



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: January 18-22, 2021

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.

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

Social Media: @drgwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))

All students online until February 10, 2021

School Council meeting is on Monday, January 18, 2021, 7:00-8:30 PM. Please visit our [website](#) for the [agenda](#) and meeting [link](#).

Message from the Principal

It is amazing how much can change in a week!! Just last week I was talking about when we would return January 25 and now we are remaining out of the building until February 10. Again, our staff are adjusting, revising and reassuring students as we all adapt to this current lockdown situation. Thank you for your continued support and patience as the staff work to ensure the success of our students this semester. As of the writing of this message there are exactly 10 school days remaining in Semester 1. Students still have time to complete and submit assessment for their teachers and ensure that they have demonstrated the overall expectations in each of their courses.

On Monday we are beginning an After School Credit Success program for students who are struggling to attain their credits this semester. For 8 days between now and the end of the semester we will be providing support from 3:15-4:30 Monday to Thursday for these students. Our Student Success and SERT teams have reached out to all students at risk regarding opportunities for additional support through this program and other opportunities. We thank our teachers also for providing additional assessment windows to support these students to increase achievement and gain credits before the end of the semester. Please contact Student Success, Special Education or your child's Vice Principal before noon on Monday if you have not been able to submit registration for this program but your child would like to participate.

Guidance and the Admin team have been working diligently through the re-timetabling process as we adjust to reduced sections due to students attending the Secondary Virtual School as well as the change to a 4 period day (You might remember that this year we were supposed to have a 5 period day with multiple lunches due to our numbers. This is no longer necessary due to our reduced numbers attending face to face). At this time, the board is projecting that we should be able to provide Semester 2 timetables to students around January 26. This timeline is evolving as the systems we use for timetabling were not designed to re-timetable in the middle of the school year when students are already locked into courses in the current semester. Needless to say, as a system we have been learning lots and developing many creative solutions to make this process work effectively. It is important that we take the time to make sure things are done correctly so that we have a smooth start-up for Semester 2. I will continue to keep everyone apprised of the progress.

The application portal opened today for students across York Region who might be interested in running for the position of Student Trustee to represent their peers at the board level. We encourage all students to look at this opportunity and to consider stepping up to ensure that many voices are heard across the system. Even if students have never held a leadership position before, this is a great opportunity to bring a unique perspective to the table. Please encourage your child to look at the information on the [YRDSB website](#) regarding the election process.

If you have the time on Monday evening, I would encourage you to join our Virtual School Council meeting. The parents that come find it extremely informative. This Monday, the leaders of our School Wellness team are going to highlight the work happening in courses across the school to address wellness both explicitly and implicitly throughout the curriculum delivered. We also hope to gather some input from the parents present to reflect on our approaches to wellness as it relates to where we currently are in creating an inviting and supportive environment at Williams. Please see the agenda above. The Virtual Meeting link is included in the agenda.

Continue to follow Public Health guidelines and we hope that everyone stays safe!!

Melissa Schmidt

Notices

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. There are Farsi, Russian, Simplified Chinese, and Tamil versions available.

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

Night School Credit Courses & Night School e-Learning

Contact Us

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- Semester Two, winter 2021 Registration for YRDSB Night School and Night School e-Learning is now open. Please visit the YRDSB Continuing Education webpage for course offerings and more information.

Community Services

- For the 2020-2021 school year, the Ministry of Education is revising the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement to 20 hours of community involvement activities. All up-to-date information is posted on the Graduating Class of 2021 Google Classroom.

Scholarships and Bursaries

- Please check the Graduation Class of 2021 for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

RTC Computer Purchase Program

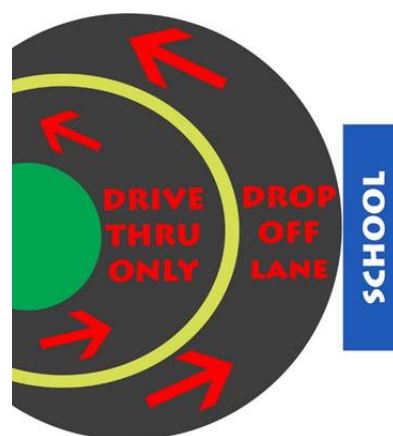
Once again we are pleased to offer this to our Williams families. Please see the attached flyer below for more information on accessing this program.

FLYER

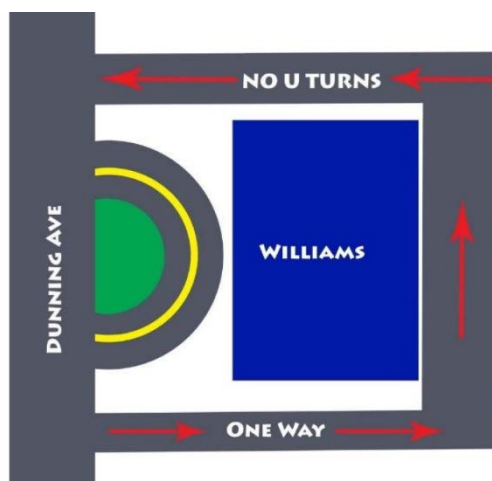
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

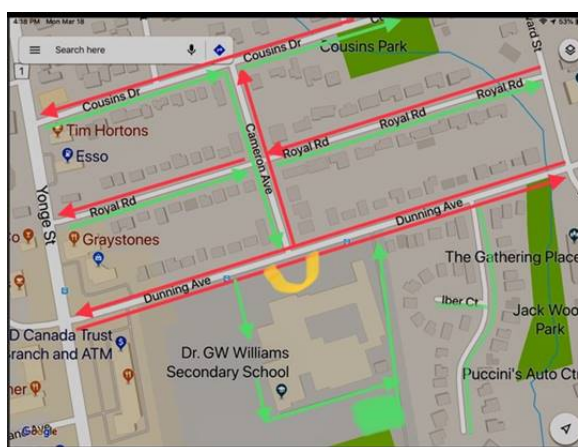
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave 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 1, 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