



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: October 26 – October 30, 2020

Trait of the Month: Inclusiveness

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.

Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

School Website: <http://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

Contact Us

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

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

Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

The Week at a Glance

Oct. 26	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Last day for Period 4 rotation in School
Oct. 27	First day of Period 5 rotation in School Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Oct. 28	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Oct. 29	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Teacher Interviews – Virtual Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship Information Night, 7pm (see flyer link below)
Oct. 30	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

Upcoming:

Nov. 2	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Nov. 3	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal OYAP Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship Information Night, 7pm (see flyer link below)
Nov. 4	Take Our Kids to Work Day – Grade 9s, 12:30-3:30 (see information below) Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Nov. 5	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Nov. 6	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

Message from the Principal

Thank you to parents who pick their students up each day for encouraging your students to follow our guidelines around physical distancing and exiting via their assigned entrance for pick-up. As a reminder, there is no stopping on Dunning Avenue. We have been outside every morning this week between 10:45-11:00 educating parents regarding options for picking up students, which include the side streets and our parking lot (see images below at the end of the Tell).

Our Student Council elections took place yesterday and today and we are thrilled with the number of students who got involved in the school and put their name forward to represent their peers. Congratulations to the successful candidates.

We are actively planning for our upcoming Virtual 2019/2020 Graduation that will take place on November 24, 2020. More detailed information will be coming out to all graduates and their families in the coming week.

Our teachers are looking forward to meeting many parents at our first virtual teacher interview night on Thursday October 29. Thanks for taking the time to join us that evening to engage in discussions about our courses and your child's progress.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Notices

Face to Face Period 5 Cohorting update.

An email went home on Thursday regarding the [Rotation for Period 5](#). Please note that the next rotation starts on **Tuesday** October 27. Please have your child take note of the room their class is scheduled in so that they know which entrance is the closest to their classroom to support our efforts for physical distancing.

Student Council Election Results

President: Christine X.

Vice President: Kai W. and Evan S.

Secretary: Daniel C.

Treasurer: Ilham R.

Communications Representatives: Brian P., Hubert G., Aliza F., Eunice H.

International Representatives: Daisy H., Tenge W.

Grade 9 Representatives: Amanda L., Erica L., Paige E., Clyde W.

Grade 10 Representatives: Iris C., Bruce Y., Zion C.

Grade 11 Representatives: Artin K., Julia Z., Clara X., Sophia C.

Grade 12 Representatives: Juliann N., Saskia W.

Congratulations to all!

Halloween Reminders for Families

This year, Halloween will look different for York Region families. In light of COVID-19 precautions, door-to-door trick-or-treating is not recommended by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health for modified Stage 2 areas, including York Region. The health and safety of our students remains a top priority. For students who wish to celebrate Halloween at school, please keep these reminders in mind:

- When planning costumes that no replica weapons of any kind are allowed.
- Costumes should be respectful of others. Symbols or objects representative of a person's culture or religious beliefs should not be worn as a costume.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, please be aware that:

- Students will not be able to use washrooms to change into costumes.
- No Halloween masks are to be worn and students should only use single use make-up (no sharing of make-up).
- Students who are required to wear PPE face masks (Gr. 4 - 12) must continue to do so, and students in younger grade (FDK - Gr. 3) are encouraged to continue to wear their PPE face masks.
- Costumes should be of simple design (to limit personal items being brought to school), and treats cannot be shared.

For more information on how to stay safe this Halloween and for alternate Halloween activities, please visit York Region Public Health's [website](#).

Take Our Kids to Work Opportunities for Grade 9 Students on November 4, 2020

- Participate in a virtual Job Shadow with parent/guardian, family member/neighbour from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. etc.; or
- Participate in a livestream event from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., hosted by the Pathways Team, Curriculum and Instructional Services, in partnership with the Learning Partnership.

More information will be sent out to students via their GAPPS account.

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

Teacher Interviews

October 29th teachers will be hosting virtual interviews using the Zoom platform. We thank all parents who have booked interviews with teachers through our Edsby platform. Teachers will be sending out a letter after Edsby bookings close on Tuesday with the Zoom link to access for their interviews. If you were unable to book an appointment with a teacher, please contact the teacher directly to make alternate arrangements to meet with them to discuss your child's progress.

Parents or guardians wishing to speak with a guidance counsellor or SERT on teacher interview night should contact the counsellor or SERT directly to schedule an appointment.

Guidance Counsellors:

Mr. Fuller	Last names A - H	mark.fuller@yrdsb.ca
Mr. Manson	Last names I - Mb	patrick.manson@yrdsb.ca
Ms. Gordner	Last names Mc - P	nicole.gordner@yrdsb.ca
Ms. Durbacz	Last names Q - Z	sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca

Yearbook

Yearbooks have arrived!! We have made a plan to distribute the yearbooks beginning on Tuesday to students in their Face to Face Period 5 classes.

Co-operative Education

Please see the flyer for the [Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship College Information Night](#)

Guidance

Need to speak with a Guidance Counsellor? Book at time with your guidance counsellor to use the QR code posted in front of the guidance office or visit bit.ly/GWGAppt

Community Service

A downloadable copy of the **Community Service Form** can be located on the Guidance section of our school website. Please return signed copies to the drop box in front of the guidance office and/or via email.

Applying University and/or College

- Post-Secondary schools are 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 will be shared via your gapps email on October 29th. 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.
- Be sure to check out our virtual financial workshop happening November 3rd at 3:00pm.

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

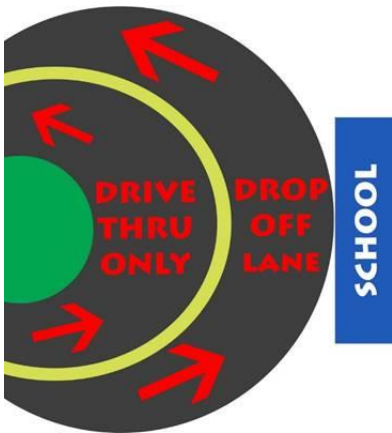
Online Fall and Winter 2020-2021 Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families

As many of our YRDSB community partner organizations continue to offer on-line opportunities for your children and youth, we are happy to provide you with a comprehensive list of these opportunities, including those that are continuing and also new programs and services. Please visit [2020-2021 Online Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families](#) to find a list of programs organized by category and age group. We encourage you to check the link regularly as the Community and Partnership Developer Team will be making regular updates to available programs and resources.

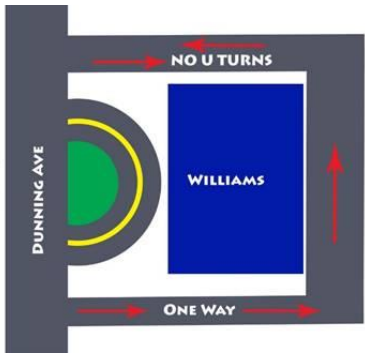
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

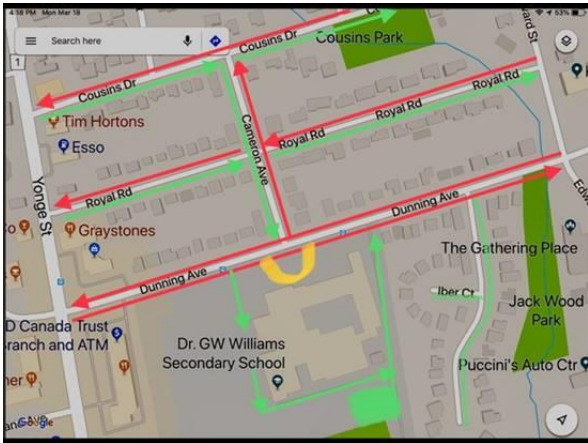
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave 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. 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!

English as a Second Language (ESL); Language Instruction for New Comers (LINC); and Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Classes

YRDSB offers Adult **English as a Second Language (ESL)** programs for those who want to develop effective language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing for daily life in Canada. We also offer specialized classes in *Citizenship* and *Conversation*.

Adult ESL Program Registration – In person and online options available!

1. Email uplands@yrdsb.ca or call **905-731-9557** with the following information:
 - your first and last name
 - your telephone number
 - CLARS identification number (those without a CLARS number will receive an assessment, please contact us for further assistance).
2. Our office will contact you if additional documentation is required.
3. Visitors to Canada may also register and attend for a fee of \$10 per day, per class.

For an assessment or to register, please call: 905-731-9557



If you are interested in improving your digital skills, want to work on your resume or interview skills, or prepare to take your GED exam, our **Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS)** program is for you!

Literacy and Basic Skill Assessment – In person and online options available!

1. Email uplands@yrdsb.ca or call **905-731-9557 Ext. 307** with the following information:
 - your first and last name
 - your telephone number
 - tell us that you are “*interested in the LBS program*”

NOTE: Due to the high volume of inquiries, it may take a few days to receive a reply communication from our office. We appreciate your patience.

Thank you for your interest in our programs. We look forward to serving you.

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:

- Thanksgiving – Monday October 12, 2020
- 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:

- Friday November 13, 2020
- Monday February 15, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- Monday October 19, 2020 [Agenda & Previous Minutes](#)
- Monday November 16, 2020
- Monday January 18, 2021
- Tuesday March 23, 2021
- Monday May 17, 2021