



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 2, 2020 – November 6, 2020

Trait of the Month: 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.*

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School Website: <http://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

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

## Contact Us

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Extensions:  
Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

## The Week at a Glance

<b>Nov. 2</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Nov. 3</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal OYAP Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship Information Night (see flyer link below)
<b>Nov. 4</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Take Your Kids to Work Day – Grade 9 students (12:30-3:30)
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Nov. 6</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Last day of Semester 1, Term 1

## Upcoming:

<b>Nov. 9</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Semester 1, Term 2 begins
<b>Nov. 10</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal Mid Term Marks due OYAP Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship Information Night (see flyer link below)
<b>Nov. 11</b>	Cohort B Face to Face, Period 5 Even numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Nov. 12</b>	Cohort A Face to Face, Period 5 Odd numbered classrooms 10:45 dismissal
<b>Nov. 13</b>	PA DAY – No school for all students

## Message from the Principal

Thank you to all for participating in our first virtual teacher interview night. The staff were thrilled with the number of families they were able to connect with, and impressed with everyone's use of technology to both book appointments and engage in the meetings. Since both Edsby and Zoom were new platforms for our school community. I have to thank everyone for their flexibility and support as both staff and parents navigated through the evening with any necessary trouble shooting.

As a school community we are busy preparing to honour our Class of 2020 at their graduation later in November. We will be reaching out to all graduates and their families this coming week with more details about the virtual ceremony to be held on November 24 at 7pm. Although some of our graduates' families no longer receive the Parent Tell, we know that some of our graduates have younger siblings that are still in our building so thought sharing this information here would be helpful.

We hope that everyone has a safe Halloween this weekend and that considerations from YR Public Health are taken into consideration when supporting our student's choices for celebrating this event. So many of our celebrations have had to adjust but hopefully some different, meaningful activities that contribute to our safety are created for everyone given the circumstances. I have heard lots of people talk about new traditions and activities they are undertaking to mark this occasion.

If you don't already, be sure to follow us on social media. We can be found on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook!!

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Notices

### 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

**Co-operative Education**

Please see the flyer for the [Accelerated OYAP and Apprenticeship College Information Night](#)

**Guidance**

Need to speak with a Guidance Counsellor? Book at time with your guidance counsellor to use the QR code posted in front of the guidance office or visit [bit.ly/GWGAppt](https://bit.ly/GWGAppt)

**Applying University and/or College**

- University applicants' PIN number to apply to schools have been sent to student GAPPS email accounts. Please see the “**How to Apply**” section in the Grade 12 Google Classroom for more information on the application process.
- College applicants do not need a PIN number to apply but will need to know their Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on a report card. Please see the “**How to Apply**” section in the Grade 12 Google Classroom for more information on the application process.
- Post-Secondary schools are offering virtual tours and open houses. Information and links can be found on the Grade 12 Google Classroom.

**Community Services**

- Changes have been made to the Community Involvement Graduation Requirements. Information on requirements and eligibility can be found on the Grade 12 Google Classroom.
- A downloadable copy of the **Community Service Form** can be located on the Guidance section of our school website. Please return signed copies to the drop box in front of the guidance office and/or via email.

**Scholarships and Bursaries**

- Please check the graduation class of 2021 for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.
- Be sure to check out our virtual financial workshop happening November 3rd at 3:00pm.

**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**

**Online Fall and Winter 2020-2021 Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families**

As many of our YRDSB community partner organizations continue to offer on-line opportunities for your children and youth, we are happy to provide you with a comprehensive list of these opportunities, including those that are continuing and also new programs and services. Please visit [2020-2021 Online Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families](#) to find a list of programs organized by category and age group. We encourage you to check the link regularly as the Community and Partnership Developer Team will be making regular updates to available programs and resources.

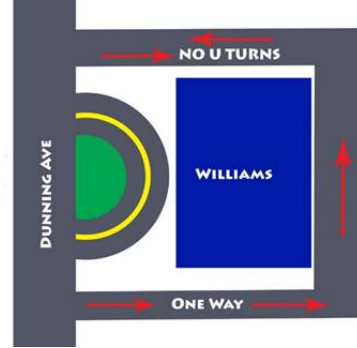
**Driveway and Parking Lot**

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

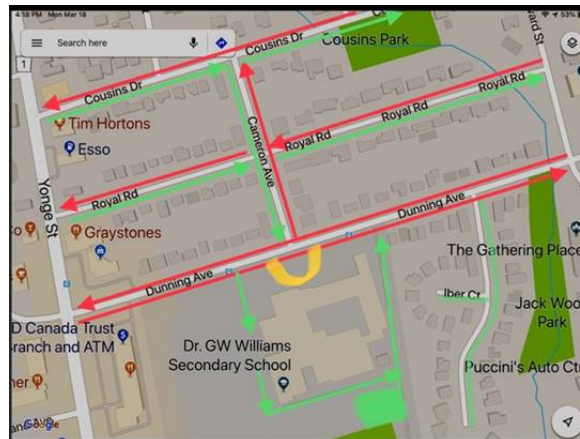
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 10:40 to 11:00.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

### **English as a Second Language (ESL); Language Instruction for New Comers (LINC); and Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Classes**

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*.

#### **Adult ESL Program Registration – In person and online options available!**

- Email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) or call **905-731-9557** with the following information:
- your first and last name
- your telephone number
- CLARS identification number (those without a CLARS number will require an assessment, please contact us for further assistance).
- Our office will contact you if additional documentation is required.
- Visitors to Canada may also register and attend for a fee of \$10 per day, per class.

**For an assessment or to register, please call: 905-731-9557**



If you are interested in improving your digital skills, want to work on your resume or interview skills, or prepare to take your GED exam, our **Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS)** program is for you!

#### **Literacy and Basic Skill Assessment – In person and online options available!**

1. Email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) or call **905-731-9557 Ext. 307** with the following information:
  - your first and last name
  - your telephone number
  - tell us that you are “*interested in the LBS program*”

**NOTE: Due to the high volume of inquires, it may take a few days to receive a reply communication from our office. We appreciate your patience.**

Thank you for your interest in our programs. We look forward to serving you.

### **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:

- Thanksgiving – Monday October 12, 2020
- 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:

- Friday November 13, 2020
- Monday February 15, 2021
- Friday May 7, 2021
- Tuesday June 29, 2021

### **School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Monday October 19, 2020 [Agenda & Previous Minutes](#)
- Monday November 16, 2020
- Monday January 18, 2021
- Tuesday March 23, 2021
- Monday May 17, 2021