



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: February 7 - 11, 2022

Trait of the Month: Initiative

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://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>  
**Email:** [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

**Social Media:** [@drgwilliams](#) ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))  
**Attendance:** [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

## Contact Us

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Extensions:

Reception	0
Attendance	1
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Staff	4
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## Daily Schedule

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

## This week:

<b>Feb. 7</b>	Sem 2 Term 1 begins Staff Meeting 2:40pm - 3:55pm Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Huron Heights - 2:30pm Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Sacred Heart - 2:30pm Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Newmarket HS - 2:30pm
<b>Feb. 8</b>	
<b>Feb. 9</b>	
<b>Feb. 10</b>	
<b>Feb. 11</b>	

## Upcoming:

<b>Feb. 14</b>	Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game vs. St. Theresa of Lisieux - 2:30pm Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game vs. Sir W Mulock - 2:30pm
<b>Feb. 15</b>	
<b>Feb. 16</b>	Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game vs. St. Theresa of Lisieux - 3:00pm
<b>Feb. 17</b>	
<b>Feb. 18</b>	

## Message from the Principal

Students and staff have now closed the book on Semester 1 and are looking forward to beginning a new semester following a 'normal' 4 period day schedule. Our teachers collaborated on Friday afternoon to prepare for their courses in department and course teams after completing 3 hours of professional development in the morning on Violence Prevention and Sex Trafficking Awareness.

All students received their schedules via email on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Our apologies for the dual emails, we realized when we started receiving a few questions that the information about the assigned entry doors didn't merge into the document in the first version. Thank you for ensuring that students follow the assigned entry door procedure. This allows us to support physical distancing in the building and ensures that we can effectively screen students as they arrive for the day. As a reminder, students should arrive ready to show their screening confirmation (meaning they did it before they left or in the car or on the bus on their way). We don't have the space or time for many to complete it at the entry (understandably we all forget things from time to time but in the 5 days we were back it was many of the same students every day completing this task in the lobby making it difficult for others to enter).

Due to hiring needs, a number of teacher changes occurred on Thursday and Friday. These also necessitated room changes for some classes. Students are advised to check TeachAssist for the most up to date room information before heading to class on Monday. We have successfully hired 10.5 new teachers in the past 5 days. We continue to seek an IB Chemistry teacher and additional leaves continue to arise that need to be filled. Thank you for your ongoing patience. Please know that we are working non-stop to find the best teachers for our students and fill vacancies as quickly as possible. Due to wide spread teacher shortages in Ontario we often have to post positions 2-3 times meaning that it can take up to 2 weeks to fill a position once we become aware of a leave. Additionally, we often have unfilled daily occasional teacher jobs which means that on-calls are being used to fill these absences. We know how important it is to have consistency in each of our classes and are doing everything we can when we become aware of leaves. Thank you for your understanding.

Rapid Antigen Test kits have arrived for students and staff learning and working face to face. They will be distributed during Period 1 on Monday. Each individual will be receiving a ziploc bag with 2 tests. There are no additional tests available at the school. This is a one-time distribution and they should be used when an individual becomes symptomatic. If students or staff become symptomatic at school we also have PCR kits that we will send home with those individuals.

By Monday morning all teachers should have reached out to their remote students through Google classroom. Because of the number of changes to the remote learners last week (over 225 students are returning to Face to Face learning to start semester 2), the teacher changes on Friday and the hiring last week there may be some last minute invites. Please be patient and first try to send an email to the teacher using the staff list on our [website](#). If by the start of the class period a student has not received their meet code, please contact the main office at that point.

As a reminder, we have a new Vice Principal joining us at Williams this semester. Mr. Andrew Gazaneo comes to us from Unionville High School and is excited to get to know everyone in our school community. He will be taking over for Mr. Brar and will be supporting students with last names beginning Lo-Z.

Take care and all the best to our staff and students as we begin this next semester,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Weekly Highlights

### COVID Self-Screening

- Step 1: Secondary students to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) prior to leaving home 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](#) (must be logged into their GAPPS account to complete)
- Step 3: Enter the school via the outside door closest to the Period 1 classroom (as indicated in email sent on Jan 14) with the email confirmation ready to show the staff on duty. Doors will open at 8:00 am

## **WEEKLY NEWS FEED:**

### **Notices**

Black students and their families are invited to another online edition of the BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop on Friday, February 4, 2022 from 7 PM - 9 PM. Please [Register Here!](#)

Please [see the Memorandum](#) regarding the process for Indigenous Student Trustee elections for self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students going into Grades 11 and 12 next year.

ABC - Aurora Black Community Association creates programs to meet the needs of Black families. [Visit their website](#) for more information and to register for Black History Month events in February.

Free Presentation for parents and community members. Topic for this virtual session on February 8th at 6:00 p.m. Topic will be: Sex Trafficking. [Register Now!](#)

Celebrating Black Excellence. [Resources and Events](#) for Black History Month.

### **Tune In YRDSB - This week: GSA Month**

On this episode of [Tune In YRDSB](#), we are going to be taking a look at GSAs (Genders & Sexualities Alliances or Gay Straight Alliance) throughout the YRDSB in Secondary and Elementary Schools.

### **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 [drgwilliamss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamss.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. Gazaneo Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

### **COVID Self-Screening - Confirmation required again for Face to Face learning**

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](#)

- Students will receive 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.

### **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**

#### **Course Selection**

Course selection will begin on *myblueprint* from February 16th to the 25th. Information on the process will be posted on your child's Guidance Google Classroom.

#### **Age of Majority**

When a child turns 18, they are legally considered an adult. With this change, ALL communication from the school regarding your child will cease, unless your child has completed, signed, and returned the Age of Consent Form. If you would like a copy of the Age of Consent Form please download it from our school website [here](#).

### **Safety and Community Notices**

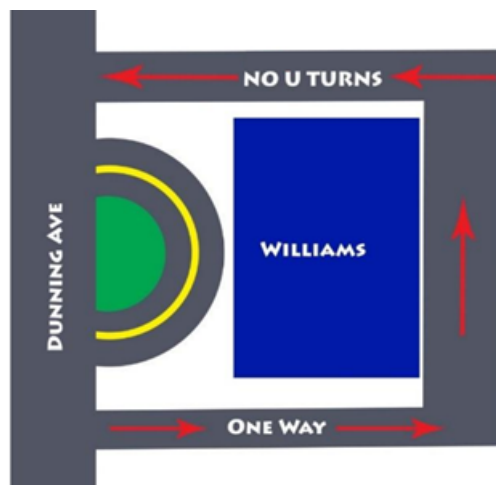
#### **Driveway and Parking Lot**

**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

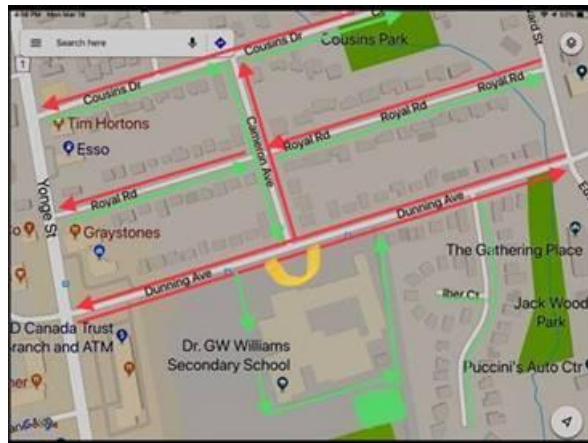
driveway loop around 2:40, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, we ask that you make arrangements to meet your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). 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**

- 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 2021-2022**

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

