



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: January 24 – January 28, 2022

Trait of the Month: Optimism

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

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

This week:

Jan. 24	
Jan. 25	Textbook Returns (unless needed for culminating activities and arrangements made with teachers)
Jan. 26	Block 1 (Period 1) Classes - Culminating Activity Day (Classes normally scheduled 8:20-9:40)
Jan. 27	Block 3 (Period 2) Classes - Culminating Activity Day (Classes normally scheduled 9:45-11:00)
Jan. 28	Block 2 (Period 3) Classes - Culminating Activity Day (Classes normally scheduled 11:50-1:05)

Upcoming:

Jan. 31	Block 4 (Period 4) Classes - Culminating Activity Day (Classes normally scheduled 1:10-2:25)
Feb. 1	Regular Instructional Day - Significant Faith Day Attendance will be taken for students present online or F2F. Students follow the regular schedule.
Feb. 2	Culminating Support Day - by appointment with teachers
Feb. 3	Virtual Feedback Day 8:20 - 8:25 Announcements 8:25 – 9:05 Block One (Period One) 9:10 – 9:45 Block Three (Period Two) 9:50 – 10:25 Block Two (Period Three) 10:30 – 11:05 Block Four (Period Four)
Feb. 4	PA Day

Message from the Principal

It has been great to be back in the building this week. The enthusiasm of the students and the excitement of returning has been palpable in the hallways. With many currently choosing online learning, we have noticed a difference in the classrooms but that hasn't impacted the learning.

Please remind your students to complete their screening (both steps) PRIOR to coming to the building. Students need to show the confirmation email from the YRDSB Google form as they are entering the school. Given the cold weather we can't have students gathering at the front doors to complete this task.

The culminating activity information was sent to all households yesterday via email and the schedule is posted on the main page of our website. Teachers will be mostly working individually with students to provide additional support to ensure that they have demonstrated the best of their abilities despite challenging circumstances this semester. Be sure to review the detailed email that was sent to everyone and follow up with your child's teachers if you have specific questions about what is required to complete their classes.

We are in the home stretch of this semester and know that both students and teachers will be busy in the coming days.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Weekly Highlights

COVID Self-Screening

- Step 1: Secondary students to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) prior to leaving home 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](#) (must be logged into their GAPPs account to complete)
- Step 3: Enter the school via the outside door closest to the Period 1 classroom (as indicated in email sent on Jan 14) with the email confirmation ready to show the staff on duty. Doors will open at 8:00 am

School Photos Were Completed on November 18 & 19.

If you wish to Order School Pictures? [Updated](#)

1. Visit mylifetouch.ca (Phone number 1-866-299-7774)
2. Enter your Student ID number. (For more instructions please click [link](#))
3. Order your perfect package and don't worry about returning anything to the school. All orders placed will be shipped directly to your home.

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Notices

Free Sex Trafficking presentation for parents and community members on January 25th at 10:00 a.m. [Register](#) now!

Build a Dream and YRDSB invite parents/guardians and students to a FREE VIRTUAL CAREER DISCOVERY EXPO on Thursday, February 3rd, 2021 from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm EST. See [flyer](#) for more info.

Contact Us

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

(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

Please see the Tamil Heritage Month [flyer](#), [Essay](#) and [Poster](#) contest deadline extended to January 23rd and open for all students Gr. 9-12.

Please see Culminating Activities [Information](#) for parents.

We welcome families, educators, community and students (grades 6+) to join us for an Evening with Maksim Goldenshetyn, Author of "So They Remember", a Jewish Family's Story of Surviving the Holocaust in Soviet Ukraine, on Feb 3rd 7:00PM-8:00PM. [Register](#) today!

Tune In YRDSB - A podcast on Anchor

Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. Here we will explore a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond. We look forward to inspiring learning through storytelling. Please [tune](#) in and enjoy the experience.

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 drgwilliamss.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. Brar Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

COVID Self-Screening - Confirmation required again when we return to Face to Face learning

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

Night School Credit Courses & Night School e-Learning

• Semester Two, winter 2022 Registration for YRDSB Night School and Night School e-Learning is now open. Please visit the YRDSB Continuing Education webpage for course offerings and more information.

Community Services

• For the 2021-2022 school year, the Ministry of Education is revising the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement to 20 hours of community involvement activities.

All up-to-date information is posted on the Graduating Class of 2022 Google Classroom.

Scholarships and Bursaries

• Please check the Graduation Class of 2022 for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

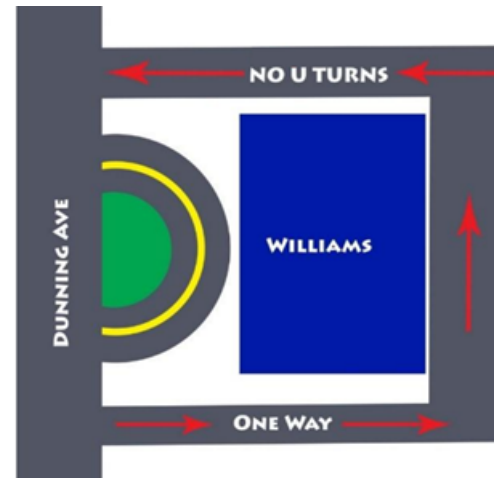
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

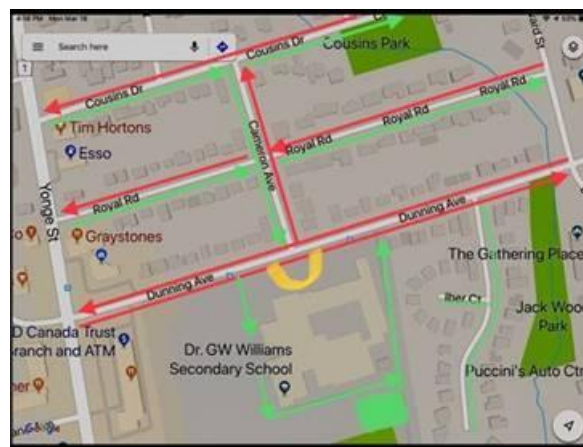
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

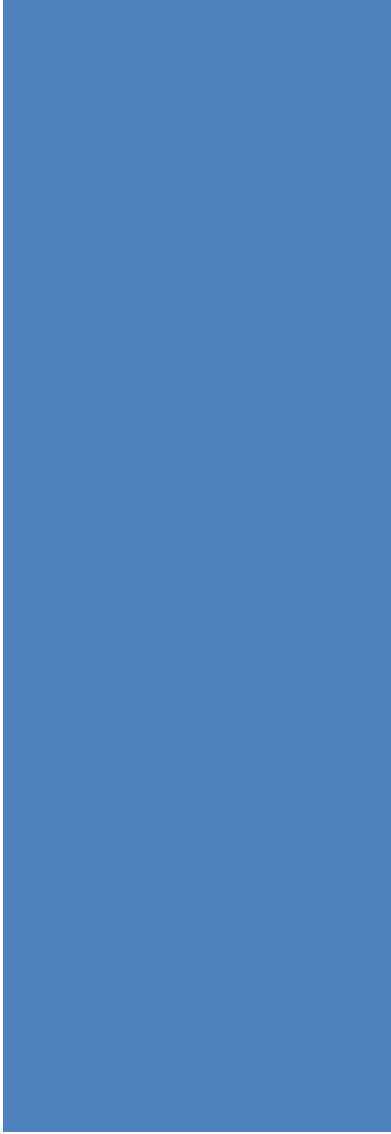
- Family Day - Monday, February 21, 2022
- Mid-Winter Break - Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022 inclusive
- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022

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

- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2021-2022

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



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