



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: December 13 – December 17, 2021

Trait of the Month: Empathy

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/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

Social Media: @drgwwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
Attendance: drgwwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca

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

Dec. 13	Rapid Antigen Test kits sent home with students Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30am at York Curling Club vs Huron Heights Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30am at York Curling Club vs St. Theresa of Lisieux
Dec. 14	Senior Boys Basketball Game 4pm at Williams vs Aurora HS
Dec. 15	
Dec. 16	Nordic Ski Team 7:30am at Hardwood Ski and Bike Varsity Ice Hockey Game 2:30pm at Stronach Aurora Recreation vs Aurora HS Junior Girls Volleyball Game 3:30pm at Newmarket HS vs Denison SS Junior Boys Basketball Game 4:00pm at Williams vs Sutton District Williams Music Virtual Concert, 7pm
Dec. 17	Holiday Wish culmination, Livestream @gwwilliams_music, 1:45 pm Last day of school in 2021. Happy Holidays!

Daily Schedule (effective Dec 6)

Period 1	8:20 - 9:40
Period 3	9:45 -11:00
Lunch	11:00 -11:50
Period 2	11:50 - 1:05
Period 4	1:10 -2:25



Upcoming:

Happy New Year 2022

Jan. 3	Staff Meeting, 2:40-3:55 pm Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30pm at York Curling Club vs Tommy Douglas SS
Jan. 4	Senior Boys Basketball Game 4:45pm at Sacred Heart CHS vs Sacred Heart CHS Junior Boys Basketball Game 3:30pm at Sacred Heart CHS vs Sacred Heart CHS
Jan. 5	Nordic Ski Team 7:30am at Hardwood Ski and Bike
Jan. 6	
Jan. 7	Christmas Eastern - Orthodox

Message from the Principal

The countdown is on! Seven more sleeps before the break. Our students and staff are all looking forward to stepping away from the building and getting a break from our learning.

We are very excited and humbled by the support of our music department through the Holiday Wish campaign and look forward to granting wishes later this week during the Livestream on Friday.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Weekly Highlights

Holiday Wishes - Music Department

The Music Department is raising funds to help replace old and broken down instruments and has launched the Holiday Wishes campaign to support their efforts. Over 25 baskets have been donated by staff, families and community partners to provide opportunities for everyone in the Williams community to make a wish. Visit SchoolCashOnline to view the details about the various baskets and purchase your wishes. There are 2 steps for this fundraiser-purchase wishes on SCO and then use the link provided to enter your wishes for the baskets you hope for.

Follow Williams Music on Instagram to watch the livestream on December 17th @ 1:45pm to see if your Holiday wish will come true! @gwwilliams_music

Any Wishes Ordered?

[Thank you for supporting our holiday wish;](#) if you have paid your money but have not made your picks, please do so with this [link](#).

School Photos Were Completed on November 18 & 19.

If you wish to Order School Pictures? [Updated](#)

1. Visit mylifetouch.ca (Phone number 1-866-299-7774)
2. Enter your Student ID number. (For more instructions please click [link](#))
3. Order your perfect package and don't worry about returning anything to the school. All orders placed will be shipped directly to your home.

Sr Boys Basketball

The Senior Boys Basketball Team opened their season at home against Huron Heights on December 7. The first quarter was a little shaky but a second quarter surge led by Mustafa, Sam, and Jerry brought the team back in the game and with the lead at half. A tense second half saw the boys bend but not break as they made their way to their first victory of the season. It was a total team effort with a balanced scoring attack. Well done guys! Congrats to Coach Morrison on her first ever basketball coaching victory.

Junior Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the junior boys basketball team for their first win of the season on December 7. After a slow start to the game and trailing Huron Heights after the first quarter, your Junior Wildcats took over the game and defeated the Warriors 65-53. Great job Team. Go Wildcats.

Jr Girls Volleyball Game

Last night the Jr girls volleyball team had their first game of the season. The girls started off strong with a solid defensive coverage and impressive attack winning their first match against St. Max.
The second match started off well with the girls winning the first set. Cardinal Carter fought back and took the win with the next two sets to close out the night.
Great effort and start to our season girls!

WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

A Note to Remember when visiting our School

Please remember when visiting our school, you must first use the doorbell at our front door and someone will assist you. The main office is available from 9:00am to 3:30pm for any pick-ups or drop offs by using the doorbell and one of our staff will be happy to come out to assist you.

Please do not enter the building without an appointment. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca to report absences. All absences must be justified with a reason.

If students are required to self-isolate due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, please indicate that in your email as this is coded differently and is not reflected on the attendance tally reported on the student report card. Additionally, your child's Vice Principal (Ms. Conlon A-Li, Mr. Brar Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

COVID Self-Screening - Confirmation required again as of January 3

Process:

•Step 1: Secondary students to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) **prior to entering the school on a daily basis.**

•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 the school through designated entrances, students are to provide confirmation of completion of the self-screening 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

Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more of COVID-19 symptoms.

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine), must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Rapid Antigen Test kits

A letter was sent home electronically to all students and parents\guardians from the provincial government on Thursday regarding the distribution of voluntary Rapid Antigen Test kits next week. Please see an excerpt from this letter below:

"In an effort to promote a safer return to the classroom after the winter break, on behalf of the Government of Ontario, our school will be distributing take-home rapid antigen screening kits to every child who attends a publicly-funded school in Ontario.

Our school will be sending the rapid antigen screening kits on Monday December 13. Please check your child's backpack for the kit. Use of the screening kits is voluntary.

The rapid antigen screening kits are intended for use by any child who attends a publicly funded school, regardless of their vaccination status. Rapid antigen screening kits are to be distributed to students who participate in in-person learning. This testing option will not be available to students who have been learning remotely since September 2021.

Please note, your child's participation in this rapid antigen screening is voluntary. Students are not required to participate in order to return to the classroom after the winter break."

Daily Announcements

Our announcements are posted to the school website each day for students and parents to access under the [News & Events](#) heading. We will have a text version of all announcements that will be updated each day. We hope that this addition will help our school community (and especially our remote learners that aren't here to hear the announcements each day) to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Guidance

Volunteer Hours

Graduating students that have yet to complete their volunteer hours will be receiving an email home reminding them that a minimum of 20 hours are required in order to graduate for the 2021/2022 academic year.

OCAS and OUAC vouchers

In order to limit barriers for entry to post-secondary, the Guidance Department has acquired a very limited number of vouchers available to cover the cost of the base application fee to OUAC and OCAS. In order to qualify students must have financial need, and have not completed their application already. Please book an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible to discuss.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Please check the Guidance Google Classroom for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

Safety and Community Notices

At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. 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 2:40, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, 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.



A diagram of a street intersection. A vertical grey bar on the left is labeled "DUNNING AVE". A horizontal grey bar at the bottom is labeled "ONE WAY" with a red arrow pointing right. A blue rectangle in the center is labeled "WILLIAMS". To the left of the blue rectangle is a green circle with a yellow border, representing a U-turn lane. Red arrows indicate traffic flow: "NO U TURNS" with arrows pointing left above the intersection, and a red arrow pointing right on the right side of the intersection.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

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

- ### **School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022



Daily Schedule-as of Dec 6	
Period 1	8:20-9:40
Period 3	9:45-11:00
Lunch	11:00-11:50
Period 2	11:50-1:05
Period 4	1:10-2:25