



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: May 24-28, 2021

Trait of the Month: **Integrity**

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 synchronous learning effective April 19, 2021.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mon. May 24 | Victoria Day – No School |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|

Message from the Principal

We appreciate how everyone has worked together in these uncertain times not knowing what the return to learning may look like and when. We are looking forward to more direction and will communicate information as soon as we hear from the Ministry.

Please see the information below regarding the upcoming YRDSB Student and Family Surveys that will begin on May 26th. We look forward to getting input from our entire school community.

Please enjoy the wonderful weather this long weekend!

Melissa Schmidt

Notices

YRDSB Student and Family Surveys

We will be inviting parents/guardians to participate in the 2020-21 YRDSB Student and Family Surveys between May 26 and June 18.

All students in Grades 7-12 will be invited to participate in the Student Survey. Families of students in Grades K-12 will be invited to complete the Family Survey. Surveys will be available online and will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

The surveys will provide the Board and our schools with valuable information about the learning experiences of students and families this year. Results will be used to guide Board and school planning to support student achievement and well-being.

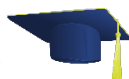
Students and families will be invited to complete their respective surveys by email. For your convenience, copies of the surveys are available on the Board website. The Family Survey will be available online in:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Chinese \(simplified\)](#)
- [Chinese \(traditional\)](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Gujarati](#)
- [Hebrew](#)
- [Korean](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Tamil](#)
- [Turkish](#)
- [Urdu](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

As our first partners in education, we value input from families and encourage parents/guardians to complete the survey. The information provided will be anonymous, considered confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Please contact Research Services at research.services@yrdsb.ca if you have any questions or visit the [Board website](#) to learn more.

Parents/guardians who do not want their child(ren) to be sent an invitation to participate in the survey may contact Research Services at research.services@yrdsb.ca no later than **May 24, 2021**.

Update on our 2021 "Graduation planning"



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be unable to hold an in-person graduation ceremony. However, it is essential that we continue to adhere to public health guidelines to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our students, families and staff members.

We look forward to celebrating and are busy planning our "Virtual Graduation" recognizing the hard work, dedication and achievements of our graduates. Dr. G. W. Williams SS virtual ceremony will be available on July 5th, 2021 via a link sent to graduates and their families that day.

Our Graduation committee is busy gathering information for our awards, communicating with our community sponsors, and planning our video. About ½ of our Portraits were completed before the shutdown and next week we are distributing (curbside) the gowns to the other ½ of our students to take and submit their Graduation pictures via their Google classroom. This will not cancel the formal portrait, which will be completed as soon as Lifetouch is able to reschedule these once the stay at home order has ended.

We have ordered congratulatory lawn signs for each of our students. We are so proud of their accomplishments and would like to share this special event with our community. We are holding a drive through pick-up next week. If you have not booked your drive through appointment, students should use the Google sheet provided in their student GAPPS account and do so now.

We will be sharing more information in the weeks ahead and look forward to celebrating our graduates with you. If you have any questions please contact margaret.mckie@yrdsb.ca.

Education Interrupted: Parent Engagement for Liberation Webinar

This webinar series will engage parents & caregivers, scholars and community leaders in dialogue to imagine what a meaningful anti-racist model of parent/caregiver engagement could look like. Visit [flyer](#) for more information.

2021 Summer Learning Programs Available

Contact Us
The Dr. G.W. Williams SS
39 Dunning Avenue
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 |
| Staff Directory | 2 |
| Guidance | 3 |

During the month of July, YRDSB continues to offer credit and non-credit summer school program opportunities for elementary, secondary and adult students. Traditional in-class face-to-face summer programs will move to a remote learning delivery model. Visit [flyer](#) for more information.

Guidance

- Click [here](#) to find out more information about the YRDSB’s 2021 Summer Pathway Programs offerings.

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.

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](#).

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.

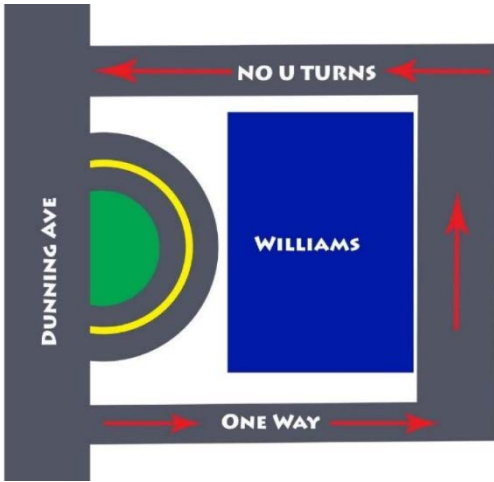
Driveway and Parking Lot

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

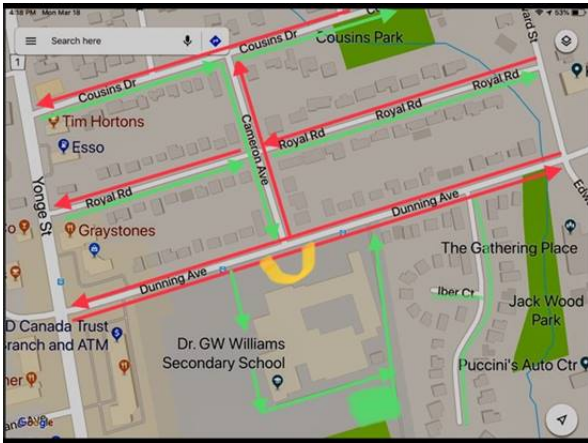
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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

- Victoria Day – Monday, May 24, 2021

PA Days for Williams (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- Tuesday, June 29, 2021