

# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 22 - Jun 2, 2023

Trait of the Month: Integrity

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  
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### 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: [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

### This week:

<b>May 22</b>	Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL
<b>May 23</b>	Track & Field at Bill Crothers S.S. 8:30 am Girls Rugby Game at Thornlea S.S. (leave home school 1:45 pm) Western University Brass Workshop - Rm 122 & 129, 10:30 am - 1:40 pm
<b>May 24</b>	Track & Field at Bill Crothers S.S. 8:30 am Jr. & Sr. Boys Rugby vs 1) Richmond Hill HS, 2) Dr JM Denison at Keswick HS 2:30 pm Ultimate Frisbee Game vs 1) Newmarket HS, 2) Sacred Heart CHS at Sacred Heart CHS 3:30 pm Fast Track Conference Music Spring Concert - Cafeteria 7 pm
<b>May 25</b>	Music Spring Concert - Cafeteria 7 pm IB Bowling Excursion Varsity Boys Baseball Game vs St Theresa CS at Lambert Wilson Park 3 pm Last day ticket sale for Spring Wish
<b>May 26</b>	Prom/Grad assembly - period 2 Spring Wish announces 2 pm, in Music room and on Instagram live * Eve of Shavuot (Judaism)

### Upcoming

<b>May 29</b>	Flag Football Tournament (Tier 1 playoffs)
<b>May 30</b>	Gr 9 - 12 Visual Art & Photography student at Distillery Track & Field CENTRALS at York University 10 am - 4 pm Varsity Boys Baseball Game vs REN at Lambert Wilson Park 3 pm Ultimate Frisbee game vs Pape Francoisa and Sacred Heart at École catholique Pape-François 3:30 pm
<b>May 31</b>	Jr. Boys and Girls Rugby vs Keswick HS, Huron Heights SS at St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS 3:30 pm Student Exam Prep Webinar Vaccination Clinic (all day) IB Carnival (Period 5)
<b>Jun 1</b>	Music Banquet (evening) Sr. Boys Rugby Game vs Richmond Green SS and Brother Andre CHS at Huron Heights SS 3:30 pm Track & Field CENTRALS at York University 10 am - 4 pm
<b>Jun 2</b>	Student Appreciation BBQ (P3 & 4)

To support your family planning, the 2022-2023 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](#).

The proposed YRDSB 2023-2024 school year calendar has been approved by the Ministry. This calendar may be accessed on the [YRDSB website](#). Our Google calendar will be updated shortly now that Ministry approval has been received.

### Message from the Principal

We hope that everyone enjoyed a restful long weekend. It is hard to believe that there are only six weeks remaining until the end of the school year. The next few weeks are extremely busy with our sports teams wrapping up their spring seasons, the music concerts later this week, Student Appreciation BBQ, prom, banquets and finally graduation.

Please be sure to review the information below regarding our exam schedule. Given our early graduation date, the exam schedule has been adjusted to have Grade 12 students begin on June 16 and the Grade 9-11 students begin on June 21. This adjustment is made across YRDSB schools where the graduation date is on Monday.

We do have some changes in our main office starting on Monday. We welcome Lori Moritz to reception and Eliza Lam will be responsible for attendance. Please continue to use the attendance mailbox ([drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)) or call extension 100 to alert us of any absences for your child.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

### School Notices

#### June 2023 Exam Schedule

Final examinations will be written from **Friday, June 16th to Monday, June 26th**. Grade 12 exams will be written prior to Grades 9-11 as per the schedule below. The final day for Grade 12 classes will be June 15th and final day for Grades 9-11 classes will be June 20th to accommodate for exams. Performance based exams are scheduled directly with the teacher. All other examinations begin at the times indicated in the chart below. Students are encouraged to check with their teachers regarding final assessments in the course as not all courses have final exams. The full exam schedule and final exam information will be provided to students/families in an email communication prior to May 30, 2023. Exam review day is scheduled for June 28, 2023 and a modified day schedule will be communicated with families.

Students must write their exam at school on the day and at the time for which it has been scheduled. If a student is absent for an exam, they will receive a mark of zero (0) for the exam. Final examinations will NOT be rescheduled to accommodate alternate activities which conflict with the

timing of exams (i.e. vacations, employment commitments, appointments, etc.)

Date	Grade(s)	Period	Exam Start Time
Friday, June 16	Grade 12 Exams	Period 1	8:30am
Monday, June 19	Grade 12 Exams	Period 2	9:45am
Tuesday, June 20	Grade 12 Exams	Period 5	8:30am
Wednesday, June 21	Grades 9-12	Periods 3 and 4	8:30am
Thursday, June 22	Grades 9-11	Period 1	8:30am
Friday, June 23	Grades 9-11	Period 2	8:30am
Monday, June 26	Grades 9-11	Period 5	8:30am

## GRADUATION

This year's **graduation ceremony** will be held on **June 26, 2023, 7 pm** at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex located at 100 Eagle St W. in Newmarket. Due to the size of the venue there is no cap on the amount of guests allowed. Please stay tuned for more details.

## Spring Wish

The Williams Music Department is hosting a spring wish! We have a variety of prizes including Toronto Blue Jays tickets, Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra Concert tickets, free karate lessons, and more! Prices are 3 wishes for \$5, 7 for \$10, and 15 for \$20. Cast your wishes now by purchasing them in person with cash at the front foyer every day periods 3 and 4, or online on school cash online. May 25th will be our last selling day. Wishes will be granted at 2 pm on May 26th in the Music room, and on Instagram live.

## Student Appreciation BBQ

June 2 is Student Appreciation Day BBQ! We're celebrating you, our students, with a fun-filled event during Periods 3 & 4. Students will have the option between a beef burger, veggie burger, or Halal burger and chips and a drink. Come and enjoy delicious food, games, music, and a chance to connect with friends. We appreciate all our students' hard work and dedication throughout the year, so they should not miss out on this special occasion to relax and have a great time.

## Spring Concert

You are all invited to attend the Spring Concert! Bring your kids, neighbours... whoever! The music students, especially the grade 12's, would love to see you here. Admission is Pay What You Can. Each show starts at 7 pm in the Cafeteria. Click to see our exciting programs on [24th](#) and [25th](#). There will be \$2 snacks, and you can cast your Spring Wish for one of our prizes like the Blue Jay tickets!

## YRDSB and Community Notices

### Applications open for new Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) Members

The purpose of the Parent Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. Parents/guardians interested in serving as a member of PEAC are asked to submit an application by June 14, 2023. Please click [here](#) for more info.

### Shavuot (Judaism)

Shavuot celebrates receiving God's Torah on Mount Sinai and marks the conclusion of seven weeks of personal and communal introspection following Pesach (English name: Passover). Observance begins at sundown on 5/25. In biblical times, it was one of three pilgrimage festivals in which all the Jewish men would go to Jerusalem and bring their first fruits as offerings to God.

### Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter May 2023

May's Mental Health Newsletter for families and caregivers has a focus on "Children's Mental Health Awareness Week". Please share with your families. Newsletter translations available on <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/student-support/mental-health>

### Bike to School Week

Celebrate active modes of transportation like cycling and wheeling along with other students and staff across Ontario during [Bike to School](#) Week - May 29 - June 2, 2023. Bike to School Week is a free and fun week-long celebration for kids of all ages and abilities.

### Student Exam Prep Webinar

On May 31 from 6 pm - 7:30 pm students can learn from YRDSB Alumni, YRDSB Mental Health Professionals, and Educators about the suggested preparation strategies to complete exams, and culminating projects, and helpful wellness strategies. Students will hear from former YRDSB graduates in a variety of pathways and career fields - including university, college, apprenticeship, and gap year pathways in areas such as: arts, business, social sciences, STEM, and trades. Click the registration [link](#) to RSVP (students need to be logged into their GAPPS account). They can also submit any questions for the speakers on the registration form. The deadline to register is May 30, at 12 PM.

**Recreation Subsidies** - Please see the free and/or subsidized recreation, sport programs, summer and overnight camps offered by York Region. For more information see [here](#).

**Parenting Sessions May 2023** - These free virtual parent presentations are brought to you in a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families. For more information see [here](#).

**The Come Up - Navigating Secondary School and Beyond:** Please see information on The Come Up summer program is a unique in-person course offered to self-identifying Black students in the York Region District School Board. Registration and workshop series information [here](#).

**Fast Track Student Conference & Career Expo 2023:** Graduating students who are pursuing the apprenticeship and workplace pathways are invited to attend the Fast Track Student Conference. Please see [attached](#) for more details.

### 2023 AEBS Scholarships for Black Students

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students invites Black students who are graduating from a high school in the York Region District School Board to apply for 2023 scholarships. Please see [flyer](#) for further information. The deadline to apply is **Monday, May 22nd, 2023 before 11:55 p.m.**

## Guidance

- **York Region US Universities and Colleges Fair** is on May 16th, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Thornhill Secondary School. Learn about undergraduate programs, scholarships, studying abroad, NCAA sports, and meet US universities representatives. See flyer [here](#) to register.

- **2023 Summer School Registrations Closes June 9th** - The York Region District School Board will once again be offering acceleration (in-person) and reinforcement (remote) courses during the summer. The hours for all courses are 8:45 a.m to 3:30 p.m. with two 15-minute scheduled breaks and a 40-minute lunch period. Please have your student register on myBlueprint > Continuing Education > Explore Courses and return the signed permission form to the Guidance Office.
  - Acceleration courses start Wednesday, July 5 and end Friday, July 28.
  - Session 1 for reinforcement courses start Wednesday, July 5 and end Monday, July 17.
  - Session 2 for reinforcement courses start Tuesday, July 18 and end Friday, July 28.
- **Course Selections** for the upcoming school year are now closed. Please have students see their alpha guidance counsellor if they have any questions or concerns.
- **Graduates of 2023** must complete and submit their volunteer hours by **Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023.**

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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](#)

### Website Resources for Families and Students

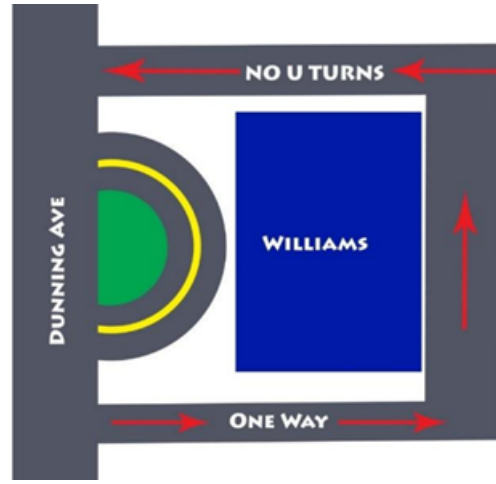
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

### Driveway and Parking Lot

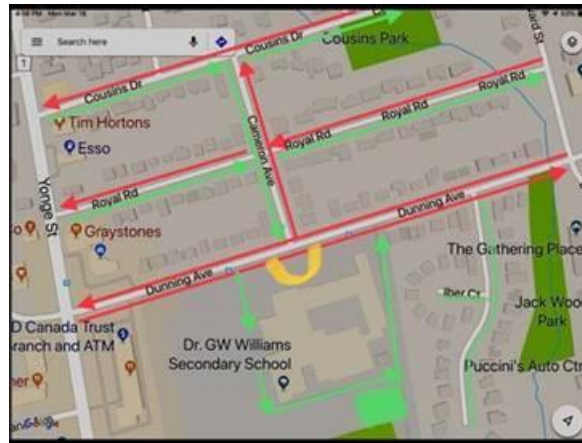
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- June 30

**School Council Meetings for 2022-2023**

- May 15