



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: December 6 – December 10, 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

Dec. 6	Return to 4 period day schedule Staff Meeting 2:40-3:55 Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30pm at York Curling Club vs Sir W Mulock
Dec. 7	Senior Boys Basketball Game 3:30pm at Williams vs HHSS
Dec. 8	
Dec. 9	Nordic Ski Team 7:30am at Hardwood Ski and Bike Varsity Ice Hockey Game 2:30pm at Aurora Family Leisure vs Keswick HS Junior Girls Volleyball Game 3:30pm at Denison SS
Dec. 10	

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:

Dec. 13	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 AHS
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 Williams Music Virtual Concert, 7pm
Dec. 17	

Message from the Principal

As you can see from the calendar, the winter sports season has taken off. We expect the competition to be fierce and are looking forward to seeing positive results for our Wildcats!

Our Music Department has kicked off our first Holiday Wishes campaign with great support from the entire Williams community. Be sure to check out School Cash Online for all the details. There are lots of great opportunities to make a wish and take something home for the holidays.

Beginning on Monday we return to a 4 period schedule. Classes that have been in the mornings throughout the fall (Periods 1 & 3) will remain in the morning and classes that have been in the afternoons (Periods 2 & 4) will remain in the afternoon. It's a little confusing at first remembering that Period 3 will come BEFORE Period 2 but we know our Wildcats are smart enough and trust we will all adapt quickly. The lunch hour will also be slightly shorter as we take 5 minutes from each side to be able to provide a 5 minute transition between the morning and afternoon classes.

As we head into the final 6 weeks of Semester 1, teachers and students are working hard at assessments to demonstrate learning of curriculum expectations. Our teachers continue to provide many opportunities for success for all students and are currently working to finalize planning for the Culminating Activity Days that are scheduled at the end of the semester (instead of exams). This welcome change provides teachers with great flexibility to promote learning and introduce assessment opportunities that maximize the ability for students to demonstrate their full understanding of the curriculum expectations.

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

Williams' Women's Empowerment Club

Hey Williams! Just a reminder that the Buttons For Bricks campaign by the Williams' Women's Empowerment Club ends this Sunday on School Cash Online! Order some cool [stickers and buttons](#) to help support Yellow Brick House women's shelter.

Change by Coffee Club

Change by Coffee is excited to announce that we will be hosting a fundraiser to support the homeless community as the winter season approaches. As our fundraising goal, we will be raising money to buy homeless shelters around our communities hot coffee as the temperature drops. Parents and students will be given the opportunity to contribute to this fundraiser by either donating through School Cash Online or by donating Tim Hortons gift cards to the table in the front foyer during the lunch period of the upcoming week. This fundraiser will begin on December 4th and end on December 12th. In the season of giving, we hope all of the members in our communities will be able to have a great holiday season!

School Photos Were Completed on November 18 & 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

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.

Message From Our Trustee

The December edition of the [Trustee Newsletter](#) is now available on our Website > News & Events > Newsletters.

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

York Region Public Health will require students, parents and guardians to use the provincial [Ontario COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#), **prior to entering the school daily**.

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.

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

Full Disclosure

As of **December 10th** any courses that are currently listed on a student's timetable will appear on transcripts with a final mark. If a student wishes to make changes to their timetable prior to December 10th they must have at least 3 credits remaining on their timetable per semester to remain as a full time student at Williams.

OCAS and OUAC vouchers

In order to limit barriers to 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.

Do you need a computer?

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

RCT is offering families with children enrolled in our Board the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. For more information please visit the [flyer](#) and [letter to families](#).

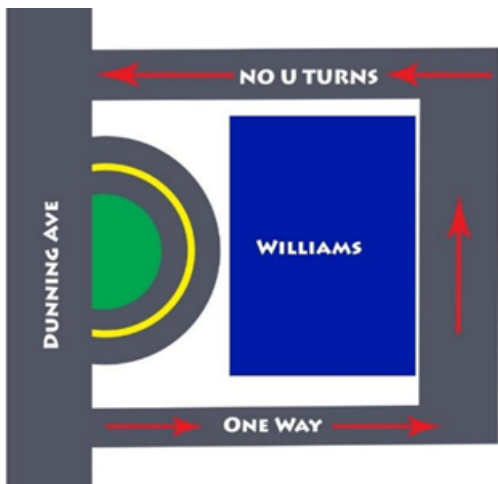
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

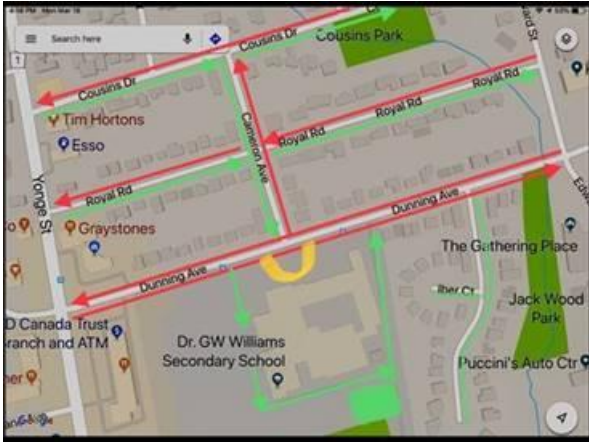
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave 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.



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.



If you MUST come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. DO NOT block the driveway waiting. 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 the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot.** This makes 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.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

- Winter Break - Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021 inclusive
- Family Day - Monday, February 21, 2022
- Mid-Winter Break - Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022 inclusive
- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022

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

- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

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
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