



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: September 20-24, 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://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

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

WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM

Sept. 20	Federal Election – School Council meeting postponed and will be held on Monday September 27 due to Election Student Vote Student Council Nomination forms due
Sept. 21	
Sept. 22	
Sept. 23	Student Information Verification forms due to Period 1 teacher
Sept. 24	

Upcoming: Safety Week

WEEK ONE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM

Sept. 27	School Council, 7pm (see Zoom link)
Sept. 28	
Sept. 29	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
Oct. 1	

Message from the Principal

We have had a busy 7 days back in the building and although we have lots of safety protocols in place for COVID-19 we can really see how we are getting back to some sense of 'normal'. It is so great to have students in the building and to start to see activities happening.

Thank you for everyone's support as we work through our newest learning model changes. The teachers and students have been navigating it together and although it hasn't been easy sometimes they are working through the challenges.

This week the admin team was delighted to meet with 160 families on Tuesday evening for our Virtual Grade 9 Parent Meeting. We were overwhelmed with the interest in the Grade 9 program and look forward to getting to know all of our new parents over the next four years. Please mark September 27th on your calendars and consider joining us for our School Council meeting. The Zoom link and agenda will be provided in next week's Parent Tell.

Thank you also to everyone for your continued efforts to support your children during arrival and dismissal. The efforts everyone is making are paying off and making it safer for all. Just a small reminder to those families that continue to arrive late in the morning, please try to adjust the morning routine get here 5-10 minutes earlier as this is disruptive to the classroom when so many students are arriving late.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Notices

Grade 9 Parent Information Evening 2021

Our grade 9 parent meeting was held on Tuesday September 14, 2021. For a link to the presentation posted to our website please click [here](#). We have also answered all questions submitted by the parents in attendance and posted the responses in this [FAQ](#) on our website.

Athletics

We are excited to be able to offer the following sports for the upcoming fall season: Cross Country Running, Golf (Jr. & Sr. boys), Soccer (Jr. & Sr. boys), Tennis (Co-Ed), and Field Hockey (Girls). Announcements and posters are up in the school.

Extra-Curriculars

This year we are taking a staggered approach to starting while everyone gets used to another new learning model (modified quad schedule and hybrid teaching). Our teachers are looking forward to the opportunity to expand our extra-curricular offerings as well but are still waiting for more information regarding COVID protocols for this year. The students have been eager to start many new clubs and we look forward to supporting them soon. Announcements will be made for all once we are ready for this next step of our re-opening process.

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.

Contact Us

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Attendance:
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(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

Guidance

Please be sure to check your **”Graduating class of...” Guidance Google Classroom** for updates and info from the Guidance Department. If you have not been added to one of the classrooms please stop by the guidance office and we will be happy to add you.

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

College Delivered Dual Credit Program

Registration for Dual Credit is now available. Please speak to your counsellor before registering. For more information please visit the **School Programs Listing page on the YRDSB.ca** website.

Google Classroom\TeachAssist

As partner’s in your child’s education, we encourage parents and guardians to review the Google Classroom and TeachAssist materials with their child periodically to understand the work that is being completed in the classroom and your child’s progress. Parents cannot be provided with their own login to either of these platforms but each student has a login. This is a great opportunity for dialogue with your child and to show your interest in their success. If you have any questions about your child’s progress or material in the course, reach out to the classroom teacher.

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.

Town of Aurora No Idling

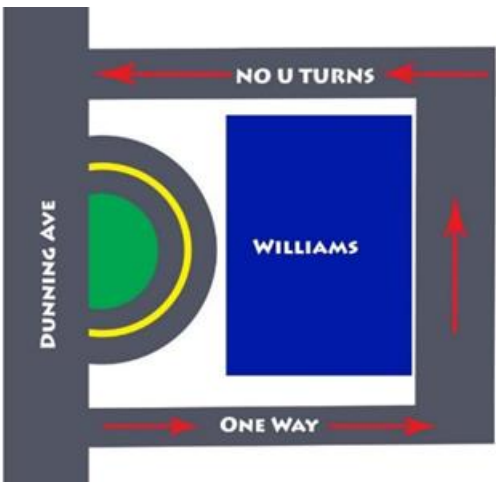
Did you know that the Town of Aurora is now idle-free? The Town of Aurora anti-idling policy states that as a motorist you **MUST** turn off your vehicle after 5 consecutive minutes of idling, unless in traffic. You can do other things to support the environment in the community by turning off your vehicle 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 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.

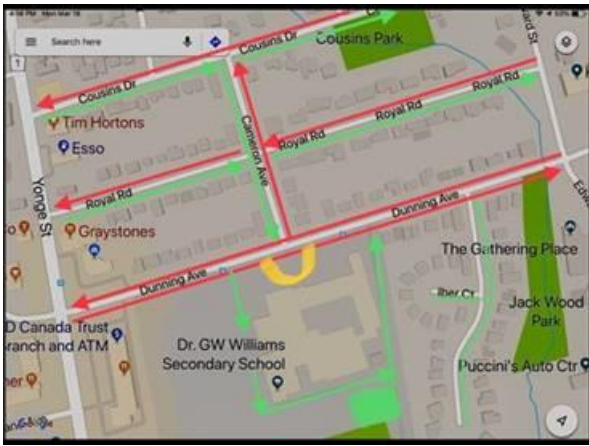


There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.



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 September 27, 2021
- Monday October 18, 2021
- Monday November 15, 2021
- Monday January 17, 2022
- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022