



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: February 28 - March 4, 2022

Trait of the Month: Honesty

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](#)

## 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:

<b>Feb. 28</b>	Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. St. Max - 3:00 pm (at York Curling Club) Jr. Boys Basketball Game vs. Sutton District - 4:45 pm Sr. Boys Basketball Game vs. Cardinal Carter - 3:30 pm
<b>Mar. 1</b>	Jr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Dr. J.M. Denison SS/Newmarket HS - 3:30pm (In-House Game) Sr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Aurora High School /Dr. J.M Denison - 3:30pm (at Aurora High)
<b>Mar. 2</b>	
<b>Mar. 3</b>	Jr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Sacred Heart/Renaissance ESC - 3:30pm (In-House Game) Jr. Boys Basketball Game at Sir William Mulock - 4:00 pm
<b>Mar. 4</b>	

## Upcoming:

<b>Mar. 7</b>	Ice Hockey Game vs. Opponent Huron Heights SS - 2:30 pm (at Magna Centre) Jr. Boys Basketball Game at Sutton District - 4:00 pm
<b>Mar. 8</b>	Sr. Boys Basketball Game at St Maximilian Kolbe CHS - 4:00 pm
<b>Mar. 9</b>	Ice Hockey Game vs. King City HS - 2:30 pm (at Nobleton Community Centre)
<b>Mar. 10</b>	Jr. Boys Basketball Game at Keswick High - 3:30 pm Jr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Sir William Mulock/Sacred Heart CHS - 3:30pm (at Sacred Heart CHS) Sr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Sacred Heart CHS/Huron Heights S.S - 3:30pm (In-House Game)
<b>Mar. 11</b>	

## Message from the Principal

It is so great to have our sports teams up and running again. The sounds from the gym after school are amazing as our players demonstrate their skills and overcome competition. We are thankful that all of our coaches have been able to return and continue the season with our students and know that the students are excited to be back on the court and ice.

Students and staff this week reflected on how we can 'Lift Each Other Up' through the annual Pink Shirt Day. It was amazing to see so many committed to the cause through their selection of wearing pink on Wednesday.

As Black History month comes to a close on Monday we want to reinforce our ongoing commitment to our students, staff and families that everyone has a right to learning and working environments that not only protect them from anti-Black racism and other forms of oppression, but also affirm their identities, foster their strengths, and contribute to their overall well-being. While we continue to learn and unlearn through this work we want to ensure our community is aware that we are committed to identity affirming and anti-racist curriculum. Throughout this past month we have been highlighting Black Excellence through our daily announcements and within our curriculum activities in classrooms. Next week we will share the work that has been undertaken with the community to further the learning beyond our school walls and allow families to engage in further dialogue at home. Although Black History month happens in February, we are committed to the work within our school throughout the year.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Photo Retake Day

Photo Retake Day has been scheduled for March 21st, for those students who weren't able to have their photo taken in November 2021.

Students that were unable to have grad photos taken at the school this week should contact Lifetouch directly to make an appointment at their Markham studio.

## WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

### Sports Highlights

- The Senior Boys Basketball Team showed incredible resilience yesterday, battling back from being down 10-0 to start the game, and with multiple big deficits throughout three quarters to force overtime and win by 6 against Aurora High. Sanjay Hardeo led the way with 5 threes, Sam Wauchope had some amazing plays on the boards, and the team felt the return of the tenacity of Kishore with his inspired play. Great win guys!
- Last night the junior girls volleyball team had great success after being off for nearly two months. The girls kicked things off with a shaky start against Mulock but pulled through with an overall win, taking away 2 out of 3 matches.
- Great job to captain Victoria for her killer serves and leadership!
- The second match against Renaissance allowed the girls to find their rhythm as they once again came out victorious with an overall 2 out of 3 win.
- Shoutout to Ava Brodie for her consistent serving taking over almost 10 points in a row and Erica with her solid defensive digging.

## Notices

March's Mental health newsletter for families and caregivers is now out and has a focus on March Break and taking time to pause. [Please read it on the school website.](#)

Join us on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7 p.m. EST for a meaningful virtual presentation on [Intergenerational Trauma: The Everlasting Impact of the Holocaust](#) and how trauma can be passed down through generations, in relation to the Holocaust. [Register here!](#)

Triple P Parenting Seminar is offering a free presentation for parents and community members, on Raising Responsible Teens/PreTeens. The presentation happens on March 2, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. [Please register here.](#)

THE HONOURABLE MARCI IEN, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, discusses the importance of dismantling Anti-Black Racism and shares her insightful life-lessons in an [evening event, on Monday February 28, 2022. Register Now!](#)

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!](#)

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.](#)

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### **The Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser**

Canada is known for its harsh winters, however the cold hits some people way harder than others, and it's time we do something about it. The Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser supports local charities, specifically Inn From the Cold Newmarket, to provide essential care to people experiencing homelessness, hunger, and hurt.

There are two ways to support:

You can join the Peer Mentors and walk for CNOTY tomorrow Saturday Feb 26th, or you can donate to provide much-needed support to the people in your community. To donate, please visit [this link](#) or scan the QR codes in the hallways to be taken to our page. Today, Friday, February 25, is the last day to make a donation! Let's raise some money and show our community members some love this winter!

### **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**

#### **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](#).

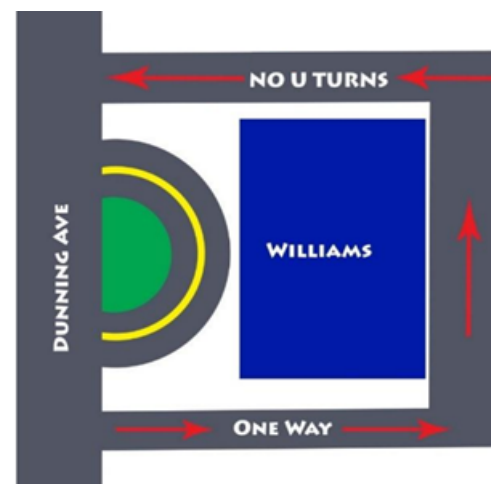
## **Safety and Community Notices**

### **Driveway and Parking Lot**

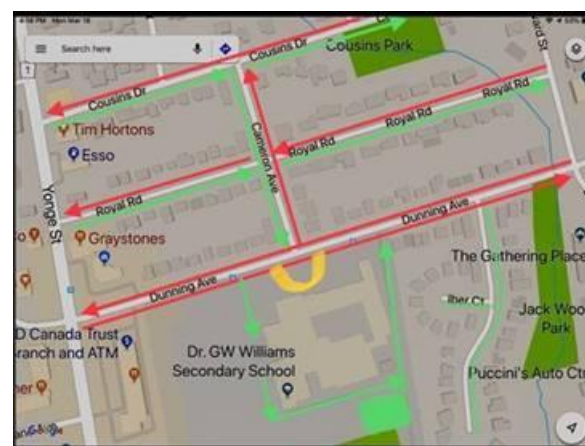
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- 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