



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: January 31 –February 4, 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

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

Contact Us

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Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

This week:

Jan. 31	Block 4 (Period 4) Classes - Culminating Activity Day (Classes normally scheduled 1:10-2:25) Semester 2 timetables available in TeachAssist for all students
Feb. 1	Significant Faith Day - Lunar New Year Regular Instructional 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) IB Alumni Night, 7-8 pm
Feb. 4	PA Day - no classes

Upcoming:

Feb. 7	Sem 2 Term 1 begins Staff Meeting 2:40pm - 3:55pm Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Huron Heights - 2:30pm Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Sacred Heart - 2:30pm Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Newmarket HS - 2:30pm
Feb. 8	
Feb. 9	
Feb. 10	
Feb. 11	

Message from the Principal

Despite the cold weather we have had many students venturing into the building to work with teachers to demonstrate their learning for this semester. It has been great for many of our students to have this one on one or small group support to complete tasks, expand on information and improve their overall understanding in their courses. Teachers have really appreciated the opportunity both in person and virtually to support all of our students and ensure that the impacts of the changes in schedule this year and the shift to remote learning in January have not been a barrier to any student's success.

We are currently preparing for staffing for the beginning of semester two. As in all industries, labour is challenging to come by for many positions. Please know that the administration team here at Williams is working hard to find the most qualified teaching candidates to fill vacancies that we have for the coming semester. We will be starting the semester with 11 Long-Term Occasional teachers in the building and hope to have all of these hired prior to February 7th. In some cases, this may not be possible as needs arise on an ongoing basis and we are having to post positions 2 or 3 times to get qualified applicants. Our Departments Heads and Course teams are working hard to support all new staff in our building to ensure that curriculum is continued to be offered at a high level. We continue to appreciate the partnership we also have with our parents and students as we make these adjustments. We know that our school community will welcome and support these new members of the Williams staff as they get started here.

We have a few staff moving onto other opportunities in the coming semester and want to thank and wish them well in the next phases of their careers: Harmandeep Brar-Vice Principal, Samah Al-Nachawati, William Bell, Alessia Fedrigoni, Patricia Park, Michael Murphy, Arrani Ravindrarajah, Anna Sung, Leslie Schultz, Annie Suh, Jay Zaretsky, Theresa Greyson, and Doug Case. All of these staff have had a positive impact in our school community in the work they have done to support our students and we appreciate their time and commitment.

To that end, we would also like to welcome Andrew Gazaneo who will be joining our admin team supporting students and families with the last names Lo-Z moving forward. We look forward to having Andrew join our school community. He comes to us from Unionville High School where has been a Vice Principal most recently. Mr. Gazaneo will start at Williams when the new semester begins on February 7th, until then Mr. Case will continue to support these families.

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

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Notices

Please find the [Trustee Newsletter Greeting](#) - February 2022

FREE Black History Online Program - Harnessing Allyship and Leadership on February 15, 7:00-9:00 pm. Please [Register](#) here.

[Let's Talk Day](#) 2022 adopts the theme Mental Health: Every Action Helps

Triple P: Helping Families Manage Stress. For Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers, on February 2nd. [Register Now!](#)

Ongoing [Open Registration](#) for 2021-2022 Adult Programs: English as a Second Language (ESL); Language Instruction for NewComers (LINC); and Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Classes.

YRDSB Active School Travel [Newsletter](#) January 2022.

NACCA - Get Up! Stand Up! - Black History Month 2022 [information](#).

See Students and Community Black History Month Events Highlights [here](#).

MACCA 2022 Black History Month [Letter](#) and [Community Award](#).

Student and Family Advocate Program Presents 2022 Black History Month Celebration: Building Family and Micro-Enterprises [Virtual Event](#).

Skilled Trades & Technology Virtual Conference for Black Youth Grades 7-12 [flyer](#).

Student Mental Health and Addictions [Newsletter](#) February 2022

Student Trustee Election: An **all-candidates debate** is being held between the four final candidates on **February 2, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Students can [register to attend the live event](#) or or watch the recording on the [Student Trustees website](#) beginning February 3.

Tune In YRDSB - This week: Nur Muslim Mentorship Program

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

COVID Self-Screening - Confirmation required again for 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

Timetables

Second semester timetables will be visible on Teach Assist beginning the week of January 30th.

Course Selection

Course selection will begin on *myblueprint* from February 16th to the 25th. Information on the process will be posted on your child's Guidance Google Classroom.

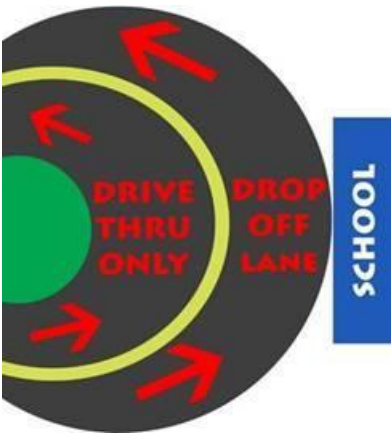
Age of Majority

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](#).

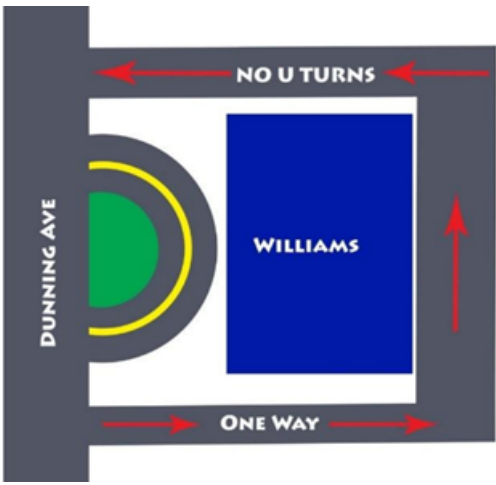
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

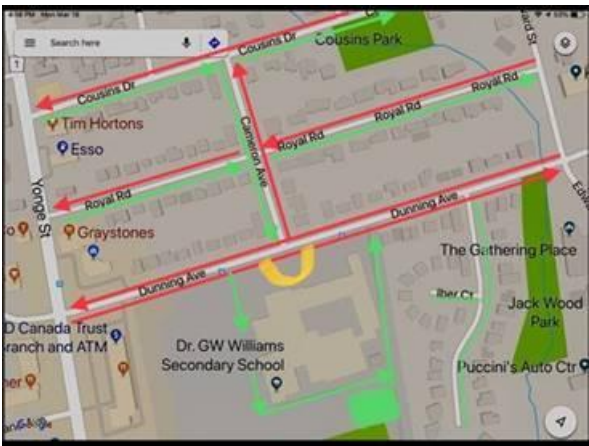
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

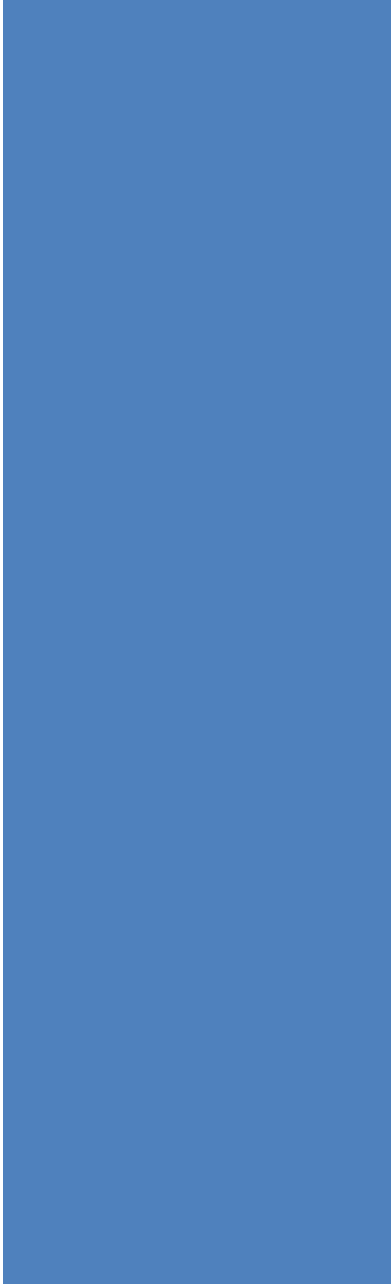
School Calendar for 2021-2022

- 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 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