



# The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School

## Grade 9 Newsletter, Summer 2017

39 Dunning Ave., Aurora, ON L4G 1A2 Email: [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca) 905-727-3131

Character  
matters  
@  
Williams

Respect

Responsibility

Honesty

Empathy

Fairness

Initiative

Courage

Integrity

Perseverance

Optimism

### ADMINISTRATION

Peter Adams-Luchowski,  
Trustee

Becky Green,  
Superintendent of Schools

Christopher Hilmer,  
Principal

Susan Sopha,  
Vice-Principal (A-L)

Mirza Baig,  
Vice-Principal (M-Z)

*Developing literate  
students of character  
is our  
number one priority.*

## Principal's Message

Dear Grade 9 Students/Class of 2021,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, the home of the Wildcats! We are pleased that you and your family are joining our dynamic school community. This year we are also welcoming our first cohort of Williams' Pre-IB students. Our teaching and support staff look forward to meeting all of our Grade 9 students and to supporting your success in high school.

**Registration Day for Grade 9 students is on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** On this day you will have the opportunity to pick up your timetable and purchase school items. Please see the next page for a list of items that may be purchased.

The **first day of school, Tuesday, September 5, 2017**, is just for all Grade 9 students! On this day, you and your parent/guardian will have an opportunity to meet teachers, get acquainted with the school, and participate in activities planned by the Peer Mentors. The day is designed with you in mind – to provide a smooth start to your high school career. **Parents/guardians are invited to join students and staff in the opening activities from 8:20 to 10:30 a.m.** See the attached schedule of Grade 9 Day activities.

Once again, welcome to The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. Best wishes for a successful school year. We look forward to working with you to ensure excellence in your personal well-being and academic achievement.

Mr. C. Hilmer  
Principal

### Parent E-mail

Parents are requested to supply a current e-mail address for one parent/guardian. E-mail information is kept confidential and used by the school for such matters as teacher/parent communication. Every Friday, the school e-mails parents a weekly bulletin - The Williams' Tell - which contains information about their child's attendance and details about school events, etc. Parent e-mail addresses should be sent to [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

We also ask parents to subscribe to e-mails of a commercial nature. This is separate from the regular e-mail communication described above. By subscribing to e-mails of a commercial nature, parents will receive information about field trips, sports activities, special events, etc. To subscribe to e-mails of a commercial nature, please enter your e-mail in the appropriate box on our school website: <http://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca>

### Summer Office Hours

- The office will be closed July 3 (for Canada Day) and then from July 21 to August 20 inclusive.
- Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from July 4 to August 24 (excluding statutory holidays and dates noted above.)
- Normal office hours will resume on Monday, August 28.

# Registration Information



## REGISTRATION DAY IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 29:

**Grade 9** Tuesday, August 29, 10:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

**Grades 10, 11 & 12** Tuesday, August 29, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

On this day, you will receive your timetable and pay fees from the list below. **Or, if you pay your Student Activity Fee on School Cash Online, your timetable will be e-mailed to you on or by August 29 so there is no need to come into the school to register.**

If you or your parent/guardian have questions, please call us at 905-727-3131.

### **Student Activity Fee: \$40.00**

The Student Activity Fee has many advantages. Students who purchase the Student Activity Fee:

- can save \$10 on the price of a school yearbook (\$55 instead of \$65)
- can save \$10 on the cost of their Semi-Formal ticket
- can save \$10 on the cost of their Prom ticket (for Grade 12 students)
- receive a school lock (\$8) at no additional cost (for Grade 9 and new students)
- receive a Student Price Card (\$10) at no additional cost which saves them money on store and restaurant purchases at participating outlets (such as Pizza Pizza, American Eagle, Pink, Topshop, Topman, Ardene, Forever 21, Kernels, Garage, Guess, Urban Planet, Bath & Body Works, Taco Bell, Old Navy)
- receive their timetable by e-mail on or before August 29.

The Student Activity Fee helps to fund school clubs, Spirit Days, student amenities (such as new picnic tables and benches), guest speakers, conference fees, and special events (like the student appreciation barbecue). The funds are distributed throughout the year to support student interests and other co-curricular activities. Students who join a club are expected to pay the Student Activity Fee. The Student Activity Fee helps us to make The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School an even better place to be, learn, and grow by fostering a greater sense of community and well-being.

### **Lock Fee: \$8.00**

Students must use a lock supplied by the school. Grade 9 students who pay for the Student Activity Fee will receive a school lock at no additional cost. Grade 9 students who do not pay the Student Activity Fee must pay the Lock Fee of \$8. Lockers will be assigned to students in all grades during homeroom on the first day of classes. Students are not allowed to share lockers.

### **Physical Education Uniforms:** Package of 1 shorts and 2 shirts: **\$42.00**

Students taking a Physical Education course are expected to purchase a school Phys Ed uniform (shorts and shirt).

**Yearbook: \$65.00 OR \$55.00** if the Student Activity Fee has been paid.

Your high school memories are important. Don't miss the opportunity to own a 2017-2018 yearbook.

### **Graduation Fee: \$65.00**

Graduating students (in Grade 12) who plan on attending the Graduation ceremony on June 26, 2018 must pay this fee. This flat fee finances all aspects of the Graduation ceremony.

### **Grade 9 Orientation Program at Camp Robin Hood: \$50.00**

To ease the transition into life at Williams and to help establish a greater sense of community among all of our Grade 9 students, we have arranged for an orientation experience at **Camp Robin Hood** in Markham! The program will encompass a variety of cooperative, team-building, recreational activities that do not require previous experience and/or skill. With the support of senior student mentors from our school, our Grade 9 students will be able to work with positive role models to enhance their sense of pride and connection to Williams and create new friendships.

### **Terry Fox Run: \$10.00**

This fee covers a donation to the Terry Fox Foundation as well as lunch for participating students.

### **Williams' Athletics**

Students wishing to participate on a school sports team must pay a user fee for each sport individually. This fee will include transportation to competitions. Please contact the Phys Ed Department or the coach for each sport to receive a list of related fees.

**We encourage parents to pay fees through the School Cash Online system at home before August 29 or by cash at the school on August 29.**

*School photos/ID cards will be taken on September 8.*

*Your high school memories are important. Don't miss the opportunity to own a 2017-2018 yearbook.*

*We encourage parents to pay fees through School Cash Online.*

# School Cash Online

The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is accepting **ONLINE** payments through School Cash Online!

Credit card and Interac payments will be accepted for school activities and items.

Want to avoid those long lines at Registration? There's no need to register by coming to the school. First, subscribe to receive e-mails of a commercial nature from the school by visiting the school website <http://DrGWWilliams.SS.yrdsb.ca/> and entering your e-mail address. Next, sign up for School Cash Online by selecting the School Cash Online button on our school website. **When you pay for the Student Activity Fee on School Cash Online, your timetable will be e-mailed to you on or before August 29.**

Having trouble registering for School Cash Online at home? Make sure you are using Chrome as your web browser. Still having trouble? The school library will be open on August 29 for those parents who wish to register for this online payment option. School staff will be available in the school library to help you register for School Cash Online.

School Cash Online offers many benefits:

- A convenient fee payment option that saves time
- No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- A secure online payment system
- Parents have access to items that are available for sale through the school
- Parents who opt to participate will receive notifications via e-mail of possible school purchases

To view a presentation about School Cash Online, go to <http://www.keysoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>.

**See School Cash Online handout for step-by-step instructions.**





# Camp Robin Hood

Dear Parents of Grade 9 Students,

The transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 is an exciting time for the newest students to our school. Meeting new teachers, getting used to a new environment, and making new friends are some of the challenges that our Grade 9 students face. The first month of school is a hectic one but understandably more so for those students who are new to high school.

In order to ease the transition into life at The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and to establish a greater sense of community amongst our Grade 9 students, we have arranged for an orientation experience at **Camp Robin Hood** in Markham! Camp Robin Hood possesses the facilities, staff support, and program to assist us in achieving our goals. The program will encompass a variety of cooperative and recreational activities that do not require previous experience and/or skill. With the support of senior student mentor leaders from our school, our Grade 9 students will be able to work with positive role models who will enhance their sense of pride and connection to our school and assist them in creating new friendships.

The date of this program is **Wednesday, September 20, 2017**. Buses will depart from the school at 8:15 a.m. and return at 2:45 p.m. Lunch is not required, as it will be provided at Camp Robin Hood. **The cost of this program is \$50** (payable through School Cash Online).

The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is very excited to be offering this program, and we feel every Grade 9 student should participate.

If you have questions about this event, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

*“...will enhance their sense of pride and connection to our school and assist them in creating new friendships.”*

*“Parents are required to inform the school (in writing) of any special health concerns of their child(ren)...”*

## HEALTH MATTERS

Students should have a basic awareness of their health history. Parents are required to inform the school (in writing) of any special health concerns of their child (ren) – particularly for emergency situations. The school must also be provided with the name and **current phone number** of an emergency contact for each student. If your child has a serious medical condition, please complete the attached Emergency Health Care Plan form and hand it in to the Main Office. Parents must update the Emergency Health Care Plan each year.

## Dates To Remember

Tuesday, August 29	Registration (no photos will be taken)
Tuesday, September 5	Grade 9 First Day of Classes (includes community classes)
Wednesday, September 6	Grade 10 -12 First Day of Classes
Friday, September 8	Photo Day
Friday, September 14	Photo Retake Day
Monday, September 18	School Council Meeting @ 7:00pm in school library
Wednesday, September 20	Grade 9 students at Camp Robin Hood
Monday, October 2	Interim Reports (tbc)
Thursday, October 19	Parent/Teacher Night
Wednesday, November 1	Grade 9 Take Your Kids to Work Day

## Daily Schedule

<b>Period One</b> (including O Canada and morning announcements)	<b>8:20 - 9:00</b>
<b>Period Two</b>	<b>9:45 - 11:00</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>11:05 - 12:20</b>
<b>Period Three</b>	<b>12:25 - 1:40</b>
<b>Period Four</b>	<b>1:45 - 3:00</b>

## PA Days

Monday, September 25, 2017  
 Friday, October 20, 2017  
 Friday, November 24, 2017  
 Friday, February 2, 2018  
 Friday, May 4, 2018  
 Thursday, June 28, 2018  
 Friday, June 29, 2018

## Holidays

Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2017
Winter Vacation	Monday, December 25, 2017 to Friday, January 5, 2018
Family Day	Monday, February 19, 2018
March Break	Monday, March 12, 2018 to Friday, March 16, 2018
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Easter Monday	Monday, April 2, 2018
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21, 2018