



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: October 25 – October 29, 2021

Trait of the Month: Inclusivity

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

<b>Oct. 25</b>	Junior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game 3:00 pm @ Williams vs St. Augustine Senior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game 4:15 pm @ Williams vs. Renaissance
<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>All Interim Reports Electronically Distributed by this date</b> <b>Edsby Bookings for Teacher Interviews open at 9am</b> Girls Field Hockey Practice 2:40 pm
<b>Oct. 27</b>	<b>Accelerated OYAP - <a href="#">Open House Information night</a> 7:00 pm</b> Girl's Field Hockey Game 4:30 pm @Williams vs JM Denison
<b>Oct. 28</b>	Senior Boys Soccer Game 3:30 pm @ JM Denison
<b>Oct. 29</b>	<b>Wear Your Halloween Costume - please refer to the section below for guidelines.</b>

### Upcoming:

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

<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Holocaust Education Week (Nov. 1-5)</b>
<b>Nov. 2</b>	
<b>Nov. 3</b>	<b>Parent Teacher Interviews, 6:30-8:30 pm (Virtually)</b> <b>Take Your Kid to Work Day</b>
<b>Nov. 4</b>	<b>Diamond Day - Diwali</b>
<b>Nov. 5</b>	

## Message from the Principal

Students should be receiving a link to their interim report cards through their GAPPs account in the coming days. All reports are sent centrally and should be received by October 26. If your child has not received the email by then please have them drop into or call the main office on October 27th. Parent teacher interviews have been moved to November 3rd. All interviews will be held virtually, via Zoom, and booked through Edsby. Families that do not have Edsby accounts received invites this week and should be sure to activate their account. Bookings will open to parents on November 26th at 9am.

It is hard to believe that Halloween is almost upon us. We encourage students to participate in Halloween by choosing costumes respectful of others. Symbols or objects representative of a person's culture or religious beliefs, should not be worn as another person's costume, nor should costumes that caricature social identities through stereotyping.

Take care,  
Melissa Schmidt

## Weekly Highlights

### Girls Field Hockey

The girls field hockey team lost a hard fought battle to Denison last week. The team played very well defensively and scored a beautiful goal from a shot corner. Way to go Wildcats!

### Sr. Boys Soccer

On Monday, our senior boys soccer team continued their undefeated run as they tamed the Cougars of Keswick! The Wildcats drew first blood with a goal by Shavir Wahab early in the contest. But Keswick rallied back before the half. Call it coach's intuition if you will, but a second half positional change saw our captain and left full back James Iamundo move up the field to striker! The chances were mounting and the momentum began to swing back into our favour, as finally, James finished on an excellent through ball. It was a narrow 2 to 1 win, but an important win nonetheless. All players played well considering the field conditions and the questionable refereeing. When asked about the win in the post-match interview, Coach Morrison said "call it ugly, call it scrappy, the best team won today and we'll take it". Next home game is Monday, October 25 vs Renaissance School @ 4:15pm. Come out and cheer your Wildcats on as they continue their road to the championship.

### Cross Country

Yesterday our cross country runners worked hard through wind and rain to battle the course at the Boyd Conservation Area. Almost all our runners improved their running and achieved personal best times. A special congratulations to Connor Hickling who will be representing Dr. G. W. Williams and the York Region Athletic Association (YRAA) as the Senior Boys qualifying champions. Way to go everyone!

## Halloween

Hallowe'en brings memories of dress-up parades, costume competitions, and classroom parties for some members of our community and carries a very different meaning for others. It is important for us to recognize that not all families celebrate and participate in Hallowe'en. The reasons for not participating may include cultural beliefs, faith, socioeconomic status, and personal reasons.

Please ensure to follow these guidelines:

- Students must always remain in cohorts. Mixing of cohorts during activities is not permitted.

- Students who are required to wear PPE face masks (Gr. 1 - 12) must continue to do so.
- Students may bring their own snacks; or individually wrapped snacks may be given out within the cohort.
- If food is consumed, all students must be seated when removing masks (e.g., same as lunch protocols).
- Students will not be able to use washrooms to change into costumes.
- No Halloween masks are to be worn and students should only use single use make-up (no sharing of make-up).
- To limit personal items being brought to school, costumes should be of simple design.
- No replica weapons of any kind are allowed.
- Costume parades must be held outside (weather permitting)

### **School Photos**

Good news!! We have been given permission to have our photographers back in the building. We know that our students have been anxiously awaiting their student cards and are pleased to announce that on November 12 and 15th. More details will follow closer to the date.

### **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**

Attention Grade 12's applying to University and/or College!

- Post-Secondary schools have begun offering virtual tours and open houses. Information and links can be found on the Grade 12 Google Classroom.
- University applicants require a PIN number to apply. These PINs have been shared with all Grade 12's via their GAPPs email. 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. Please see the "How to Apply" section in the Guidance Google Classroom for more information on the application process.

There will be an Accelerated OYAP - Open House Information Night on Wednesday October 27th, 2021 starting at 7:00pm to register please click [here](#).

### **Literacy Update**

On Wednesday, grade 11 students took part in a virtual assembly for basic information and practice for the literacy test. Students were added to the literacy google classroom where extra support and resources are available. If a grade 11 or non-graduating grade 12 student was not added to this classroom they can add themselves using the google classroom join code, g24zizz. If your student missed this assembly they can find a recording of it on the google classroom.

After the information session, students were asked to complete a practice OSSLT test. I encourage you to talk to your student about how they feel they did on the test. I will be working to mark all of the practice tests next week and will be contacting students who were not successful.

The practice test is still available for students to complete. The link for the practice test and the form for them to report to me how they did on the test are available on the classroom. Please note that their scores will not be saved or sent to me if they don't complete this form.

If your student is concerned about the test and this graduation requirement, I encourage them to take advantage of the after school literacy program. There is still an opportunity to join the class that starts next week for grade 11 and

non-graduating grade 12 students. These classes will help prepare students for each section of the test. If you are interested in participating in this program, please complete [the registration form](#). This form was also shared with students on their grade google classroom.

Your task this week to practice for the OSSLT is to establish an opinion! Talk with your students about what their opinion is on if the school day should start and end later. After they have established a clear opinion, have students write two paragraphs supporting their answer that includes specific arguments and specific supporting details.

### **Sankofa Mentoring Program - University and College Information Night**

Inviting students, parents and friends to a virtual University and College information night. Do you have questions on how to successfully navigate the University and College application process? Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Light the Night**

Hey Williams Community! This week is our LAST week to fundraise for Light the Night. Our team “Sarah’s Stars” is fundraising money for blood cancer research with the Leukaemia Lymphoma Society of Canada and we need your help! If you wish to support our fundraiser please click the link below to make a donation towards our team. Together we can make a difference in honour of Sarah and those affected by blood cancer in Canada.  
[https://secure.l1scanada.org/site/Donation2?idb=274407989&df\\_id=1600&FR\\_ID=1141&mfc\\_pref=T&PROXY\\_ID=2788&PROXY\\_TYPE=22&1600.donation=form1](https://secure.l1scanada.org/site/Donation2?idb=274407989&df_id=1600&FR_ID=1141&mfc_pref=T&PROXY_ID=2788&PROXY_TYPE=22&1600.donation=form1)

### **Islamic Heritage Month 2021: Heritage and Healing**

This year, the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students (AEMS) Islamic Heritage Month is dedicated to creating space for students to come together in community. We recognize the healing that exists in our heritages that value community, togetherness, solidarity, beauty, and creativity. This year’s October events will provide students, families, and staff with opportunities to engage in activities and learning opportunities that celebrate this heritage, and will serve as an entry-point for inclusion and affirmation of Muslim identities throughout the year. Please see this [flyer](#) with more information.

### **Rise Brothers Mentorship Program for Black Male Students**

Rise Brothers is committed to supporting Black male **secondary students** and to ensure that they meet all requirements for secondary school graduation through school contacts, participating schools will be asked to recommend Black male students who would benefit from:

- Mentorship support
- Leadership development
- Strategies to enhance well-being
- Support in areas of academic planning and future pathways
- Connecting with other Black male students

The goal of the Rise Brothers program is to develop, support, encourage, and foster individual and community excellence. We look forward to working with the strong, talented Black youth who attend our schools!

Please take a look at our promotional [video](#), which outlines the program’s vision and goals.

Ms. Brennan, our Student Success teacher is accepting all referrals for this program to support students accessing this great opportunity. Please reach out to her via email [Muriel.brennan@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Muriel.brennan@yrdsb.ca), call her at the school extension 255 or have your child drop by the Student Success office at the top of the front main staircase to see her.

### **Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS)**

AEBS invites you to their 2021-2022 Launch: Affirming Black Identities on Monday, October 25, 2021 (online) from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. For more information please click [here](#).

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of York**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBSY) is offering free virtual group mentoring programs designed to empower youth while keeping them connected to their peers. Please see the [link](#) for information about each program and to register your child.

### **Grade 7-12 Holocaust Education Presentation**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8:15pm please join our virtual Holocaust Testimony’s. See links below for details.

- Carrying on the Legacy, Sharing Dori Ekstein’s Mother’s Testimony. Please see the [link](#) for registration.
- The Weight of Freedom, in conversation with Holocaust survivor Nate Leipziger. Please see the [link](#) for registration.

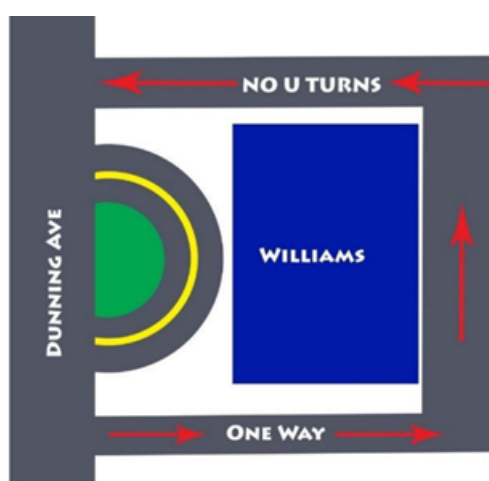
## **Safety and Community Notices**

### **Driveway and Parking Lot**

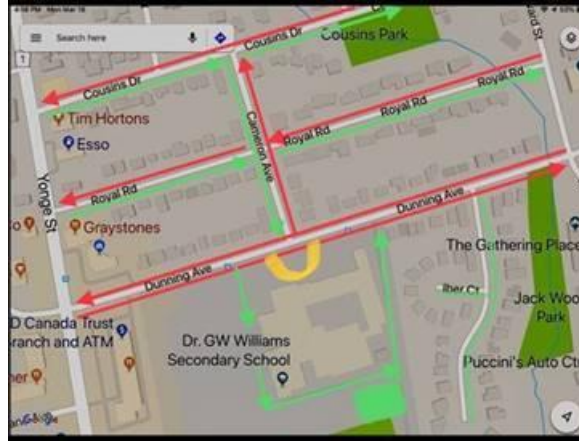
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses 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 November 19, 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