



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: September 27 – October 1, 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.

Contact Us

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS
39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2

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

Extensions:
Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

School Website: <http://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

WEEK ONE SCHEDULE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM **SAFETY WEEK**

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sept. 27 | School Council, 7pm (Agenda with Zoom link) Cross Country Practice @11:10am Golf Tryouts Starting Time 3:30pm @ Bloomington Downs Golf Course |
| Sept. 28 | Tennis Tryouts/Practice Starting time 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court Senior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game, 4pm @Williams vs. Keswick |
| Sept. 29 | Terry Fox Run – wear red Tennis Tryouts/Practice Starting time 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court Junior Golf Tournament @ Spring Lakes Golf Club in Stouffville (Time TBD) |
| Sept. 30 | National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – wear orange Tennis Tryouts/Practice Starting time 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court Senior Golf Tournament @ Spring Lakes Golf Club in Stouffville (Time TBD) |
| Oct. 1 | |

Upcoming:

WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM

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|---------------|--|
| Oct. 4 | |
| Oct. 5 | Tennis Tryouts/Practice Starting time 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court Senior Boys Tier 2 Soccer Game, 4:15pm @Williams vs. Dr. J. M. Denison |
| Oct. 6 | |
| Oct. 7 | Tennis Tryouts/Practice Starting time 3:15pm @ Aurora Tennis Court |
| Oct. 8 | |

Message from the Principal

Now that we have made it through 2 full weeks of classes we can see that everyone is settling into a routine and it is starting to get busy around the school with so many other things taking off. The energy and enthusiasm of the students is contagious and we are so glad to have them back in the building.

Unfortunately, this week we have become victim to some bathroom vandalism which might be attributed to the viral trend on TikTok called ‘[Devious Licks](#)’. I have linked to an article from CTV that comments on events out of the US explaining the phenomenon. Do know that this is happening at most schools across Canada as well. We have had to replace at least 6 soap dispensers in the last week. Please talk about these events with your children and encourage them to make good choices and if they see damage to report it right away so that we can put a stop to the problem. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding as we try to get a handle on this issue in our building.

Next week is Safety Week. Throughout the week we will be practicing our fire, lockdown and hold & secure drills. We hope for good weather for the fire drills. To support physical distancing our drills will be run floor by floor (in a true emergency we would all leave at the same time). We have moved many rally points to the rear field to support physical distancing now that everyone is back in the building.

On Monday night we will be holding our first School Council meeting of the year. As part of that meeting we will be electing new school council members. We look forward to many members of our school community coming out to the meeting to hear about all the great things happening at Williams these days. Please try to take some time to stop by.

There are lots of notices and updates below. Please take a moment to review the entire message below to apprise yourself on many details happening at the school.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Notices

School Council Meeting

Everyone is encouraged to join us for the school council meeting on Monday September 27th at 7pm. The link to our virtual meeting can be found in the [school council agenda](#) on our website. At this first meeting we elect our council for the coming year. If you are interesting in running for a position or nominating someone, please submit the [nomination form](#) by 4:00 pm on Monday September 27th to melissa.schmidt@yrdsb.ca

Terry Fox Run

We are excited to announce that we will once again be hosting our annual Terry Fox Run! We will be running for Terry throughout the entire school day on the 29th of September. For grade nine and ten students, their classes will be going on their run in a fifteen-minute block between the times of 8:20 AM and 10:55 AM. For grade eleven and twelve students, they will be going on their run in a fifteen-minute block between the times of 12:00 PM and 2:25 PM. All students are encouraged to wear red to pay homage to this special event.

If interested in donating to the Terry Fox Foundation, please visit School Cash Online to donate to the exceptional cause.

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. 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.

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). It has been a very quick turnaround for our coaches and students as they worked through tryouts this week and begin games next week. We are very grateful for all of our staff volunteer coaches that have put many hours into making this happen for our student athletes. Based on the overwhelming turnout for the tryouts we know how valued having the sports back is to our students. The coaches have expressed how hard it was to make decisions with so few spots available and so many great athletes coming out.

Extra-Curriculars

This week we have been able to begin our planning for extra-curricular activities. There has been lots of interest expressed amongst staff and students. Students should be listening to the announcements next week as things begin to start up. We hope to also have a full list of clubs and contact information posted to our website later next week.

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

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.

Our counsellors will be visiting Grade 9 homerooms starting on Monday September 27th to introduce ourselves and answer any questions students may have. We are excited to meet all of our new students.

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

Google Classroom\TeachAssist

As partners 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.

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

YRT Routes

The YRT continues to monitor the bus routes servicing Williams and has been making adjustments to better meet the needs of our students and families. We have been asked by a member of our school community to share with Williams families an addition to Route 32 route to better service the Aurora Grove neighbourhood. The Route 32 Southbound to Bathurst now stops at Stone Rd @ Bayview at 7:41 am, and arrives at Stop #5329 at 8:05 am, in front of our school. This information has now been updated on the [YRT website](#) and is linked for your easy access. Thank you to the parent in the Aurora Grove area that gathered and shared this information. The YRT will monitor the usage of this new stop so it is important for it to be used or it may get cut again. **Please direct any questions or concerns regarding buses to the YRT Contact Centre 1-866-668-3978.** From speaking with a number of parents the YRT has been responsive when contacted about transportation needs.

Being a Good Neighbour

Please remind your young people that when out in the neighbourhood to please be respectful of others property and enjoyment. We have had concerns brought forward from the Golf Links community about students gathering in the tunnel of the path on the edge of their property and being rather loud and smoking during the lunch hour. This takes away from the residents in this community enjoying their own space. We have warned students on the announcements that police may be called by the management of this property if inappropriate behaviour is occurring. Please speak with your children about their activities at lunch and remind them to always represent themselves and our school community well.

Town of Aurora No Idling

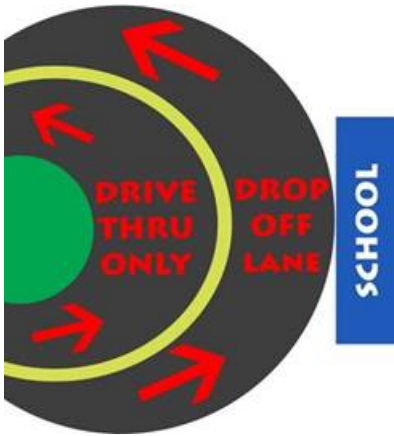
Did you know that the Town of Aurora is now idle-free? The Town of Aurora anti-idling policy states that as a motorist you **MUST** turn off your vehicle after 5 consecutive minutes of idling, unless in traffic. You can do other things to support the environment in the community by turning off your vehicle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

Safe Arrivals

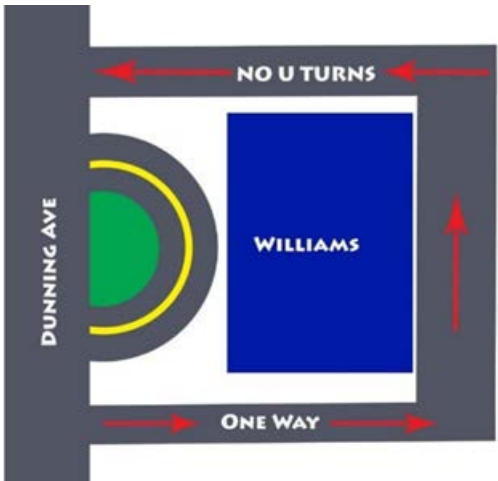
All students should be reminded to wear helmets when they are cycling, skateboarding or scootering to and from school and to watch their surroundings so that they are not moving behind vehicles that are reversing in the parking lot.

Driveway and Parking Lot

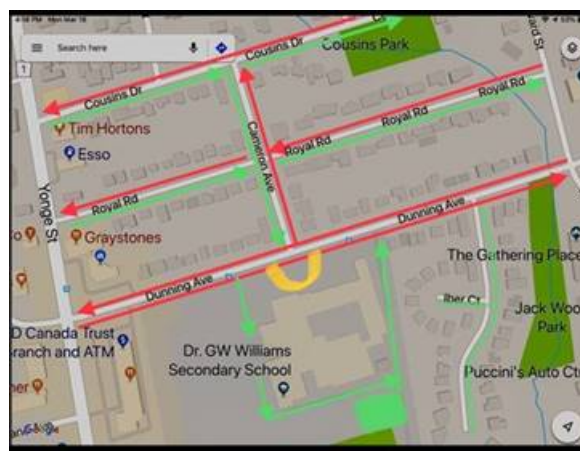
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave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