



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: February 10 – February 14, 2020

Trait of the Month: Initiative

*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>Feb. 10</b>	
<b>Feb. 11</b>	Jr. Girls Volleyball Team to Sutton District H.S
<b>Feb. 12</b>	Nordic Ski Team to Hardwood Ski and Bike SHSM competition at Metro Convention Centre Start date to Submit and Return signed Course Selection or Not-Returning Sign-Off Sheets to Guidance
<b>Feb. 13</b>	IB Welcome/Course Selection @ 7:00pm – 8:30pm in the Library Rock Climbing Team to Rock and Chalk Music to OBA Provincial Band Festival
<b>Feb. 14</b>	

## Upcoming:

<b>Feb. 17</b>	Family Day
<b>Feb. 18</b>	
<b>Feb. 19</b>	Nordic Ski Team to Huntsville
<b>Feb. 20</b>	Jr. Girls Volleyball Team to Huron Heights S.S. Nordic Ski Team to Nordic OFSSA Sr. SHSM to Metro Toronto Convention Centre
<b>Feb. 21</b>	Nordic Ski Team to Nordic OFSSA SHSM Students to Southlake Hospital Last day to Submit and Return signed Course Selection or Not-Returning Sign-Off Sheets to Guidance

## Message from the Principal

On behalf of the administration as well as teaching and non-teaching staff, I extend a warm welcome to both our new and our returning students and staff as we begin Semester 2.

We welcome the following teachers who are returning to us: Ms. Cannata, English; Ms. Ivanovskaya, ESL; Ms. Del Vecchio, English; Mr. Strathopoulos, Technological Studies and the following teachers new to our staff: Mr. Wilson, History; Ms. Szakonyi, Visual Arts; Mr. Flavelle and Ms. Van Roon, English.

As the new Principal here at The Dr. G. W. Williams S. S. I have been fortunate to have met many students and staff in the past week. My experiences in the hallways and in classrooms have been welcoming and inclusive. This is a testament to the community as a whole. I have been delighted throughout the week with the number of students that have stopped to introduce themselves and ask me how my first week is going as well as come by my office to check in. I am looking forward to getting to know all the students and staff better and working collaboratively towards their success.

Last night I was fortunate to be able to take in the Festival of the Bands where our Concert Band and Wind Ensemble demonstrated their skills and received feedback from guest adjudicator Colin Clarke in preparation for the OBA Festival next week. It was a wonderful evening and a treat to get a sneak peak of their performance.

Today we had the opportunity to celebrate our Grade 12 IB students as they submitted their Extended Essays. This is a significant accomplishment on their part that couldn't have been done without a lot of hard work by the students and the dedication of their teacher mentors. It was nice to join these students this afternoon to acknowledge this milestone in the progress towards their diploma.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and allowing us to support their well-being and achievement. I look forward to working in The Dr. G. W. Williams school community and continuing to celebrate the milestones our students' educational journeys.

Melissa Schmidt

## Notices

### Guidance Reminders

How to Select Courses for the 2020-2021 School Year

- Login to MyPathwayPlanner: [My Pathway Planner](#)
- Select "High School"
- Populate your High School Plan by clicking the + symbol to choose courses for the 2020/2021 school year.
- In addition, please be sure to indicate your choices for the next school year and any summer school intentions that you may have.
- Then "Review" your course selections and print the "Course Selection Sign-Off Sheet"
- Graduating? If yes, complete a "Not-Returning Form" on My Pathway Planner and submit the Sign-Off form to the Guidance Office by February 21, 2020.

Please note: February 12 - 21, 2020: Return signed Course Selection or Not-Returning Sign-Off Sheets to Guidance by no later than Friday February 21st. Any questions, please make an appointment to speak to a Guidance Counsellor.

## Contact Us

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L4G 1A2

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

Extensions:	
Reception	0
Attendance	1
Guidance	3
Staff Directory	4

### 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.

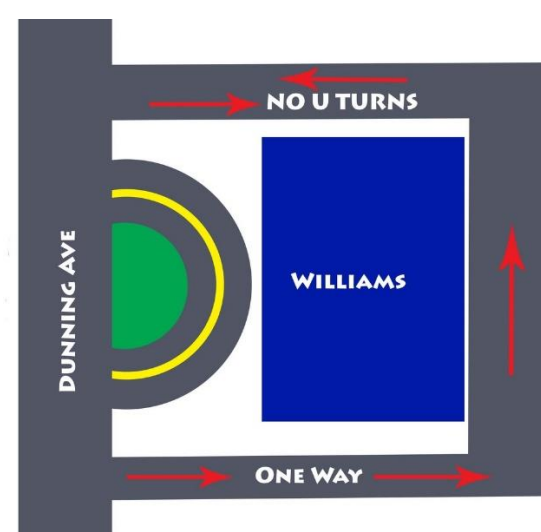
### Driveway and Parking Lot

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:

- Family Day – Monday, February 17, 2020
- 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 <b>Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 1)</b>
15 <b>Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 2)</b>	16	17 <b>Exam Week Period 1 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.</b>	18 <b>Exam Week Period 2 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.</b>	19 <b>Exam Week Period 3 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.</b>
22 <b>Exam Week Period 4 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.</b>	23 <b>Performance Tasks/ Practice Exams (all grades) By Appointment</b>	24 <b>Exam Feedback Day (Modified Schedule) *see schedule, below</b>	25 <b>P.A. Day Graduation, 6:30</b>	26 <b>P.A. Day</b>
<b>Exam Feedback Day</b> 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	