The project would enable us to bring in a wide variety of speakers to get diversity in speaker topics and backgrounds and their types of interactions with students. The link to the project proposal can be found [here](#). Your support in sharing and commenting on the project page would be greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION Grade 12 students - Graduation Photos are happening Nov. 21 - Dec. 1!!

Schedule your appointment now! Go to prestigeportraits.ca to confirm or reschedule your session. For more information please see the attached [flyer](#).

School Immunization Clinic

York Region Public Health is offering an immunization clinic at Dr. G.W. Williams S.S. for Hepatitis B, HPV & Meningococcal vaccines. Vaccines are available for free to students in grades 7-12. **The Scheduled clinic day is Monday December 5th.** For more information and to submit an online consent form see [here](#).

Williams School Yearbook

After two years of not being able to publish a full Yearbook, Williams Yearbook Team is in full swing preparing for a 2022-2023 full publication! Yearbooks are a special memento that students get to take away with them at the end of the school year as it highlights all events, sports, clubs, staff and of course students of that year. All grades are represented equally in the book and it is truly a representation of our school community. Purchase your beautiful hard copy today!

Will only be available for purchase on [School Cash online](#)!

Student Activity Fee Paid \$46 *Recommended
Student Activity Fee NOT Paid \$50

Music Dept.

Wear your love for the Music Department Hoodies, Crews, T-shirts and Sweatpants! Look great and be comfy with our 2022/2023 merch! On sale until Dec. 1! Go to [school.cash.online](#) to order.

Skill Trade & Tech Inclusivity Series

Skills Ontario is hosting the second virtual Skills Inclusivity and Tech program for this school year with featured speaker, Omolade Williams. The event will take place December 1, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please see the [link](#) for the informational flyer and registration link.



Notices

Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) members have prepared their fall edition of their [quarterly newsletter](#). We are delighted to share the Fall 2022 edition of Engagement Matters. This newsletter is designed to inspire, connect and inform families across our school board.

Moving Forward Hand in Hand Parent/caregiver series - The York Region District School Board, in collaboration with Taibu Community Health Centre Black Health Alliance: Pathways to Care Project & Support and Growth, invites you to Moving Forward Hand in Hand Parent/caregiver series supporting students of African Caribbean Canadian Heritage. For more information see [here](#).

Introduction to Mental Health - This session in Mandarin and Cantonese will help you gain an understanding of mental health, mental health issues, associated stigma and coping strategies and community resources. 這講座將讓大家了解什麼是心理健康、心理健康問題、相關的謬誤、應對策略和社區資源 这讲座将帮助大家认识与心理健康相关的一些常识和误区以及应对策略和社区资源. For more information see [here](#).

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter November 2022 - November's Mental Health Newsletter for families and caregivers has a focus on the Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy: Within Us, Between Us, and Around Us. To read the newsletter see [here](#).

360°kids believes that every young person deserves a safe place to call home. Since our founding in 1989, 360°kids has continued to provide a full complement of programs and services aimed at assisting at-risk and homeless youth. For more information see [here](#).

Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter - November Issue

We look forward to continuing to develop opportunities for supporting Black students, families and staff within the York Region District School Board, in partnership with community partners. See [newsletter](#) for further information.

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.

Guidance

Post-Secondary Pathways

- **If students are applying to Ontario colleges:**
 - They will need their Ontario Education Number (OEN). Please watch the [How To Apply To Public Colleges in Ontario Video](#).
- **If students are applying to Ontario universities:**
 - They will need their School Number, Student Number and Temporary PIN. Please watch the [101 - How - to Videos](#).
- **If students are going into the skilled trades:**
 - Please visit [OYAP](#), [Skills Ontario](#) and see your Guidance Counsellor.

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/>

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. 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. 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. If a student arrives late for Period 1 and before

8:45 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 and announcements to be completed 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 2022-2023

- Please use this [link](#)

Family Start-Up Forms

Parents/guardians received an email from YRDSB Update with important school start-up forms to complete. **It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions.**

The forms can be found at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>.

Secondary school students can complete the secondary school student form at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/students>. Elementary school students do not need to complete these forms.

You must be signed in to your child’s student GAPPS account to complete the form.

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

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.

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](#).

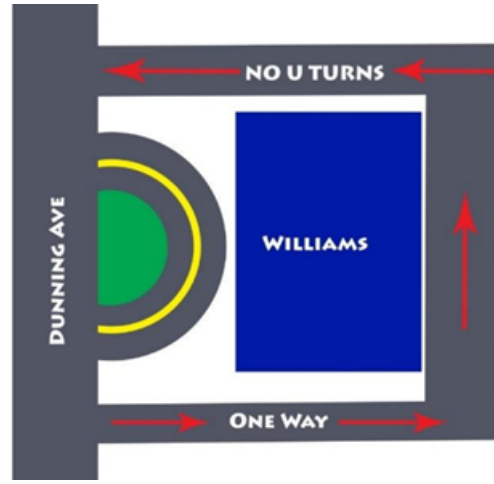
We continue to work with YRT to provide an improved experience for our students riding the 426 buses at the end of each day. Please remind your students to line up single file to board the buses and to stay behind the sidewalk (on the field) until the buses arrive and begin loading. This is important for everyone’s safety.

Driveway and Parking Lot

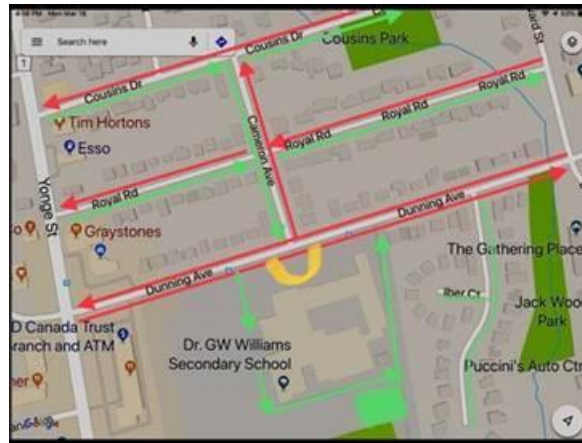
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- November 18
- February 3
- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- November 21
- February 21
- April 17
- May 15