



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: February 21 - 25, 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:** [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

## This week:

<b>Feb. 21</b>	Family Day Holiday - <i>No School</i>
<b>Feb. 22</b>	Last Day of Student Trustee Election - <i>Voting closes at 8:00 p.m.</i> Grad photos (Feb 22-25); appointments booked through Lifetouch
<b>Feb. 23</b>	<i>Pink Shirt Day - Anti Bullying Campaign "Lift Each Other Up"</i> Waterloo Math Contests (PCF) - Gr. 9-11 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 Junior Girls Volleyball Game vs. Sir. W Mulock - 3:30pm Senior Boys Basketball Game vs. Aurora HS - 4:00pm
<b>Feb. 24</b>	Junior Boys Basketball Game vs. Sacred Heart - 4:00pm Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Mulock SS - 2:45pm
<b>Feb. 25</b>	All course selections are <b>DUE</b> .

## Upcoming:

<b>Feb. 28</b>	Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. St. Max - 3:00pm
<b>Mar. 1</b>	Junior Girls Volleyball Game vs. Dr. J.M. Denison SS/Newmarket HS - 3:30pm
<b>Mar. 2</b>	
<b>Mar. 3</b>	Junior Girls Volleyball Game vs. Sacred Heart/Renaissance ESC - 3:30pm
<b>Mar. 4</b>	

## Message from the Principal

On Monday it was nice to see so many students that took the opportunity to "Dress to Impress" for Valentines. Lots of fun was had by the students with candy grams, serenades and cards.

This week and next week students will be making important choices about courses for the 2022-2023 school year. It is important that students reflect on their strengths and interests in choosing courses for the coming year. The decisions made now impact the staffing and timetabling process for the coming year. Our school is staffed based on the number of students that select each course, therefore, students that change their mind later in the spring, over the summer or in the fall may not have the opportunity to move into other courses. Students should reach out to teachers and departments if they have questions about any of the course offerings so that they are aware of the expectations of each course they choose and the connected pathways. Guidance is available to answer questions about all course pathways and have begun to have a 'pop-up' Guidance booth in the main hallway at lunch to make it easier for students to drop by with questions.

Next week we hope all students will take the opportunity to reflect on the impacts of bullying and what actions they can individually take as we wear pink on February 23 for Pink Shirt Day. This year's theme focuses on diversity and supporting people to embrace their cultures, identities, and true selves. We are encouraged to '[Lift Each Other Up](#)' bringing greater acceptance, respect, and inclusion for everyone.

Our athletes are excited to be getting back on the courts, ice, etc. and our musicians are excited to be getting back to their ensembles. The halls are once again filled with activity as we continue to progress towards 'normal'. It is this activity that we all treasure in the life of our school.

Please enjoy a long weekend celebrating Family Day. I hope that everyone gets time with those they care for and an opportunity to step away from day to day activities for some relaxation.

Melissa Schmidt

## STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION

February 14-February 22, 2022, 8:00 p.m.  
[www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees)

Voting is now open for the 2022-2023 student trustees. Each year, students in Grades 5-11 have the opportunity to vote for the two student trustees who will represent their voice across York Region District School Board.

Voting closes February 22, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

Information about how to vote has been sent to student GAPPs email accounts, and is also available on the [Student Trustees website](#). On the website, students can also find information about the four student trustee candidates and a recording of the all-candidates debate.

## WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

### Notices

Skills Ontario is hosting an engaging virtual conference and a fun workshop in celebration of International Women's Day! This event is intended for students in grades 11-12, apprentices, business women, tradeswomen, and advocates for women in the skilled trades and technologies. [Register here!](#)

## Contact Us

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS  
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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

On February 23rd, York Region District School Board in a collaborative partnership with Women's Support Network is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. We welcome parents, guardians, caregivers, educators, staff and community. [Register today!](#)

Richmond Hill is hosting a series of events to celebrate Black History Month. [Please see more here.](#)

5th Annual Black History Month Event: Black Health, Well-Being, and Resilience through Ubuntu – I am because we are - is happening this Saturday, February 19, from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM EST. [Register here!](#)

Continuing Education Services is pleased to share information about the summer PLF4M credit course being offered in partnership with the not-for-profit Ontario Educational Leadership Centre (OELC). Students taking Recreation & Active Living Leadership will receive a grade 12 credit towards their high school diploma, as well as preparing them for university programs in physical health and kinesiology, and recreation and leisure management. [For more information and registration, see here.](#)

### **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](mailto: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 began 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](#).

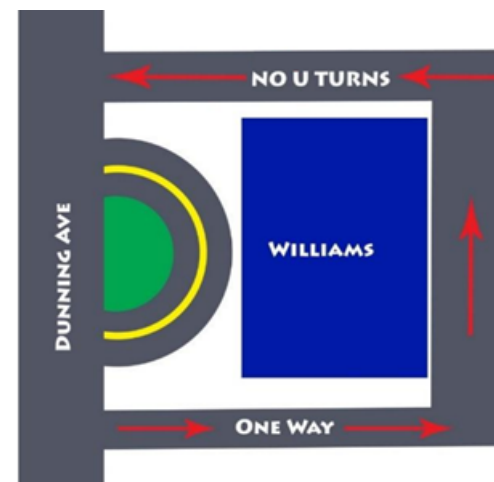
## Safety and Community Notices

### Driveway and Parking Lot

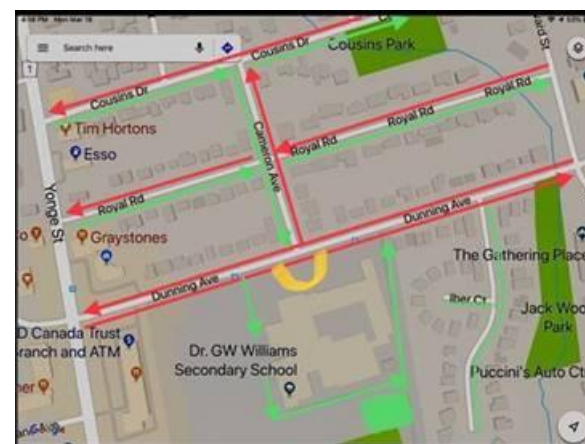
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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