



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: September 13-17, 2021

Trait of the Month: **Courage**

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/>

Social Media: @drgwwilliams ([Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#))

WEEK ONE SCHEDULE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM

Sept. 13	
Sept. 14	Grade 9 Parent Meeting – 7pm, Virtual (email will link will be send to Grade 9 Parents on Monday) Grade 9 Music Parent Meeting – 8pm, Virtual (immediately following the Parent Meeting)
Sept. 15	Caring & Safe Schools Grade Assemblies
Sept. 16	
Sept. 17	

Upcoming:

WEEK TWO – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM

Sept. 20	Federal Election – School Council meeting postponed and will be held on Monday September 27 due to Election
Sept. 21	
Sept. 22	
Sept. 23	
Sept. 24	

Message from the Principal

We are so excited to hear voices in the hallway and have students back in the building!! Although it has been a very short week, it has been busy for everyone learning the new timetable structure, practicing the self-screening process and managing the lunch hour. We are grateful for the beautiful weather that allows everyone to get outside during the lunch for fresh air (and a mask break).

Our teachers and support staff have been phenomenally professional as we pivot once again to now hybrid learning. We know there will be a few bumps in the road as we work out the kinks and appreciate all our remote learner's flexibility as our teachers practice with their technology and balance how to address both their face to face and remote learners.

We look forward to meeting many of our Grade 9 parents next Tuesday evening at 7pm for our Virtual Grade 9 Parent Meeting. Our Head of Music, Scott Harrison will also be meeting with Grade 9 Music parents immediately following our general meeting.

We need the cooperation of our entire school community to support safety at the end of the day. Please read the information below carefully to support safe arrivals and dismissals. We are going to need to close off our bus loop to all traffic in the morning if congestion does not improve as this morning we had buses that could not drop students off prior to the bell.

Our Guidance department is working very hard to get to all of the many requests that came in while we were closed for the long weekend and extended board holiday. Please be patient as our counsellors get to everyone.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Notices

COVID Self-Screening

Secondary students will have to provide confirmation of a successful screening as follows:

- After reading and answering the questions in the [York Region Public Health screening tool](#), secondary students (or parents/guardians of students who may not be able to complete the form independently) must complete the [Secondary School Confirmation Form](#). Upon completion of the form confirming successful screening, students will receive an email in their GAPPs email. For students who may not be able to complete the self-assessment process independently, parents/guardians are asked to complete it.
- After receiving this email, students can then attend their school and will have to show the email response in one of the following ways to school staff:
 - Show email on phone (showing the email or a photo of the email)
 - Hard copy printout of the email
 - If neither option is available, students can provide verbal response confirming completion.

Guidance

The Guidance Department wishes to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work our way through all the course change requests. We continue to encourage students to reach out to their Guidance Counsellor using our google form. To access the form please use the QR code located outside of Guidance Office or by visiting <https://bit.ly/GWGApt21>

Night School

A remote learning model will replace in-person Night School this fall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Classes will occur online using a synchronous model.
- Classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30p.m. to 9:45p.m.
- October 5, 2021 to February 3, 2022

If you are hoping to take a night school course, you must register through your My Pathway Planner account.

Contact Us

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Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

Cafeteria

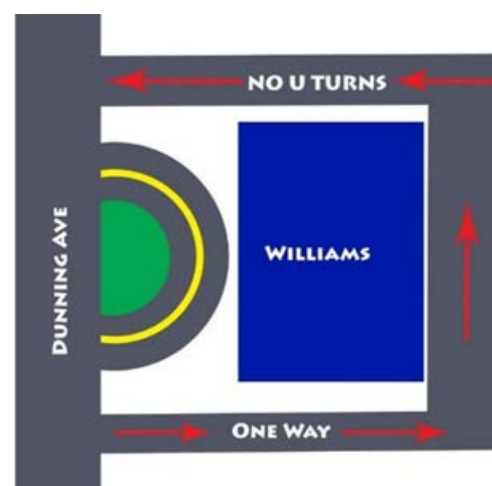
- No food service available in the cafeteria - those remaining in the school to eat during the lunch break will be required to bring their own food for lunch.
- Cafeteria is divided into quadrants by grade to support easy contact tracing. There is also an expectation that students need to be mindful each day where and with whom they eat lunch.
 - Orange - Gr 9 - first 2 rows + round tables by stage
 - Blue - Gr. 10 - second 2 rows
 - Pink - Gr. 11 - third 2 rows
 - Green - Gr. 12 - last row + wall
- There will be a maximum number per table (Large tables-6, Round tables-4) posted on each table to avoid overcrowding.
 - When all seats are full, the supervising teacher will put up a sign: "Capacity Reached" at the entrance of the cafeteria.
 - If additional students are waiting to use the lunchroom once capacity has been reached a time limit of 20 minutes will be implemented to support access for all students.
- The library is also open during lunch this year and students may eat their lunch in there.

Driveway and Parking Lot

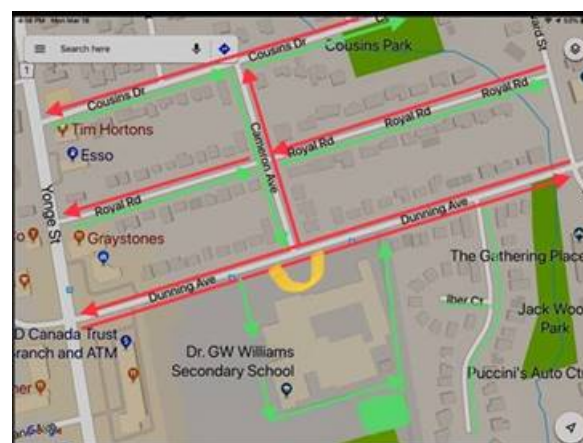
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave 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, January 3, 2022 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 September 27, 2021
- Monday October 18, 2021
- Monday November 15, 2021
- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022