



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: March 8-12, 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.*****

Mon. Mar. 8	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy launch event 5:00-7:00 PM (see information below)
Tue. Mar. 9	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Wed. Mar. 10	Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Thurs. Mar. 11	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.
Fri. Mar. 12	Interim Report Cards distributed Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F – note Rotation change Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal The link to access Semester One Final Report Card will expire on March 12, 2021.

Mon. Mar. 15	Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Tue. Mar. 16	Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Understand Youth Mental Health 7:00-8:30 PM - Send an email to Hartman.ps@yrdsb.ca to receive the Zoom link. (see information below)
Wed. Mar. 17	Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Thurs. Mar. 18	Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
Fri. Mar. 19	Period 4, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal

Message from the Principal

We are excited to have one of our Wildcats selected as one of the 4 candidates from across YRDSB to run for YRDSB Student Trustee in the upcoming election. Please see his letter below and encourage your students to do their homework about all the candidates and vote next week. They can visit the York Region President's Council for more details on the candidates from each area.

Last week at the York Region Crime Stopper's Symposium, Emily R. won the Crime Stoppers of York Region Poster Contest with her entry "Help Keep Your Community Safe – Become a Tipster" entry. We appreciate Emily's contributions to the community and are thrilled that her hard work was recognized in winning the poster contest.

I have exciting news for our potential graduates!! York Region Public Health and the YRDSB have come to an agreement to allow us to move forward with ordering of graduation gowns and taking of graduation photos. All potential graduates and their families have received information regarding this and we are excited that this brings us a step closer to celebrating this important milestone for them!

We can't thank our school community enough for everyone's diligence in completing the daily self-screening and following up when required to stay home and self-isolate. Although we know it is challenging when we are required to self-isolate due to the increased screening measures, the work we are doing is making a difference and is ensuring everyone's safety.

Take care and stay well!
Melissa Schmidt

A special message from one of our students who has been nominated for YRDSB Student Trustee:

Dear Williams Families,

My name is Bruce Yu and I am currently a grade 10 Pre-IB student at the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. I'm also honoured and excited to be one of four 2021-22 YRDSB student trustee nominees.

Contact Us
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Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2

Email:
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

Student trustees represent over 124,000 students and also act as the official liaison between the YRDSB student body and the Board of Trustees. They are additionally responsible for addressing student concerns, elevating student voice and also work with diverse student stakeholder groups, including the York Region Presidents' Council (YRPC) and the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO).

My experience serving on Williams' Student Council has provided me with the key communication, leadership and decision-making skills that I know will serve me well as a student trustee. My time serving as the Chief Communications Officer for the Federation of Canadian Secondary Students (FCSS-FESC) has also equipped me with the necessary expertise to be an effective advocate for YRDSB students.

Above all else, students can count on me to be their voice at the board table and can rest assured that I am committed to working with them and for them.

Voting begins on Monday, March 8th and ends on Thursday, March 11th at 8 pm. Students will be sent a virtual ballot via their GAPPS email and can vote for a total of 2 candidates.

I hope that I can count on the support of my fellow Wildcats.

Sincerely,
Bruce Yu

Notices

Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy Launch Event

On March 8, 2021 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. students, staff and families are invited to the virtual [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy launch event](#) featuring guest presenter Robyn Maynard, author of Policing Black Lives; consultant Tana Turner, Board Chair Cynthia Cordova, Trustee Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair, student performers and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Understand Youth Mental Health

On Tuesday, March 16 @ 7:00-8:30 pm Hartman P.S. School Council invites you to a discussion on understanding young people's mental health. Please send an email to Hartman.ps@yrdsb.ca to register. A virtual zoom meeting link will be shared before the event. Every registrant will receive a Parent Resource Kit and Tip Sheet after the event. Click [here](#) for more details about the event.

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.

Arrivals and Dismissals

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 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

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

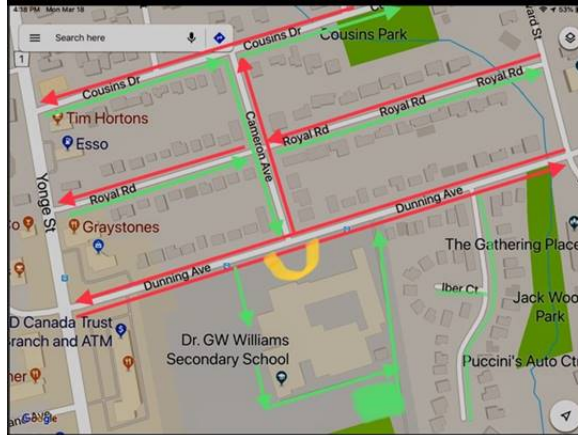
Thank you to everyone for supporting us with our efforts to increase the tracking of student attendance. To ensure we can continue to support student engagement and well-being we require accurate attendance records. **Parents/guardians are required to justify every student absence with a reason.**

Students currently attending the adaptive model must contact via email (drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca) 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)
or their [Guidance Counsellor](#).



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