



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Jan 9 - Jan 20, 2023

Trait of the Month: Optimism

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  
Susie Mitchell, 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.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

### This week:

<b>Jan. 9</b>	<b>1st day back to school.</b> Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball vs Aurora HS at Aurora HS 4 pm Curling Team Game vs Sacred Heart at York Curling Club at 2:30 pm
<b>Jan. 10</b>	Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball vs Our Lady of the Lake CHS at Our Lady of the Lake CHS 4 pm Ice Hockey Game vs Sutton HS at Aurora Family Leisure Complex 3 pm Being a Parent: Mindful Parenting Series
<b>Jan. 11</b>	JR Boys Basketball at Maple High School 4 pm Senior Girls Volleyball vs Our Lady of the Lake 3:30 pm (Home game)
<b>Jan. 12</b>	Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball at Earl Haig SS 3:20 pm Course Selection Assemblies ( 1A, 1B, 2A)
<b>Jan. 13</b>	<a href="#">Student Trustee Election</a> application due date

### Upcoming

<b>Jan. 16</b>	Curling Team Game vs Huron Heights at York Curling Club 2:30 pm The Rhapsody Film Screening RSVP deadline. Event at Anne Frank PS 6:30 Jan 25.
<b>Jan. 17</b>	JR Boys Basketball vs Sacred Heart CHS at Sacred Heart CHS 4 pm BFCN (Black Foundation of Community Networks) Scholarship Application Workshop Ride the Waves: Mindful Parenting series
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Senior Girls Volleyball vs Renaissance ESC, Huron Heights SS at Keswick HS 3:30 pm Library closed all day
<b>Jan. 19</b>	Senior Boys Tier 2 Basketball vs Cardinal Carter 4 pm (Home game) Ice Hockey Game vs Keswick High School at Georgina Ice Palace 2:30 pm Grade 9 EQAO Math - Lab 234, 236 & Library Library closed all day
<b>Jan. 20</b>	Grade 9 EQAO Math - Lab 234, 236 & Library Library closed all day

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

This past week students and staff have shown their spirit as we dressed comfy cozy, went retro and wore our ugly sweaters. It was a great way to ease into the holiday break. Although we missed crazy hat\sock day on Friday due to the weather we hope everyone was able to stay safe!

Last night I had the pleasure of participating in the 'Songs of the Season' concert put on by our music department led by Mr. Harrison and Ms. Wilson. Thank you to the many family and friends that came to watch the 250 performers in such a great start to the holiday. On Wednesday the Holiday Wishes were chosen and we also want to thank everyone who participated. Congratulations to those whose wishes came true!! The music department was able to raise \$2500 towards their goal of updating all our instruments.

The staff would like to wish Mrs. Piruzza-Gibbons well as she retires after 31 years at Williams. Mrs. Piruzza-Gibbons has been a staple in our Business department and will be missed by staff and students. To finish up the semester, Mr. Mitch Safaric will be joining our team at Williams.

This week we welcomed our Vice Principal, Susie Mitchell back from leave. We thanked Mr. Tsigaridis for assisting in her absence and wish him well as he returns to his retirement.

The staff look forward to welcoming students and staff back to the building on Monday January 9th. Have a safe, restful break!

Melissa Schmidt

### **NEW Exam Schedule for Semester 1 - Thursday, Jan. 26 - Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023**

Please refer to the final exam information [here](#) and detailed exam schedules indicated [here](#). Parents and students are reminded to not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, work, etc. during examination times. \*In the event that one of the exam days is declared an inclement weather day by the Board (i.e. school buses are cancelled), the exams regularly scheduled for that day will be advised later.

### **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**

## Notices

**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](#).

### **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.

### **Families and Schools Together**

'[Families and Schools Together](#)' is a play and art therapy based program that allows families to come together. A program that will help reduce caregiver isolation by connecting with other families in the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

### **Town of Aurora No Idling**

Did you know that the Town of Aurora is now idle-free? The Town of Aurora [anti-idling policy](#) states that as a motorist you MUST turn off your vehicle after 5 consecutive minutes of idling, unless in traffic. You can do other things to support the environment in the community by turning off your vehicle anytime you are stopped for more than 30 seconds. This will help Aurora's goal to reduce 80% of greenhouse gases by 2050. Please also consider carpooling your students to school. Many vehicles are picking up one single student. Work together to do our part in the Williams community!!

### **Student Trustee Election 2023**

Applications are open December 15, 2022 - January 13, 2023. Students who will be in Grade 11 or 12 during the 2023-2024 school year are eligible to apply. The application form and information about the role of student trustee and application process are available at [www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees). Students currently in Grades 10 and 11 will also receive an email to their GAPPs account informing them of this opportunity. Students are asked to let their school principal know that they are applying.

### **BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop**

BFCN (Black Foundation of Community Networks) is providing a free [online workshop](#) to show Black students and their families how to search, prepare, and apply for scholarships and bursaries.

### **Mindful Parenting Series**

Our board welcome parents, guardians, caregivers and community members to attend these virtual sessions on [mindful parenting](#). January 10 and January 17, 2023 from 10am to 11:30am.

### **NACCA Call For Art Q&A**

The Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA), in partnership with the Town of Newmarket, is inviting members of Newmarket and York Region communities who self-identify as Black to submit artwork. See [here](#) for more information.

### **The Rhapsody Film Screening**

YRDSB families, educators and students (Grade 9+) are invited to join the screening of The [Rhapsody](#), a documentary about a Polish Canadian composer/Holocaust survivor, Leo Spellman. It will be hosted at Anne Frank Public School Jan 25, 2023. Please RSVP by Jan 16, 2023.

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## Guidance

### **\*IMPORTANT UPDATES\***

- **Course Selections** for the following school year will begin in mid-February. Please remind students to check their pathway planners on myBlueprint.ca.
- Graduates of 2023 must complete and submit their volunteer hours by **Tuesday, May 23rd, 2022**.

### **Dual Credit Registrations for Semester 2 Open**

Dual Credits allow students in secondary school to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification. Please see [here](#) for more detailed information.

- 2023 Winter Dual Credit Course List 2023 Winter [HERE](#)
- Dual Credit Application Form [HERE](#)

### **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/>

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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. 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](mailto: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. 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.

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### **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](#).

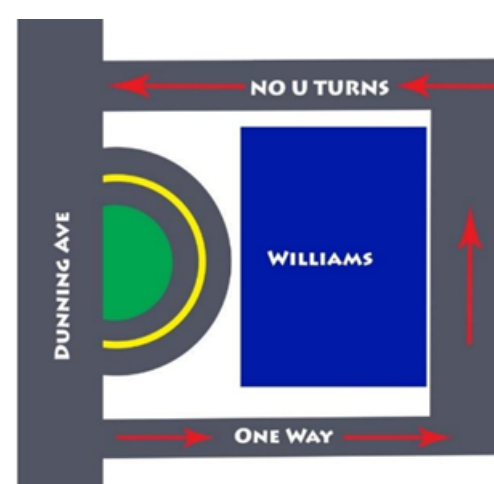
We continue to work with YRT to provide an improved experience for our students riding the 426 buses at the end of each day. Please remind your students to line up single file to board the buses and to stay behind the sidewalk (on the field) until the buses arrive and begin loading. This is important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

### **Driveway and Parking Lot**

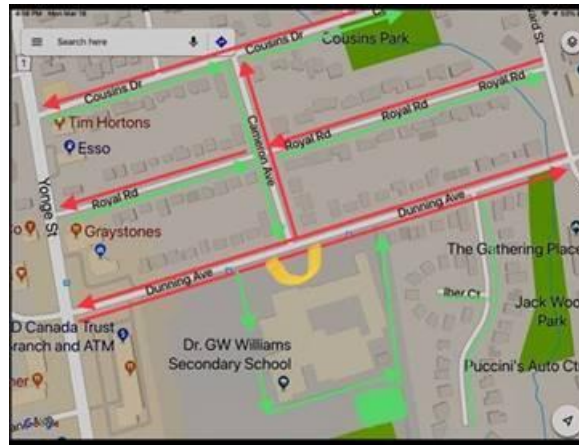
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- February 3
- May 5
- June 30

**School Council Meetings for 2022-2023**

- February 21
- April 17
- May 15