



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: December 7-11, 2020

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.

## 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](#))

<b>Dec. 7</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 8</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 9</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 10</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>Grade 8 Open House – Virtual 7:00-8:00 PM – <a href="#">Link</a></b> available on Dec. 10
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 2 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

## Upcoming:

<b>Dec. 14</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 2 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>Last day of Period 2 Face to Face</b>
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>First day of Period 4 Face to Face</b>
<b>Dec. 16</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 4 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 4 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>Last day of school in 2020!</b>

## Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that it is December already! We are in the final stretch and there are only 6 weeks of the semester remaining. Our Student Success team has been working with students based on the mid term report data and feedback from teachers and parents to support student achievement and well-being.

Our staff have been working hard on approaches to assessment given the different learning model we are in this year and determining how best to gather the learning from their students. It is great to see all the creative ways that teachers are connecting with students to understanding their learning.

Over the next few weeks we will be working on timetabling for Semester 2 once we receive details from the board on those transitioning to our Secondary Virtual School and the impacts on staffing at Williams. We will be revising our Semester 2 timetable back to a 4 period day (this year we had originally moved to a 5 period day without a common lunch to accommodate our growth) and adjusting courses due to the decreased numbers in the adaptive model. Updated timetables will be shared with students and staff, once available, later this semester.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Notices

### Food Drive

During the first four months of the pandemic, there was a 26% spike in first-time food bank users. During this COVID Christmas season, to spread some holiday cheer, we are going to be running a food drive in collaboration with the Interact Rotary Club of Newmarket/Aurora and the Peer Mentors team! We are collecting non-perishable food items, with the proceeds being donated to the Aurora Food Pantry. The pantry has told us that the items in highest demand right now are pasta sauce and canned fruits and vegetables. Donations are being collected all of next week, and can be placed in boxes which will be located at each of the designated entrances to the school any time before or after classes. We encourage any and all donations - anything helps in this difficult time!

### Revised School Screening Checklist

Every day, parents/guardians and students over 18 are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the checklist from York Region Public Health. This checklist has been recently updated to reflect the Ontario government's revised [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Schools](#) and Child Care.

Please note that the new screening guide applies to children only and the adult screening has not changed. Thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**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

**Guidance**

**Dual Credits**

- Seneca College is hosting a virtual Dual Credit info session for all Students & Parents interested in learning more about the program. Please check your grade’s Google Classroom for more information.

**Grade 8 Open House**

- The Dr. G.W. Williams Virtual Grade 8 Open House will be held on December 10th.

**Feeder School Visits**

- Virtual visits to feeder schools will begin on December 7th. A member of the Williams Guidance team will virtually drop into Grade 8 classrooms with a short presentation and will answer questions from students.

**Scholarships and Bursaries**

Please check the graduation class of 2021 for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

**RTC Computer Purchase Program**

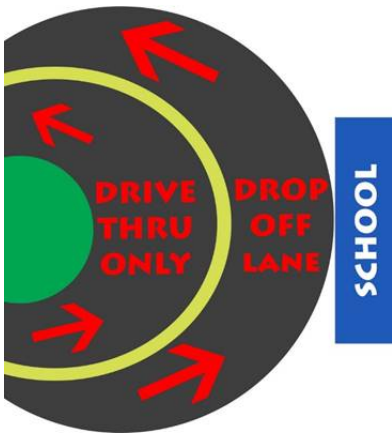
Once again we are pleased to offer this to our Williams families. Please see the attached flyer below for more information on accessing this program.

**FLYER**

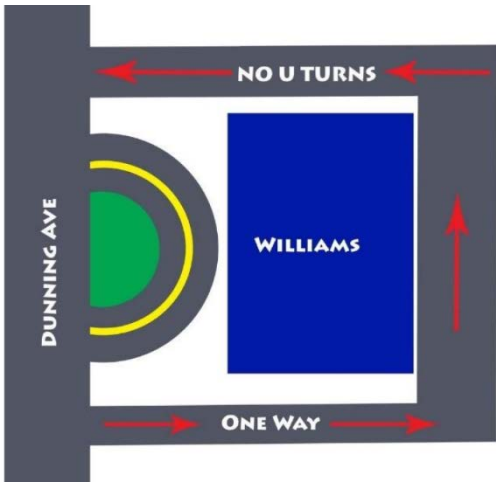
**Driveway and Parking Lot**

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

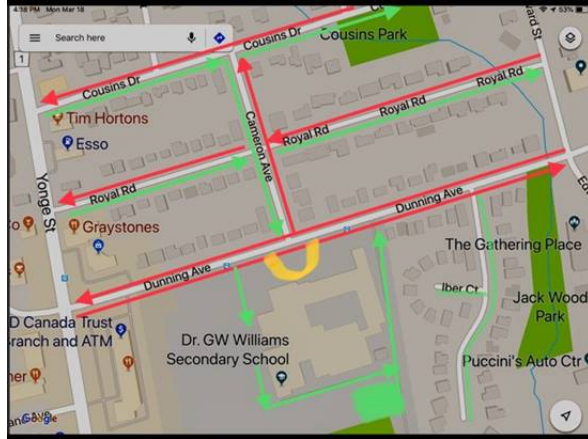
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Winter Break – Monday December 21, 2020 January 1, 2021
- Family Day – Monday, February 15, 2021
- March Break – Monday, March 15, 2021 to Friday March 19, 2021
- Good Friday – Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 5, 2021
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 24, 2021

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

- Monday February 15, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

**School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Monday January 18, 2021
- Tuesday March 23, 2021
- Monday May 17, 2021