



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 18 - November 22, 2019

Trait of the Month: Courage

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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The Week at a Glance

Mon, Nov. 18	Parent Council Meeting from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm FNMI Student Leaders to Leaders Workshop
TUE, Nov. 19	
WED, Nov. 20	Grade 9,10,11 Visual Arts classes to Art Gallery of Ontario
THU, Nov. 21	IB Admissions Assessment (Evening) Last Day to drop a course before Full Disclosure – it will not appear on your transcript.
FRI, Nov. 22	Grade 11 &12 Full Disclosure - courses will appear on your transcript
SAT, Nov. 23	IB Admissions Assessment (Morning)

Upcoming:

Nov. 25	Grad Photos
Nov. 26	Grad Photos Geography IB Students to Toronto Zoo English IB Students to Shakespeare in Action
Nov. 27	Grad Photos Niagara College - Parent Information Night at 6:00pm - 8:00pm Guest Speaker for Grade 9 classes- Period 1
Nov. 28	Grad Photos Semi-Formal at Royal Venetian Mansion
Nov. 29	Grad Photos

Notices

Report Cards

Mid-semester report cards were distributed in homerooms on Thursday. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers.

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.

Remembrance Day

On Monday, November 11, the school held its Remembrance Day assemblies. Thank you to Ms. McKinley for organizing the assemblies. Thanks also to Cindy and Evan, our student MCs, Ms. Charney and her Period 1 Grade 9 Drama class and to Mr. Harrison and Mr. Bowles and the Senior Band and Choir for their stirring performances.

Student Photos

Student Card/Yearbook Photos – If parents/guardians wish to order photos for their child, please call 1-866-299-7774 to receive an on-line code and information on how to order.

Grad Photos

Grad information booklets were distributed to all Grade 12 students in their homeroom classes. Any students who do not have a period 1 class, please pick up a booklet from the attendance office. To book your portrait appointment, please use the link: <https://prestigeportraits.ca/> The appointments start Monday November 25th and end Friday November 29th.

Student Working Towards a Diploma (OSSD)

All students require 40 hours of volunteer involvement.

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](#)

College and University Open Houses and Campus Tours

Many colleges and universities host their open houses during November and December and offer ongoing campus tours. Be sure to check each individual schools for their dates and registration process. Please visit the following links for further details:

- Ontario Colleges: [Colleges in Ontario](#)
- Ontario Universities: [Ontario Universities](#)
- Canadian Universities: [Canadian Universities](#)

Contact Us

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Extensions:	
Reception	0
Attendance	1
Guidance	3
Staff Directory	4

Reminder: Important Post-Secondary Application Dates

- November 21, 2019- Full Disclosure Date: - Last day to drop a course and it will not appear on the high school transcript
- January 15, 2019 - University Application Deadline
- February 1, 2019 - College Application Deadline for Equal Consideration

Music Department

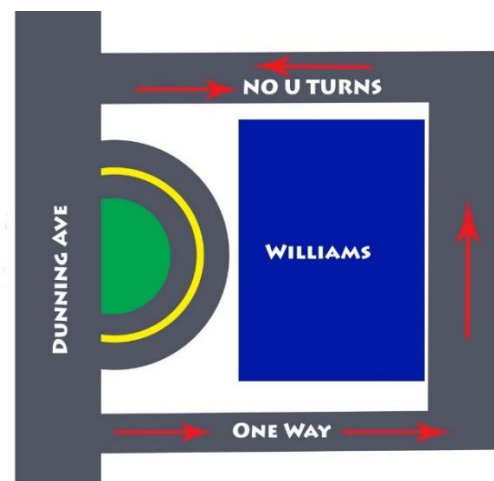
Five Williams’s students participate in the Ontario Provincial Honour Band (OPHB) from November 6th – 9th. The Honour Band is a concert band comprised of 88 high school students cross Ontario. Each student prepared an audition in the spring that was screened by professional musicians from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and met their band mates for the first time on November 6th. After 15 hours of rehearsal over two days, the band set out on a concert tour which they perform to standing-room only crowds at Aurora High School and St. Roch Catholic Secondary School. On Saturday November 9th the band performed for 900 music educators and industry representatives as part of keynote activities at the 100th Ontario Music Educators Association Conference. They shared the stage with speaker, Mr. Alvin Law. The students in the band were conducted by Dr. Jason Caslor from Arizona State University and accompanied Mr. Robert Miller on Euphonium. They also were the first band in Canada to perform “A Mother of a Revolution” by Omar Thomas and they also gave the world premiere of “Intrinsic Light” by Cait Nishimura. Congratulations to Sarah Gallagher (flute), Isabelle Liu (alto sax), Alex Rozenberg (Bari Sax), Diana D’Amata (trumpet) and Thomas Williamson (tuba) on their great achievement!

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:

- Winter Vacation – Monday, December 23, 2019 to Friday, January 3, 2020
- 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 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 1)	21 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 2)	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 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	