



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 30 – December 4, 2020

Trait of the Month: **Empathy**

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://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

**Social Media:** @drgwwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))

<b>Nov. 30</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 1</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 2</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 3</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 4</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

## Upcoming:

<b>Dec. 7</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 8</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 9</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 10</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

## Message from the Principal

Congratulations to our Class of 2020!! We were so excited this week to see the many familiar faces come by for our curb side pick-up to receive their limited edition Williams Wildcat reusable 2020 tote containing their cap, gown & tassel, diploma documents, awards, Grad photo composite and yearbook. Despite the chilly weather, parents that came by enjoyed the opportunity to take some photos of their graduate with their cap and gown in front of the school. Thank you to the graduation committee and all the staff volunteers for the time they dedicated to making sure our ceremony on Tuesday night and the lead up to that was memorable for our graduates.

Today we practiced our lock down and Hold and Secure Drills. Our lock down drill looked a little different this year as we maintained social distancing in the classrooms, however, with the windows covered, the lights off and everyone quiet it was equally effective. We appreciate the seriousness by which our students approach these important safety drills.

Recently you should have received communication from the board regarding updated procedures for Inclement Weather (snow) Days this year. Given our move to the adaptive platform, the board has determined that schools will be CLOSED to students on inclement weather days, however, classes will continue on line as scheduled. Therefore, if buses are cancelled, students are still expected to login to their morning class at 8:20 am.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Notices

### Revised School Screening Checklist

Every day, parents/guardians and students over 18 are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the checklist from York Region Public Health. This checklist has been recently updated to reflect the Ontario government's revised [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Schools](#) and Child Care.

Please note that the new screening guide applies to children only and the adult screening has not changed. Thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### Math Enrichment Opportunities

Due to the adaptive model we are following this year, we cannot offer the typical array of math contests and math club enrichment opportunities at Williams. However, thanks to some accommodations made by Universities, it is possible that our students can still participate in some of these activities. To best communicate these opportunities, we have created a "Math Club" Google Classroom that contains links to enrichment opportunities as well as all the information (and relevant links) we currently have with regard to the contests we normally participate in. We will not be running an actual Math Club through the classroom, but we will continue to update it with any pertinent information and/or links throughout the school year. The Math Club Classroom is open to any Williams students who would like to join. Please use the join code: cxwtmf4

## Contact Us

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Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

## Literacy Corner Nov 27

Hello Parents!

My name is Zahra Murad, and I am the Literacy teacher at Williams. In this monthly segment, I will bring you news and updates about the OSSLT, and our preparation for the test! I will also share some simple literacy challenges you can engage with your students at home, to help strengthen their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills!

### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) News:

- If your student is taking the test, they should have been added to the Williams Literacy Preparation Google Classroom in September. The Google Classroom code is: w6ufrc5
- Materials such as practice tests, slide decks exploring the different test sections and skills, and other practice materials including guiding videos can be found on the Classroom. Students can complete and submit work to the dropbox on the Classroom for feedback, or email me with their questions anytime!

### Literacy Challenge: Rapid Write!

**What:** A rapid write is a timed free-write. To do a rapid write, you will need a timer, and a device you are comfortable writing on. You might use a pen/pencil and paper, a laptop, tablet, or anything else that works for you!

**How:** Set the timer for 5 minutes (or another time you prefer). Use, or complete ignore the prompt provided here. When the timer begins, start writing and don't stop! The only rule is that you write without stopping. This means: no correcting, no worrying about staying on topic or being eloquent, no fussing over spelling and grammar. Just write!

**Why:** Although this may seem counterintuitive, studies have shown that this technique works to improve overall literacy as well as creativity in multiple ways. Writing without self-judgement allows people to express themselves, explore ideas, and (most importantly), get focused practice with writing.

**Suggested Prompt:** Would you rather have a talking elbow, or a talking knee?

## Guidance

### **Graduation**

- The 2019/2020 Virtual Graduation will be taking place Tuesday November 24th at 7:00 pm. A link to join has been emailed to student GAPPS email accounts.

### **Grade 8 Open House**

- The Dr. G.W. Williams Virtual Grade 8 Open House will be held on December 10th.

### **Feeder School Visits**

- Virtual visits to feeder schools will begin on December 7th. A member of the Williams Guidance team will virtually drop into Grade 8 classrooms with a short presentation and will answer questions from students.

### **Specialist High Skills Majors**

All SHSM students should now have access to the new SHSM classroom. The classroom has important information related to reach ahead opportunities, SHSM events, and self-reporting tools. Please check your GAPPS email for your classroom invite.

### **Applying University and/or College**

- University applicants' PIN number to apply to schools have been sent to student GAPPS email accounts. Please see the “**How to Apply**” section in the Grade 12 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 Grade 12 Google Classroom for more information on the application process.

### **Community Services**

- Changes have been made to the Community Involvement Graduation Requirements. Information on requirements and eligibility can be found on the Grade 12 Google Classroom.

### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

Please check the graduation class of 2021 for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

### **RTC Computer Purchase Program**

Once again we are pleased to offer this to our Williams families. Please see the attached flyer below for more information on accessing this program.

### **FLYER**

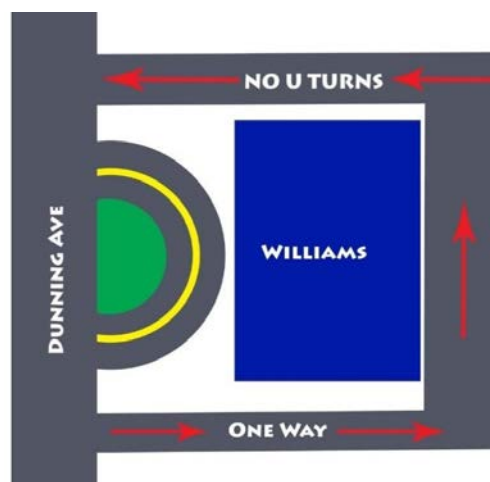
### **Driveway and Parking Lot**

The safety of all students must be everyone's first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

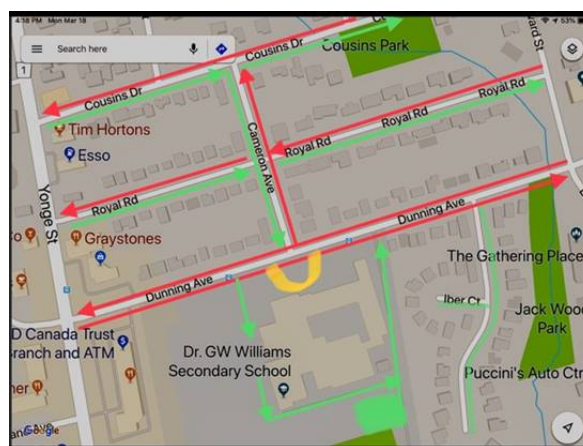
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 11:00, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distancing, 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.



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 morning pick-up time you will have noticed the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot. This adjustment has made 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. Our School Council previously worked with local by-law officials to identify areas within the neighbourhood that parents can pick up their students. Please note the arrows in green and red to support the effective flow of traffic in the area.

Thank you for your cooperation with this!

#### **School Calendar for 2020-2021**

The Ministry of Education has approved the school calendar for 2020-2021. For Williams, some important dates and holidays are:

- Winter Break – Monday December 21, 2020 January 1, 2021
- Family Day – Monday, February 15, 2021
- March Break – Monday, March 15, 2021 to Friday March 19, 2021
- Good Friday – Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 5, 2021
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 24, 2021

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

- Monday February 15, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

#### **School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Monday January 18, 2021
- Tuesday March 23, 2021
- Monday May 17, 2021