



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: January 25-29, 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://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

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

All students online until February 10, 2021

Face to Face (F2F) and Secondary Virtual School (SVS) students will receive their timetables for Semester 2 on January 29.

Semester 2 begins the morning of Feb 3 with 30 minute introductions to each course. Regular 75 minute virtual classes for Semester 2 will begin on February 4. Please see letter sent earlier Friday for more details.

Message from the Principal

Big thanks goes out to our Williams Athletic Council (WAC) for getting us all moving. Mr. Ravelle, Ms. Mann and Mr. Julyan worked together with Athletic Council members Jordan, Victoria, Juliann, and Briare to lead the school through a 20 minute movement break in our morning. It was great to get the blood flowing and also to show everyone how easy it is in our homes to embed some movement into our day. We look forward to more challenges from WAC in the future.

Please ensure that you have reviewed the letter sent earlier today with important details regarding the start-up for Semester 2. In response to feedback from students and staff the board is adjusting the timetable while we are in virtual classes.

We wish everyone well in the coming week as students and teachers wrap up semester 1.

Melissa Schmidt

Notices

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

January 2021 edition of the [Mental Health Newsletter](#) will focus on some suggestions of ways to stay socially connected during this continued time of physical distancing. YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel.

2021 Winter Night School Registration

Night School registration for the Winter session is now open through my Pathway Planner and will close at noon on Thursday, February 11. Please be advised that the traditional in class face-to-face [Night School program](#) (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm) will continue to use a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).

The first night of class is Thursday February 18 and the program ends June 22. The deadline for approvals is Thursday February 11 by 3:30 pm. Continuing Education Services (CES) will purge all unapproved course requests after that time.

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.

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

- 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.

Contact Us

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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

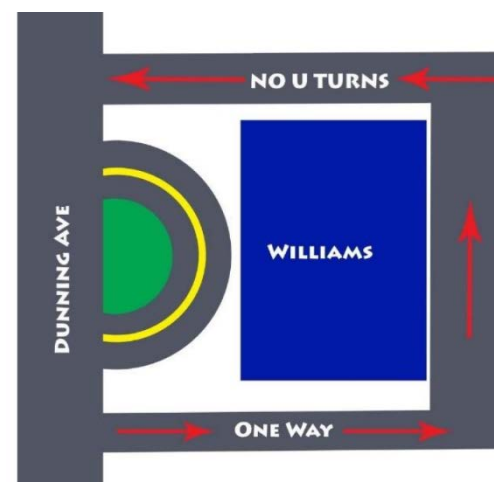
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

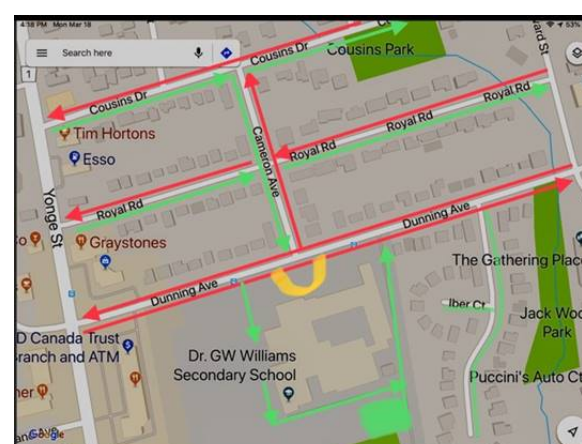
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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



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