



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Nov.14 - 25, 2022

Trait of the Month: Fairness

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.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

This week:

Nov. 14	Curling Team vs. Thornlea SS at York Curling Club 2:30 pm
Nov. 15	Varsity Hockey Team vs. Keswick HS at Aurora Family Leisure Complex 3:00 pm
Nov. 16	IB Intake Math Contest (Per. 1 & 2) Cafeteria
Nov. 17	Technology Pathways Information Evening 6-7:30 pm
Nov. 18	PA DAY - No school

Upcoming

Nov. 21	Grad Photo Day Curling Team vs. Tommy Douglas SS at York Curling Club 2:30 pm School Council Meeting, 7 pm in Library
Nov. 22	Grad Photo Day Varsity Hockey Team vs. Aurora HS at Aurora Family Leisure Complex 3:00 pm
Nov. 23	Grad Photo Day
Nov. 24	Grad Photo Day SEMI FORMAL - The Royal Venetian 6 - 10:30 pm
Nov. 25	Grad Photo 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

We would like to thank the History and Music departments for all the work that went into creating such an informative and reflective Remembrance Day celebration on Friday. A special thank you to all the student participants that performed throughout the morning. It was nice to once again gather as a school by grade. We were especially pleased to see how respectful and engaged our students were during such a moving event.

This Thursday we will look forward to a technology pathways evening put together by the Technological Studies department in combination with industry experts, the YRDSB Pathways team and local colleges. It promises to be an informative evening of opportunities. We encourage students of all ages (especially younger siblings and friends) to come out and check out skills trades and what Williams has to offer.

Our Librarian, Ms. King has put together an amazing proposal to create a [Living Library at Williams](#). We need your help to be successful in achieving the funding necessary to make this proposal a reality. The [Learning & Engagement Accelerator Fund \(LEAF\)](#) assesses proposals submitted based on community support. I encourage you to check out the proposal and make a comment on it to show support (it is as simple as adding a virtual sticky note to the page) or share the proposal on social media.

Our next School Council meeting is Monday November 21st. A link to the agenda will be sent out to all families by the end of this week. We encourage you to join us.

All the best,
Melissa Schmidt

Literacy Corner

Two classes started writing the literacy test this week and four more classes are to continue next week. For students who have not yet written the literacy test, your task this week is to look at news reports. Find a news article and think about how it is organized. What information is put in the first paragraph? Next, work with your student to put the events in chronological order.

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.

NEW Wildcats Spirit Wear is on Sale!!

Hey Williams! Interested in showing our school spirit? Wildcats spirit merch will be available for sale until next Tuesday, Nov. 15! Meet our team members at the front foyer during lunch periods to purchase spiritwear! We are selling a variety of clothing that look fantastic whether you play sports or not! This includes hoodies, sweatpants, hats and more. Be sure to support our school spirit and come by during lunch times! Our wonderful WAC members will be there to help answer any questions you have, and remember Williams, GO WILDCATS!!!_For more information and to view the styles see [here](#).

*****Spirit Wear can also be purchased through [school cash online](#).*****

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

NEW 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.

NEW **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](#).

NEW **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](#).

November Triple P Parenting Sessions - Kids don't come with an instruction manual! Many familiar parenting problems have very simple solutions that can be applied with some effort and focus. Triple P's easy-to-understand and practical strategies have been shown to help families in all types of situations. Parents, guardians, caregivers and community members are invited to attend these virtual sessions during the month of November. For more information see [here](#).

Tune In YRDSB podcast: Holocaust Education with Yad Vashem - This summer several York Region District School Board educators were invited to Yad Vashem in Israel to engage in learning about the Holocaust. During Holocaust Education Week, some of those educators spoke with representatives from Yad Vashem on the podcast. To listen 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.

Upcoming Events

- **Local Post-Secondary Fairs:**
 - Please see [this list](#) for all post-secondary fairs hosted by other YRDSB secondary schools for more dates and times.
- ***NEW* Tech Pathways Information Evening at GWW:**
 - For all students interested in the skilled trades. Come speak to college representatives at our school on November 17th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - see [poster](#) for more details.
- ***NEW* Youth Volunteer Fair:**
 - Looking for community service opportunities? Attend the fair on Thursday, November 17, 2022 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

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/>
-

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](#).

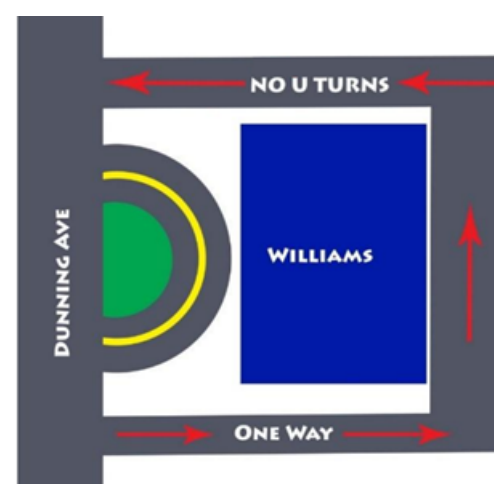
We continue to work with YRT to provide an improved experience for our students riding the 426 buses at the end of each day. Please remind your students to line up single file to board the buses and to stay behind the sidewalk (on the field) until the buses arrive and begin loading. This is important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

Driveway and Parking Lot

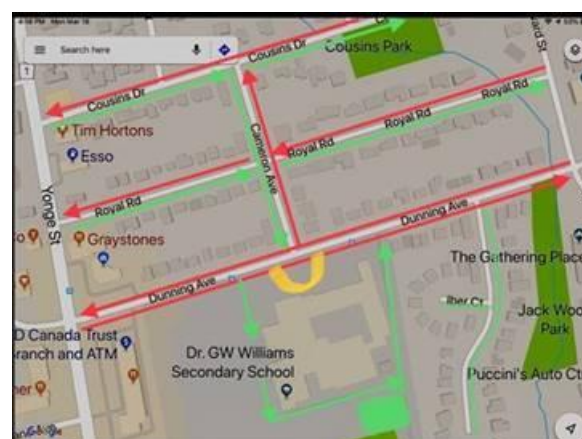
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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