



Williams’ Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of May 27 - May 31, 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

39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2
(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

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 27	Girls Flag Football at Dr. G. W. Williams, 8:00-3:00pm Baseball at The ROC, 10:00-3:00pm Girls Soccer at Sir William Mulock Secondary School, 2:15-4:45pm Gardening Club Soiree, 3:00-4:30 pm Athletic Banquet, 4:30-8pm (Cafeteria)
May 28	Grad Breakfast (Prom/Grad Assembly), 9:00-11:00 am Girls Flag Football at Dr. G. W. Williams, 8:00-4:30pm Changing Currents at Cousins Park, 8:05-11:05am EcoSparks at Cousins Park, 12:20-3:05pm SNAP Track and Field in Unionville, 8:30-2:00pm
May 29	Senior Girls Rugby at Dr. G. W. Williams - Time TBD Junior & Senior Boys Rugby at Our Lady of the Lake, 12:45-5:00pm Ultimate Frisbee at Keswick High School, 1:15-6pm Spring Concert “ <i>Inside the Imaginarium</i> ”, 7:00pm-9:00pm
May 30	Changing Currents at Cousins Park, 8:05-11:05am Spring Concert “ <i>Inside the Imaginarium</i> ”, 7:00pm-9:00pm
May31-Modified Schedule Period 1 8:20-9:30 Period 2 9:35-11:05 Period 3 11:10-12:25 Period 4 12:30-1:45 Period 5 1:50-3:00	National AccessAbility Awareness Assembly, Period 2 Changing Currents at Cousins Park, 8:05-11:05am D-Day International Trip (May 31 - June 9), Meet at airport by 8pm

Upcoming

June 3	Girls Flag Football at Markham District High School, 12:30-4pm Best Buddies Prom at Grand Cinnamon Banquet Centre, 9:15-2:15pm Staff Meeting 3:15-4:30 pm
June 4	Junior & Senior Boys Rugby Playoffs at Williams (all day)
June 5	Ultimate Frisbee Finals at Williams (all day)
June 6	IB Carnival, Period 5 Arts Night (Cafeteria), 4:30-6:30pm
June 7	Girls Flag Football Tournament at Dr. G. W. Williams (all day)

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

Last week our student Equity Club hosted their first Culture Night. It was a wonderful evening for students, staff and community members to learn a lot more about the various backgrounds and lived experiences of those that call Williams home. Students worked hard to provide informative information, share food, activities, games and music with those in attendance. I most enjoyed talking to the students and hearing them confirm once again how welcome they feel at Williams and their appreciation of our diversity.

We celebrated all our students at the end of the week at the Student Appreciation BBQ. This has become an annual tradition and we couldn’t have had better weather this year! There was lots of karaoke, food, games and a club market. Students that participated in activities earned tickets to vote for a teacher to get a pie in the face. Thanks to all our brave teacher participants!!

This coming week we begin many of the end of year festivities with the Athletic Banquet and the Spring Music Nights as well as our Grad Breakfast. Once our D-Day trip returns from Europe we will also hold our Music Banquet and Prom. The next few weeks will certainly fly by as we complete summatives, prepare for exams and celebrate all the accomplishments across the school.

Our calendar for the coming year has been finalized with all the major events. The office team is busy booking permits for the evening activities and uploading all the events to our GW Community calendar available on our website. Between now and exams this calendar will be fully updated and will assist with your planning for the coming year.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

June Exams ***IMPORTANT***

Please see details about important June dates including exam scheduling. All of this information is available on our school website on the calendar at the left.

June 11 - Grade 9 EQAO Math practice (for Semester 2 Grade 9 math students)

- Grade 12 locker clean out and lock return (Period 2)

June 12 - Grade 9 EQAO Math (for Semester 2 Grade 9 math students)

June 13 - Grade 9 EQAO Math (for Semester 2 Grade 9 math students)
- Prom for Grade 12 students
June 14 - Grade 9-11 locker clean out (Period 2)
June 17 - El-al Adha Significant Faith Day (no new material, assessments, etc.)
- Regular Instructional Day - Last day of classes for Grade 12 students
June 18 - **Period 5 GRADE 12 ONLY exams** will be held beginning at 8:30 am
- Regular classes for Grades 9-11 students, Last day of classes for Grades 9-11 students
June 19 - **Period 3/4 Exams** beginning at 8:30 am for ALL STUDENTS
June 20 - **Period 1 Exams** beginning at 8:30 am for ALL STUDENTS
June 21 - **Period 2 Exams** beginning at 8:30 am for ALL STUDENTS
June 24 - **Period 5 Exams** beginning at 8:30 am for Grade 9-11 classes
June 25 - Performance Exams and Credit Completion (individual appointments only)
- Graduation, Georgina Ice Palace 7:00 pm
June 26 - Exam Feedback Day (shortened classes, AM only)

Buses will run every day up to and including June 26th on their normal schedule. The cafeteria will be available for students to work in if they are unable to return home after their exams and are waiting for the bus in the afternoon.

Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics

For Spring 2024, the administration of the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics (EQAO) will take place from Wednesday, May 29, 2024, to Wednesday, June 26, 2024, with Individual Student Results reported after each student has completed the assessment. Participating students must complete the assessment in person. Similar to previous years, the assessment will be administered in Grade 9 Math classes towards the end of the course, and prior to the final culminating activity days. In addition, EQAO is another opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning and will only be included for 5% of the mark when it positively impacts the student's overall achievement. Please see the [EQAO](#) website for details.

YRDSB and Community Notices

Secondary Credit Courses Indigenous Languages and International Languages – Program Registration

Secondary Credit Courses (Grades 9 to 12)

Registration will open mid-July and will close the 3rd week of class. Remote learning will be in real-time using Google Classroom to deliver both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities. A [flyer](#) with additional information is available. If you have any questions, please email ILIL@yrdsb.ca.

When to Worry About Worry: Youth and Anxiety in a Post Pandemic World

On June 18th, JF & CS invite you to an evening discussion about the increase in anxiety youth are experiencing since the onset of the Covid-19 with keynote speakers, Dr. Rosalie Steinberg and Dr. Karen Wang. More information is available in the [flyer](#).

Wesak

Wesak or Vesak, is the most important festival of the year for the Buddhist community. It is the observance that commemorates the Birth, Enlightenment and Final Nirvana of the Buddha. Wesak occurs annually during the full moon of the lunar month of Vesākha, usually in April, May, or June.

It is thought that at this time, great expansions of consciousness become possible, and people embark on a path to promote spiritual growth.

Wesak is celebrated in a number of ways around the world. There is often the ceremonial release of small creatures, such as birds or turtles, as a symbol of the Buddha's compassion for all things. A statue of the baby Buddha may be bathed in a ritual commemorating his birth. Dharma talks are given, often on the eight precepts (teachings of Buddhism), since this ceremony is intended to reflect on the life of the Buddha and the goal for all of enlightenment. Sitting and/or walking meditation may be a part of the festivities as well. Traditionally, vegetarian meals are served. In the evening, candlelight or lantern processions end the celebration.

This occasion is observed by millions of Buddhists throughout the world. We join you and the followers of Buddhism in your school community in acknowledging this special day of enlightenment.

For further information, please email Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS): iscs@yrdsb.ca

Bike to School Week is May 27 - May 31

Let’s get wheeling! The annual Bike to School Week rolls in from May 27 to 31, 2024.

Bike to School Week provides an opportunity for students to try riding a bike to school for the first time, learn new skills, connect with others, or have fun exploring the neighbourhood and nature.

When cycling, remember to:

-
- Wear a properly fitting helmet. Every cyclist under 18 must wear a bike helmet.
 - Air Brakes Chain – Check your bike’s tires, brakes and chain before you start riding.
 - Ensure your bike has a working bell, white light or reflector at the front, and a red light or reflector at the back. For information and to learn more visit the Government of Ontario’s bicycle safety information.
 - Cross at crosswalks, if there is one. Walk beside your bike when crossing the road.
 - Watch for cars backing out of driveways and turning at intersections.
 - Lock your bike in bike racks.
 - Be visible and dress for the weather.
-

Benefits of Biking to School:

-
- Promotes physical and mental health
 - Students arrive energized and ready to learn
 - Improved safety in school zones
 - Good for the environment
 - Convenient, bicycling is often faster than sitting in traffic
 - Good for the community, encourages social interaction
 - Promotes life-long habits that foster independence and active lifestyles, preparing children for their future
 - Just plain old simple fun
-

Embracing Diversity, Celebrating East Asian Heritage

Join us to engage, learn, and celebrate East Asian heritage! Everyone is welcome to attend “Embracing Diversity, Celebrating East Asian Heritage” on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Unionville High School (201 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON). The event will feature student-led

performances and activities, an opportunity to explore community resources that support East Asian students and families, and a chance to engage with “Standing in the Doorway” travelling exhibition that explores the history of Chinese immigration to York Region. Register for this free event [here](#).

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/>

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/yrdbssummerdc

- 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

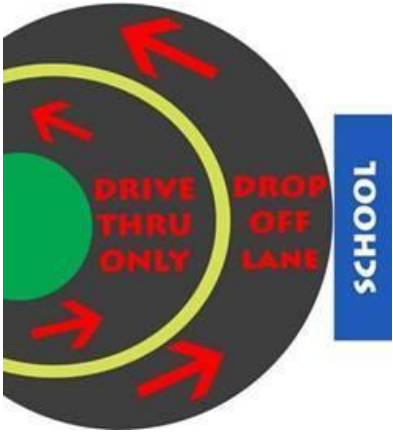
- Please use this [link](#)

Website Resources for Families and Students

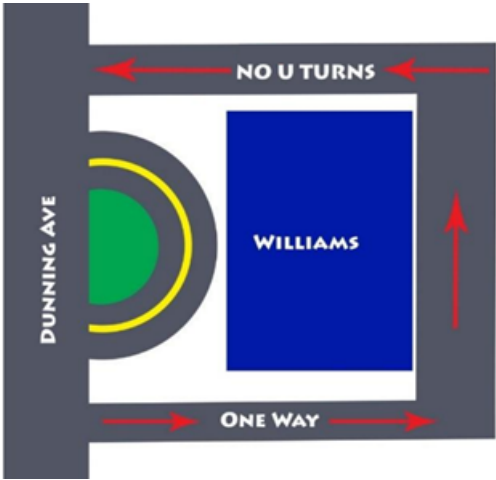
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

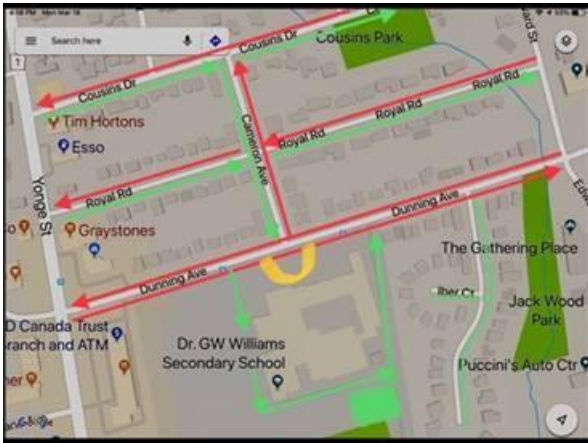
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

