



## Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 3-7, 2021

Trait of the Month: **Integrity**

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.

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

**Social Media:** @drgwwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))

**All students online synchronous learning effective April 19, 2021.**

### May is...

Asian and South Asian Heritage Month in Ontario. In May 2002, the Government of Canada officially declared May as Asian Heritage Month. The event gives the country a chance to showcase the culture, art and history of Asian Canadians.

Jewish Heritage Month: Canadian Jewish Heritage Month was given Royal Assent in the Senate of Canada on March 29, 2018. Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world.

<b>Fri. May 7</b>	<b>PA Day – no classes</b> <a href="#">National Child and Youth Mental Health Day</a>
<b>Thu. May 13</b>	<b>Eid-ul-Fitr:</b> Muslims celebrate <a href="#">Eid-ul-Fitr</a> every year on 1st Shawwal (tenth Islamic month). Eid-ul-Fitr is a festival that marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month in which Muslims fast from dawn until dusk.

### Message from the Principal

We hope that everyone is finding ways to keep busy and take advantage of the small bursts of sunshine when they come through. This most recent stay at home order certainly hasn't been made easy with all the rain we have been getting.

Our students and staff have been busy working in their classes the last week and moving forward despite the challenges. We are all hoping that we can get back in the building before the end of the year and will be waiting to hear what the Ministry announces between now and the end of the stay at home order.

Save the date – the last School Council meeting of the year is May 17<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing many parents out as we wrap up the year.

Take care and stay safe!  
Melissa Schmidt

### Notices

#### Secondary Summer School Programs

Registration for Secondary Summer School programs is now open to YRDSB students through MyPathwayPlanner. Remote Learning is replacing face-to-face learning in the summer of 2021. Please review [flyer](#) for more information.

#### Guidance

- Click [here](#) to find out more information about the YRDSB's 2021 Summer Pathway Programs offerings.

#### Peer Mentors-MS Walk Fundraising

Hey there Williams! My name is Kathryn Gee, and I am a part of the Peer Mentor here at Dr. G.W Williams Secondary School. Seven years ago my father, Aaron, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This disease affects the brain and spinal cord and causes issues such as vision problems, difficulty with leg and arm movement, numbness, and lack of coordination. I'm writing to let you know that a group of Peer Mentors are participating in the MS Walk fundraiser for this disease on May 30th. We are hoping to have your support by donating to the Newmarket MS Walk. The donations work toward research to help find a cure for this life altering disease. To donate, please visit this website: <http://mssoc.convio.net/goto/peermentors>, and select a participant under the team roster. You may also choose to donate to the generic 'Peer Mentors' account. We appreciate any donation amount, as it all helps the fight against MS. The fundraising will take place from April 28th - May 12th. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

#### Drop-In Virtual Support for Students

There are virtual drop-in sessions available every morning, from 8:30 am – 11:00 am, in order to provide a go-to place for students to ask general questions and get extra support while learning from home during their asynchronous days. The sessions will be supported daily by a (SERT) Special Education Resource Teacher. Students should check the Guidance Google classroom to access the link for the drop-in sessions.

#### Updated Self-Screening Guidelines

##### Process:

- Step 1: Secondary students to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) prior to entering the school daily, on the days they are required to attend Face to Face classes.
- Step 2: Upon completion of the self-assessment, complete response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the Confirmation [Form](#).
  - Student receives an email response when they respond "Yes". The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week:
    - MONDAY**, **TUESDAY**, **WEDNESDAY**, **THURSDAY**, **FRIDAY**
  - Upon entering through the school designated entrances, student to provide confirmation of completion of the self-screening by showing the colour coded email response to staff, as they arrive at their designated entrance by way of:
    - On phone – email or picture of email from their computer
    - Hard copy print off of email.
    - If neither option is available, they can provide verbal response confirming completion
  - Supervising staff member checks with students upon entry.
  - Students who indicate they "did not" complete the self-assessment are to be directed to the posted COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening tool to review the questions and provide verbal response to staff member.
    - if "no" to all, direct to class, or
    - if "yes" to any, direct to the designated isolation room for pickup and will be advised to attend an assessment center.

Contact Us  
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Aurora, Ontario  
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Email:  
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(P) 905-727-3131  
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Staff Directory 2  
Guidance 3

We are aware that student absences are likely to increase due to the increased screening protocols. Students requiring isolation at home during Face to Face classes should connect directly with their teacher who will support them with learning at home during their absence.

**Student Attendance**

Thank you to everyone for supporting us with our efforts to increase the tracking of student attendance. To ensure we can continue to support student engagement and well-being we require accurate attendance records. **Parents\guardians are required to justify every student absence with a reason.**

Students currently attending the adaptive model must contact via email ([drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)) or phone call (905-727-3131, ext. 1) prior to 9 am in the morning regarding a student absence.

For any student over 18, they are responsible for reporting their own absences unless they have completed a [Consent Information Sharing For Students at the Age of Majority](#) form.

If you have any questions about your child’s attendance or supports available at the school, please contact your child’s Vice Principal:  
Mr. Brar ([Harmandeep.brar@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Harmandeep.brar@yrdsb.ca))  
or their [Guidance Counsellor](#).

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**Report It**

Our schools should be safe, welcoming and inclusive places for everyone. It is important that students know what to do if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

- There may be situations when you can safely step in and intervene and help.
- Talk to an adult at school, family member or other trusted adult.
- Report the event without the person involved knowing using our online reporting tool, Report It.

Report It lets you share information about inappropriate student behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination. You can use the online form to report:

- bullying, drugs, cheating, vandalism, harassment, violence or any other inappropriate behaviour
- incidents of discrimination or hate, including anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, sexism, transphobia or other forms of hate

You can report events that happen at school, at school-related events, online or off school property if it negatively affects a student or the school climate. You can also choose to make a report anonymously.

Complete reports are shared with the school to investigate and respond.

Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. Using the Report It tool is a way of standing up for each other and for ourselves.

You can find Report It on the homepage of the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) and on the homepage of every school website, or watch this [short video](#) to learn more.

**211 Ontario**

Ontario 211 is a free and confidential helpline that connects you to community and social services in your area 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in over 150 languages. If you need help finding food, housing, financial assistance, mental health support, employment support, support for seniors, winter clothing and/or shelter, call 2-1-1, search <https://211Central.ca/>, text 21166. Live chat & email service is also available.

**Adult ESL Program**

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. Please visit the enclosed [link](#) for more information. Alternatively, you can access this information by visiting the [Newsletters](#) tab of our website. Farsi, Russian, Simplified Chinese, and Tamil versions available.

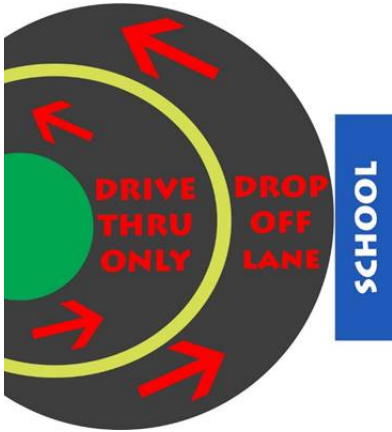
**Math Enrichment Opportunities**

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

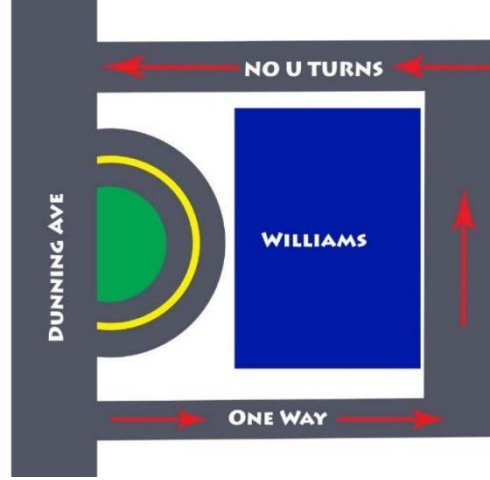
**Driveway and Parking Lot**

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

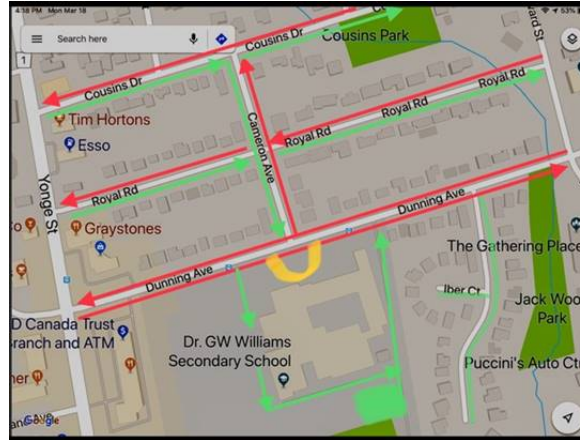
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses 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, however, during the end of morning pick-up time you will have noticed the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot **ONLY** so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot. This adjustment has made a significant positive impact on safety for all and makes it easier and less stressful for everyone. When you are able to enter the east lot, 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!

#### 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:

- Victoria Day – Monday, May 24, 2021

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

- Friday, May 7, 2021
- Tuesday, June 29, 2021

#### School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- Monday May 17, 2021