



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: April 19-23, 2021

Trait of the Month: **Fairness**

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.

Contact Us
The Dr. G.W. Williams SS
39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2

Email:
dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca
(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

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

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

*****All students are required to complete a [York Region Public Health school screening tool](#) on days they attend school Face to Face (F2F). Upon completion of the self-assessment, complete response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the Confirmation [Form](#). Daily confirmation of the completed screening tool will be required to be shown by secondary school students upon arrival at school.*****

Spring Break: April 12-16 - School Closed

We would like to wish families celebrating **Ramadan and Vaisakhi** a happy and safe celebration **on Tuesday, April 13**.

Ramadan April 13-May 12, also spelled Ramazan, is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

Vaisakhi, also pronounced as Baisakhi, is observed by Hindus and Sikhs. It marks the beginning of Hindu solar New year. Vaisakhi marks the first day of the month of Vaisakha, is usually celebrated on 13 or 14 April every year and is a historical and religious festival in Sikhism.

Mon. Apr. 19	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Term 2 begins Ridvan Apr 19 – May 1, 2021: Riḍván is a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith which marks the anniversary of the days Baha'u'llah spent along the River Tigris in Baghdad. In 1863, Baha'u'llah stayed in a garden on the banks of the Tigris River for 12 days, during which His many admirers in the city came to bid Him farewell.
Tue. Apr. 20	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Wed. Apr. 21	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal International Day of Pink is an international anti-bullying event held annually during the second week of April.
Thurs. Apr. 22	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Fri. Apr. 23	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

Mon. Apr. 26	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Tue. Apr. 27	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Wed. Apr. 28	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Thurs. Apr. 29	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Fri. Apr. 30	Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Holy/Good/Great Friday (Eastern): Many Orthodox churches retained the Julian calendar after the Gregorian calendar was introduced in Europe in 1582. Therefore they often follow a different Easter date compared with many western churches. Easter holidays, such as Good Friday, are "moveable feasts" as these dates change according to calendar calculations.

Message from the Principal

It has been a busy week at Williams as we began to highlight the accomplishments of our graduates through the taking of their graduation photos. Unfortunately, that got cut short on Wednesday when we learned of the stay at home order taking effect at 12:01 am on Thursday morning. We have a commitment from Lifetouch to be their top priority once they are allowed to resume service and those graduates still waiting for their photos will get their moment in front of the camera.

All of our students and staff have been awaiting this much needed break from school and we wish everyone relaxation and good health over the break. To support continued safety in our schools, the province has announced that asymptomatic testing will be available for all students, staff and families at pharmacies over the break and are encouraging everyone to be tested prior to returning on April 19th. Details were sent from YRDSB in a letter from the Ministry of Education to all families.

For those that may travel past the school on any essential trips out you will notice that our flag has been lowered in response to the passing of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh this morning. The flag will remain lowered until sunset on the day of his funeral or memorial.

Take care and stay safe!
Melissa Schmidt

Notices

Women in STEM from the perspective of Deborah Sloboda (McMaster Professor)

Event Date: Thursday April 22 @3:10 - 4:15pm

Purpose: In light of International Women’s day and recent events (events such as women coming together due to the tragic death of Sarah Everard), the purpose of the event is to educate the student body on the struggles faced by women in today’s society. At the same time, it is meant to inspire students (especially those identifying as a woman) to persist despite the struggle and adversity.

Overview: The event will be held over Google Meets, and is open for all students to attend. The event will be divided into two parts: a presentation led by Dr. Deborah Sloboda, then a question and answer period.

Form To Register for the Event:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfppjXHihOI04of_-TjhCsFDIb3a4yuhu1js60zOByCgrGMw/viewform?usp=sf_link
After you register for the event, the link will be emailed to you prior to the event.

We hope you attend this amazing event!

GWW Student Council

YoungLeaders.World Conference

On April 29th, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., YoungLeaders.World is hosting a conference entitled “The Story of My Life: The Next Chapter”. We have registered our school and would like to invite our Grade 11 and 12 students to participate in this FREE special event that is being broadcast live in Alberta by Production World Studio. On their [website](#), the event is described: “Join incredible keynotes speakers as they share their stories and encourage you to get excited about writing your own. After each segment, you will be asked to work in your workbook to start to personalize “The Story of My Life.” From wherever you are tuning in, you will be able to gain clarity and control over your future.”
As our school is already registered with YoungLeaders.World for the conference, interested Grade 11 and 12 students simply need to complete the FREE SchoolCash Online event to provide parent permission (students over 18 may complete the SchoolCash Online themselves). Registration through SchoolCash Online should be submitted by April 26. (Students DO NOT register on the YoungLeaders.World website)

YRDSB has a new website!

YRDSB has refreshed its Board website to make it easier for families to find the important information they are looking for at www.yrdsb.ca. Click [here](#) for more information.

Mental Health Newsletter April 2021

Please refer to the following link for April 2021 edition of Student Mental Health and Addictions [Newsletter](#).

Guidance

- YRDSB Summer School e-Learning information is now available. Click [here](#) to see more information regarding registration, timelines and course offerings.
- Non-YRDSB and/or Private school course marks for graduating students are due June 18, 2021.

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](#).
 - o Student receives an email response when they respond “Yes”. The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week:
 - o **MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**
 - o 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
 - o Supervising staff member checks with students upon entry.
 - o 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.

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) 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)
or their [Guidance Counsellor](#).

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 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.

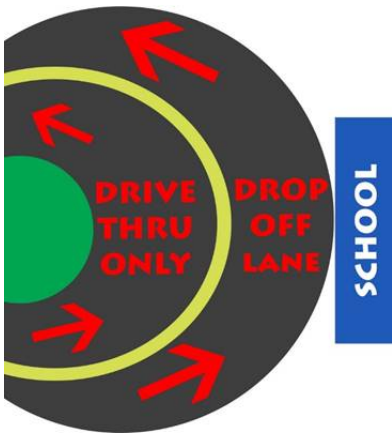
Math Enrichment Opportunities

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

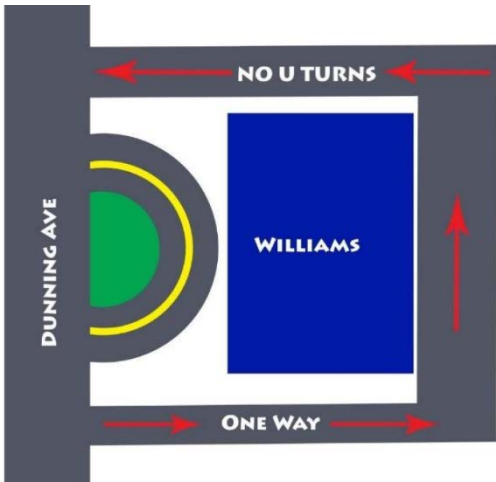
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

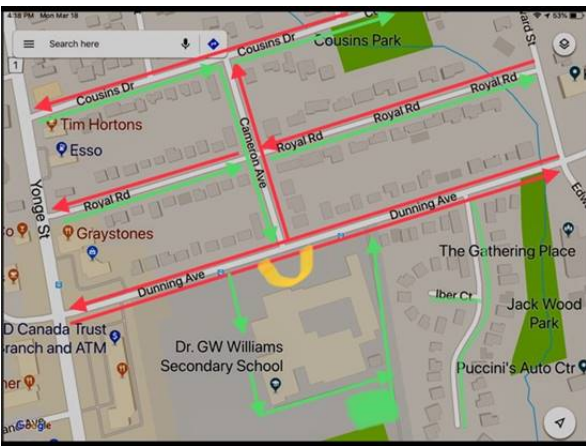
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave 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:

- Spring Break – Monday, April 12, 2021 to Friday April 16, 2021
- 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