



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: December 14-18, 2020 **GWW SPIRIT WEEK**

Trait of the Month: **Empathy**

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.

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

Social Media: @drgwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))

<b>Dec. 14</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>Last day of Period 2 Face to Face</b> <a href="#">DOUBLE BLUE DAY: WEAR WILLIAMS COLOURS, DARK AND LIGHT BLUE</a>
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>First day of Period 4 Face to Face (Rotation 7)</b> <a href="#">COOL MASK DAY: WEAR COOL FACE MASK DESIGNS</a> <a href="#">WAC CHALLENGE – CANDY CANE TOSS</a>
<b>Dec. 16</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <a href="#">MONOCHROME DAY: WEAR A FULL OUTFIT OF THE SAME COLOUR, MATCHING SHIRTS &amp; PANTS</a> <a href="#">WAC CHALLENGE – CANDY CANE TOSS</a>
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <a href="#">VINTAGE DAY: WEAR OLD FASHION TRENDS</a>
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <a href="#">COMFY COZY DAY: WEAR PAJAMAS OR COMFY CLOTHES</a>  <b>Last day of school in 2020. Happy Holidays!</b>

## Happy New Year 2021

<b>Jan. 4</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Jan. 5</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Jan. 6</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Jan. 7</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Jan. 8</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

## Message from the Principal

As of this coming Tuesday, we will be three quarters of the way through our semester. Now is a good time to connect with teachers, SERTs, Student Success or Guidance if you feel students need an added boost of support to get to the finish line. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the staff, we are here to support.

If you have friends or neighbours with a child in Grade 8, please ensure they know about our Virtual Information session that is posted on our Guidance, Grade 8-9 Transition page. There is a wealth of information about our school and programs to give new students and families a sense of why Williams is such a great place. We know that transitions are hard so we have tried to provide as much information as possible to support during this time.

Although things will be different this year, during this festive season, please take time for one another and developing traditions that will support our efforts for safety in our community. It has been a tough semester as both students, staff and families have adapted to the new realities of adaptive schooling and the other COVID related measures that have been in place to keep everyone safe. We know that York Region entering the 'grey zone' is stressful for everyone and particularly impacts our families who are business owners and work in businesses in the community. We hope that all our students and staff can get a true break over the holiday and that 2021 brings in hope and renewal.

We have provided in this week's Tell the overview for the first week of January and will not be publishing an edition next week.

On behalf of all the staff at Williams, I wish each of you all the best during this festive season and best wishes for a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing everyone when we return in 2021!!

Melissa Schmidt

## Message from Our Trustee – Bob McRoberts

Dear families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well. 2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways, and the global pandemic has affected individuals and families in different ways.

I want to reassure you that we continue to work closely with York Region Public Health and to prioritize the health and well-being of our students, staff members and families. It continues to be important that we adhere to the health and safety measures in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can learn more about what schools are doing at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

## Contact Us

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS  
39 Dunning Avenue  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 1A2

Email:  
[dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)  
(P) 905-727-3131  
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

While we have seen cases in some of our schools, we continue to work with public health to respond quickly, identify cohorts that need to self-isolate as a precautionary measure and take all appropriate measures. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their diligence in adhering to the public health recommendations and health and safety measures in place in our schools.

One of our priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to foster well-being and mental health. As a result of the pandemic, many of us are facing changes and new challenges that can take a toll on our mental health. It is more important than ever that we check in on one another and practice self-care. There are [mental health resources for students and families](#) on our Board website that address the unique nature of our current situation. You can also find information about our [Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) and the [work we are doing in schools](#) to promote positive mental health and provide support for students.

While there are challenges, we also continue to have so many reasons to feel positive. Our students continue to impress us with their kindness, creativity, innovation, resilience, courage and perseverance. Visit us on [YouTube at YRDSBMedia](#) to see just some of these stories.

In the coming weeks and months, many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays, and I wish you all the very best for the season. While we may be celebrating a little differently this year, I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back into our in-person and virtual schools in January.

Sincerely,  
Bob McRoberts

## Notices

### Guidance

#### Dual Credits

- Seneca College is hosting a virtual Dual Credit info session for all students, teachers, parents interested in learning more about the program. Please check your Grade's Google Classroom for more information.

#### Community Services

- Changes have been made to the Community Involvement Graduation Requirements. Information on requirements and eligibility can be found on the Grade 12 Google Classroom.

#### Scholarships and Bursaries

- Please check the graduation class of 2021 for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

### Literacy Corner

Hello Parents!

My name is Zahra Murad, and I am the Literacy teacher at Williams. In this bi-weekly 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!

#### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) News:

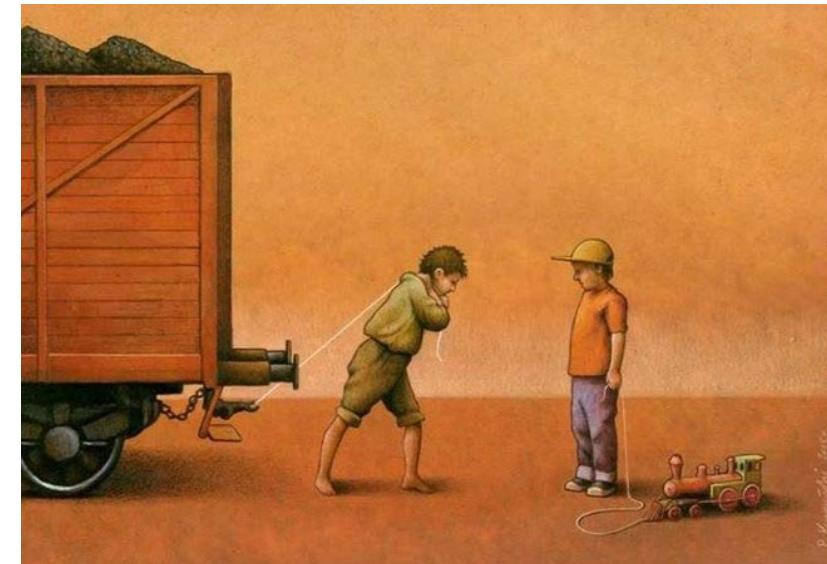
- If your student is taking the test, they should have been added to the Williams Literacy Preparation Google Classroom in September. The Google Classroom code is: w6ufrc5
- Materials such as practice tests, slide decks exploring the different test sections and skills, and other practice materials including guiding videos can be found on the Classroom. Students can complete and submit work to the dropbox on the Classroom for feedback, or email me with their questions anytime!

#### Literacy Challenge: Descriptive Storytelling!

**What:** This short activity allows you to get creative and write for fun!

**How:** Look carefully at the image to the right. Have a conversation about the image with your student before they start writing. What sticks out to you about the image? What mood do you feel is conveyed by the image? Do you like it? Why or why not? Once you and your student have a good sense of what you see in the image and what kind of story you would like to tell, sit down and start writing! You might wish to write with your student to help them with building vocabulary and structuring their work. Limit yourselves to one page, and challenge yourselves to cover the beginning, middle, and end of a story in that space!

**Why:** This activity builds critical thinking skills (For example: Determining what elements of the image to focus on, prioritizing word choice to create imagery, determining how to start and end your short piece) and helps students get comfortable writing in response to prompts, encourages vocabulary-building, and gives students practice with carefully "reading" graphic texts.



### Revised School Screening Checklist

Every day, parents/guardians and students over 18 are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the checklist from York Region Public Health. This checklist has been recently updated to reflect the Ontario government's revised [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Schools](#) and Child Care.

Please note that the new screening guide applies to children only and the adult screening has not changed. Thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### Math Enrichment Opportunities

Due to the adaptive model we are following this year, we cannot offer the typical array of math contests and math club enrichment opportunities at Williams. However, thanks to some accommodations made by Universities, it is possible that our students can still participate in some of these activities. To best communicate these opportunities, we have created a "Math Club" Google Classroom that contains links to enrichment opportunities as well as all the information (and relevant links) we currently have with regard to the contests we normally participate in. We will not be running an actual Math Club through the classroom, but we will continue to update it with any pertinent information and/or links throughout the school year. The Math Club Classroom is open to any Williams students who would like to join. Please use the join code: cxwtmf4

### RTC Computer Purchase Program

Once again we are pleased to offer this to our Williams families. Please see the attached flyer below for more information on accessing this program.

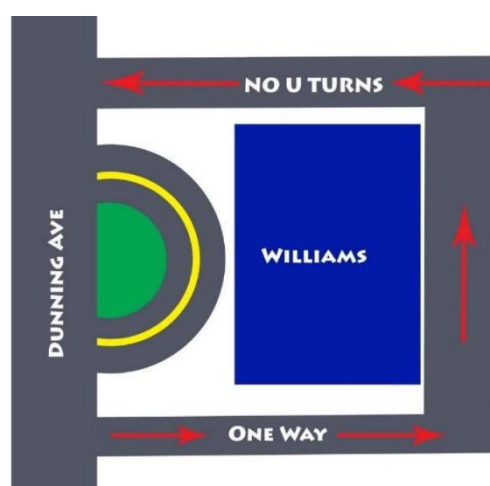
## Driveway and Parking Lot

The safety of all students must be everyone's first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

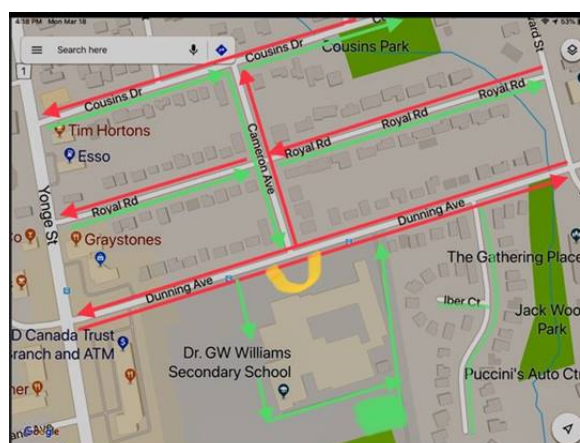
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 11:00, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distancing, 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.



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 morning pick-up time you will have noticed the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot **ONLY** so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot. This adjustment has made 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. Our School Council previously worked with local by-law officials to identify areas within the neighbourhood that parents can pick up their students. Please note the arrows in green and red to support the effective flow of traffic in the area.

Thank you for your cooperation with this!

## School Calendar for 2020-2021

The Ministry of Education has approved the school calendar for 2020-2021. For Williams, some important dates and holidays are:

- Winter Break – Monday December 21, 2020 January 1, 2021
- Family Day – Monday, February 15, 2021
- March Break – Monday, March 15, 2021 to Friday March 19, 2021
- Good Friday – Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 5, 2021
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 24, 2021

**PA Days for Williams** (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- Monday February 15, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

## School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- Monday January 18, 2021
- Tuesday March 23, 2021
- Monday May 17, 2021