



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 21 - March 25, 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

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

This week: **Mid-Winter Break: March 14 - 18. No school!**

The Following Week:

Mar. 21	<i>Photo Retake Day!</i> Leadership Team Meeting - 2:40-3:55 pm School Council Meeting - 7:00 pm Agenda
Mar. 22	Extended Essay Mentor and Mentee Celebration - 2:40 pm Sr. Boys Basketball Game vs. Sir William Mulock - 3:30 pm (Home Game) Sr. Girls Volleyball Game @ St. Maximilian & Sir William Mulock S.S - 3:30 pm (Location: Sir William Mulock S.S) Jr. Boys Basketball Game vs. Sir William Mulock - 4:45 pm (Home Game)
Mar. 23	Ice Hockey Game vs. King City HS - 2:30 pm (Location: Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex)
Mar. 24	Jr. Boys Basketball Game at Sacred Heart CHS - 3:30 pm Jr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. St. Maximilian & Cardinal Carter - 3:30 pm (Location: St. Maximilian) Sr. Boys Basketball Game vs. Sacred Heart CHS -4:45 pm (Home Game)
Mar. 25	

Upcoming:

Mar. 28	
Mar. 29	Sr. Girls Volleyball Game vs. Our Lady of the Lake S.S & Dr. J. M. Denison S.S - 3:30 pm (Home Game)
Mar. 30	
Mar. 31	IB Trivia Night - 2:40pm
Apr. 1	

Message from the Principal

We wish everyone a restful March Break. We look forward to everyone returning safely on March 21st with greater opportunities within the school now that provincial mandates have been adjusted.

Melissa Schmidt

PHOTO RETAKE DAY

Photo Retake Day has been scheduled for March 21st (***the Monday following the March Break***), 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 should [contact](#) Lifetouch directly to make an appointment at their Markham studio (located at 3980 – 14th Avenue, Unit 1-3 Markham, ON L3R 0B2).

GRADUATION - SAVE THE DATE

The YRDSB is pleased to share with you that we will be holding in-person graduation ceremonies in June 2022. This decision was made in consultation with York Region Public Health.

We recognize how important graduation ceremonies are for our students and their families, and we look forward to celebrating this exciting and important milestone. At the same time, we will continue to work with public health and prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and families in our planning.

We appreciate that you may have many questions about the graduation ceremonies. We will continue to share information and updates with you as guidance is provided by the Ministry of Education and York Region Public Health.

The Dr. G. W. Williams' graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 28, 2022. Pending York Region Public Health approval, we have booked Aurora Community Centre for the graduation. More details regarding the time, location and fees will follow.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Please see Dr. G.W. Williams School Council March Meeting [Agenda](#), as well as the approved Council Meeting [Minutes](#) from November 15, 2021.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROJECT:

In their fourth period classes, students have further explored their specific subjects by reframing and sharing a specific concept or development that better considers the experiences of Black Canadians. It is important to recognize how education works to enforce certain perspectives and challenge ourselves to reconsider our learned biases. In order to continue recognizing Black excellence beyond the month of February, and to enable everyone to have a better understanding of the diverse perspectives within our educational context, we encourage families to view our school-wide project [here](#) over the March break.

Contact Us

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

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

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

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Sports Highlights

- On Monday your Jr. Basketball Wildcats kept their winning streak going, winning Sutton 75-23. Tim A. led the way with 29 points.
- Thursday the Jr. Basketball team won over Keswick 70-36. Yonatan A. splashed 30 for the win.
- With these wins the juniors are in second place in the YRAA north with just 2 regular season games left. Great job team. The YRAA championships are in sight.

Words by Wildcats

Extra Extra! Read all about it. The latest issue of [Words by Wildcats](#), the school newspaper, is now available. Catch up on important events, groundbreaking investigations, and our exclusive reporting.

Notices

Please read this important newsletter from YRDSB, regarding GAPPS Profile Images on our [school website](#).

On March 24th, the Neuberger presents a [Virtual High School Student Symposium](#) that offers an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the groundbreaking technologies used to advance Holocaust education, at the Toronto Holocaust Museum, opening in 2023. [See more here!](#)

Triple P is hosting a Parenting Seminar on March 24. Topic for this virtual session, at 10:00 a.m, will focus on helping your child get the most out of their school. [Register here.](#)

In solidarity with all of those in our community with family and loved ones impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, please [visit our website](#) to see some services currently available to families.

The Summer Mentorship Program gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over 4 weeks in July. [Read more here!](#)

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.

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.

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

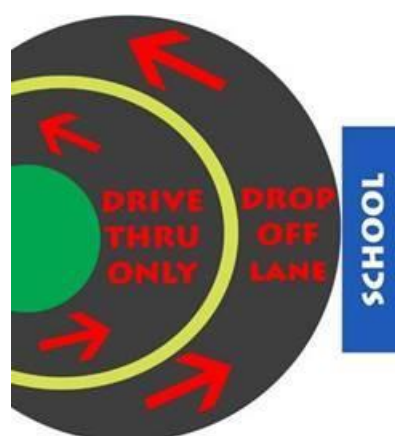
Course Selection Verification

Course Selection verifications will be emailed to parent/guardian's the week of March 21st 2022. Please make any changes using the **Course Selection Change Request** form provided with the email and submit change requests no later than **Friday March 25th 2022**.

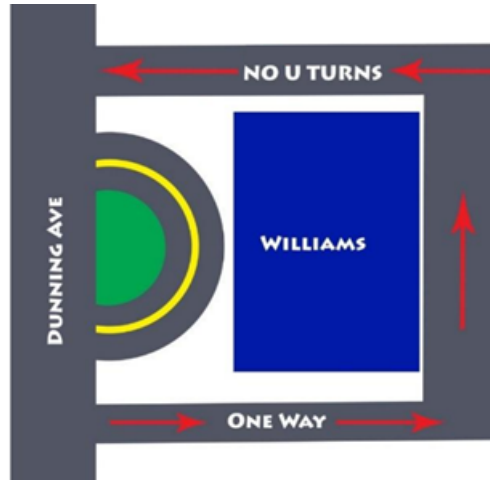
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

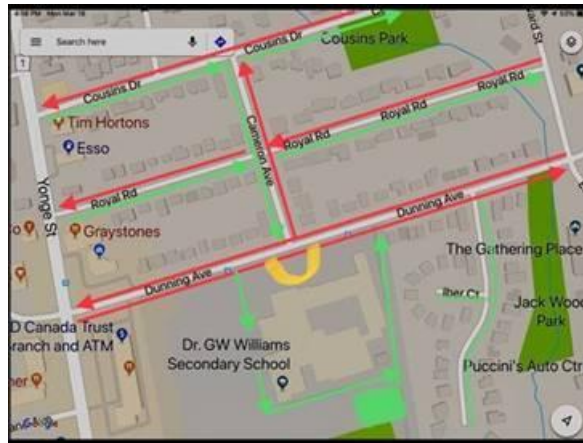
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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