



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: February 14 - 18, 2022

Trait of the Month: Initiative

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/>
Email: drg.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

Contact Us

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Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal
Diane Conlon, VP (A-Li)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Lo-Z)

Extensions:

Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff 4
Directory

Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40

Period 3 9:45-11:00

Lunch 11:00-11:50

Period 2 11:50-1:05

Period 4 1:10-2:25

This week:

Feb. 14	Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game vs. St. Theresa of Lisieux - 2:30pm Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Sir W Mulock - 2:30pm
Feb. 15	
Feb. 16	Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. St. Theresa of Lisieux - 3:00pm
Feb. 17	
Feb. 18	

Upcoming:

Feb. 21	Family Day
Feb. 22	
Feb. 23	<i>Pink Shirt Day - Anti Bullying Campaign</i> Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Bill Hogarth SS -3:00pm Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Bill Crothers SS - 3:00pm Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Newmarket HS - 3:00pm
Feb. 24	
Feb. 25	

Message from the Principal

We have had a successful Semester 2 start-up. Students and teachers have adjusted to the schedule and routine of our four period day and we have almost finalized our hiring for vacancies. By Monday we should have all teachers in place for vacancies this semester. In the end we have 13 teachers fulfilling vacancies across the school which accounts for just over 15% of our teaching staff. As you might imagine, it has been extremely busy in the office both interviewing and hiring these staff to have them in place this week.

With the positive media reports regarding extra-curricular sports and music we are hoping an expansion of offerings will be coming in the near future. Our staff are preparing in the background so that we are ready when we have approval from York Region Public Health and YRDSB regarding the changes suggested in the media.

Staff have been focusing on community building in their classrooms this week in order to get to know each of the students and how they can best be supported in their learning over the coming semester.

On Monday we have a number of activities planned by students to celebrate Valentine's Day. Student Council is hosting 'Dress to Impress' day, Peer Mentors are holding their annual 'Kisses for Cassy' fundraiser and the Music & Arts Councils have collaborated to offer their Williams Serenades. We are looking forward to having a little fun celebrating.

Melissa Schmidt

Black History Month

In honour of black history month, the equity team at Williams is focusing on celebrating black excellence everyday. Students are invited to join our viewing party Thursdays at lunch in the library. We are starting off by watching the Netflix mini-series, "Self-Made" which is based on Madam C.J. Walker, the first female self-made millionaire.

In their fourth period classes, students will further explore their specific subjects with their teachers by reframing and sharing a specific concept or development that better considers the experiences of Black Canadians. This school-wide Black History Month Project will be shared with students and families at the end of the month to enable everyone to have a better understanding of the diverse perspectives within our educational context.

Everyday on the announcements, students are learning about Black Canadians who, despite making significant contributions to their fields, were overlooked due to their race. This week announcements focused on STEM subjects, next week the focus will be Black Canadians in Business. All month, we are encouraging students and families to use [this link](#) to explore our student-made website that focuses on dismantling anti-black racism.

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Notices

We are pleased to inform you that we are working with Renewed Computer Technology, a non-profit organization that provides refurbished technology to limited income families at an affordable cost. We will be offering the program to all students at YRDSB and the application period is open until March 4, 2022. [Find more information here.](#)

On March 27, 2022, the York Chapter is hosting the 2022 Virtual Engineering Competition as part of National Engineering Month. There are 2 levels of competition: Junior (Gr. 8-10) and Senior (Gr. 11-12). [Find more here!](#)

CFLI and Eekai Foundation Scholarship opportunity for grade 12 students entering university or college in September 2022. [Deadline to apply is February 28, 2022.](#)

The Youth-to-Youth program at JIAS is for newcomers ages 13-18 to enjoy a safe and comfortable setting where they can build confidence, make new friendships, develop skills, and have fun, all while creating a sense of what it means to be a Canadian. [Register here.](#)

In acknowledgement and celebration of Black History Month, Black Excellence Celebration in Student Mental Health (Secondary) February 23, 2022 4-5 PM is offered to all students. [Please register here.](#)

Tune In YRDSB - This week: GSA Month

On this episode of [Tune In YRDSB](#), we are going to be taking a look at GSAs (Genders & Sexualities Alliances or Gay Straight Alliance) throughout the YRDSB in Secondary and Elementary Schools.

A Note to Remember when visiting our School

Please remember when visiting our school, you must first [use the doorbell](#) at our front door and someone will assist you. The main office is available from 9:00am to 3:30pm for any pick-ups or drop offs by using the doorbell and one of our staff will be happy to come out to assist you.

Please [do not enter](#) the building without an appointment. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca to report absences. All absences must be justified with a reason.

If students are required to self-isolate due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, please indicate that in your email as this is coded differently and is not reflected on the attendance tally reported on the student report card. Additionally, your child's Vice Principal (Ms. Conlon A-Li, Mr. Gazaneo Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

COVID Self-Screening - Confirmation required for Face to Face learning

UPDATE to Self-Screening Tool (Feb 10)

For those completing the screening tool who are fully vaccinated, the screening tool will ask for symptoms and test results in the last 5 days. Those completing who are not fully vaccinated or immunocompromised will complete the screening tool using a 10 day measuring period.

Process:

•Step 1: Secondary students to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) **prior to entering the school on a daily basis.**

•Step 2: Upon completion of the self-assessment, complete response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the [Confirmation Form](#)

- Students will receive an email response when they respond "Yes".
- The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week:
 - **MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**
- Upon entering the school through designated entrances, students are to provide confirmation of completion of the self-screening by way of:
 - On phone – email or picture of email from their computer
 - Hard copy print off of email.
 - If neither option is available, they can provide verbal response confirming completion

Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more of COVID-19 symptoms.

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine), must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Daily Announcements

Our announcements are posted to the school website each day for students and parents to access under the [News & Events](#) heading. We will have a text version of all announcements that will be updated each day. We hope that this addition will help our school community (and especially our remote learners that aren't here to hear the announcements each day) to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Guidance

Course selection

Course selection will begin on February 16th on [myBlueprint.ca](#).

All course selections are **DUE BY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25th.**

How to Select Courses for the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Login to myBlueprint.ca: [myBlueprint](#)
- Select "High School"
- Populate your High School Plan by clicking the + symbol to choose courses for the 2022/2023 school year.
- In addition, please be sure to indicate your choices for the next school year and any summer school intentions that you may have.
- Once you have carefully checked the Review Courses page, click on "Submit Course Selections".
- **New** - Enter a Parent/Guardian email for electronic Course Selection Approval.
- Submit the electronic Course Selection Approval to the Guidance Office by **February 25, 2022.**

Taking Summer School?

Click on "Course Resources" and fill out the Summer School Google Form

Graduating in June 2022?

Complete a "Not-Returning Form" on myBlueprint and submit Sign-Off Sheet to GUIDANCE by Friday February 25th, 2022

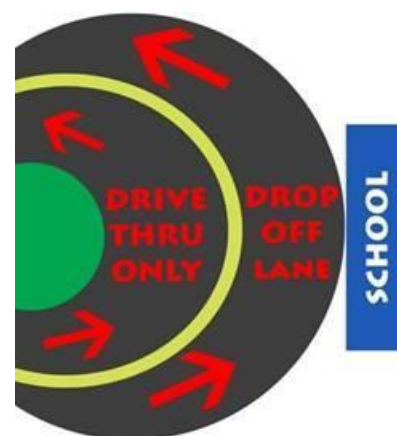
Age of Majority

When a child turns 18, they are legally considered an adult. With this change, ALL communication from the school regarding your child will cease, unless your child has completed, signed, and returned the Age of Consent Form. If you would like a copy of the Age of Consent Form please download it from our school website [here](#).

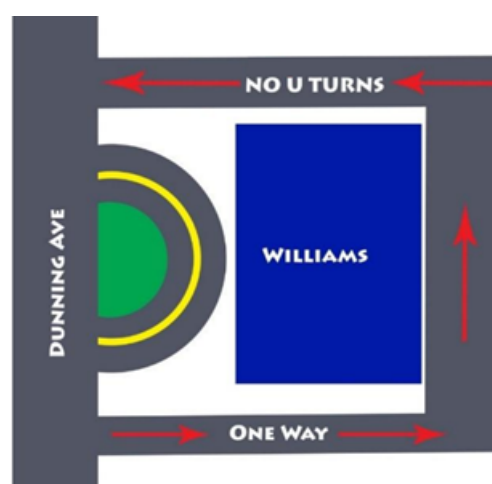
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

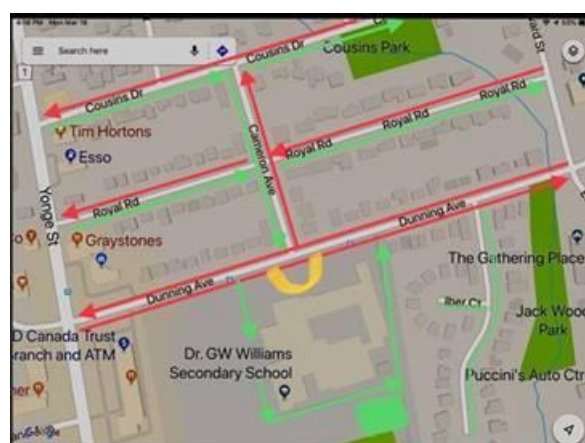
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 2:40, 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.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

- Family Day - Monday, February 21, 2022
- Mid-Winter Break - Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022 inclusive
- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022

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

- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2021-2022

- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022