



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: February 24 – February 28, 2020

Trait of the Month: Initiative

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.

Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

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

The Week at a Glance

Feb. 24	Photo Day / Grad. Photo Retake day Badminton Tryouts in the Gym at lunch
Feb. 25	Math Contest in Period 1 in the Cafeteria Badminton Tryouts in the Gym at lunch
Feb. 26	Pink Shirt Day Annual Dodgeball Tournament in Gym
Feb. 27	
Feb. 28	Badminton Tryouts in the Gym at lunch

Upcoming:

Mar. 2	
Mar. 3	Jr. Girls Volleyball Team to Newmarket H.S.
Mar. 4	
Mar. 5	Jr. Girls Volleyball Team to Dr. John M Dension S.S. Jr. & Sr. MID to Awake Conference
Mar. 6	

Message from the Principal

It has been a short but busy week once again at Williams. Our Guidance department has been busy assisting students to make good choices for their courses for the 2020-2021 school year. Thank you to all students that have completed their course selections for next year. Please ensure that all signed paper copies are returned by Monday (they were due today). If your student has not completed this task yet, you have the weekend to finish. The system will not allow any other entries after that. Our staffing and timetabling for next year are dependent on the choices students make now. Please contact Guidance if you have any questions.

This coming week we encourage all Williams community members to wear pink on Wednesday for the globally recognized Pink Shirt Day in support of anti-bullying, upstanding behavior and simple acts of kindness. Please encourage your student to wear pink on Wednesday (and maybe choose to wear pink yourself) as well as practice kindness to show that we do not tolerate bullying.

Melissa Schmidt

Notices

Music Notes—Ontario Band Association Band Festival

On February 13th, the Williams bands performed at the Ontario Band Association Provincial Band Festival. The Grade 9 Concert Band and the Senior Wind Ensemble both performed to large audiences of students and teachers from schools around the province.

Thank you to Mr. Bowles, Mr. McClure, Ms. Richards, Ms. Yong, and Ms. Shillum for chaperoning, and of course to Ms. Nyafadi and Mr. White for being out last minute parent volunteers!

The results of the festival are as follows:

Grade 9 Concert Band: 2 Gold Awards, Overall Outstanding Performance Award, Invitation to MusicFest Nationals
Senior Wind Ensemble: 1 Gold Award, 1 Silver Award, Brass Excellence Award, Invitation to MusicFest Nationals



OBA CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL
MARKHAM ONTARIO 2020

Voting for Student Trustees Open!

From Friday, February 21, 2020 to Wednesday, February 26, 2020 students in Grades 5 through to Grade 11 will have an opportunity to cast their vote to select their [Student Trustees](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be able to vote for two of the four student trustee candidates. Information about the candidates, process and timelines is available on the Student Trustee website.

Information about the Student Trustee Election Process and voting instructions will be emailed to all students directly through their GAPPS account on Thursday, February 13, 2020 and Friday February 21, 2020.

Maple's Closet

Maple High School is proud to be hosting the 14th annual Maple's Closet Diva and GQ Balls events in the spring of 2020. Maple's Closet has helped provide graduation attire to over 650 grade 8 and 12 students. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Maple High School. Donations (dresses, suits, and accessories) would be appreciated by Wednesday, March 25th, 2020.

Items in need of donations are gently used formal wear and accessories for the event:

- Prom / Graduation dresses	- Suits (Boys and Men)	- Toiletries (combs, soap, brushes, etc.)
- Purses / Clutches / Jewelry	- Dress pants / Shirts / Ties / Belts / - Men's Socks	Make-Up bags / Nail Polish
- Shoes (Men and Women)		

If you know of someone who would benefit from accessing this resource to meet their prom needs, please contact Mr. McQuade or Ms. Conlon in the Main Office so that we can prepare a referral prior to the March Break. The deadline for us to submit referrals is March 13, 2020.

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

Guidance Reminders

MyPathPlanner - electronic submissions DUE BY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21st

- Sign-Off Sheets may be brought to GUIDANCE

How to Select Courses for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Login to MyPathwayPlanner: [My Pathway Planner](#)

- Select "High School"
- Populate your High School Plan by clicking the + symbol to choose courses for the 2020/2021 school year.
- In addition, please be sure to indicate your choices for the next school year and any summer school intentions that you may have.
- Then "Review" your course selections and print the "Course Selection Sign-Off Sheet"
- Submit the Sign-Off form to the Guidance Office by **February 21, 2020**.

Taking Summer School?

- Click on "Course Resources" and fill out the Summer School Google Form

Graduating in June 2020?

- Complete a "Not-Returning Form" on My Pathway Planner
- Print "Sign-Off" form
- Sign and return Sign-Off Sheet to GUIDANCE by Friday **February 21, 2020**

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.

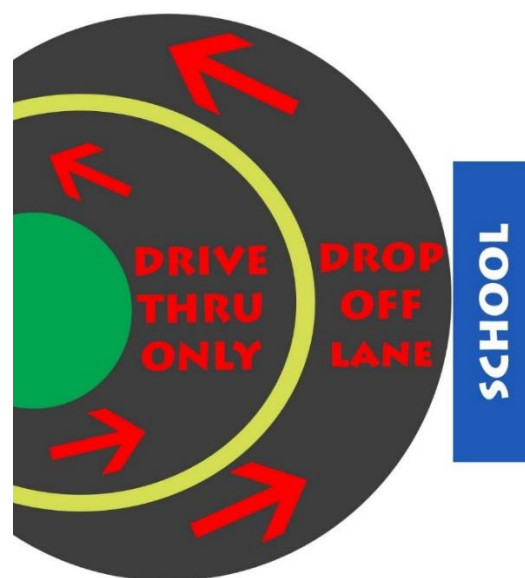
Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

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.

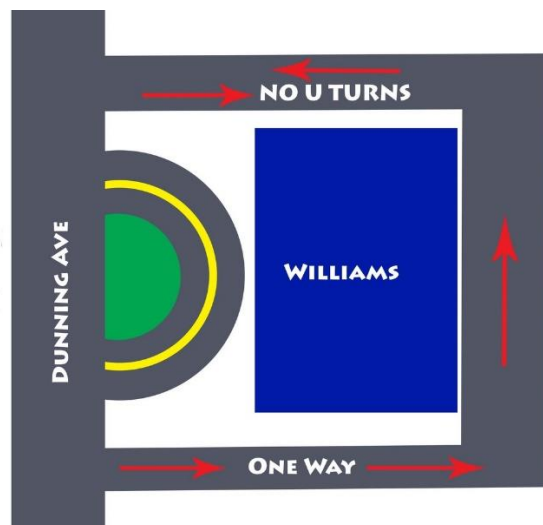
Driveway and Parking Lot

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:

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

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	