



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 8 – November 12, 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.

## Contact Us

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

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Nov. 8</b>  | Sr. Boys Soccer Playoff Game 2:30pm at Richmond Green SS                      |
| <b>Nov. 9</b>  |   |
| <b>Nov. 10</b> |   |
| <b>Nov. 11</b> | <b>Remembrance Day (Presentation 10:30-10:55)</b><br><b>Semester 1 Term 2</b> |
| <b>Nov. 12</b> |   |

### Upcoming:

### WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Nov. 15</b> | <b>PA Day - No Classes (Moved from Nov 19)</b><br><b>Leadership Team Meeting (2:40-4:00 pm)</b><br><b>School Council (7:00-8:30 pm)</b> |
| <b>Nov. 16</b> |   |
| <b>Nov. 17</b> | <b>Waterloo Math Contests (CSIMC)</b>   |
| <b>Nov. 18</b> | <b>Photo Day</b><br><b>IB Application Process (6:00-7:00 pm)</b>  |
| <b>Nov. 19</b> | <b>Photo Day</b>  |

## Message from the Principal

It was great to have so many parents sign up for Teacher Interviews on Wednesday evening. We really appreciate the opportunity to connect with parents as our partners in your child's education. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have more questions or did not get to connect with teachers that evening. The mid-term report cards will be coming out in a few weeks with the next formal communication of progress for students.

This week our new school newspaper "Words by Wildcats" published their first edition. The journalists that are part of this editorial team have worked hard to research, write and edit meaningful stories for our school community and have learned a lot along the way. Congratulations to Joey T. and the team of student writers and editors supported by Ms. King for putting this together and getting it published. Issues when published will be available on our school website under the News & Events tab.

We are excited to be holding our Awards Week next week to honour student contributions to the school and to unveil our new Honour Roll wall. We will no longer be printing honour roll certificates but will be featuring each grade's honour roll students on our new wall. Starting this year, the honour roll will be updated at the end of each semester for all grades.

As our fall sports season begins to wrap up, we want to thank our many coaches that have contributed to our teams this season. Without these dedicated professionals giving of their time and expertise we would not have the opportunities for our students to excel on the field. Thank you to Katrina Morrison, Eirwen Tsui, Muriel Brennan, Jacqui Palm, Melissa Kauffeldt, Kevin Julyan, Mike Seymour, Stephanie Williams, Katie Goodman, Katheryne Hoffschmidt, Katrina Morrison and Anthony Buono.

This weekend we want to wish Connor Hickling all the best as he competes in the OFSAA Cross Country Championships tomorrow in Lakefield, Ontario. On Monday we also wish our Senior Boys Soccer team well as they take on Richmond Green SS in the semi-finals. Go Wildcats!! Our Williams Athletic Council is currently making plans to recognize our boys soccer through a final match on our home field with the Junior and Senior teams (and coaches) playing one another. More details will follow but students will be able to 'buy-in' to this event to support our players by donating to the food bank.

This week has been an important week of reflection and learning while we recognized Holocaust Education Week and Treaty Recognition Week. Thank you to our Equity Team for the work they did in developing this information for our students and staff.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Weekly Highlights

### Sr. Boys Soccer

On Wednesday evening your senior boys soccer team a.k.a North Division Champs a.k.a Kings of the NORTH played their quarter final playoff game against a rival champion from the West Division Langstaff Secondary School. Quickly into the contest your wildcats pounced on some loose balls and Shahvir Wahaub found the back of the net not once, but TWICE in succession! It was 2 to 0 going into halftime for your Wildcats, but our boys knew there was still a lot of work to do. Langstaff pressed hard against our impenetrable defensive line, hitting our crossbar a whopping 4 times before finally putting one past our goalie Lucas Gaspari. The final 20 minutes was a nail biter, as our lead almost slipped away. Key word: ALMOST. Your Wildcats held onto the lead like a feline on a ball of yarn! The final score was 2 to 1. Man-of-the-Match goes to our outstanding goalkeeper Lucas Gaspari and his new best friend Mr. Crossbar. It was a terrific, gritty, team performance. The Semi-Final match on Monday awaits us. Clamouring for a post game interview, our reporter was only able to get three words from Coach Morrison who said "Go Wildcats - Meow!"

### Jr. Boys Soccer

On Tuesday evening the junior boys soccer team played in the semi finals. They played against Richmond Green - the top place team in the league. Weather

was questionable with freezing rain to start the game. Your Wildcats played hard, but Richmond Green was the stronger team and took the win to move on to the finals.

Both Ms. Goodman and Ms. Williams thank you for a great season, boys - You really came together as a team and worked hard to make the playoffs. Special thanks to captains Patrick and Tyler for your leadership on and off the field.

Looking forward to next year!

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### **Photo Day**

As previously mentioned, we are thrilled that our school photographer, Lifetouch, is able to come into the building to complete photos of our students this year. Initially, these photos were scheduled for Nov 12 & 15, however, due to the PA Day being moved the **photos will now take place on November 18 & 19**.

### **Graduation Gowns and Caps**

Attention grade 12 students who will be graduating in June 2022. Graduation Gowns and Caps are available for purchase in SchooCash Online until **November 9, 2021**. Graduation photo sessions are scheduled to begin on November 29, 2021. Gowns are needed to have your photo taken. Please let us know if we can assist in any way to ensure that one is ordered to have in place for photos at the end of November.

### **Learning Model Changes**

In September, we shared that we would provide families further information to support switching between in-person and remote learning models prior to mid-semester.

Students learning remotely may request to return to face-to-face learning by contacting the school. Changes will be facilitated within 1-2 days. Transportation may require additional time to initiate.

Requests may also be made to move from in-person learning to remote learning. Please contact the school to request a switch to remote learning. Staff from the school will make arrangements to contact you to review the request and share information about the hybrid learning model.

· Learning model changes for students affected by COVID-19 will be facilitated within 2-3 school days.

· Model change requests will be facilitated as soon as possible and prior to mid-semester reporting.

After mid-semester reporting, students and families may request a short-term COVID-19 related model change or a long-term model change for other circumstances by contacting the school.

Families can continue to access COVID-19 related information from the Board at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening), including [frequently asked questions](#).

### **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.

More details will follow closer to the date.

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### **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](mailto: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 (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 presentation on Monday November 8th. The link to the video will be located on your Guidance Google Classroom.

#### **Specialist High Skills Majors**

- All SHSM students should now have access to the new SHSM classroom. The classroom has important information related to reach ahead opportunities, SHSM events, and self-reporting tools. Please check your GAPPS email for your classroom invite.

### Applying to 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 Guidance 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.

### Community Services

- Changes have been made to the Community Involvement Graduation Requirements. Information on requirements and eligibility can be found on the Guidance Classroom.

### 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](#).

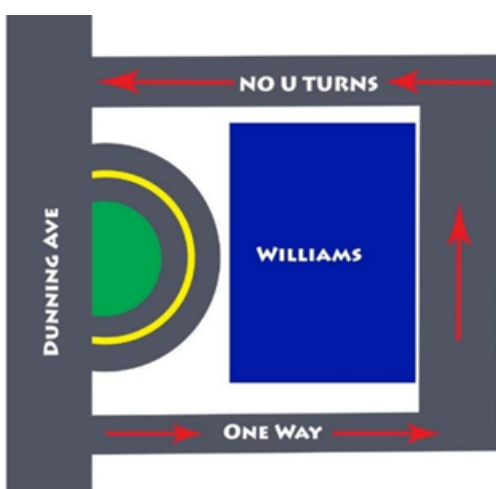
## Safety and Community Notices

### Driveway and Parking Lot

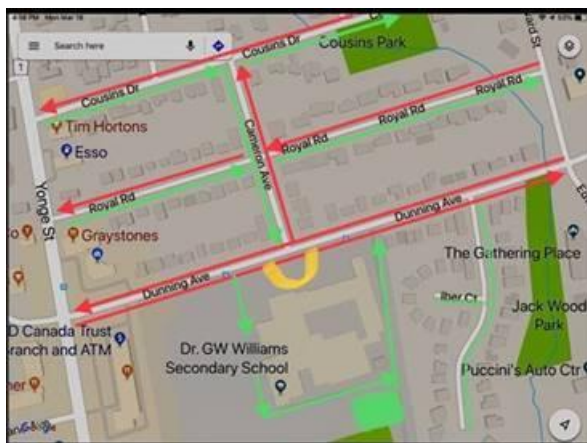
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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

- Monday November 15, 2021
- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

**School Council Meetings for 2020-2021**

- Monday November 15, 2021
- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022