

ADMINISTRATORS' MESSAGE

In February, many of our David Suzuki P.S. students represented the school and made us proud! From Band to Basketball, our students demonstrated their skills and character by persevering and doing their best at various competitions. Way to go Sharks!

Our first term report cards were sent home in the middle of February and we trust that you had an opportunity to discuss with your child his/her progress, strengths, and areas for growth. Learning is a collaborative process that we are all committed to, so conversations between parents, students, and school staff are very important to best ensure each and every child learns and achieves! Although no specific dates were set aside for formal parent-teacher meetings related to the report card, please remember that we are always welcome and encourage you to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss and clarify details about his/her progress.

We are now beginning to undertake the task of organizing for our next school year. If you are planning on moving out of the David Suzuki area please let the office know as we are now tracking student numbers for staffing. We continue to accept Kindergarten registrations, so if you or a neighbour have not yet registered a child born in 2013, please do so as soon as possible.

Students and parents often ask, "What are staff doing during PA Days?". As educators, we are lifelong learners and continue to engage in new learning during the PA Days. We are always learning about new research and how students learn best. We then take this new learning and try to compliment the knowledge we already have as we work to improve our ever evolving instructional strategies. During our last PA Day our focus was on teaching Math!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. We would like to wish everyone a very safe and relaxing March Break with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cowley, Marlene Fogel

(Principal) (Vice Principal)

Principal
Jennifer Cowley

Vice-Principal
Marlene Fogel

Administrative Assistant
Helen Olidis

Secretaries
Meharaj Aklak
Sunitha Krishnan

Superintendent
Peter Tse

Trustee
Juanita Nathan



Character Matters—Fairness

February’s focus was on **Fairness**. “We are sensitive to the needs of each individual. We treat each other as we wish to be treated ourselves. We interact with others without stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination. We stand up for human rights.”

Congratulations to our winners:



Mrs. Hudspith/Mrs.Prasth	OFTJSA	Kavya V, Jaden M, Varsha V.
Ms. Agnihotri/ Ms. Elmi	OFTJSB	Teesha P, Morais F.
Ms. Orr/ Ms. Abreu	OFTJSC	Keshav K, Arvin S.
Ms. Halliday/Ms. Donnan	OFTJSD	Ashalina B, Ahmed H, Dinoja S.
Ms. Eng/ Ms. Wang	OFTJSE	Aarukshi K, Aathiri T, Pranavi K.
Ms. Llewellyn/Ms. Khalil	OFTJSF	Arathana M, Anjana A. Ashni R.
Mrs. Neate/Ms. Selvaratnam	OFTJSG	Neerat D, Akkasayan S.
Mrs. Gertsakis	GR1	Aline L, Aleyna S, Melissa H.
Mrs. McMichael	GR1	Thurshyan T, Zainab A.
Mrs. Kennedy	GR1	Aijaey K, Anushka S.
Mrs. Veiga	GR1/2	Sarah M, Athish T.
Mrs. Barovier	GR2	Anthony D, Dhanya V.
Mrs. Cooper	GR2	Archana S, Aarav K.
Mr. Binner	GR2	Inaya L, Shabishagini K.
Mrs. Kilgour	GR3	Logan C, Ethan C.
Mrs. Clements	GR3	Saad K, Ethan H.
Ms. Hall	GR3	Trinity B, Shaila B.
Ms. Nedelkovski	GR3	Vinoj V, Thibika M.

The Character Trait for March “Initiative”

We act without being prompted by others. We are eager to do what needs to be done without having to be told to do it. We take the first step towards the achievement of a goal.

David Suzuki Is A Great Place To Be Because Character Counts!

Character Matters - 4A's



Each term, after progress reports have been distributed students are recognized for their outstanding achievements. Each teacher selects a deserving student in each of the following categories: Athletics, Arts, Attitude, and Academics. The Homeroom teachers collaborate with the rotary teachers to select these students. The awards are presented to our deserving students at the 4As assembly. Congratulations to those individuals who earned awards!

TEACHER	Athletics	Arts	Academics	Attitude	Most improved
Prasoulis	Anoj Archana	Ashwin Akschaya	Matthew Arya	Zainab Anojan	Mika Anu
Hwee	Prathesh Kaitlyn	Dhruvi Riya	Shiroth Edmund	Pooja Shiv	Alyssa Nathan
Clarke	Khaleel Itisha	Joythi Snehi	Devanshi Ansh	Dalya Ashley	Meera Thamera
Shum	Mihir	Maya	Anjali	Sameer Ashmi	Rashad
Elsner	Tina Issa	Ananthikaa Likhitha	Tina	Issa Ali	Vernujen
Carter	Peter Zayan	Tvisha Ajay	Dhariya Salman	Zoha Thevakini	Rima
Benson	Vaishika Justin	Harshitha Rachi	Mathusha Taniya	Taniya Aaravee	Sachin Viramdev
Kermally	Ayushi Mathavan	Sayen Mariam	Navid Nivetha	Serena Jashan	Junaid Abina
Duffus	Fatima	Sayisa	Saryu Gawtham	Simran Poojitha	Sivaharan Prem
D' Alessandro	Justin Jessica	Hubab Aameeya Anjali Daanish	Alyssa Pavan Harnir	Veer Justin MeKavi Kalen	Liviya
Wilson	Branavan Sonya S.	Sahana Sonya S. Katherine Shawnzay	Imran Shaima Shreya	Shiyami Imran Shaima	Salman
Scott	Tyler Kevin	Anoushka Kelia B. Anjali Stacey	Diane Anjali	Tyler Aishani Nicole	Muqadis Prachi
Bansal	Bilal Achchuthan	Faseeha Gaurija Mindy Tuhen	Ugbat Janki	Mahesa Emma	Yuvraj Alissa
Lowrie	Hasna Karanveer	Kate Ivy Kelly	Thardchi	Nilany Lakish Nesha	Selena Farwa



SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

The Junior and Senior Concert Bands at the OBA Festival

On Wednesday February 15th, the Junior and Senior Concert Bands arrived at David Suzuki bright and early at 6:00am, ready to travel to the Ontario Band Association (OBA) Concert Band Festival. This is the first year that David Suzuki P.S. has performed in the OBA Festival.

For the Junior Band, comprised of Grade 6 musicians, this was their first time performing in front of an audience. They performed 2 pieces: *First Light* by David Shaffer, and *Squonk Blues* by Canadian composer Robert Buckley. Adjudicating the performances were Alain Cazes, Professor of Music at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, and Dr. James Smart, Director of Bands at the University of Montana. The Junior Band played very well, and received a standing of Silver Plus.

The Senior Concert Band, comprised of grade 7 and 8 musicians, performed 3 pieces: *Confidence* by Larry Clark, Of *Gentle Spirit* by William Owens, and *Crusade* by Canadian composer Vince Gassi. The Senior Band played exceptionally well, and received a standing of Silver from the adjudicators. The Senior Band also received the OBA Festival's "Rising Star" award, given to a group that gave an especially musical performance.

In addition to the band's awards, Miss Puskar received the OBA's "Excellence in Band Development" award, given to a conductor in recognition of their outstanding work, dedication and musical growth that they have accomplished with their students.

Overall, the musicians at David Suzuki had an exciting and rewarding morning at the OBA festival, and their months of hard work definitely paid off. A special thank-you to Ms. Simmons and Ms. Steele for giving up their time (and sleep) to come to the Festival. Congratulations Suzuki Musicians!



MORE SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!



On Friday, February 24th, our intermediate Girls' basketball team played in the East Area championship tournament. The Lady Sharks had a successful season, winning twenty three games and losing only two. At the Area Tournament, our girls won all five of the games they played, including the championship game against the same team who beat them in the final game a year ago. This championship is the result of three years of hard work and determination to improve by our girls, who are often complimented by other players and coaches for their sportsmanship and positive attitudes. The Regional tournament is on March 6th. It won't be easy, but win or lose, our girls are still champions – on and off the court!



David Suzuki School Council News

All parents are invited to attend monthly meetings without having to be officially on Council.

Next meeting

Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

Fundraising activities:

Our popcorn distribution and sales will take place on March 8, March 22, and March 29.

Thank you for supporting our popcorn sales and using **School Cash Online** to purchase popcorn.

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS:

Fun Fair: Sunshine or Rain

Please save the date- May 18 or May 25 (RAIN DATE)

Next Council Meeting: Monday April 3, 2017



Thank you to all our parents for volunteering their valuable time to support our students and the school and attending these meetings!

School Cash Online



School Cash Online allows parents to pay for extracurricular items, field trips, food sales and/or special events using their electronic devices that have Wi-Fi access.

The benefits of **School Cash Online** are numerous.

- it is available 24/7 which is an advantage if you forgot to give your child money/cheque for an activity
- it is a secure form of payment and reduces the number of people handling cash/cheques (child, teacher, office staff), making it more efficient for both the parent and the school to keep track of payments.

When an item/event has been created in **School Cash Online** you will receive an email alert. Email reminders are sent once a week regarding unpurchased items.

To register for **School Cash Online** click on the link below and follow the step by step instructions.

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

We hope that our whole school community will embrace **School Cash Online**. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

MILK PROGRAM

Our next Milk program will be up and running from (April 10 to June 23, 2017). We will be accepting payment through **School Cash Online**, Cheque or Cash.

Please be sure to promptly return all forms and if payment is by cheque ensure that your child's name is printed on the cheque.



Equity Corner

York Region District School Board is committed to supporting schools to become more equitable and inclusive in order to ensure student achievement and well being. "Equity and inclusive education aims to understand, identify, address, and eliminate the biases, barriers, and power dynamics that limit students' prospects for learning, growing, and fully contributing to society. Barriers may be related to gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnic origin, religion, socio-economic background, physical or mental ability, or other factors. It is now recognized that several factors may intersect to create additional barriers for some students. These barriers and biases, whether overt or subtle, intentional or unintentional, need to be identified and addressed."(Equity & Inclusive Education In Ontario Schools). As a school, we are committed to developing resilient students who are engaged in their learning and who feel a sense of belonging. We look forward to continue working with our students and families who enrich our school in order to make David Suzuki an equitable and inclusive place for all members of our community. For more information on Equity & Inclusive Education in Ontario schools please refer to:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.html>

Curriculum Corner



Tips For Reading Comprehension

- Go back and reread.
- Read ahead to clarify meaning.
- Identify what it is you don't understand: a word, a sentence or a concept/big idea
- If it is a word read beyond it and see if the meaning is clarified or think about the text and infer what the word may be about
- If it is a sentence in a picture book, look at the pictures
- Keep sticky notes with you as you read, write down any questions that come to your mind as you read, write down any connections that you make

~Adapted From 7 Keys To Comprehension~



March Math Tips...

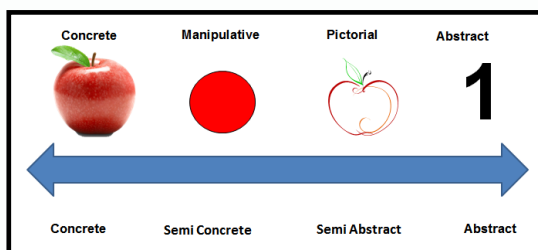
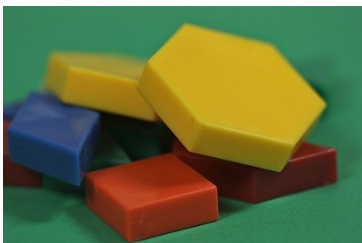
Selecting Tools and Computational Strategies is one of the Mathematical Processes Expectations outlined in the Ontario Math Curriculum Document. Also outlined in the document is the following:

Students should be encouraged to select and use concrete learning tools to make models of mathematical ideas. Students need to understand that making their own models is a powerful means of building understanding and explaining their thinking to others. Using manipulatives to construct representations helps students to:

- see patterns and relationships;
- make connections between the concrete and the abstract;
- test, revise, and confirm their reasoning;
- remember how they solved a problem;
- communicate their reasoning to others

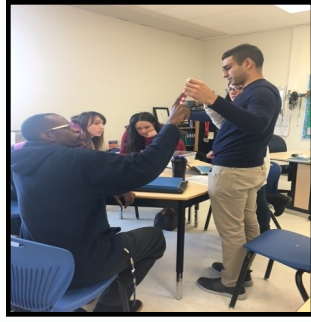
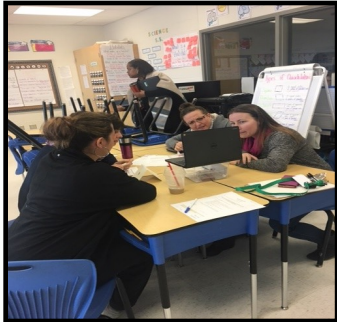
www.mathies.ca is site designed for students and parents with various virtual learning tools (manipulatives). This site can be accessed for free and students can use tools similar to those used in a classroom when completing homework tasks and/or reviewing concepts. In addition to the tools are also games and parent support information.

We encourage you to explore this site with your kids.



PA DAY AT DAVID SUZUKI : February 3, 2017

While our students had a day away from the school, our staff were exploring new ways to approach the math curriculum using manipulatives and inquiry based learning. Together, they were able to see math problems from the perspective of the student and the struggles they may face when solving math problems. It was a productive day and we want to thank Mrs. Arumugam and Mrs. Scott for their very informative, interactive presentation that promoted reflective thinking about our own teaching.



York Region District School Board School Climate

Survey for Students

Students in Grades 5 to 12 at the York Region District School Board will be invited to participate in a survey between **March 20 and April 28, 2017**. **The survey is voluntary, anonymous and confidential**, and will take place at school.

The YRDSB survey fulfills the Ontario Ministry of Education's requirement for schools to conduct student surveys and is aligned with the YRDSB's Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being. Survey questions will address topics related to Math, Modern Learning, Mental Health and Well-Being, Equity, and School Safety.

This survey provides an opportunity to hear directly from students and the results will be used to identify student needs and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. If you have questions, please contact the school office. If you do not wish your child(ren) to participate in the survey, please contact the school by March 10, 2017.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour takes place at 8:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, March 25, 2017 when six continents, 120 countries, and 24 time zones will be united as a global community. Our voices will be heard by having each individual turning off the lights with so many others around the world. This symbolic hour has grown into the world's largest grassroots movement for global change. "From changing individual behavior, to legislation, Earth Hour has achieved massive environmental impact - but as climate change accelerates, our response needs to grow too." You can make a difference each day, for example, by turning off lights and computers when not in use and by not idling your car as you drop your child off at school.

Earth Hour shows how great things can be achieved when people come together for a common cause. Please join us by turning off the lights on Saturday, March 25 between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.



What can you do?

On Saturday, March 25 at 8:30 all you need to do is turn off your lights for one hour. It is also a great time to turn off any electronic devices such as computers, televisions and radios. Use this time to play board games or to tell stories. We will also choose a time during the school day to turn off our lights to show support for Earth hour and our planet.




Please turn off your lights!

Environmental Corner



Did You Know?

- Orange peels take 2 years to decompose
- Paper napkins take 1 year to decompose
- Wool socks take 4 years to decompose
- Newspapers take 5 years to decompose
- Tin cans take 50 years to decompose
- Aluminum cans takes 500 years to decompose
- Plastic bags take 1000 years to decompose

Garbage	Recycle	Compost
		
Plastic wrappers	Juice Boxes	Left Over Foods
Plastic straws	Tin Foil	Soiled Tissues
Old markers	All Paper	Soiled Paper Plates
Styrofoam	Aluminum cans	Soiled paper towel
Kool-aid Jammer juice pouch	Some plastic containers	Microwave popcorn bags

Pink Shirt Day at Suzuki!



On Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017 our school celebrated Pink Shirt Day/ Anti-bullying Day in recognition of accepting differences, promoting anti-bullying and most of all, learning to respect each other.

For myself, the planning of the day was truly a wonderful experience and it led to truly wonderful results! It was a delight to see everyone wearing pink and how by just putting on a colour, so much support and love can be acknowledged. SLAS (Student Leaders At Suzuki). A team of intermediates that set high goals for our school wide community and work their very best to make our school an even better and positive place to be. From the very beginning we wanted to make every event special in its own way. So when we thought about Pink Shirt Day, we came up with a spectacular idea! We started off by writing 900 sticky notes with positive messages on them. On the very day, Wednesday all members of SLAS who were involved came to school early at 8:15 and we put up the sticky notes on all lockers and cubbies and basically everywhere where people could see them! Next, we got window writing markers (shout out to Ms.Cooper!) and wrote more colourful positive messages all over the mirrors and windows. Our school was very bright and vibrant, full of colours on that day and following the week, the messages stayed up there!



This now yearly tradition celebrated around Canada was first started in 2008 by two teen age boys in Nova Scotia, Travis Price and David Shepherd took a stand against homophobic bullying after a new year 10 boy was bullied and harassed for wearing pink. This was truly an inspiring story that taught us to never let people decide who we are.

Overall, the event went smoothly and was very successful in terms of student recognition about the purpose of Pink Shirt Day. This is just one example of how we are aware that there are endless possibilities when promoting different issues facing our society.

We would like to show great appreciation for, and say thank you to, all the students who participated and the parents for the ongoing support that they show towards their children. We would also in say the same in regard of the teachers that helped us, supervised us and encouraged us to make things possible, we couldn't possibly have done it without you! Written by: Faseeha. F in 8 Bansal

INTERNET SAFETY NEWS

ROBLOX: AN INTERNET GAME OF CONCERN

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection wants to make parents aware of concerns in a popular gaming environment called Roblox. It is a user-generated gaming environment where children are encouraged to create adventures using their avatar, play games and connect with friends in this multiplayer environment that claims to have over 44 million active users.

The Canadian Centre's **Cybertip.ca** program (you can sign up for **Cybertip.ca** alerts) has received a number of reports concerning Roblox and its chat content. Parents should be on the alert with any app or site that offers direct messaging chat features.

Through the chat feature, children can easily be exposed to inappropriate conversations or redirected to inappropriate content on other sites. Before your child starts playing a particular game, explore it yourself first. See if there is an interactive (chat) component in the game. Is this an optional feature that can be turned off? Are there other optional features that can be turned off or on to improve safety? Does the game allow for a way to report inappropriate activity? Does an online search of the app or game find media articles that involve child safety-related concerns?

We highly recommend parents teach their children to:

- ⇒ Check with you before using new apps/games or sharing any information online. At this age, online interactions should always be supervised by a parent or safe adult.
- ⇒ Not respond or click on messages or links from someone they don't know.
- ⇒ Tell you if they come across something or someone while playing an online game that makes them feel uncomfortable and that they can tell you without fear of getting in trouble.
- ⇒ Ask your permission before ever accepting a request from another gamer to move over to a video chatting site or other chat platform.

Thank A Caretaker Week

March 6th – 10th

Everyday, as we move through our school, we easily forget the thoughtful people behind the scenes who keep this building clean and working the way we need it to. This week, we will be making a point of showing our outstanding Caretaking Team the appreciation they deserve. But, let's try to remember to be mindful to show them our appreciation every single day of the school year!



Valentine's Day at David Suzuki

During the month of February, David Suzuki's Student Council had worked hard to spread the Valentine's Day spirit throughout our school. One of the main highlights of their work was the first ever Valentine's Day Photo Booth that was held for all students and staff. Everyone at Suzuki had the opportunity to take fun, creative and memorable pictures with their peers. The pictures were then projected throughout the school. On February 14th we held our a Dance/Funzone day to promote friendship, kindness and positivity. At the dance, students and staff got to dance their hearts out to some of their favourite songs. In the FunZone students engaged in multiple activities including board games, puzzles and technology. Special shout out goes to Miss Llewellyn for putting together the photo booth, Mrs. LaMarca for organizing the FunZone/Dance, Mr. Lowrie for being our awesome DJ and Mrs. Cooper for putting together everything else.



INSIDE DAVID SUZUKI

RECESS TIME FUN IN THE SNOW

The students always enjoy outdoor fun and activities. They create their own games, build snow structures and forts, all the while working together as a team. As a group, they assign different roles to those involved, create rules and monitor each other's behaviours to ensure a safe fun time for all. Issues, at times, do get sorted out. We are proud of those students who find a way to solve their differences in a respectful manner themselves or with the assistance of their teachers and school staff.



TRUSTEE GREETINGS

With spring approaching and the hours of daylight increasing, now is a good time to enjoy the outdoors and our natural environment. Did you know that our Board has five [outdoor education centres](#), and students have opportunities to visit them and other outdoor learning spaces throughout their schooling? This is part of our commitment to giving students an opportunity to learn in and about the natural world. This learning supports students in gaining a deeper appreciation for nature and the importance of environmental sustainability.

“Modelling continuous environmental sustainability” is one of the goals outlined in our [Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Plan](#). We believe that we all have a role to play in reducing waste and protecting our environment. Our students, staff members and families continue to show leadership when it comes to supporting student learning and initiatives to reduce our ecological footprint. Spending time outside as a family also provides a great opportunity to support and enhance your child’s learning outside of school. Whether visiting a park or museum, reading with your child in your home language or asking questions about their day at school - know that there are many ways you can support their education and that you are making a difference.

I hope you all have a happy and safe March Break and enjoy the warmer weather ahead.



Safety First!

We have approximately 800 students at our school and safety is very important to us. Due to our large population we have many routines in place so that we can manage the safety of students. **One of the routines that we have is that each grade has an assigned door at which students are to arrive at in the morning and from which they are dismissed from in the afternoon.** The flow of student traffic is part of the consideration for this safety measure. When parents tell their children to leave from different doors, it compromises the safety of the children. Please help us to ensure the safety of all of our students by supporting the routines we have established.



As another safety reminder, cars are not permitted in the bus loop, and parking is prohibited in the Kiss ‘n Ride. This is a drop-off area only. Blocking the flow of traffic becomes dangerous and frustrating. We have seen families run between cars, anticipating where to cross. The safe place to cross to get to the parking lot is at the designated cross walk in front of the school doors. Safety is everyone’s responsibility!

Lost and Found

We have a number of items in our lost and found boxes that are looking for homes. If your child is missing something, please check the lost & found boxes (located on each floor of the school). We will be taking out all the items from lost & found boxes before March Break and will be putting it on tables to make finding things easy. Any unclaimed items will be sent to a local charity.



Thank you.



Mark your calendar!!

March 6	Girls Regional Basketball Tournament
March 6	School Council Meeting @6:30 pm
March 8, 22, 29	Popcorn Days
March 13 – 17	March Break
March 10	Request not to participate in the student survey are due
March 20-28	School Climate survey