



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Oct.17-21, 2022

Trait of the Month: Inclusivity

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)
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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

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

This week:

Oct 17	SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs. Cardinal Carter 3 pm at Williams School Council Meeting 7 pm (Library) For meeting agenda see here .
Oct 18	JR and SR Boys Rugby 7's vs. HUR, KES, OLL, RHH 2:15 pm at Keswick HS
Oct 19	Post-Secondary Pathway Assembly (Per 2) Boys Soccer vs. Keswick HS 4:45 pm at Keswick HS
Oct 20	Cross Country - Boyd Conservation Area JR and SR Boys Rugby 7's at Williams SR Girls Basketball (varsity) vs. Sir William Mulock SS 3 pm at Sir William Mulock SS
Oct 21	PA Day

Upcoming

Oct 24	Diwali is a festival of lights and is one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika.
Oct 25	Boys Soccer vs. Sir William Mulock at 3pm Home Game
Oct 26	Post Secondary Fair - 6-9 pm at Cardinal Carter CHS, 210 Bloomington Rd, Aurora, ON
Oct 27	IB Games Night SR Girls Basketball vs. St. Maximilian CHS at 3 pm Home Game Teacher Interview Night
Oct 28	Open Mic (hosted by Williams Music) 3:15 - 4:45 pm

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

It was great to welcome many families interested in our IB programme into the school last night. Our student volunteers and staff representatives did an excellent job of sharing the many awesome experiences available here at Williams. If you know of anyone interested in the program that was unable to attend the slide deck and information is posted on our website for all.

Moving forward we are going to reduce our e-footprint by sending the Williams' Tell bi-weekly coinciding with the Friday closest to the 1st and 15th of the month. We are finding that with the updated information available on our website and Instagram (daily announcements, club information, Google calendar) most of the information included is regularly available to families and although appreciated it is filling inboxes more than necessary. We will still continue to send out more urgent information as needed but will only produce this summary of information 2 times each month. We will monitor this and adjust if we find that the decrease is having a negative impact on our overall communication as we pride ourselves on having an engaged school community. Our next Tell will be sent on October 28th.

Be sure to see the information below about Take Your Kid to Work day. Grade 9 families should be sure to start thinking about placements for that day as it is expected that all students will have this experiential learning opportunity across Canada. If going to work with a parent or guardian is not viable, think about relatives, friends, neighbours, etc. that may be able to offer an opportunity for your child to experience. I have a Grade 9 son who likely doesn't want to participate in a day in the life of a Principal that day so I too am starting to brainstorm what opportunities I might be able to leverage in my circle of family and friends.

Monday night is our next School Council. We had a great turnout in September and look forward to connecting with more parents this Monday (October 17) in the library at 7pm.

By the end of next week (Oct 21), students and parents\guardians can expect that Interim Report cards will have been received electronically. Information for booking Teacher Interviews on October 27 via Edsby has already been sent out to families. We look forward to the opportunity to open communication, connect and support our partnership in student learning.

All the best,
Melissa Schmidt

NEW Literacy Corner

Hello Parents!

My name is Hailey King, and I am the Literacy teacher at Williams. In this segment, I will bring you news and updates about the OSSLT, and our preparation for the test! I will also share some simple literacy challenges you can engage with your students at home, to help strengthen their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills!

Literacy Practice: Finding Main Ideas & Supporting Details

For the OSSLT, there will be a number of reading response questions that ask you to find main ideas and supporting details.

Your task this week is to find a newspaper article written by a reliable news source and write a short paragraph explaining the main idea of the article after you have used the following strategies:

Strategy 1: Ask these key questions

1. Based on the title of the text, what do you think it will be about?
2. Look at the first sentence—does it look like a main idea?
3. Can you sum up the general idea of the text in two or three words?
4. What details from the text support the general idea?

Strategy 2: Mark it up

- Highlight or underline **main idea**, **explanations** and **supporting details**.

More than 200 years ago, philosophers such as John Locke and David Hume echoed Aristotle's conclusion from 200 years earlier: **We learn by association. Our minds naturally connect events that occur in sequence.** If, after seeing and smelling freshly baked bread, you eat some and find it satisfying, then the next time you see and smell fresh bread, your experience will lead you to expect that eating it will be satisfying again. And if you associate a sound with a **frightening consequence, then your fear may be aroused by the sound itself.** As one 4-year-old exclaimed after watching a TV character get mugged, "If I had heard that music, I wouldn't have gone around the corner!"

Strategy 3: Find the support first, then work your way up

- Look for explanations and supporting details

Signal detection can also have life-or-death consequences when people are responsible for watching an airport scanner for weapons, monitoring patients from an intensive-care nursing station, or detecting radar blips. **Studies have shown, for example, that people's ability to catch a faint signal diminishes after about 30 minutes. But this diminishing response depends on the task, on the time of day, and even on whether the participants periodically exercise.** Experience matters, too. **In one experiment, 10 hours of action video game playing— scanning for and instantly responding to any intrusion—increased novice players' signal detection skills.**

Take Our Kids to Work

"Take Our Kids to Work" (TOKW) is an initiative that provides **Grade 9 students** with the opportunity to **observe** a work environment for one day. As suggested by the *Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel Report*, the program will support students to begin planning their future career path by helping them better understand the world of work.

On **Wednesday, November 2, 2022**, Grade 9 students will spend the day at a workplace of a parent/guardian, relative, friend or volunteer. There is a [Family Guide Resource](#) available to support families with planning.

Please be advised that permission forms to participate in Take our Kids to Work Day will be sent to your child's GAPPs account today. **We ask that you review the form with your child and then sign off as per the instructions by Friday, October 21st.**

In the circumstance that you are unable to find a workplace for your child to observe, parents/guardians can also choose to have their child participate independently in career exploration activities at home or at school. Please indicate this choice on the permission form so that we can plan appropriately.

Ordering School Photos

Just a reminder if you would like to purchase student pictures please visit mylifetouch.ca.

Enter the picture day ID **EVCPDDPKB**. For more information see [here](#).

Music Department

Williams Music is hosting our first Open Mic of the year! Come and enjoy wonderful music on Oct. 28th, from 3:15 - 4:45 pm in the music room(Rm. 129). Tickets can be purchased for \$3 on school cash online. Event is for students only.

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

Semi Formal

Semi-Formal is coming up this **November 24!** This is a great opportunity to spend time with friends and enjoy a night out! It will be an event filled with memories and a buffet! Tickets will be **on sale on [School Cash online](#) starting October 11th.** All grades are welcome!

Athletics Notices

Notices

NEW Tune In YRDSB podcast: Municipal Elections: The Municipal Election is October 24. Hear Director Louise Sirisko, President of OPSBA Cathy Abraham, and Vice-Chair Ron Lynn, as they discuss the role of trustees, what is a municipal election, the importance of making an informed vote and more. To listen see [here](#).

NEW Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter October 2022 - October'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](#).

NEW 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](#).

PARENTING SESSIONS Let's talk about it!

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. We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers and community members to attend these virtual sessions! For more information see [here](#).

This free parent presentation is brought to you in a collaborative partnership with York Region District School Board and York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families

Islamic Heritage Month In-Person Event

An in-person exhibition on a wide variety of aspects of the Golden Islamic Scientific Era will be held on Friday, October 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Tahir Hall Community Centre. For more information see [here](#).

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.

Human Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a prevalent issue and one of the fastest growing and most lucrative crimes worldwide and it is happening in York Region. Virtual Conference Dates: October 19, 20, 26, 27 | 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Register for the Anti-Human Tracking Conference [here](#).

International Walk to School Month (IWALK) is an annual celebration of active transportation that takes place around the world throughout the month of October. Celebrate active modes of transportation like walking and wheeling along with other students and staff across Ontario during IWALK Month, which officially kicks off Oct 5.

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.

Anti-Asian Racism Survey Invitation - G7-12 Students - YRDSB is collecting information on experiences of Asian students (East Asian, South Asian, South East Asian). If you are an Asian identifying G7-12 student, you are invited to complete an [anonymous survey](#). Survey closes: October 31, 2022.

EIAC Call for Community Members - YRDSB invites [applications](#) from community volunteers for membership on Equity and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (EIAC). Application deadline is November 1, 2022.

Guidance

Important Updates

Grade 12 Families - please look out for email communication from the school regarding college and university applications and important dates.

Accelerated OYAP & Apprenticeship Information Night

Learn more about Apprenticeship Pathways on **Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM**. For more information see [here](#).

You should attend this information night if:

- you are a Grade 12 student who is planning on entering the Skilled Trades;
- you are a Grade 10 or 11 student who would like more information on this program to better prepare for this pathway, OR;
- you are the parent/guardian of a grade 9-12 student who is considering a career in the skilled trade.

Register at: <https://yrdsb.cc/OYAP-OpenHouse> - see [flyer](#) for more details!

Upcoming Events

- **Local Post-Secondary Fairs:**
 - The Post-Secondary Fair for the Aurora/King area schools is on October 26th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School. Click [here](#) for more details.
 - Please see [this list](#) for all post-secondary fairs hosted by other YRDSB secondary schools for more dates and times.
- **Downtown Toronto Post-Secondary Fair:**
 - [Ontario Colleges Fair](#) October 19, 2022 from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm and October 20, 2022 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Enercare Centre
- **Post-Secondary Assembly** - October 19, 2022
 - The Guidance Department will be holding an assembly during the school day for potential graduates to provide guidelines and instructions on how to proceed with post-secondary applications.

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](#).

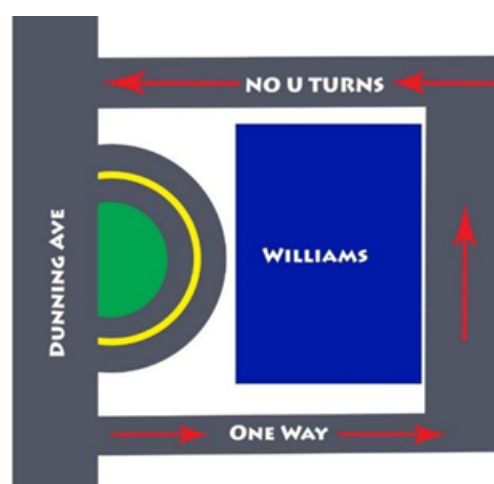
We continue to work with YRT to provide an improved experience for our students riding the 426 buses at the end of each day. Please remind your students to line up single file to board the buses and to stay behind the sidewalk (on the field) until the buses arrive and begin loading. This is important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

Driveway and Parking Lot

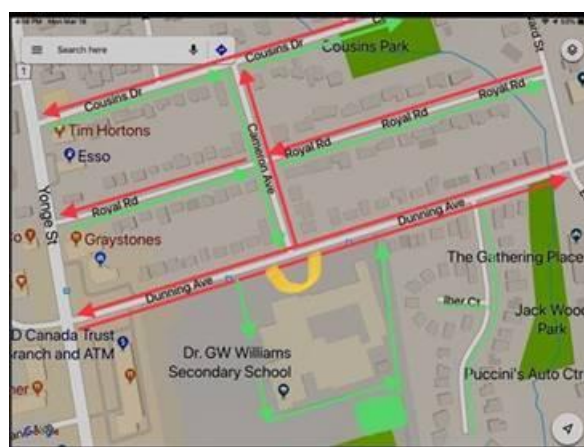
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- October 21
- November 18
- February 3
- May 5
- June 30

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023

- October 17
- November 21
- February 21
- April 17
- May 15

