



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 29 – December 3, 2021

Trait of the Month: Fairness/Empathy

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/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM

Nov. 29	Electronic Report Card distribution Graduation Photo Day Varsity Girls Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30pm at York Curling Club vs King City SS Varsity Boys Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30pm at York Curling Club vs Sir W Mulock
Nov. 30	Electronic Report Card distribution Graduation Photo Day
Dec. 1	Graduation Photo Day
Dec. 2	Graduation Photo Day
Dec. 3	Graduation Photo Day

Upcoming:

Dec. 6	Return to 4 period day schedule Staff Meeting 2:40-3:55 Varsity Coed Tier 2 Curling Game 2:30pm at York Curling Club vs Sir W Mulock
Dec. 7	
Dec. 8	
Dec. 9	
Dec. 10	

Daily Schedule (effective of Dec 6)

Period 1	8:20 - 9:40
Period 3	9:45 - 11:00
Lunch	11:00 - 11:50
Period 2	11:50 - 1:05
Period 4	1:10 - 2:25



Message from the Principal

We successfully facilitated the electronic version of the OSSLT on Thursday this week for almost 350 Grade 11 and Grade 12 non-graduating students. Our school community came together to support the students and ensure that every student had an optimal opportunity to demonstrate their best learning and be successful on this graduation requirement. We look forward to receiving the results in the new year. The implementation of this test was a significant undertaking and learning for our staff. I am proud of everyone for their dedication and commitment to our students ensuring that this experience was positive. A special thank you to Mr. Brar and Ms King for all of their planning and support to everyone (students, staff and families) and to our EA team and student volunteers for distributing and charging the 149 YRDSB Chromebooks we borrowed throughout the building the night before the test.

Not many families get into the office these days with COVID protocols in place, but if you did have the chance to drop by you would see the efforts of a school community that has come together to support our music department. Over the past week, staff, students and community members have created an amazing array of 'wish baskets' to put on display in preparation for the upcoming virtual concert. I am extremely proud of the school community for coming together to support a need in our school that will allow us to dedicate more of our operational budget to other needs across the school. A special thank you goes out to all the department teams across the building that collaborated to create something special to contribute to this inaugural fundraiser. In the coming days you can expect to receive information about our themed 'wish' baskets and how you can contribute towards a 'wish' come true!!

By now, everyone should have heard that we will be returning to a 'regular' 4 period day on December 6. This was promised by the board in the spring when they designed the modified quadmester structure that we would return as quickly as possible to a 'regular' schedule once permitted by the Ministry and York Region Public Health. Although many will celebrate the move, some have found the longer periods to focus on hands-on courses to be beneficial. Regardless, we are getting used to being in a constant state of change and have gotten really good as a school community at adapting. Thank you once again for everyone's patience and support as our teachers shed their newest set of plans in favour of plan C for this semester. It is a welcome change but understandably will take further adjustment by all.

Electronic distribution of report cards has begun across the system. All students should receive notification in their GAPPs account by the end of November. If your child still has not received anything by December 1, please reach out to the main office for assistance.

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

Grad Photos Are Starting on Monday!

Graduation photo sessions are scheduled to begin on November 29 to December 3, 2021. Please check your gapps account for your time and date of your scheduled appointment. Please follow instructions in the email, confirm with lifetouch and pay your seating fee.

School Photos Were Completed last Thursday and Friday.

If you wish to Order School Pictures?

1. Visit mylifetouch.ca

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

2. Enter your Picture Day ID **QB401080Q0**

3. Order your perfect package and don't worry about returning anything to the school. All orders placed will be shipped directly to your home.

Special Community Shoutout

This week's OSSLT staff and students would like to thank two local businesses who graciously donated our drinks and snacks to support our students to nourish them during the test. A big thank you to Treasure Mills for our delicious cookies and Joe and Val's No Frills for the refreshments for our students. (It truly does take a village to raise a child) Thank you, thank you.

Message From Our Trustee

The December edition of the [Trustee Newsletter](#) is now available on our Website > News & Events > Newsletters.

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.

COVID Self-Screening

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

OCAS and OUAC vouchers

In order to limit barriers to entry to post-secondary, the Guidance Department has acquired a very limited number of vouchers available to cover the cost of the base application fee to OUAC and OCAS. In order to qualify students must have financial need, and have not completed their application already. Please book an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible to discuss.

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](#).

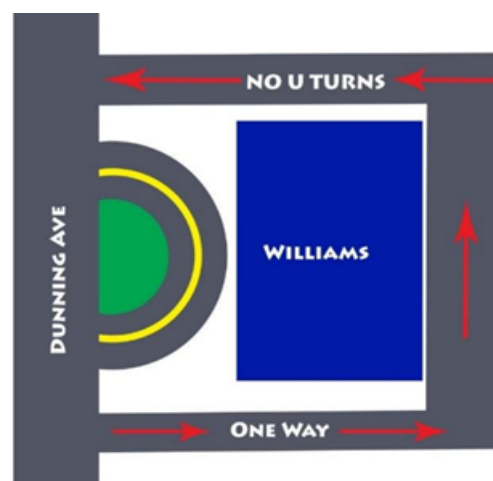
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

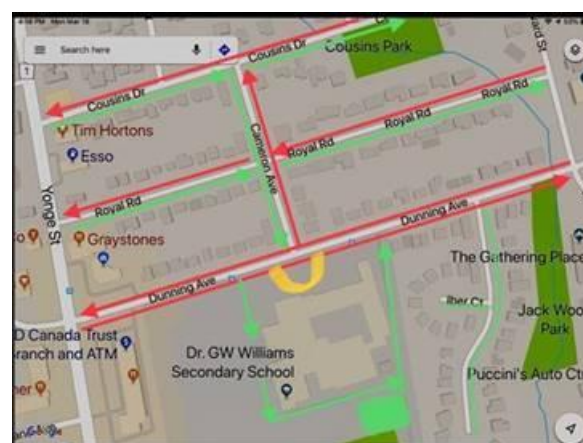
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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



Daily Schedule-as of Dec 6	
Period 1	8:20-9:40
Period 3	9:45-11:00
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