



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 22 – November 26, 2021

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.

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
Email: dr.g.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

Social Media: @drgwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))
Attendance: drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca

WEEK ONE SCHEDULE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM AWARDS WEEK

Nov. 22	
Nov. 23	
Nov. 24	
Nov. 25	Grades 9, 10 and 12 - Asynchronous Learning (No classes) OSSLT - Grade 11s Grade 8 Virtual Open House Information (7:00-8:00pm)
Nov. 26	

Upcoming:

WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM

Nov. 29	Graduation Photo Day
Nov. 30	Graduation Photo Day
Dec. 1	Graduation Photo Day
Dec. 2	
Dec. 3	

Message from the Principal

Today was double blue day at Williams. It was great to see so many showing some spirit and wearing their school colours. We also had photo days the last two days and got a chance to see everyone's smiling faces for a brief moment. It was great for students to finally get their student ID cards. For anyone who missed having their photo taken, there will be a photo retake day in the new year.

We have been busy getting prepared for our students to write the OSSLT next Thursday. Lots of work has gone into getting technology organized and training teachers to deliver the new online format. As a reminder, only those students writing the OSSLT will be coming to school on Thursday. All other students will be working asynchronously at home on that day.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Weekly Highlights

The Music Department is raising funds to help replace old and broken down instruments. You can help them out by doing your regular online shopping through FlipGive! This amazing program doesn't cost you anything extra, but the online retailers donate a percentage of your purchase directly back to Williams Music. Our goal through FlipGive is to raise \$1500 this year, which will purchase one alto saxophone!

To join the Williams Music FlipGive Team click here: <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=J9PF97>

With the holiday shopping we are all about to do, this is a great way to give back, while you shop! If you have any questions about this please feel free to connect with Music Department Head, Scott Harrison – scott.harrison@yrdsb.ca

Photo Day

Graduation photo sessions are scheduled to begin on November 29 to December 1, 2021. Please check your gapps account for details coming soon on how to book your appointment.

Literacy Update

We now know that Williams students will be writing the OSSLT on Thursday November 25, 2021.

That day will be an asynchronous learning day for Grade 9, 10 and 12 students that are not writing the OSSLT (no regular classes, students work on course work from home). Community class students will continue to follow their regular schedule and will attend school on November 25th.

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter (November 2021 Edition)

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca to report absences. All absences must be justified with a reason.

If students are required to self-isolate due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, please indicate that in your email as this is coded differently and is not reflected on the attendance tally reported on the student report card. Additionally, your child's Vice Principal (Ms. Conlon A-Li, Mr. Brar Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

Contact Us

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS
39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2

(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:	
Reception	0
Attendance	1
Guidance	3
Staff Directory	4

COVID Self-Screening (updated October 15)

Effective **Monday, October 18, 2021** York Region Public Health will require students, parents and guardians to use the provincial [Ontario COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#), prior to entering the school daily.

Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more of COVID-19 symptoms.

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine), must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Daily Announcements

Our announcements are posted to the school website each day for students and parents to access under the [News & Events](#) heading. We will have a text version of all announcements that will be updated each day. We hope that this addition will help our school community (and especially our remote learners that aren't here to hear the announcements each day) to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Guidance

Post-Secondary Financial Presentation

Grade 12's be sure to check out our post-secondary financial video presentation found on the Guidance Google Classroom.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Please check the Guidance Google Classroom for the most recent updates to Scholarships and Bursaries information.

Do you need a computer?

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

RCT is offering families with children enrolled in our Board the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. For more information please visit the [flyer](#) and [letter to families](#).

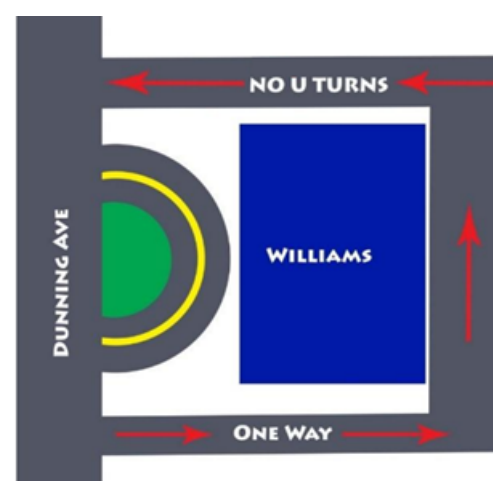
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

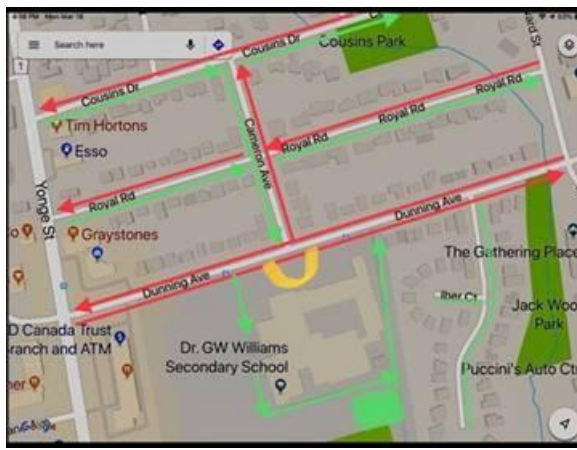
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 2:40, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, 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.



If you **MUST** come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. **DO NOT** block the driveway waiting. 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 the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot.** This makes 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.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

- Winter Break - Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021 inclusive
- Family Day - Monday, February 21, 2022
- Mid-Winter Break - Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022 inclusive
- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022

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

- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022