



## Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 29 – April 2, 2021

Trait of the Month: **Perseverance - Fairness**

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 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. 29</b>	Period 5, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal  Second Day of <b>Pesah (Passover)</b> Passover, Hebrew Pesah, or Pesach, in Judaism, holiday commemorating the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites, when the Lord "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus.  <b>YRDSB anticipates a significant number of staff absences, which include Faith Days absences, on Monday, March 29. Given requirements to maintain cohorts and minimize contacts, it is expected these absences will result in significant system operational issues, including the challenges associated with obtaining the required replacement coverage to ensure the safe supervision of students. Currently all known absences for Monday at Dr. G.W. Williams have been filled with occasional teachers and therefore we are able to maintain regular operations. Any additional absences that may arise over the weekend will have classes moved to asynchronous learning for the day. In case of changes to Face to Face attendance for Cohort A students on Monday morning due to coverage for specific classes, we will send direct notification to families and students via email over the weekend. All Cohort A students/families are asked to please check your email in case of last minute changes to attendance on Monday due to unanticipated absences of teaching staff.</b>
<b>Tue. Mar. 30</b>	Period 5, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Wed. Mar. 31</b>	Period 5, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Thurs. Apr. 1</b>	Period 5, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Fri. Apr. 2</b>	<b>Good Friday – School Holiday</b>

<b>Mon. Apr. 5</b>	<b>Easter Monday – School Holiday</b>
<b>Tue. Apr. 6</b>	<b>Graduation Photos – by appointment</b> Period 5, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Wed. Apr. 7</b>	<b>Graduation Photos – by appointment</b> Period 5, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Thurs. Apr. 8</b>	<b>Graduation Photos – by appointment</b> <b>Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F - note Rotation change</b> Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal <b>Term 2 starts</b>
<b>Fri. Apr. 9</b>	<b>Graduation Photos – by appointment</b> Period 1, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

### Message from the Principal

Teachers enjoyed meeting so many parents and guardians last night at our Semester 2 Teacher Interview Night. Thank you for everyone's patience in the additional login steps that we became aware of yesterday. If you did have any trouble connecting with the teacher, please send them an email and they will be happy to connect with you at another time.

We have just moved into the last rotation of the 1<sup>st</sup> term this semester. Our Period 5 courses are attending Face to Face until April 7<sup>th</sup> when we reach the mid point of the semester. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semester each period rotation will be 12 days in length providing each cohort 6 Face to Face classes in the school. Teachers are beginning to look towards the mid term reporting period. For our Grade 11 & 12 students, their mid term marks will be shared with them on TeachAssist on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This is in preparation for uploads to post-secondary that will be completed prior to the issuance of the mid term report card later in April.

Good news!! The board is once again investing in our building. We have learned that beginning on April 6 and through the Spring Break, we are getting a new PA and phone system installed. This is a significant investment and we are looking forward to this new equipment. This week the staff and students have been reviewing new bell tones in anticipation of the new system. Due to this installation, our office staff will be working from home over Spring break. If you need to reach someone at the school, please contact us via email during the week of April 12-16.

For those families celebrating the many events this month, please enjoy your celebrations in new and creative ways this year while we continue to remain vigilant at maintaining public health guidelines to keep everyone safe. With the nice weather on the horizon, hopefully the opportunities to get outside will support our efforts at pushing through our COVID fatigue.

Take care and stay safe!  
Melissa Schmidt

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

## Notices

### Graduation 2021

Grad photos will begin next Tuesday. Most of our graduates have confirmed their appointment booking and made arrangements for their gown. If you have not done these tasks yet, please be sure to contact Ms. McKie in the main office right away!!

### Guidance

- YRDSB Summer School e-Learning information is now available. Click [here](#) to see more information regarding registration, timelines and course offerings.
- Non-YRDSB and/or Private school course marks for graduating students are due June 18, 2021.

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### Earth Hour 2021 – Saturday March 27, 8:30-9:30 pm

Earth Hour is WWF's flagship global environmental movement. Born in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour has grown to become one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, inspiring individuals, communities, businesses and organizations in more than 180 countries and territories to take tangible environmental action for over a decade. Historically, Earth Hour has focused on the climate crisis, but more recently, Earth Hour has strived to also bring the pressing issue of nature loss to the fore. The aim is to create an unstoppable movement for nature, as it did when the world came together to tackle climate change. The movement recognizes the role of individuals in creating solutions to the planet's most pressing environmental challenges and harnesses the collective power of its millions of supporters to drive change.

We encourage all Williams families to participate in Earth Hour 2021. For more information and activities related to Earth Hour, please visit <https://wwf.ca/media-releases/earth-hour-2021-to-spotlight-hope-for-wildlife-and-climate/>

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### Yellow Brick House Fundraiser

Would you like to make a difference in your local community while having a chance to win an amazing prize? The Yellow Brick House is a local shelter that supports women and children escaping abusive households. This past year has been hard for everyone, and abuse rates in households have increased 20-30% during the pandemic. Our help is needed!

Did you know that just \$150 is enough to provide a woman and child a full night of safety away from danger? From **March 15 to March 30** you can help this important shelter and donate however much you can. Every dollar counts! Each donor will be entered into a draw for the chance to win one of the following gift cards: \$100 for Upper Canada Mall, \$100 for The Real Canadian Superstore, \$25 for Ginger's Cupcakes and Desserts, \$25 for Amazon or \$10 for Wimpy's Diner. If you want to provide help and hope to women and children in this time of crisis please fundraise for The Yellow Brick House.

See the link below to donate **March 15-30**. Thank you Wildcats!

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E920263QE&id=94>

**Thank you to Walker Head Lawyers, The Real Canadian Superstore (Aurora), Ginger's Cupcakes and Desserts (Aurora), Wimpy's Diner (Aurora) and the Peer Mentors for generously donating a gift card to be won!**

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### Drop-In Virtual Support for Students

There are virtual drop-in sessions available every morning, from 8:30 am – 11:00 am, in order to provide a go-to place for students to ask general questions and get extra support while learning from home during their asynchronous days. The sessions will be supported daily by a (SERT) Special Education Resource Teacher. Students should check the Guidance Google classroom to access the link for the drop-in sessions.

### Updated Self-Screening Guidelines

#### **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 ([drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.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 [Newsletters](#) tab of our website. Farsi, Russian, Simplified Chinese, and Tamil versions available.

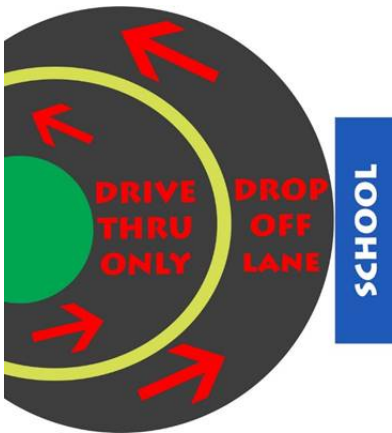
### Math Enrichment Opportunities

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

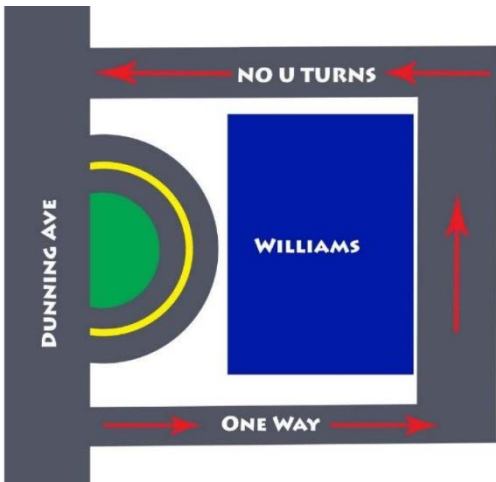
### Driveway and Parking Lot

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

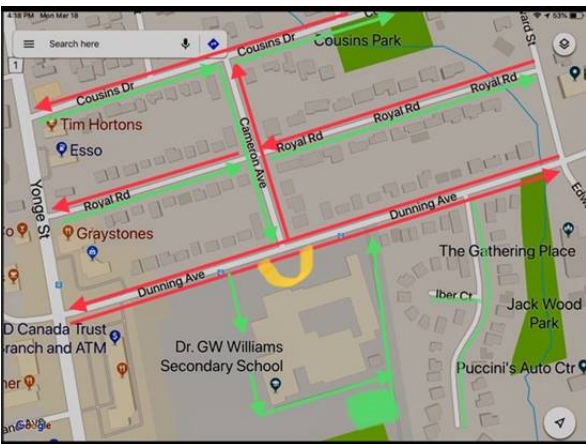
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

**School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Tuesday March 23, 2021 [Agenda](#) ([Minutes – January 2021](#))
- Monday May 17, 2021