



Williams’ Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of November 4 - November 15 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

39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2
(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

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

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

This week:

Monday, Nov. 4	Beaver Computer Contest - Gr 9/10 IB Applications Close Staff Meeting (3 pm, Library)
Tuesday, Nov. 5	Course Catch Up Day
Wednesday, Nov. 6	Term 1 Ends Take your Kid to Work Day (Gr 9 students) Take your Grade 8s to High School Day
Thursday, Nov. 7	Semester 1/Term 2 Begins Grade 8 Open House (6:30-8:30pm)
Friday, Nov. 8	

Next Week:

Monday, Nov. 11	Remembrance Day Assembly (P1/P2)
Tuesday, Nov. 12	
Wednesday, Nov. 13	CSIMC Waterloo Math Contests IB Assessment Holocaust Survivor Presentation
Thursday, Nov. 14	
Friday, Nov. 15	PA DAY

To support your family planning, the approved 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 on our website now.

Message from our Principal

As you know we have reached out a number of times in the last 24 hours. Thank you for the support and care that the entire school community has shown as we navigate dealing with this tragedy in our community. Please reach out if you know of additional individuals that can benefit from further support. Know that our school team is working hard to ensure we are there for our students and also for each other as this is equally challenging for our staff.

Please continue to monitor access to social and mainstream media throughout this to protect your own and your child’s own mental health and well-being.

Take care,
Melissa

Message from our School Council

Our third meeting for the year will be on Tuesday November 18th at 7:00pm, at the school library. Each meeting we focus on important topics parents are interested in exploring/learning. This meeting’s topic of discussion will be with a focus on technology as well as library services at Williams. Hope to see you there!

School Notices

Semi-Formal - Save the Date!

Semi Formal is approaching quickly, and the staff of Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School is pleased to celebrate this occasion with students in grades 9-12 on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at The Royal Venetian, 400 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM and end at 10:30 PM. Doors close promptly at 6:30 PM. The evening’s events will include dinner at 7:00 PM followed by dancing. The Semi-Formal will be supervised by school board staff and the York Regional Police.

in order to attend, proof of ticket purchase is required. Tickets will be available for purchase through School Cash Online, from Monday, November 4th - Monday, November 11th - only.

Please Note:

- Due to venue size, only 400 tickets will be sold to this event.
- Only one ticket per student may be purchased.
- Individual ticket price is dependent on whether or not the student activity fee has previously been paid. All ticket sales will be reviewed to ensure the correct payment amount has been demonstrated.
- If unable to attend the Semi Formal, no refunds will be issued.
- Any questions should be directed to lisa.shillum@yrdsb.ca

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.

Medical Documentation

Fillable Health Care forms are available for families who have children with asthma, seizure disorders, anaphylaxis, diabetes. These forms can be accessed through the [link](#) provided or a paper copy can also be requested from the office. Please choose the one that applies to your child.

Please email the completed form or return to Mrs. DeGeer in the Main Office. Please note: **If your child no longer requires a Health Care form, please email us letting us know.**

Ordering School Photographs

Parents can view/order their child's photo by visiting the Lifetouch [website](#). They can use the student ID number but will have to create an account in order to do so.

Grad Pictures

Grade 12 Graduation pictures start on November 18th, 2024, on the cafeteria stage. The first 3 days are open and ready for appointments. Appointment times start @ 8 am everyday (with the exception of the first day starting at 10 am for set up time) with the last appointment @ 3:45 pm each day. Please [click here](#) for more information.

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).

Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fair: Grades 7-12

The Pathways Team in Curriculum and Instructional Services in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) invites Elementary students in Grades 7-8 and Secondary students in Grades 9-12 to attend the [Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fair](#), which is an Ontario-wide multi-day career fair connecting students with the best skilled trades professionals. Students will discover the potential of a career in the skilled trades with hands-on experiences, interactive exhibits, and mentorship from real industry experts and representatives from businesses, associations, post-secondary institutions, and more!

If your child would be interested in attending this opportunity please have them see their Guidance counsellor. If you would like to attend an evening session with your child, please [see here](#) for details on dates and location.

G.I.V.E! Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

Join this YRDSB x CCSYR workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child’s education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience! See [here](#) for more information and [register here](#) for the November 11- 15 session.

Renewed Computer Technology Fall Applications

At Williams we are now in a 1:1 Educational Model. This means that each student requires their own personal device (laptop, Chromebook, or tablet/keyboard).

Having said that, the YRDSB is once again collaborating with Renewed Computer Technology to deliver quality refurbished technology to limited income families. The Fall application period will close on November 22, 2024.

Hyperlinked here is a [letter to families](#) with more specific information

To submit an application, please click on the form [linked](#) here. For any questions, please reach out to our Head of Library, Anthony Buono or your child’s Vice Principal.

Family Dashboard

YRDSB will be launching a family portal called the Family Dashboard this month.

The dashboard will give parents/guardians secure, accessible one-stop access to information and applications. It is designed to make it easier for families to engage with their child’s education. To access the dashboard, parents/guardians must have current email contact information with the school

In this first phase, the dashboard will include:

- parent/guardian authentication
- secure access to report card links

For more information click on this [link](#) which is available in 13 different languages.

Guidance

Looking for volunteer opportunities? - Check out the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office or visit [here](#) or attend the [2024 Ignite Fair](#) on October 19th for local opportunities. Need to submit your volunteer hours? Please [use this form](#) and submit it to the Guidance office.

Post-Secondary Applications

Grade 12 students attended an assembly on September 25th that covered information regarding the post-secondary application process. The slides have been posted on the Guidance Google Classroom for anyone interested in reviewing the information. It is the responsibility of the school to provide the Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) and Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) with information relevant to student applications (i.e marks, list of current courses, projected courses etc.).

APSIP - Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program

A collective of Recruiters from Colleges, Universities and Polytechnics helping Indigenous learners Connect, Explore and Discover the Post-Secondary landscape. APSIP will be travelling across Ontario and parts of Quebec for the annual Fall recruitment season. This year the tour will run from September through December 2024. APSIP will be in the Greater Toronto Area from December 2-6, 2024. Reach out to info@apsip.ca for more information and visit their website below.

OUAC/OCAS Transcript Transmissions

- All grade 11 and 12 marks are shared with OUAC (Ontario Universities) and OCAS (Ontario Colleges). Our school sends grade 12 midterm and final marks for each semester on the following dates - please note that the grades are not updated in real time and universities and colleges only see the grades that are sent on these dates:
 - Ontario Colleges:
 - OCAS 1st Transmission: October 4, 2024
 - OCAS 2nd Transmission: November 15, 2024
 - OCAS 3rd Transmission: February 14, 2025
 - OCAS 4th Transmission: April 25, 2025
 - OCAS 5th Transmission: July 4, 2025
 - OCAS 6th Transmission: August 8, 2025
 - Ontario Universities:
 - OUAC 1st Transmission: November 7, 2024
 - OUAC 2nd Transmission: November 19, 2024
 - OUAC 3rd Transmission: February 13, 2025
 - OUAC 4th Transmission: April 24, 2025
 - OUAC 5th Transmission: July 7, 2025
 - OUAC 6th Transmission: August 1-29, 2025

Full Disclosure

The full disclosure date for Grade 11 and 12 courses is **November 27, 2024**. If a student drops a Grade 11 or 12 course prior to this date it will not be recorded on their transcript. If a student drops a Grade 11 or 12 course after this date it will be recorded on their transcript with the current mark at the time of withdrawal and a “W” indicating the drop.

Financing Your Post-Secondary Education

On October 9th, Grade 12 students were invited to attend a Financing Your Education workshop. The slide deck is now posted under “Classwork” on the Guidance Google Classroom, along with a live document with other scholarship information and opportunities. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with their guidance counsellor for support in their application process.

YRES Fall Workshop

Please [click](#) here for information regarding the virtual program.
Please [click](#) here for information regarding the in person program.

Student Success Corner

Interim Progress Reports (Issued October 15/16) are an early indication of a student’s demonstration of learning. Level 2 or below suggests that a student needs help achieving the provincial standard. Below are some steps that may be helpful:

1. Connect with the teacher for next steps.
2. Have your child access extra help through student success (daily from 7:30 - 8:15 am, during lunch, 3:00 - 4:00 pm).
3. Peer tutoring is available. Have your child use the class code **g2y6xje** to access the google classroom and follow the prompts.

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 drgwilliamsss.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 2024-2025

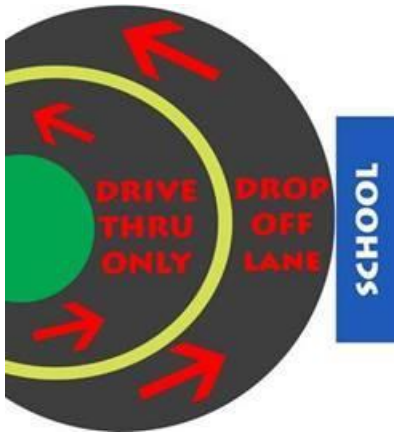
Our School Calendar for 2024-2025 has been posted on our [School website](#) and will continue to be updated as events are added.

Website Resources for Families and Students

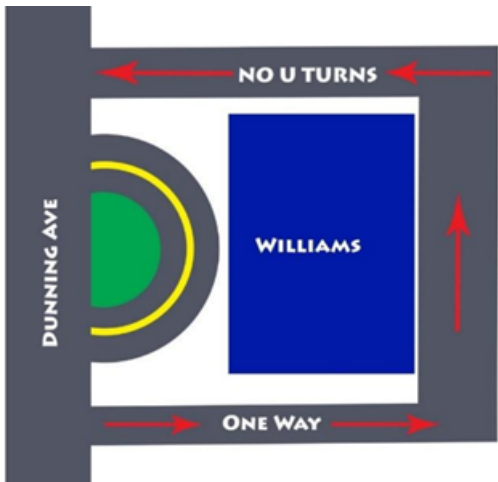
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

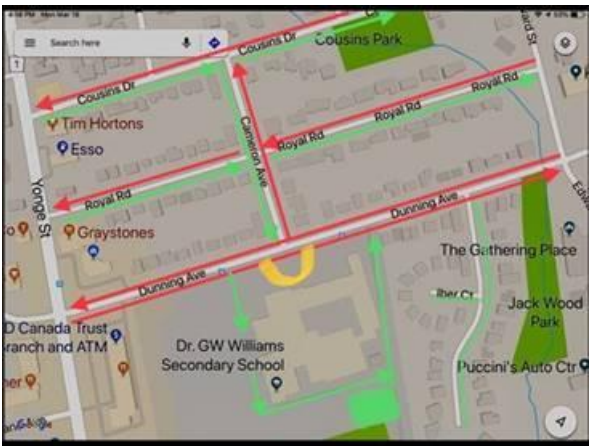
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- November 15, 2024
- January 31, 2025
- May 5, 2025
- June 26 & 27, 2025