



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: January 13 – January 17, 2020

Trait of the Month: Optimism

*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](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

## The Week at a Glance

<b>Mon, Jan. 13</b>	Jr. & Sr. Boys Basketball Team at Newmarket H.S.
<b>Tue, Jan. 14</b>	Sr. Girls Volleyball Team at Huron Heights S.S.
<b>Wed, Jan. 15</b>	
<b>Thu, Jan. 16</b>	Assembly for Course Selection (Grades 10 & 11) - Period 4 Sr. Girls Volleyball Team at St. Maximilian Kolbe C.H.S
<b>Fri, Jan. 17</b>	

## Upcoming:

<b>Jan. 20</b>	Parent Council Meeting at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
<b>Jan. 21</b>	
<b>Jan. 22</b>	
<b>Jan. 23</b>	Exam Week - Period 1 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.
<b>Jan. 24</b>	Exam Week - Period 2 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.

## Notices

### Tragic Events

Here are some suggestions on handling tragic events with children.

Families are encouraged to:

- spend time together,
- limit media exposure to the event,
- create time for conversation and checking in,
- validate their child's feelings,
- ask for help as needed, and
- find calm and relaxing activities to do at home.

It is very important to limit exposure to media coverage, particularly for young children. If children or youth are watching the news or accessing information online, parents and caregivers should be available to check in and talk to their children about it.

Families and educators will support children and youth to understand and cope with the impact of death and feelings of loss. Most children and youth are resilient and will cope well with the support and caring of their families, teachers, friends, and other caring adults. However, young children may have particular difficulty understanding and describing their feelings and emotions.

Parents can contact the school's Guidance Department if their child needs further support.

### A Message from OUAC

Applications from your university-bound students have been arriving at the OUAC in a steady manner. With the January 15 application deadline quickly approaching, we once again ask that you urge those students who have not yet submitted their application to do so as soon as possible in order to avoid the frustration of slower online response times and the chance of delays.

Please note that students are not able to view and make changes to their application until their payment has been received and processed by the OUAC. Payments made through online banking may take several days for us to receive and process. As credit card payments are processed immediately, you may wish to encourage your students to pay their application fees by credit card.

Applicant Services Extended Hours Prior to Application Deadline:

Monday, January 13 - Wednesday, January 15, 9:30 am - 7:00 pm (EST)

Applicant Services Phone: (519) 823-1063

Saturday February 1st - The deadline for applying to highly competitive programs through OCAS. Applications received and paid for before this date will be given equal consideration by the colleges.

### Guidance Reminders

Grade 9 - 12 Course Selection Presentations for Grade 10 and 11 students on January 16 in period 4.

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.

### Graduation: Important Dates

This year, Graduation will be held at the Ray Twinney Recreation Complex (Arena #1), 100 Eagle Street West in Newmarket, on Thursday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. Graduating students who wish to attend the ceremony must pay their grad fee by May 4. This ensures that a graduation cap and gown will be ordered for them. If a graduate or their guests require accessibility accommodations (such as a sign language interpreter), you must notify the principal in writing by May 4.

Graduating students must complete and submit their community involvement hours to Guidance by Tuesday, May 19.

Applications for school awards are due to Guidance by Tuesday, May 19.

Graduating students who are taking private school courses must submit their private school final report card to Guidance no later than noon on Friday, June 19.

## 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

### Student Trustees

If you will be in Grade 11 or 12 next school year and are passionate about student voice, consider becoming a student trustee, and representing students across YRDSB.

Student trustees network with students, staff and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice. Learn more about the role and how you can apply at [www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees](http://www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees). Check out this video: <http://ow.ly/FtXr30q2Fp1>.

The deadline to apply is January 17. Learn more at <http://ow.ly/TWIk30q2FIT>.

Four candidates will be selected to run for the two student trustee positions and all students will have an opportunity to vote in late February.

### Aquatics Program

The Town of Aurora is proud to partner with the York Region District School Board's Continuing Education to offer the Aquatic Leadership Program. The two-part program is conducted in a blended learning format, which includes pool instruction, in-class instruction and online learning. Upon completion, successful students may earn certifications to be used to work as a lifeguard or a swim instructor.

Healthy Living and Aquatic Activities (PAQ2O1) – must be 13 years of age or older and eligible to earn high school credits – must be able to swim 400 metres continuously – earns a high school credit as well as Lifesaving Society's Bronze Medallion, Lifesaving Society's Bronze Cross, Lifesaving Society's Standard First Aid with CPR-C

Recreation and Healthy Active Living Leadership (PLF4M) – must be 16 years of age by the last day of the course, have Lifesaving Society's Bronze Cross and Standard First Aid with CPR-C – earns a high school credit as well as Lifesaving Society's national Lifeguard Pool, Lifesaving Society's Lifesaving Instructor, Red Cross' Water Safety Instructor

The course is being offered at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (1400 Wellington Street East) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Students can register for the course in one of two methods:

1. Register through YRDSB's Continuing Education website
2. Register through the Town of Aurora's e-PLAY website. Each program costs \$250.00 per semester.

Please contact Adrian Wong at [awong@aurora.ca](mailto:awong@aurora.ca) or 905-727-3123 ext. 3127 for more information.

### Youth Engagement Program – March Break

This program is geared to mature students in Grade 9 – Grade 12 who may be interested in Policing or working within a Police service (not mandatory).

This program is very structured and has a physical fitness component which all participants will be involved in.

This program is designed to assist students in gaining self-confidence, self-discipline, self-awareness and resiliency.

Students must be:

- Resident of York Region
- Between the ages of 15-18 years old
- Currently in Grade 9 – Grade 12
- Currently attending a York Region Secondary School
- Complete an Essay and submit with the application
- All students must have their own transportation to this program – public transit is not an option

Our Goal:

- To have a week of learning and to experience a small portion of what the recruitment process may be like when applying to York Regional Police
- To enable you to get to know yourself better, your strengths as well as areas you can enhance
- To have you meet other students with similar goals and form lasting friendships
- To have you interact and work with Officers who will continue to mentor you during this week

How to Apply:

- Interested applicants please email [csv@yrp.ca](mailto:csv@yrp.ca) requesting a copy of the application
- Applications must be completed digitally and emailed back to [csv@yrp.ca](mailto:csv@yrp.ca)

For more information or further questions contact:

Debie Robinson #5459, Supervisor, Community Safety Village, York Regional Police by email at [csv@yrp.ca](mailto:csv@yrp.ca)

### ESL Classes for Adults

Improve your listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. The new semester begins January 27. Register now for daytime, nighttime, or weekend classes. Call 905-731-9557 or 905-305-4122 for more information.

Upgrade your skills for employment. Learn how to use email, Google Suite, Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Access, One Note, and more. Math, reading and writing classes available for work or academic upgrading (GED, apprenticeship, college). Book an appointment by calling 905-731-9557.

### 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

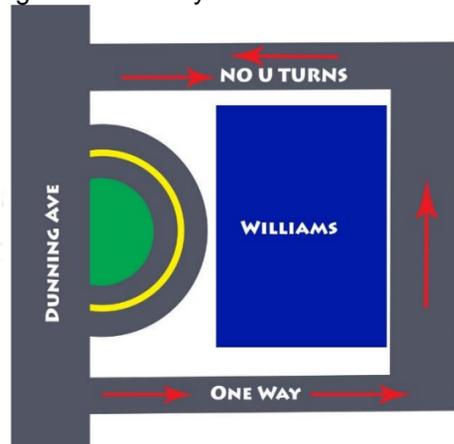
The safety of all students must be everyone's first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

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, January 31, 2020
- Friday, May 1, 2020
- Thursday, June 25, 2020
- Friday, June 26, 2020

### Exam Schedule for Semester 1

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. *\*In the event that one of the exam days is declared an inclement weather day by the Board (i.e. school buses are cancelled), the exams regularly scheduled for that day will be held on Thursday, January 30.*

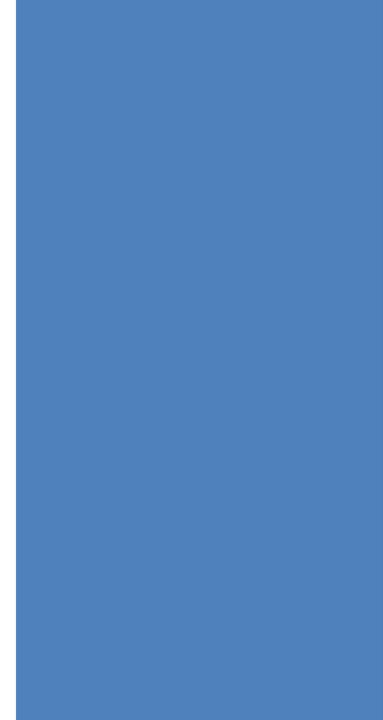
January 2020 Exam Schedule At-A-Glance				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20	21	22	23 Exam Week Period 1 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.	24 Exam Week Period 2 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.
27 Exam Week Period 3 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.	28 Exam Week Period 4 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.	29 Performance-Based / Practical Exams	30 Exam Feedback Day 8:20 – 11:20 a.m. *see schedule, below	31 P.A. Day

Exam Feedback Day Thursday, January 30, 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

### 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