



## Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 1-5, 2021

Trait of the Month: **Honesty**

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/>

Social Media: @drgwilliams ([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.\*\*\***

<b>Mon. Mar. 1</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Tue. Mar. 2</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Wed. Mar. 3</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Thurs. Mar. 4</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Fri. Mar. 5</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

<b>Mon. Mar. 8</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Tue. Mar. 9</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Wed. Mar. 10</b>	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Thurs. Mar. 11</b>	8:20-10:55 AM: Whole Class Synchronous On-Line Learning Period 1 8:20-8:55 Period 2 9:00-9:35 Period 4 9:40-10:15 Period 5 10:20-10:55  12:20-3:00 PM: Feedback Day – by appointment only Teachers will be offering additional support to students who are not meeting provincial standard (below 70%) during these Feedback Days. Teachers will connect with students and families to offer extended supports to any students who are currently struggling with achievement and appear to be at risk of failing.
<b>Fri. Mar. 12</b>	<b>Interim Report Cards distributed</b> <b>Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F – note Rotation change</b> Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

### Message from the Principal

We had a very successful feedback day today. Speaking with teachers I heard about how engaged the students were in getting one on one and small group support in their classes allowing them to become more confident in their work and successful in their achievement. The ongoing opportunities we have throughout the semester are greatly appreciated to allow all students the opportunities to stay engaged and maintain their focus on their courses. We know that it has been very difficult for some students in this current environment and it isn't the same when you are in the building and can stay after class or find a teacher for a quick question in the hallway.

Thank you again to all students who have embraced the new procedures regarding self-screening. Please note that the York Region Public Health self-screening tool has been further updated this week (as have ones across the province) having more stringent guidelines. Take a moment to review these guidelines and understand the implications for your family should anyone in your household be ill and exhibit COVID symptoms.

Students have also been very cooperative with our requests to not congregate at the end of the day and have been moving along fairly quickly. Once again, I would request that if parents could arrange to meet their students a short walk from the building that would assist us further and contribute to healthy lifestyles for all.

Course selections have been completed at this time. Guidance is working with a few students that need additional support to complete their course selections and then we will begin the staffing process for the coming year. Decisions made by students for their courses next year have a direct impact on the staffing for the coming year. This is why it is often difficult to make course changes in the fall as the courses are allocated based on student selection.

Thanks again for your ongoing support of your students and our staff as we work together to find success during adaptive learning.

Melissa Schmidt

### Notices

#### **Arrivals and Dismissals – UPDATED!!**

Following the guidelines, provided by public health, congregating on school property will be further discouraged as we return to classes next week.

#### **WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF OUR ARRIVAL – DISMISSAL PLAN**

Arrivals – please drop your student off at the door closest to their classroom (Front, Back or East) doors as highlighted on the [school map](#). Students may not enter the building prior to 8 am. Please don't arrive to school prior to this time as we will not have staff available to welcome students and complete the mandatory screening

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

Email:  
[dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto: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

process. It is extremely important in the morning to follow this protocol so that we have adequate staff to check the self-screening confirmations and have students sanitize their hands while entering the building. The designated entrances will ensure the minimum amount of congregating while entering the building.

Please remind your child to leave the school via the [exterior door closest to their classroom](#) and leave the property as soon as their class is dismissed (reminder that we dismiss Odd and Even classrooms 5 minutes early on given days to assist with dismissal congregating).

Make arrangements to meet your child [off school property](#) on one of the side streets near the school (see map below). Not only is the fresh air and short walk good for their mental health, you will have less wait time and your child will not need to congregate on the property while waiting for you.

### **Updated Self-Screening Guidelines – NEW!!**

#### **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 ([drgwilliamss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamss.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](mailto:Harmandeep.brar@yrdsb.ca))  
or their [Guidance Counsellor](#).

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#### **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](http://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 [Parents](#) 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**

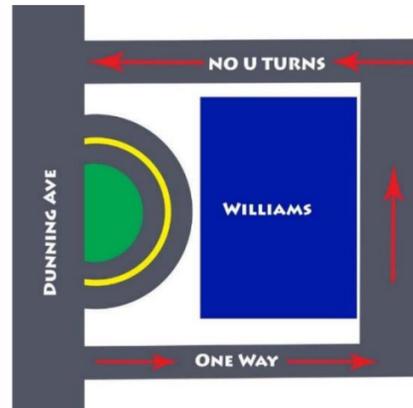
The safety of all students must be everyone’s first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

**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

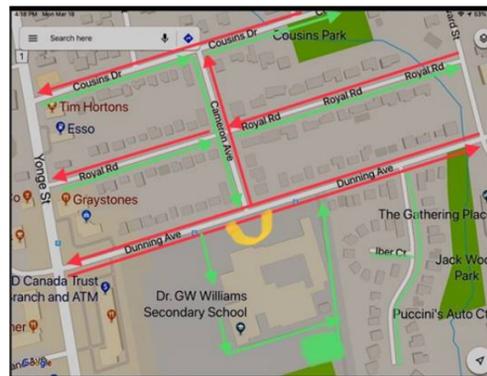
11:00, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distancing, we ask that you make arrangements to meet your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). Please see the 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:

- Winter Break – Monday December 21, 2020 January 1, 2021
- Family Day – Monday, February 15, 2021
- Good Friday – Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 5, 2021
- 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:

- Monday February 1, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

#### School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- **Tuesday** March 23, 2021
- **Monday** May 17, 2021