



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 9 – March 13, 2020  
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.*

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

## The Week at a Glance

<b>Mar. 09</b>	Sr. Boys Basketball to OFFSA
<b>Mar. 10</b>	Sr. Boys Basketball to OFFSA
<b>Mar. 11</b>	Rock Climbing Team to Rock and Chalk Jr. & Sr. Intensive to Waterstone Sr. Badminton to Westmount Collegiate Institute Varsity Boys Hockey Team to York University Dodgeball Tournament - Finals
<b>Mar. 12</b>	Interim Reports Distributed Rock Climbing Team to Rock and Chalk
<b>Mar. 13</b>	

**MID – WINTER BREAK: MARCH 16 TO MARCH 20**

## Upcoming:

<b>Mar. 23</b>	Parent Council Meeting
<b>Mar. 24</b>	YUSEND (York University Space Engineering Nanosatellite Design)
<b>Mar. 25</b>	Jr. & Sr. Intensive to Waterstone Last Day to Donations to Maples Closet
<b>Mar. 26</b>	Parent – Teacher Interviews
<b>Mar. 27</b>	

## Message from the Principal

Each morning when I listen to the announcements I continue to be impressed and amazed with not only our announcement crew who are committed to their important role in our school but the variety of opportunities that are presented each and every day by the many clubs and teams supported by dedicated staff advisors that provide activities to engage all students within the building. A special shout out to Cara H, Jelisa C, Rachel Q, Andrew B who learned to give the morning announcement sign off in Mandarin this week!!

If your child is unaware of the many activities that they may be involved in and doesn't catch the announcements before Period 1, please encourage them to check the bulletin board outside the cafeteria where all announcements are posted after being read each morning.

On Wednesday this week the Gym Rats took on Bob the Builder in a semi-final to the Dodgeball Tournament. Grade 11 students from 'Bob the Builder' team came out ahead and are primed to face the 'Tenacious Teachers' next Thursday in the finals of the Dodgeball Tournament. It should be an exciting match! Stay tuned for the results of this student-teacher competition.

We are also updating our website in the next week to provide a live Google calendar with up to date information on all school dates, field trips, athletic events, and school activities. Once it is live, be sure to subscribe to the calendar to get the information directly to your favorite device or bookmark the website for ease of access when checking what's happening at Williams.

Today at lunch, over 60 students gathered for the Music Council Open Mic/Karaoke in the Music Room. It was a wonderful way to spend the lunch hour listening to some talented musicians and watching the students support one another in their growth.

Our music program has been working hard to develop student skills and share their talents within the school community and beyond. Unfortunately, many of their instruments are aging and are requiring more and more repairs each semester making it difficult to provide all students with opportunities to have access to the instruments of their choice. Soon you will receive notices through SchoolCash Online regarding fundraising opportunities (Hot sauces & Mustard, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate) to support instrument replacement for our band. I would encourage all families to consider supporting this valuable fundraiser to help us update the instruments available in the school. Right now there is a wish list to replace 5 instruments with a total cost close to \$10 000 (that includes the purchase of some good quality used instruments). Every little bit helps and we appreciate all support in this endeavor.

This week there are a lot of important articles and announcements from YRDSB below that may be of interest to many families. Please take a moment to review the various pieces of information in the notices below.

### YRDSB Budget Consultation Process for Parents/Guardians and Community Members

Between March 25 and March 31, York Region District School is inviting parents, guardians and community members to participate in its annual budget consultation process. The Board values parent input and encourages you to attend a consultation session. These sessions provide the Board with valuable information about how the community would like to see the school board budget allocated to better support student achievement and well-being. The results will be used to inform the 2020-21 school year budget allocation.

The dates and locations are:

Wednesday, March 25, 2020  
Registration: 6:30 p.m. AND Consultation: 7:00 p.m.  
Sutton District High School, Library  
20798 Dalton Road, Georgina

Thursday, March 26, 2020  
Registration: 6:30 p.m. AND Consultation: 7:00 p.m.  
Tommy Douglas Secondary School, Library  
4020 Major Mackenzie Drive, Woodbridge

Saturday, March 28, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Markville Secondary School, Library  
1000 Carlton Road, Unionville

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
York Region District School Board  
Education Centre - Aurora, Boardroom  
60 Wellington Street West, Aurora

Melissa Schmidt

## Contact Us

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Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 1A2

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

Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

## Notices

### YRDSB Mental Health & Addictions Newsletter, March 2020

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. It's almost March Break! Time to think about self-care. As we approach March Break, it is important for adults and students to think about how we take care of ourselves – how we can de-stress by incorporating strategies into our lifestyle to avoid burnout and stress induced illness.

Maria Baratta, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., Clinician in New York speaks about [Self Care 101](#).

Here are the 10 strategies that she speaks about:

- Self care means knowing who you are and your limits.
- Self care means getting the sleep you need and knowing how to rest.
- Self care means making sure that you're well fed.
- Self care means finding a way to decompress throughout your day, not just when you leave work or school.
- Self care means giving some thought to change a difficult work situation.
- Self care means taking time to get to know you better.
- Self care means identifying what you enjoy doing and what's fun for you and make a serious effort to integrate it into your day or, at the very least, your week.
- Self care means knowing how to debrief from a day's work or day of school.
- Self care means feeding your spiritual self.
- Self care means taking time to love yourself and appreciating that there's only one you and you're the expert on that.

Check out some more tips from School Mental Health Ontario on [building personal resiliency](#).

Let's encourage our students to take March Break to practice some (or all) of these suggestions for self-care!!!

### Release of the YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol



York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. The Student Suicide Intervention Protocol will be implemented starting Fall 2019. Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally-charged and sadly a real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It's important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive. The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide. In addition, the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice. Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, refer to the print version of the protocol on the on the board website YRDSB-Student Suicide Intervention Protocol. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol, please contact your school principal.

### YRDSB Active School Travel Newsletter

#### SMALL CHANGES DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Take a moment, close your eyes and imagine....If every student at your children's school chose to walk, cycle or ride the bus to and from school, what would the school zone look like? How would it function? What type of place and environment would be created for your children?

#### Car-Free School Zone

Schools across York Region experience many traffic-related issues at the beginning and end of each school day. Volume alone creates congestion, reduces visibility and results in poor driver behaviour. Car-free school zones can create a space where people become the priority. This would result in a reduction of cars around school zones, creating an environment that promotes active lifestyles and overall positive environment for all to live, learn and play.



On behalf of Build a Dream and York Region District School Board, we invite you to our **FREE CAREER DISCOVERY EXPO** for parents and **young women Grades 7 – 12**. We will be highlighting opportunities in a number of careers to better assist young women in high school in making career choices. This event will include careers in:

#### Skilled Trades STEM - (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Emergency Responders Entrepreneurship Advancing Women

As a community, we recognize the critical role parents play in the development and education of their daughters, which is why we are providing this opportunity for families to learn more about careers in these growing sectors.

#### The event features:

- Dream Maker Panel: Women from various careers share their stories and inspire
- Employer Showcase: Dozens of employers ready to talk about careers in their sector
- Female mentors to provide insight to the girls in attendance
- Dream Zone hands-on activities, scholarships, door prizes, photo booth and more!

**Date: Wed. May 6, 2020**

**Location: 5:00pm to 9:00 pm (Doors open at 4:30) Le Parc Conference Centre, 8432 Leslie St., Thornhill**

**Space is limited so register today at: [dreamyork.eventbrite.ca](http://dreamyork.eventbrite.ca)**

For additional information, please contact: [info@webuildadream.com](mailto:info@webuildadream.com)



#### Refurbished Computers for Students

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), qualified families with children enrolled at our school have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Desktop computers are available for \$71 and laptop computers are available for \$161, including software, a two-year hardware and labour depot warranty, and delivery to the school. Parents and legal guardians may apply for one computer per student, with a limit of two per household.

If you are interested in applying, please finalize your order no later than April 15, 2020 by completing an online application at [www.rcto.ca/outreach](http://www.rcto.ca/outreach) using the group code on the attached program flyer.

Please note:

- If you do not pay by April 15, 2020 you will not be eligible to receive a computer.
- There are sections in the RCT Online Application that are no longer applicable:
  - Requirement of Proof or Documentation of Income
  - Requirement to participate in training prior to receiving your computer/laptop

If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, you may arrange to use a school computer to complete the application online. For more information, including complete application and payment instructions, please refer to the attached program flyer and checklist.

### Guidance Update

March Break is a great time to work on your Student Community Involvement hours. This is a reminder to all Grade 12's Students to submit their 40 Hours Student Community Involvement forms ASAP. Deadline to submit is May 19, 2020.

Please remind students of the following important steps:

1. FORMS: Visit Guidance to pick up a volunteer hours form or print one from here: [Community Involvement Form](#)
2. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES: review the lists of eligible and ineligible activities: [Eligible Activities and Ineligible Activities](#)
3. PRE-APPROVAL: Choose an eligible activity, complete the first part of your form and talk to Guidance for pre-approval of the choice.
4. SIGNATURES: Complete the activity. Students should bring the form to the activity and have the supervisor of the activity sign off on the hour(s). Next, complete the remainder of the form, including student and parent/guardian signatures.
5. SUBMIT: Return, signed and completed forms, to Guidance.

Looking for activity ideas?

- See the Volunteer bulletin board outside of Guidance and/or speak to Guidance
- Visit Town of Aurora Volunteer Information: [Volunteer Opportunities - Town Of Aurora](#)
- Visit Neighbourhood Network for many local volunteer opportunities: [Neighbourhood Network - Aurora](#)

For further details visit: [YRDSB Community Involvement Page](#)

### Maple's Closet

Maple High School is proud to be hosting the 14th annual Maple's Closet Diva and GQ Balls events in the spring of 2020. Maple's Closet has helped provide graduation attire to over 650 grade 8 and 12 students. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Maple High School. Donations (dresses, suits, and accessories) would be appreciated by Wednesday, March 25th, 2020.

Items in need of donations are gently used formal wear and accessories for the event:

- Prom / Graduation dresses	- Suits (Boys and Men)	- Toiletries (combs, soap,
- Purses / Clutches / Jewelry	- Dress pants / Shirts / Ties /	brushes, etc.) Make-Up bags /
- Shoes (Men and Women)	- Belts / - Men's Socks	Nail Polish

If you know of someone who would benefit from accessing this resource to meet their prom needs, please contact Mr. McQuade or Ms. Conlon in the Main Office so that we can prepare a referral prior to the March Break. The deadline for us to submit referrals is March 13, 2020.

### Severe Weather

In the event of severe weather, the Board has three levels of action:

- Extreme Cold Days when roads are clear, but extreme cold temperatures make it difficult for buses to operate reliably, posing a safety risk to students waiting at bus stops. Student transportation will be cancelled. Schools will otherwise operate as usual.
- Inclement Weather Days when road or weather conditions make it impossible to operate a school bus safely. Student transportation will be cancelled. Schools and workplaces will be open; however, all teachers may not be at school that day.
- Rare Emergency Weather Days (School Closures) when all schools and workplaces will be closed. Decisions about school closures will be made as early as possible, and no later than 6:00 a.m.

Severe weather information is communicated through local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001, the Board's website and Twitter account, and on the Board and school's voicemail recording.

Parents are responsible for using their best judgment to decide whether or not to send their child(ren) to school on days when buses are cancelled and schools remain open.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an inclement weather or extreme cold or day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the school day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when emergency winter events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, Board and school website and on twitter @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's Severe Weather policy, which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All policies available for comment are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

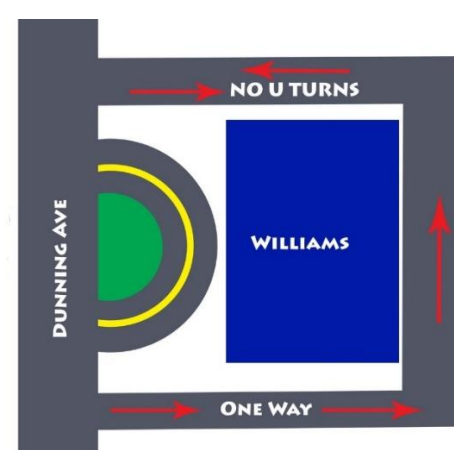
### Driveway and Parking Lot

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

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.



At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:40 to 3:15. 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 3:15, regular traffic may use this area.



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. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

### School Calendar for 2019-2020

The Ministry of Education has approved the school calendar for 2019-2020. For Williams, some important dates and holidays are:

- March Break – Monday, March 16, 2020 to Friday, March 20, 2020
- Good Friday – Friday, April 10, 2020
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 13, 2020
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 18, 2020

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

- Friday, May 1, 2020
- Thursday, June 25, 2020
- Friday, June 26, 2020

### Exam Schedule for Semester 2

Please be aware of these important dates, indicated below. Parents and students are reminded to not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, work, etc. during examination times. EQAO Math Assessment: June 12 and 15.

June 2020 Schedule At-A-Glance				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				12 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 1)
15 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 2)	16	17 Exam Week Period 1 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.	18 Exam Week Period 2 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.	19 Exam Week Period 3 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.
22 Exam Week Period 4 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.	23 Performance Tasks/ Practice Exams (all grades) By Appointment	24 Exam Feedback Day (Modified Schedule) *see schedule, below	25 P.A. Day Graduation, 6:30	26 P.A. Day
Exam Feedback Day Wednesday, June 24, 2020				
Exam feedback for Period 1 classes			8:20 – 9:05	
Exam feedback for Period 2 classes			9:10 – 9:50	
Exam feedback for Period 3 classes			9:55 – 10:35	
Exam feedback for Period 4 classes			10:40 – 11:20	
Consultation with teachers by appointment			12:00 – 3:00	