



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: October 4 – October 8, 2021

Trait of the Month:

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

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

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Oct. 4</b> | <b>Staff Meeting (2:40-4:00)</b>   |
| <b>Oct. 5</b> | Junior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game, 3pm @Williams vs. Maple HS<br>Tennis Tryouts/Practice 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court<br>Senior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game, 4:15pm @Williams vs. Dr. J. M. Denison |
| <b>Oct. 6</b> |  |
| <b>Oct. 7</b> | Tennis Tryouts/Practice 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court<br>Junior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game, 3:30pm @ Williams vs. Toronto District Christian   |
| <b>Oct. 8</b> |  |

### Upcoming:

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

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Oct. 11</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>  |
| <b>Oct. 12</b> | Tennis Tryouts/Practice 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court<br>Junior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game 4pm @ Richmond Green SS         |
| <b>Oct. 13</b> | Senior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game 3:30pm @ Renaissance ESC  |
| <b>Oct. 14</b> | <b>IB Virtual Information Evening, 7pm</b><br>Tennis Tryouts/Practice 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court                     |
| <b>Oct. 15</b> | <b>Asynchronous Learning Day – no classes (Hybrid Professional Learning for Teachers – more information to follow)</b> |

## Message from the Principal

We have had a very busy week at Williams: School Council elections (see below), Safety Week, Terry Fox Run and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Additionally, many of our teams had their first games and some of our clubs are up and running with more getting ready to launch next week.

Our teachers continue to work hard to adapt to the hybrid learning model in support of our students learning remotely. The board has announced that to further support teacher learning on this model we will be holding an Asynchronous Learning Day on October 15<sup>th</sup> to allow all staff to engage in further professional learning specific to hybrid teaching. Details were sent out today from YRDSB to all families.

Our Food for Learning program has begun to be able to provide healthy snacks (granola bars, cheese strings and apples). Unfortunately, we have had a number of situations where apples have been thrown in hallways or outside, stuffed in toilets, smashed in bathrooms and left on stairs. We want to continue to be able to provide these healthy snacks to all so appreciate that all students make good choices and only take what they need.

Please enjoy what looks like a beautiful weather weekend! We look forward to seeing the students back on Monday.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Notices

### Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the [drgwwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwwilliamsss.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 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.

### School Council

We had our first school council meeting on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>. It was great to have so many parents join us and express interest in supporting our school community. I would encourage everyone to take in our next meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to congratulate and welcome our newest School Council Executive.

- Chair - Kathy Duncan
- Vice Chair - Jodie Montagnese
- Secretary - Alison Moonsie-Mohan
- Treasurer - Murlidharan Sadanandam
- Grade 9 Parent Representative - Amy Gao

During this meeting we also took the opportunity to thank Corry Patterson-Goncalves for her many years of serving the Williams School Community. I had the pleasure of working with Corry since my arrival in 2020 and greatly appreciated the dedication she has to the school and students. She will be missed now that her children have graduated.

### School Start-Up Forms

Parents/guardians received an email from YRDSB Update with important school start-up forms to complete. It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year as they contain important information and permissions.

The forms can be found at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>.

A link to the forms can also be found on the Family Resources page of the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources](http://www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources). Click on the [Need Help link](#) beside Family Startup Forms for additional information on how to log in to the Student GAPS account to complete the forms.

Secondary school students can complete the secondary school student form at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/students>. They will also receive the link in their student GAPS account. Elementary school students **do not** need to complete these student forms.

Please note:

- You **must be signed in to your child's student GAPS account** to complete the form. Please remember to sign out of one account before signing into another. Additional information is available on the Board website on [how to login to the student account to complete the forms](#).
- The forms should be completed for each student, whether they are attending school in person or participating in remote, online learning.
- If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact the school office.
- Parents/guardians must complete a separate form for each child attending school. Please ensure you log out of one student account before logging into another. You will not be able to submit the form twice logged into the same student account.

### **COVID Self-Screening (updated September 23)**

On a daily basis, parents/guardians of students under 18 and students over 18 are responsible to review and adhere to the **COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool** (please click on Check for Symptoms Daily), **prior to entering the school daily**. Effective September 27, students will be independently be responsible for verifying their screening each day (the Google form will no longer be used).

**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.

### **Emergency Medical Information**

It is important that parents\guardians let the school know and complete the appropriate forms for any health support services required for their child. Health support services available for students include emergency services and essential routine health services such as:

- Administration of medication
- Responses to Anaphylactic reaction
- Asthma management
- Diabetes management
- Epilepsy (seizure disorder) management
- Concussion management
- Care for medically fragile students

Forms have been sent home for all information we have on file. If you did not receive forms and your child requires support for any of the medical concerns please contact the office right away so that we can ensure we have the information to support your child's safety while at school.

### **Extra-Curriculars**

Our clubs and activities are up and running. We will continue to update our clubs list on the [student tab of our website](#) as new clubs are added. Students should listen to daily announcements for start-up meetings.

### **Daily Announcements**

Beginning on Monday, our announcements will be posted to our 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**

There will be an Accelerated OYAP - Open House Information Night on Wednesday October 27th, 2021 starting at 7:00pm to register please visit [https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/yrdsbacceleratedoyap/home\\_1](https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/yrdsbacceleratedoyap/home_1)

Interested in learning about the Specialist High Skills Major streams offered at Williams? Visit your guidance counsellor for more info!

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### **Parent Engagement Advisory Committee**

The September edition of the PEAC newsletter is available. For more information please click [here](#).

### **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter**

For more information please click [here](#).

### **Indigenous Languages and International Languages**

Secondary registration is open for Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Programs. For more information please click [here](#).

### **Safety and Community Notices**

#### **Town of Aurora No Idling**

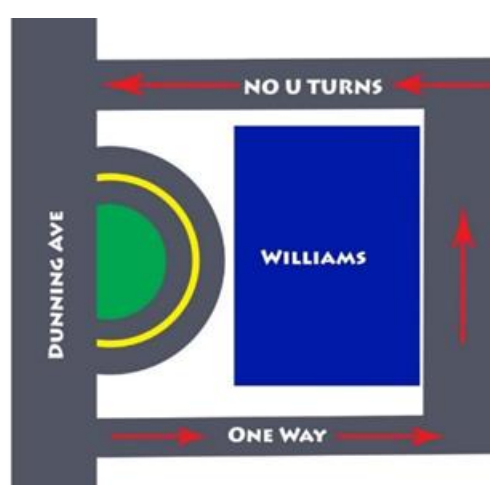
Did you know that the Town of Aurora is now idle-free? The Town of Aurora anti-idling policy states that as a motorist you MUST turn off your vehicle after 5 consecutive minutes of idling, unless in traffic. You can do other things to support the environment in the community by turning off your vehicle anytime you are stopped for more than 30 seconds. This will help Aurora's goal to reduce 80% of greenhouse gases by 2050. Please also consider car-pooling your students to school. Many vehicles are picking up one single student. Work together to do our part Williams's community!!

## Driveway and Parking Lot

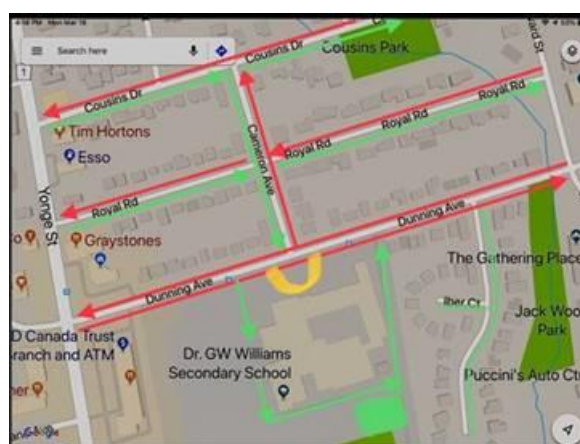
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses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



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

- Thanksgiving Day - Monday, October 11, 2021
- 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 November 19, 2021
- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

## School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- Monday October 18, 2021
- Monday November 15, 2021
- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022

