



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 7 - March 11, 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:

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

Upcoming:

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

Mar. 21	<i>Photo Retake Day!</i> School Council Meeting - 7:00 pm
Mar. 22	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	In-House Art Show 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	

Message from the Principal

Now that we are a month into the semester, students should have some feedback on how they are progressing in their courses. Teachers are looking ahead to Interim reports that will be sent home after the March Break this year (later than usual because Semester 2 did not start until February 7th). We will be holding Teacher Interviews in early April as well. Please don't wait to connect with teachers until then if you have concerns. We have a strong Student Success team in the building to support students in all grades to be successful.

We have one week until the March Break. Please encourage your students to do as much as they can this coming week to wrap things up so that they can be sure to step away for a true cognitive break over the holiday and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

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.

MUSIC SOUP FUNDRAISER

The Music Department is hosting a Soup Fundraiser in partnership with the **Feedery** (Local Restaurant). Choose from 6 (six) unique flavours, including Cheesy Broccoli, Roasted Root Vegetable, and Hearty Lentil. If you're interested in having these wonderful **organic, vegan, and gluten-free** soups, and supporting the Music Department, please check out [SchoolCashOnline](#) and place your order. Orders are due by March 9th!

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

Sports Highlights

- The Co Ed curling team took a big win over the top team in their division, on Monday. Everyone swept hard to help bring the rocks into the house for the win. Way to go, Wildcats!
- The Senior Boys Basketball Team played a hard fought game against Cardinal Carter this past Monday.
- The Junior Girls Volleyball team won their second game against Renaissance this Thursday. Huge shout out to all the girls for their contributions both on and off the court. Special shoutout to our setters Dora and Carley for their great sets and to Emma and Abby for their strong play at the net.
- Thursday your Junior Boys Basketball traveled to Mulock to face the #1 Ravens. Aftering getting out to an early lead and never looking back the team came out with an impressive 75-51 victory. Awesome job by all!

Notices

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!](#)

Triple P Parenting is offering a Seminar on Raising Competent Teens. [Register here!](#)

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.](#)

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.](#)

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. 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

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](#).

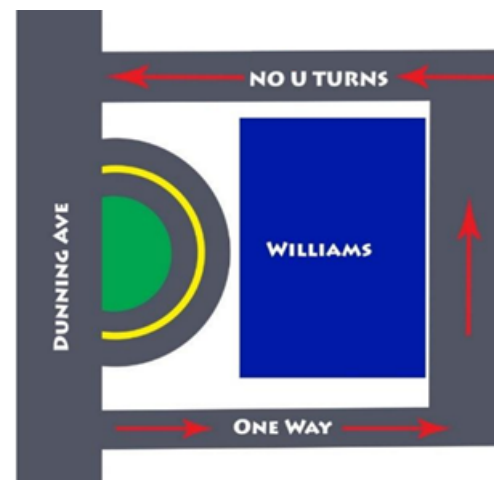
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

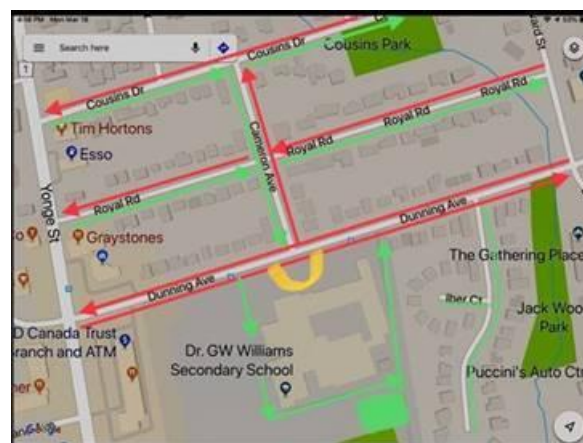
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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