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# 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.

	Upon completion of the	uired to complete a York Region Public Health school screening tool on days they attend school Face to Face (F2F).         a self-assessment, complete response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening test?" in the Confirmation Form.         be completed screening tool will be required to be shown by secondary school students upon arrival at school.***         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)         Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort A, F2F         Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal         Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F         Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal         Period 2, 8:20-10:50 AM, Cohort B, F2F         Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal         8:20-10:55 AM: Whole Class Synchronous On-Line Learning         Period 2 : 9:00-9:35         Period 2 : 9:00-9:35         Period 4 9:40-10:15         Period 5 10:20-10:55
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		Pellou 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 <mark>expire on March 12, 2021.</mark>
	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

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 selfisolate. 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.

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 <u>exterior door closest to their classroom</u> 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 <u>off school property</u> 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 <mark>MONDAY</mark>, <mark>TUESDAY</mark>, <mark>WEDNESDAY</mark>, <mark>THURSDAY</mark>, <mark>FRIDAY</mark>

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 (drgwwilliamsss.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.

#### 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 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 Parents tab of our website. Farsi, Russian, Simplified Chinese, and Tamil versions available.

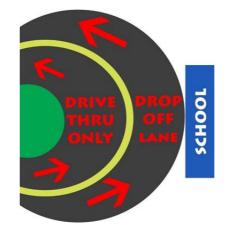
# **Math Enrichment Opportunities**

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**

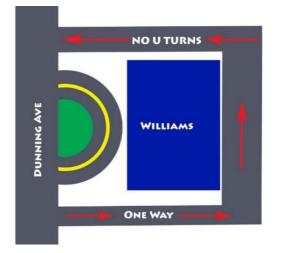
The safety of all students must be everyone's first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

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.

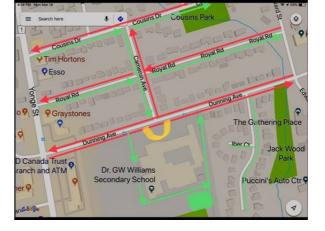


There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.

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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

<u>PA Days for Williams</u> (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