



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: January 10 – January 14, 2022

Trait of the Month: Optimism

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

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Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

**School Website:** <http://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>  
**Email:** [dr.g.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

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

Jan. 10	Remote learning
Jan. 11	Remote learning
Jan. 12	Remote learning
Jan. 13	Remote learning
Jan. 14	Remote learning

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:

Jan. 17	Anticipated return to Face to Face learning
Jan. 18	
Jan. 19	
Jan. 20	
Jan. 21	

## Message from the Principal

Happy New Year!

Our remote learning started on Wednesday and although it was not where we wanted to see students in the new year we were happy to get teaching again. We thank all our students and families for supporting teachers as we pivot once again to this online environment and remain optimistic that we will only be online for a short period of time.

Staff are only attending the school for essential purposes while we support provincial efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. To that end, we have had office staff, including administrators, rotate in person each day to support daily phone calls and distribution of technology and other materials as required. If there is no one in the office, staff will be checking voicemail and emails from home and getting back to families as quickly as possible.

We are monitoring attendance closely and ask that families continue to send emails to [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca) if a student will be away from any classes.

For our graduates, we were disappointed that some graduation photos needed to be postponed again this year. As soon as we know that restrictions will be lifted we will work with our provider, Lifetouch, to reschedule our graduation photo appointments. Please note that a return to school may not allow for the immediate rescheduling of graduation photos. This will take additional approvals from YRDSB and York Region Public Health. We will communicate updates as we receive them.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our staff during this challenging time. We hope everyone continues to follow provincial guidelines to stay safe and that we will all be able to return to the building as soon as possible.

Melissa Schmidt

## Weekly Highlights

### School Photos Were Completed on November 18 & 19.

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

1. Visit [mylifetouch.ca](http://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.

## WEEKLY NEWS FEED:

### Notices

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter: [January](#) edition of the newsletter is available on our website.

Parenting Traps and Strategies - Triple P Parenting Seminar [flyer](#) is available on our website.

What Families Want to Know About De-Streaming [flyer](#) is available on our website.

Tamil Community Engagement Session - Heritage Month [January](#) 2022 is available on our website.

### 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](mailto: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 when we return to 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

### University/College Applications

University and College application deadlines are fast approaching. We encourage your university-bound students to complete and submit their 101 applications as soon as possible. The deadline for OUAC applications is next Thursday, January 13, 2022.

### 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.

### Night School

Night School e-learning registration is open for Winter 2022. Courses are free for Ontario residents with Canadian Status. For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/gwwnight>

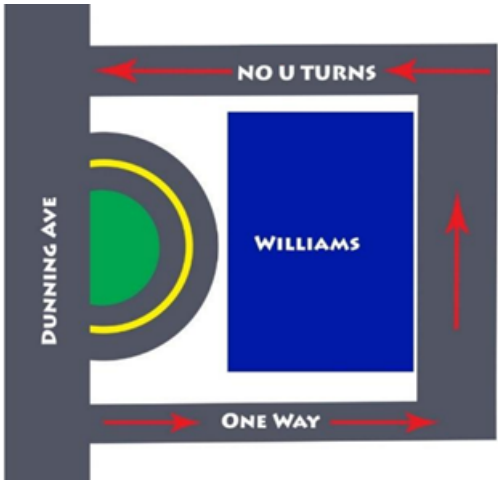
## Safety and Community Notices

### Driveway and Parking Lot

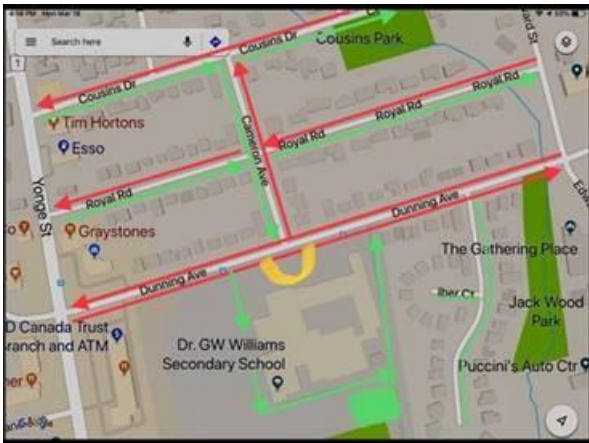
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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