



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: December 9 – December 13, 2019

Trait of the Month: Empathy

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.

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School Website: <http://drgwwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

The Week at a Glance

Mon, Dec. 9	Jr. & Sr. Boys Basketball to Aurora H.S.
Tue, Dec. 10	
Wed, Dec. 11	Rock Climbing Team to Rock and Chalk Nordic Ski Team to Horseshoe Valley Resort French Grade 11 & 12 Field Trip Rock Climbing Team to Rock and Chalk
Thu, Dec. 12	Special Ed/Community Class to Cardinal Carter C.H.S. Equity Club Richmond Green S.S. Jr. & Sr. Boys Basketball at G.W. Williams Sr. Girls Volleyball Team to Keswick H.S. Nordic Ski Team to Horseshoe Valley Resort
Fri, Dec. 13	

Upcoming:

Dec. 16	Sr. Girls Volleyball Team to Sutton District H.S.
Dec. 17	Jr. & Sr. Boys Basketball Team to Dr. John M Dension S.S.
Dec. 18	Sr. Girls Volleyball Team to St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Nordic Ski Team to Hardwood Ski and Bike
Dec. 19	Rock Climbing Team to Rock and Chalk
Dec. 20	

WINTER BREAK: December 23, 2019 - January 3, 2020

Notices

Severe Weather

In the event of severe weather, the Board has three levels of action:

- Extreme Cold Days when roads are clear, but extreme cold temperatures make it difficult for buses to operate reliably, posing a safety risk to students waiting at bus stops. Student transportation will be cancelled. Schools will otherwise operate as usual.
- Inclement Weather Days when road or weather conditions make it impossible to operate a school bus safely. Student transportation will be cancelled. Schools and workplaces will be open; however, all teachers may not be at school that day.
- Rare Emergency Weather Days (School Closures) when all schools and workplaces will be closed. Decisions about school closures will be made as early as possible, and no later than 6:00 a.m.

Severe weather information is communicated through local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001, the Board's website and Twitter account, and on the Board and school's voicemail recording.

Parents are responsible for using their best judgment to decide whether or not to send their child(ren) to school on days when buses are cancelled and schools remain open.

Bus or School Cancellations

When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** or day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the school day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency winter events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

Parents for Children's Mental Health

The Parents for Children's Mental Health parent support group is holding its next meeting on Monday, December 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The topic is "Homework and Learning Disabilities: How to help, cope and advocate at school".

This parent support group is for parents of children with anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or behavioural challenges.

Upcoming meetings are usually on the third Monday of each month. Meetings are at the new Aurora Kinark Office, 218 Earl Stewart Drive, Unit 7, in Aurora (one block south of St. John's Sideroad, and one block west of Bayview).

Vaping

As you are likely aware, smoking and vaping are not allowed in school, on school property, during school activities, on school buses, or within 20 metres of school grounds. They also affect one's health.

Guidance News

YRDSB Night School E-learning Registration - Winter 2020

Registration starts December 3, 2019 to February 25, 2020. Prior to registration, students need to check with their Guidance Counsellor for permission. Course will run from February 19, 2020 to June 10, 2020. For full details and courses offered, visit [YRDSB Night School e-learning](#).

Student Working Towards a Diploma (OSSD)

Student Community Involvement Hours - **All students require 40 hours of volunteer involvement**

- To verify total hours:
- login to myPathwayPlanner: [myPathwayPlanner](#)

Contact Us

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Extensions:	
Reception	0
Attendance	1
Guidance	3
Staff Directory	4

- select High School Plan page
- Scroll to the bottom of the page, total hours are listed under Additional Requirements.

Reminder: Important Post-Secondary Application Dates

- January 15, 2020 - University Application Deadline
 - [Ontario University Application Centre - ouac.on.ca](http://ouac.on.ca)
- February 1, 2020 - College Application Deadline for Equal Consideration
 - [Ontario Colleges Applications - ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca)
- These sites have videos, FAQ and information to help with program selection

Visit these websites to learn more about post-secondary pathways:

- YRDSB Post-Secondary Planning: [YRDSB Post Secondary Destinations](#)
Apprenticeships: www.earnwhileyoulearn.ca
- Ontario Colleges: www.ontariocolleges.ca
- Ontario Universities: www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca
- Canadian Universities: [Canadian Universities](#)
- My Gap Year: www.mygapyear.ca
- Education & Career Planning: [my Pathway Planner/ myBlueprint](#)

Message from Our Trustee, Bob McRoberts, Trustee for Aurora and King

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

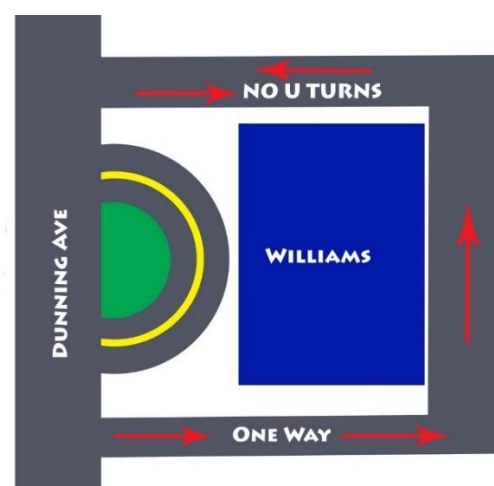
Driveway and Parking Lot

The safety of all students must be everyone's first priority. Please follow the procedures below.

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.



At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:40 to 3:15. 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 3:15, regular traffic may use this area.



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. 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. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

School Calendar for 2019-2020

The Ministry of Education has approved the school calendar for 2019-2020. For Williams, some important dates and holidays are:

- Winter Vacation – Monday, December 23, 2019 to Friday, January 3, 2020
- Family Day – Monday, February 17, 2020
- March Break – Monday, March 16, 2020 to Friday, March 20, 2020
- Good Friday – Friday, April 10, 2020
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 13, 2020
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 18, 2020

PA Days for Williams (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- Friday, January 31, 2020
- Friday, May 1, 2020
- Thursday, June 25, 2020
- Friday, June 26, 2020

Exam Schedule for Semester 1

Please be aware of these important dates, indicated below. Parents and students are reminded to not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, work, etc. during examination times. **In the event that one of the exam days is declared an inclement weather day by the Board (i.e. school buses are cancelled), the exams regularly scheduled for that day will be held on Thursday, January 30.*

January 2020 Exam Schedule At-A-Glance				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 1)	21 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 2)	22	23 Exam Week Period 1 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.	24 Exam Week Period 2 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.
27 Exam Week Period 3 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.	28 Exam Week Period 4 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.	29 Performance-Based / Practical Exams	30 Exam Feedback Day 8:20 – 11:20 a.m. *see schedule, below	31 P.A. Day

Exam Feedback Day Thursday, January 30, 2020	
Exam feedback for Period 1 classes	8:20 – 9:05
Exam feedback for Period 2 classes	9:10 – 9:50
Exam feedback for Period 3 classes	9:55 – 10:35
Exam feedback for Period 4 classes	10:40 – 11:20
Consultation with teachers by appointment	12:00 – 3:00

Exam Schedule for Semester 2

Please be aware of these important dates, indicated below. Parents and students are reminded to not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, work, etc. during examination times. EQAO Math Assessment: June 12 and 15.

June 2020 Schedule At-A-Glance				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				12 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 1)
15 Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment (Day 2)	16	17 Exam Week Period 1 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.	18 Exam Week Period 2 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.	19 Exam Week Period 3 Exams (all grades) begin at 9:00 a.m.
22 Exam Week Period 4 Exams (all grades) Begin at 9:00 a.m.	23 Performance Tasks/ Practice Exams (all grades) By Appointment	24 Exam Feedback Day (Modified Schedule) *see schedule, below	25 P.A. Day Graduation, 6:30	26 P.A. Day

Exam Feedback Day Wednesday, June 24, 2020	
Exam feedback for Period 1 classes	8:20 – 9:05
Exam feedback for Period 2 classes	9:10 – 9:50
Exam feedback for Period 3 classes	9:55 – 10:35
Exam feedback for Period 4 classes	10:40 – 11:20
Consultation with teachers by appointment	12:00 – 3:00