



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Oct 3 - 7, 2022

Trait of the Month: Inclusivity

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)

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

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

This week:

Oct 3	Girl Field Hockey vs Sir William Mulock SS 3:30 pm at Dr. JM Denison HS
Oct 4	Boys Soccer vs Dr JM Denison 1:45 PM. SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs Huron Heights SS 4 pm at Williams Junior and Senior Boys Rugby 7's vs Denison, Keswick 1:30 pm at Williams Tech Leadership committee meeting after school, Room 128
Oct 5	✳ Yom Kippur (The holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism) IWALK Month starts
Oct 6	Boys Soccer vs Aurora HS 3 pm at Williams Cross Country 9 am at Boyd Conservation Area, Woodbridge
Oct 7	Photo Retake Day (on the stage)

Upcoming

Oct 10	✳ Thanksgiving (no school) ✳ Sukkot (Jewish holiday celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates)
Oct 11	Boys Soccer vs Huron Heights SS 4 PM at Williams Girl Field Hockey vs Stouffville SS 4 pm at Dr JM Denison Junior and Senior Boys Rugby 7's vs RHH, SHC, DEN, KES 1:50 pm at Huron Heights SS SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs Sacred Heart CHS 3 pm at Sacred Heart Catholic High School Semi-Formal ticket on sale on ' School Cash Online '
Oct 12	
Oct 13	IB Information Night 7 PM Girls Field Hockey Game vs Sir Williams Mulock SS 4:30 pm at Dr. JM Denison HS SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs Dr JM Denison 3:15 pm at Dr JM Denison SS
Oct 14	IB Application opens until Nov 7 . Late applications will not be accepted.

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

Today we had the opportunity to continue to honour the survivors of residential schools and their families as we recognized Orange Shirt Day & The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation at GW Williams Secondary School. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. As part of this learning, we continue to consider how important education is in raising awareness of residential schools and the damage done to indigenous people. We are very proud of our students and staff who engaged and some rich learning today connected to the curriculum in courses across the school.

We also want to acknowledge all the participants of the Terry Fox Run and those that donated to the cause. It was great to get the whole school community involved this year as students and staff made their way through the community on our walk for Terry.

We have now completed all the reorganization of teaching schedules based on the additional staffing provided to the school to support student needs. We recognize the challenge of making changes at the end of September for both students and staff and appreciate everyone's understanding as we implement the changes today.

The [clubs page](#) on our website has been updated with all the meeting dates and times. It will continue to be updated throughout the year as clubs are approved. Be sure to check it out to see the many offerings available for students.

All the best,
Melissa Schmidt

Athletics Notices

Our sports teams have started competing and are a dominant force on the courts and fields. We are looking forward to getting out to see many of the games in the coming weeks. Go Wildcats!!

Notices

Homeless Prevention Program

Information about York Region's Homelessness Prevention Program and Housing Stability Program for families. For more information, please 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.

Guidance

[YRDSB Night School Information](#)

[YRDSB Aquatic Leadership Program](#)

Important Updates

Grade 12 Families - please look out for email communication from the school regarding college and university applications and important dates.

Upcoming Events

- **Local Post-Secondary Fairs:**
 - ***NEW*** The Post-Secondary Fair at Newmarket High School is on October 13th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Click [here](#) for more details.
 - The Post-Secondary Fair for the Aurora/King area schools is on October 26th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Downtown Toronto Post-Secondary Fairs:**
 - [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/>

***Please note:** MyBlueprint is not updated with information regarding credits earned, SHSM status, volunteer hours, etc. Once we know that this problem has been resolved we will let you know.

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.

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

Clubs at the school

We are adding more clubs for the students to join. Information is announced in the morning. Students and parents can check the club listing on our [website](#) as well.

Semi Formal

Semi-Formal is coming up this **November 24!** This is a great opportunity to spend time with friends and enjoy a night out! It will be an event filled with memories and a buffet! Tickets will be **on sale on [School Cash online](#) starting October 11th**. All grades are welcome!

Anti-Asian Racism Survey Invitation - G7-12 Students

YRDSB is collecting information on experiences of Asian students (East Asian, South Asian, South East Asian). If you are an Asian identifying G7-12 student, you are invited to complete an [anonymous survey](#). Survey closes: October 31, 2022.

EIAC Call for Community Members

YRDSB invites [applications](#) from community volunteers for membership on Equity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (EIAC). Application deadline is November 1, 2022.

Human-Trafficking

Human Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a prevalent issue and one of the fastest growing and most lucrative crimes worldwide and it is happening in York Region. Register for the Anti-Human Trafficking Conference in the [flyer](#).

IWALK 2022

International Walk to School Month ([IWALK](#)) is an annual celebration of active transportation that takes place around the world throughout the month of October. Celebrate active modes of transportation like walking and wheeling along with other students and staff across Ontario during IWALK Month, which officially kicks off Oct 5.

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 supports, and translation tools.

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.

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](#).

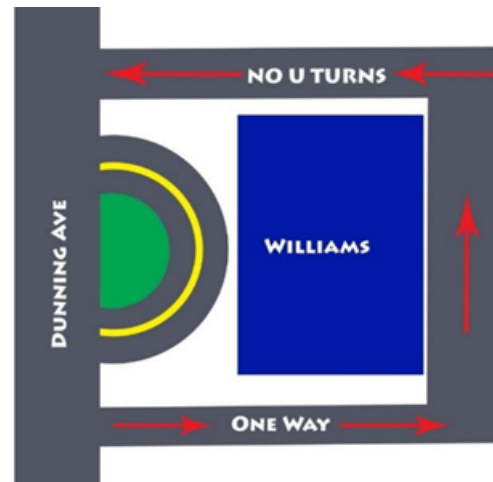
We continue to work with YRT to provide an improved experience for our students riding the 426 buses at the end of each day. Please remind your students to line up single file to board the buses and to stay behind the sidewalk (on the field) until the buses arrive and begin loading. This is important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

Driveway and Parking Lot

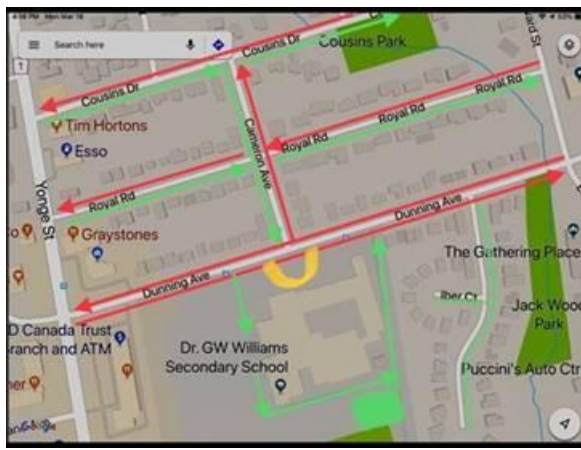
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- October 21
- November 18
- February 3
- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- October 17
- November 21
- February 21
- April 17
- May 15, 2022