



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 1 – November 5, 2021

Trait of the Month: Fairness

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](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

## WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Nov. 1 | Holocaust Education Week (Nov. 1-5)<br>Treaties Recognition Week (Nov. 1-5)   |
| Nov. 2 | Jr. Boys Soccer Playoff Game 3:30pm at Richmond Green SS  |
| Nov. 3 | Parent Teacher Interviews, 6:30-8:30 pm (Virtually)<br>Take Your Kid to Work Day - No Grade 9 classes<br>Sr. Boys Soccer Playoff Game 3:30pm at Denison SS vs Langstaff |
| Nov. 4 | Diamond Day - Diwali  |
| Nov. 5 |   |

## Upcoming:

## WEEK ONE SCHEDULE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM

|         |                 |
|---------|-----------------|
| Nov. 8  |                 |
| Nov. 9  |                 |
| Nov. 10 |                 |
| Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day |
| Nov. 12 |                 |

## Message from the Principal

It was so great to see so many students and staff demonstrate their creativity today and show some spirit for Halloween. Thank you to the Student Council for coordinating the costume contest on the track at lunch. Congratulations goes to Aiden, Alex and Ashley who were awarded bragging rights for their costuming efforts!

Our Junior and Senior Boys soccer teams are heading to the finals next week! It has been great to watch them over this short season. I encourage you to take in the games on either Tuesday or Wednesday after school at Richmond Green and Denison. They would love to have some support from our school community (see calendar for details)!

Next week is Holocaust Education and Treaty Recognition Week. We look forward to continued learning on these topics and thank our Equity Committee for the work they are doing to support our school community in increasing our knowledge in these areas.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Weekly Highlights

### Girls Field Hockey

This week the Girls Field Hockey team finished up their season, the girls learned a lot through the season and put up some good competition. A Huge thank you goes to Helene Wong who was our student manager. Thank you to Ms. Palm, Ms. Brennan and Ms. Kauffeldt for volunteering to introduce this sport to Williams and coach the girls this season. They are already planning ways to engage more students next year and expand interest in the game!!

### Sr. Boys Soccer

Yesterday afternoon the Senior Boys soccer team closed out their regular season as they visited 1st place rivals Denison in Newmarket. It was a gritty game but the Wildcats played some of their best team soccer of the season. By half, the scoreboard read nil - nil. With only 35 minutes to win the game the wildcats threw everything except the kitchen sink at the Denison goal. Finally, a breakthrough from surprise striker Sam Wauchope as he netted his first goal of the season. Not long thereafter, team captain James lamundo's screamer from 23 yards out was the cherry on the cake! Your Wildcats won 2 - 0 and leapfrogged Denison in the standings finishing FIRST in the north division! The coaches could not be happier with the teamwork, team spirit, support from the sidelines and efforts put forth by everyone.

In a post-game interview with principal Ms. Schmidt, who travelled to watch the game, she said "The rumours are true. This team is the embodiment of a Wildcat! We are the Wildcats, hear us ROAR! Bring on the playoffs!"

### Jr. Boys Soccer

The junior boys soccer team played in a very cold and rainy game on Monday! They faced St. Augustine - the second place team in the league. Despite coming up short and losing the game 5-2, your Wildcats still were able to clinch a playoff spot. They play Tues Nov 2nd against Richmond Green SS ... good luck boys!!

## Literacy Update

We now know that Williams students will be writing the OSSLT on Thursday November 25, 2021.

## Contact Us

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Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 1A2

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(F) 905-727-8067

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Extensions:     |   |
| Reception       | 0 |
| Attendance      | 1 |
| Guidance        | 3 |
| Staff Directory | 4 |

That day will be an asynchronous learning day for Grade 9, 10 and 12 students that are not writing the OSSLT (no regular classes, students work on course work from home). Community class students will continue to follow their regular schedule and will attend school on November 25th.

More details will follow closer to the date.

## **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter (November 2021 Edition)**

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.

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

### **COVID Self-Screening (updated October 15)**

Effective **Monday, October 18, 2021** York Region Public Health will require students, parents and guardians to use the provincial [Ontario COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#), prior to entering the school daily.

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**

Attention Grade 12's applying to University and/or College!

- Post-Secondary schools have begun offering virtual tours and open houses. Information and links can be found on the Grade 12 Google Classroom.
- University applicants require a PIN number to apply. These PINs have been shared with all Grade 12's via their GAPPs email. Please see the "How to Apply" section in the Guidance Google Classroom for more information on the application process.
- College applicants do not need a PIN number to apply but will need to know their Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on a report card. Please see the "How to Apply" section in the Guidance Google Classroom for more information on the application process.

### **Tune into YRDSB: Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program**

The latest Tune In YRDSB podcast episode focuses on the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Interested in learning more about some of the many exciting Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program opportunities available to our secondary students? There are over 150 skilled trades for our students so that they can explore their interests and pathway options. [Listen to the latest episode of Tune In YRDSB](#) and join members of the YRDSB Curriculum team and current and former students as they share more information about the program. Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. The podcast explores a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond.

### **Do you need a computer?**

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

RCT is offering families with children enrolled in our Board the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. For more information please visit the [flyer](#) and [letter to families](#).

### **March Break Program for Black Youth (March 14 - 18)**

New free access program for Black youth in the GTA: Reach Ahead to Kinesiology.

Experience student life at the University of Toronto and explore the field of kinesiology, where health and physical activity intersect! Please view the [link](#) for more details.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of York**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBSY) is offering free virtual group mentoring programs designed to empower youth while keeping them connected to their peers. Please see the [link](#) for information about each program and to register your child.

### **Grade 7-12 Holocaust Education Presentation**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8:15pm please join our virtual Holocaust Testimony's. See links below for details.

- Carrying on the Legacy, Sharing Dori Ekstein's Mother's Testimony. Please see the [link](#) for registration.
- The Weight of Freedom, in conversation with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger. Please see the [link](#) for registration.

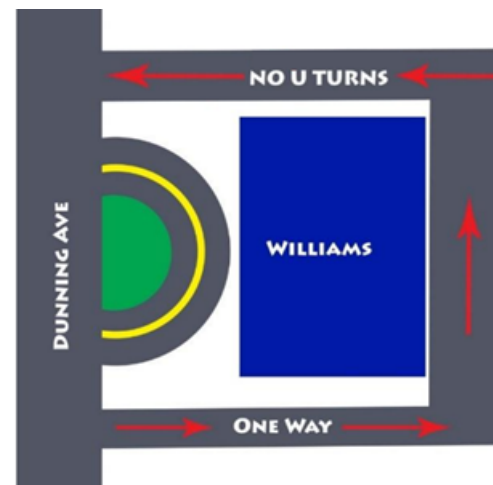
## **Safety and Community Notices**

### **Driveway and Parking Lot**

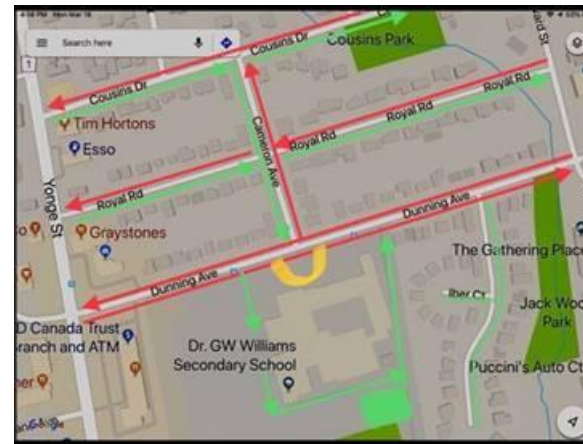
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Winter Break - Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021 inclusive
- 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 November 19, 2021
- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

**School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Monday November 15, 2021
- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022