



Williams’ Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of May 13 - May 17, 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

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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

May 13	Superintendent Joyce, to visit classrooms from 9:00-11:00 to see evidence of School Improvement Work IB Biology exam (1:00-1:45, 2:00-3:00) Library Ultimate Frisbee at Stouffville S.S., 1:30-6:00pm SHSM - CPR & First Aid
May 14	IB Biology exam (9:00-10:15) Rooms 106 & 107 Hockey Hall of Fame, Ripley’s Aquarium Trip Senior Girls Rugby at Keswick High, 1:50-5:30pm Junior/Senior Boys Rugby at Huron Heights S.S., 1:00-5:00pm Baseball (Stronach Field, Aurora) 1:15-3:00 pm
May 15	Lockdown Drill, Period 1; Hold & Secure Drill, Period 2 Sheila Murray, Author visit to Library (10:00-12:00) Track and Field at Bill Crothers S.S. 7:15-5:00 pm Ultimate Frisbee (Stouffville DSS) 1:15-6:00 pm D-Day Trip Meeting at 7:00pm
May 16	IB French exam (1:00-2:15, 2:30-3:30) Library EcoSparks at Cousins Park in Aurora, 8:20-11:05am & 12:20-3:05pm Baseball (Stronach Field, Aurora) 1:15-3:00 pm Girls Soccer (Dr. Denison, Newmarket) 1:45-3:00 University of Waterloo Avogadro Contest
May 17	IB French exam (9:00-9:45) Library Track and Field at Bill Crothers S.S. 7:15am-5:00pm

Upcoming

May 20	Victoria Day - No school
May 21	SHSM CPR and First Aid Scanlon Creek Conservation Creek Trip, 8:45-2:30pm Junior Boys Rugby at Markham District High School, 1:00-4:15pm Baseball at Stronach Field Aurora, 1:15-3:00pm Leadership Team meeting, 3:15-4:30 pm Culture Night and Potluck, 4:30-7:30pm School Council Meeting at 7:00pm
May 22	Ontario Court of Justice Trip, 9:00am-2:30pm Senior Boys only Rugby at Newmarket High, 1:00-4:30pm Senior Girls Rugby at Thornlea S.S., 1:50-4:45pm Fast Track: Explore Your Future Evening Event 5:00-8:00pm
May 23	Ultimate Frisbee at Stouffville S.S., 1:30–6:00pm EcoSparks at Cousins Park, Aurora 8:05-11:05am, 12:20-3:05pm Baseball at Stronach Field Aurora, 1:15-3:00pm
May 24	Student Appreciation BBQ from 11:00am-1:45pm

To support your family planning, the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 on our website now.

Message from the Principal

I am excited to be back from an amazing experience supporting 7 students from Williams and 142 students from YRDSB competing in the DECA International Career Development Conference from April 25-May 2. We were proudly represented by 7 students who qualified provincially to participate alongside 23,000 other students at this event. Congratulations to Mya C., Ariana E., Thomas H., Andrew H., Cary L., Kevin L., and Brayden P.

At the same time, our Vice Principal, Andrew Gazaneo we fortunate to spend time away with Mr. Harrison, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Casagrande and Ms. Cana with our Music Performance Trip to Washington, DC. What an amazing learning experience they had on this trip. Thank you to our staff that create and deliver these opportunities for our students while giving their own personal time.

As you can see from the calendar above we are well into the busiest season in the high school calendar. There are many spring sports, extra-curricular activities, field trips and year end events planned for the coming weeks. As a school community we are working together to support all of our students to enjoy all the opportunities that high school has for them while also helping them to use time management skills to balance the many demands of their time. Please reach out to classroom teachers, Guidance, SERTs, Student Success teachers or Vice Principals if your child is in need of some extra care and attention as we approach the end of the semester to ensure their success and well-being.

Our next School Council meeting we are encouraging families to participate in our Equity Council’s Inaugural Culture Night and Potluck prior to a shortened meeting. Please see the details below. We look forward to see many families out that evening.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

Culture Night And Potluck

The Equity Council has planned an eventful Culture Night for the Williams’ school community on Tuesday, May 21st from 4:30 - 6:30 pm! Students and their families are invited to participate in this night by bringing food for our potluck to celebrate the diverse cultures in our community. If you are able to bring in food, please complete the following [google form](#). Enjoy a night filled with the amazing activities, food, and cultures of our very own Dr. GW Williams students.

Graduation

The closer we get to graduation the more details are finalized for our celebration. Early next week, students will receive a survey to RSVP to graduation and indicate if any accommodations are required for their guests. Additionally, as part of this survey students will provide us with the information necessary for their reader cards including their preferred name as well as proper pronunciation of their first and last name. Please ensure that your child completes these important details by Friday May 16th.

YRDSB and Community Notices

Empowering East Asian Students Together (EEAST): High School Conference

In May, the Empowering East Asian Students Together: High School Conference aims to gather students of East Asian backgrounds to critically examine their racialized identities and deepen their commitment towards equity and inclusion. Date: Saturday May 25, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Thornhill Secondary School (167 Dudley Avenue, Thornhill, ON L3T 2E5). Students interested in participating should complete the [registration form](#) using their GAPPs account.

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month

[Canadian Jewish Heritage Month](#) was given Royal Assent in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Jewish Heritage Month Act, 2012, S.O. 2012,, c.1 - Bill 17) on April 24, 2012, and in the Senate of Canada on March 29, 2018. As we approach the month of May, staff and students are encouraged to engage in opportunities that celebrate and affirm Jewish histories and the achievements of the Jewish community. Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world. There are close to 400,000 Jewish residents in Canada, and almost half of the number reside in Ontario. Jewish immigrants in Canada can be traced as far back as 1760. Jewish Canadians have proudly contributed to Canadian heritage in all of its facets including the military, the arts, government, business, academia, law, medicine, culture, and sports. Throughout the month of May, we celebrate the contributions Jewish Canadians make in communities across the country.

Fast Track: Explore Your Future - Student Conference & Career Expo

The Pathways’ Team in Curriculum and Instructional Services invites graduating students and their families to participate in [Fast Track: Explore Your Future Conference](#) on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the Venue Event Space in Vaughan, ON, L4K 1W8. Please register by using this link [Fast Track: Explore Your Future Evening Event](#) and check out the flyer for more information: [May 2024 Fast Track ParentGuardian Evening Session.pdf](#)

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).

Guidance

Looking for volunteer opportunities? - Check out the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office or visit [here](#) for local opportunities.

Key Dates & Deadlines for OUAC and OCAS - Please see links below for key dates and deadlines for students who have applied for post-secondary education through OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) and OCAS (Ontario Colleges Application Service).

OCAS - [Important Dates 2024](#)
OUAC - <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/undergrad-dates/>

York Region US University Fair - May 16th 2024 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Bill Crothers S.S. (44 Main St Unionville, Unionville, ON L3R 2E4)
See flyer [here](#) for registration details and [here](#) for a list of schools and NCAA attending.

Semester 2 Full Disclosure Date - Courses dropped before May 7, 2024 will not show on a students’ transcript. Courses dropped on or after May 7 will be reflected on the student’s transcript with the mark at the time of withdrawal. Please keep in mind that students need to be enrolled in a minimum of 3 day school courses to maintain full time student status.

Summer Dual Credit Courses - **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**
Registration for the Summer Dual Credits is now open. These courses run in July for 3.5 weeks. See course offerings and registration details below.

The Summer Flyer can be found here: bit.ly/summerdcflyer
Registration is here: bit.ly/yrdsbsummerdc

- 2024 Summer Learning Opportunities** - Click [here](#) for more details. **REGISTRATION THROUGH MYBLUEPRINT IS OPEN**
- **Summer Pathway Programs** - There are several Summer Pathway Programs students can participate in and earn one to two credits, such as Cooperative Education (Co-op), Alternative Learning Experiential Program (ALEP), OYAP-Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, College Dual Credit courses and the Innovation Course at Y-Space in Markham. Click [here](#) for more details.
 - **Secondary Summer School** - Information to be available shortly. Click [here](#) for more details.
 - **Online Learning Secondary School** - The York Region District School Board provides learners a flexible approach to earning credits in the summer through Online Learning. Online Learning courses are taught by YRDSB teachers using Ontario's Virtual Learning Environment-BrightSpace by D2L. Students are not required to log in at a specific time each day. Classes occur online using an asynchronous model, with synchronous learning opportunities offered with the teacher. Click [here](#) for more details.
 - **Other Summer Programs** - Click [here](#) for more details.

Community Supports - Click [here](#) to see a listing of local community supports.

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 drgrwilliamsss.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 2023-2024

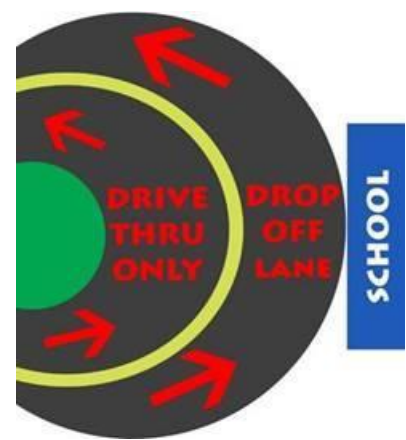
- Please use this [link](#)

Website Resources for Families and Students

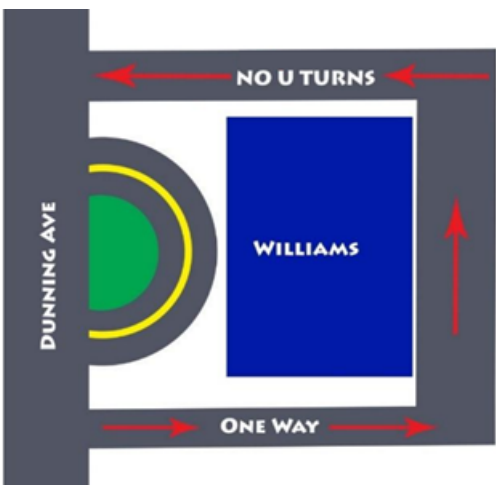
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

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.

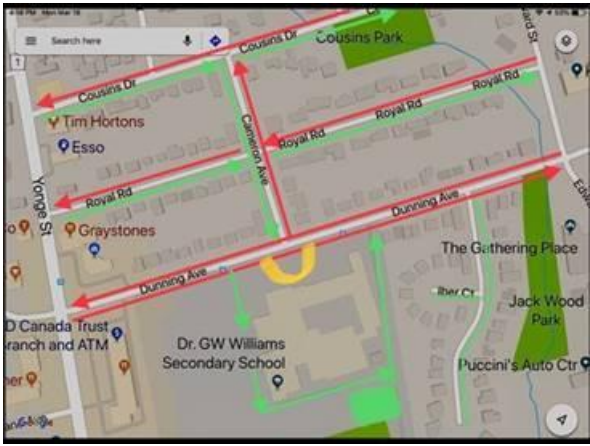


There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.



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:

- Monday, May 6, 2024
- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

School Council Meetings for 2023-2024

- Monday April 15, 2024
- Tuesday May 21, 2024



CULTURE NIGHT POTLUCK



BRING AND ENJOY FOOD FROM
YOUR CULTURE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

4:30 PM AT WILLIAMS CAFETERIA

EXECUTIVE EQUITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL
HELP SET UP AND ORGANIZE FOOD BROUGHT
IN

**21
MAY**

ALLERGIES

IF YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE POTLUCK
PLEASE INCLUDE A RECIPIE/INGREDIENTS CARD!

