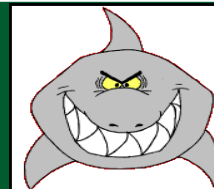


David Suzuki Public
School
45 Riverwalk Drive
Markham, L6B 0L9
905-209-0435

SUZUKI SOURCE



Volume 5 - December 2016 Holiday Special

davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Principal's Message

Best Wishes for the Holidays!

As we approach the end of the 2016 calendar year, we take time to reflect upon David Suzuki's community successes and its dedication to improving student achievement. The staff has been busy delivering the various curriculum expectations in their classrooms, and meeting as divisions and grade partners to discuss and plan program activities which pertain to their division and grade level. Our staff has also participated in Board-sponsored workshops and courses to support our overall school curriculum focus on the implementation of the FDK (Full Day Kindergarten) revised document and the Growing Success document with respect to the Term 1 Report Card, and the renewed math strategy in all divisions.

Once again, thank you to all parents who attended the parent-teacher conferences. Communication between home and school is an essential element of student success. We appreciate your ongoing involvement in your child's education, the time spent communicating through the agendas and the conversations you have had with staff. We look forward to strengthening our partnership in the upcoming year.

We would also like to thank parents for your ongoing support at home. Helping with homework assignments and discussing your child's school day provides the opportunity for support and positive reinforcement. Furthermore, it provides parents an opportunity to exercise strategies used at school to reinforce key concepts.

The holidays are a terrific opportunity for our students to enjoy the greatness of our Canadian winter. Encourage your children to play outside, skate, toboggan or simply play in the snow. And while indoors, take the time to play board or card games with your children. Games that involve strategic thinking enhance critical thinking skills and provide invaluable family time where you can share in the gifts that each of your children bring to our community every day. As a school community we are indeed blessed with committed and caring individuals.

As the holiday season approaches and 2016 quickly draws to a close, we wish to extend best wishes for the holiday season and for a happy 2017! We are confident that the two week break will prove to be a restful and pleasurable time for families to spend together. We have appreciated the community's support of the school and we extend a special invitation to those who are just a little shy to become active participants and partners in your children's education. See how you can become involved in the life of the school. Whether you come to School Council meetings, participate as a parent volunteer, or come to school open houses and special events — your involvement and presence matters and we value the time, treasures and talents you bring. We look forward to greeting your children upon their return from the holiday on Monday, January 9th, 2017.

Have a happy, safe holiday!

Sincerely,

Terry Weatherill (Principal)

Jennifer Cowley (Vice Principal)



Principal
Terry Weatherill

Vice-Principal
Jennifer Cowley

Administrative Assistant
Helen Olidis

Secretaries
Meharaj Aklak
Sunitha Krishnan

Superintendent
Peter Tse

Trustee
Juanita Nathan



WINTER
BREAK

2017

Happy New Year!



Character Matters—Compassion

December's focus was on **Compassion**. We were pleased to see so many students throughout the school showing kindness, caring, and a willingness to help others. They were showing *compassion*. This is a word for a very positive emotion that has to do with being thoughtful and decent. Giving to a charity takes *compassion*. Volunteering to work with sick people or animals takes *compassion*. It is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. We know this is a characteristic that we hope to see a lot of at David Suzuki!

Congratulations to the following students for being selected for the month of December 2016

Mrs. Hudspith/Mrs.Prasth	OFTJSA	Ciyan S, Kaylean W
Ms. Agnihotri/ Ms. Elmi	OFTJSB	Gurleen H
Ms. Orr/ Ms. Abreu	OFTJSC	Daniyal D, Harini N
Ms. Halliday/Ms. Donnan	OFTJSD	Abbigail S, Sharina S
Ms. Eng/ Ms.Wang	OFTJSE	Nikoletta D, Jason K
Ms. Llewellyn/Ms. Khalil	OFTJSF	Zion M, Pranati K
Mrs. Neate/Ms. Selvaratnam	OFTJSG	Anagha S, Natalie T
Mrs. Gertsakis	GR1	Nathaniel H, Avandhi
Mrs. McMichael	GR1	Hayyan F, Imran M
Mrs. Kennedy	GR1	Joshua V, Vaisnavi T
Mrs. Veiga	GR1/2	Arathi S, Rudra A
Mrs. Barovier	GR2	Sintheya K, Kerol C
Mrs. Cooper	GR2	Tamileanthi S, Joy M
Mr. Binner	GR2	Akshaya S, Anishika J
Mrs. Kilgour	GR3	Barleen R
Mrs. Clements	GR3	Naira K, Joshua P, Harini T
Ms. Hall	GR3	Aruthra J, Sruthi N, Hana F
Ms. Nedelkovski	GR3	Jimi O, Guneet P

The Character Trait for January is

Optimism.

If someone maintains a positive attitude and looks on the brighter side of situations, they're showing optimism. They are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. They hope for the future.

Special Announcement



I'm very pleased to share great news. Our current Vice Principal, Ms. Jennifer Cowley, will be the Interim Principal of David Suzuki Public School effective January 9, 2017. Ms. Marlene Fogel an experienced and retired administrator who has been at our school previously will support the school in the position of Interim Vice Principal.

Goodbye Suzuki

After four memorable months as the Interim Principal, I am leaving David Suzuki Public School. I would like to thank the students, staff, parents and the David Suzuki community for their co-operation, support and enthusiasm, and wish them all the best in the coming years. I look back fondly on Suzuki and my brief time spent here will always be very special to me.

Best wishes always!

Sincerely,

Terry Weatherill

School Improvement Planning for Student Achievement & Well-Being

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



At David Suzuki P.S., we use various sources of data to monitor how we are doing in terms of student achievement and well-being. One of the data sources we've recently taken the opportunity to analyze is the EQAO data from last Spring. A team of teachers looked closely at the data to determine specifically how our students performed related to Literacy, Math and some attitudinal data.

Our students did well in Math in the areas of Data Management, Number Sense and Numeration and Geometry. One of the areas where we recognize a relative weakness is in Measurement. This is true across both Grades 3 and 6. Some ways families can support math learning at home by:

- Including your child in everyday activities with a number of steps.
- Playing games and do puzzles that involve number, geometric and measurement patterns and relationships.
- Solving problems with your child, and talk about the different ways each can be solved.
- Having your child explain why he or she has chosen to solve a problem in a particular way.
- Encouraging your child to see that math is everywhere (e.g. grocery store)!
- Highlighting how we use math all of the time (cooking, pumping gas).
- Encouraging your child to see that all areas of math are related (e.g. number sense & measurement are connected).
- Encouraging a growth mindset around math - we are all mathematicians!
- Letting your child know that you think mathematics is important.

When we look more closely at the students' performance in reading, we notice that one of the areas that persists as a challenge is making connections. This skill requires children to connect and draw on experiences with different texts, in real life and across curriculum areas. Some ways families can support literacy at home are to:

- Engage regularly in conversations that encourage responses beyond yes and no answers.
- Express and share opinions and encourage your child to support his/her ideas by using language of reasoning.
- Respond to texts (books, movies, shows) with your child through evaluative conversations to foster deeper comprehension.

Using the analysis of the EQAO data in conjunction with classroom assessments, we are able to recognize areas of strength and need within our school. As educators, we use this information to inform our School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being. This is the tool we use to help determine areas for professional learning as a staff. Moving forward we will be participating in professional learning in the areas of Math and Literacy.

Kindergarten Registration — January 20th, 2017



Kindergarten registration will commence on **Friday January 20th, at 9:00 am** for the **2017-18** school year. Registration forms are available on [YRDSB's website](#). Children who turn four or five years old during 2017, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for May 2017. For more information please visit the [YRDSB website](#) or contact your school.

Required Documents:

- **Birth Verification of student**, which may include, but not limited to, birth certificate; statement of birth; birth registration; refugee claimant form; permanent resident card; confirmation of permanent residence (not application for); baptismal certificate; passport; citizenship card; First Nation, Métis, Inuit ancestry; record of landing; substitute registration of birth or adoption; or other Ontario government-sanctioned document approved by the superintendent of schools
- **Custody/Adoption** documentation if applicable
- **Proof of Residency of the student** - two documents, **one from each of the categories** below showing the home address;
 - ⇒ **Category A** - notice of tax assessment, current rental/lease agreement, agreement to purchase including proof of purchase provided before the pupil attends the school, or property tax bill,
 - ⇒ **Category B**—utility bill, bank statement or driver's license

Documents for Registration:

[Elementary School Registration Form](#)

Student Council Update



This year Student Council put on a few different initiatives for the David Suzuki community. We partnered with the Salvation Army to raise money for local families in need. We also had a fun filled “12 Days of Holidays”, featuring international holiday music and a school wide Bingo competition. To build on the theme of interconnectedness we were able to build a Suzuki wide quilt that captures what the holidays mean to all staff and students. Student council also went around interviewing students on their favorite holiday moments to create a “digital quilt” in the form of a video. This video montage was premiered at our fun-filled sing-along. We ended the week off, with a holiday themed spirit week, during which everyone was dressed up in their pajamas, crazy hair, winter wear, cultural clothing and ugly/mismatched sweaters. We want to wish everyone a fun, relaxing and safe break.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



School Council Meeting

All parents are invited to attend monthly meetings without having to be officially on Council. Babysitting is provided by grade eight students during the meeting. Please join us!



Next meeting

Monday, January 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

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

On behalf of the School Council we would like to wish you a wonderful, safe and happy holiday season!

Sharon Reid & Naeem Siddiqi, Co-Chairs

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations



Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m. Please visit [YRDSB's website](#) in January 2017 (to find the FI program location for David Suzuki Public School. FI registration will begin January 20, 2017. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2017, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians

then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 20 and February 10, 2017. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the [Board's website](#). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

French Immersion Information Nights will take place at all French Immersion school locations offering a Grade 1 program on January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Grade 1-2 FI program to be offered at [Fred Varley Public School](#) for September 2017 for all registrants. Grade 3-8 FI program will be offered at [Sam Chapman Public School](#).

Arts Unionville Program



The application deadline for a guaranteed audition for the Unionville Arts Program offered at Unionville High School was December 2nd 2016. Applications will continue to be accepted after this date as long as they have space.

Program information and access to the application can be found on the [Arts Unionville website](#).

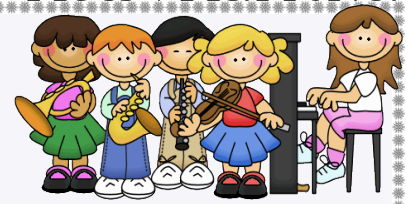
Senior Concert Band at Markham District High School



On December 6th, the members of the Senior Concert Band participated in the Winter Feeder School Festival at Markham District High School. All our students performed well, and received many compliments from the audience, as well as the staff and students at MDHS. Congratulations to all of our musicians under the fine direction of Ms. Puskar.



Kindergarten Holiday Concert



On Wednesday, December 21st, the Kindergarteners held their Holiday Concert! All the Kindergarten students have been practicing hard for the last couple of months to learn songs and/or dances that celebrate the common elements of holidays such as celebrations, lights and spending time with family and friends. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support the hard work of all our students. The Kindergarteners did an amazing job performing their dances and songs for their families and friends at the concert. We are so proud of all of them!

This year, the Kindergarten Team sold tickets and dvds to raise money for the Kindergarten Program. The money raised will go towards purchasing chick/duck hatching kits for each classroom in the Spring. Thank you so much to all our families who purchased tickets to support our school fundraising efforts. If you ordered a DVD, you will receive it within the next couple of weeks!





Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a great success due to the excellent support of our students and their parents. The ballot prize winners were Mustafa in grade 1, Serena & Mariam in grade 6, and Anjali in grade 8. Mrs. Neate won a free book, and Nate in grade 1 and Mrs. Gertsakis were winners of the 50/50 draw. An amazing total of \$1,922.53 was earned as revenue for our library. Thanks to Mrs. Tompkins-London whose hard work, enthusiasm and welcoming approach resulted in an exciting literacy event!



The Past & The Present

On Friday, December 16th, Mrs. Betty Armstrong who was raised on a farm located on the property now housing David Suzuki Public School, spoke to our students at a special assembly. Students from grades 1 to 8 asked some excellent questions. Mrs. Armstrong provided a very interesting and informative look at what life in 'The Grove' was like from the late '40's to the early '70's. To commemorate the event, a photo board reflecting the past and the present will be placed in the front foyer/office area.

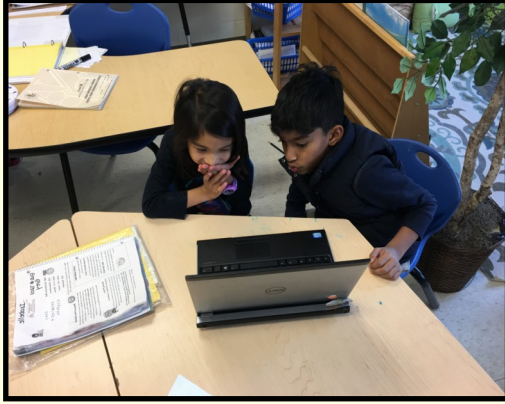


HOUR OF CODE

HOUR OF CODE

During Computer Science Education Week which was December 5th to 9th, students from all over the world participated in The Hour of Code. A number of our classes, **Mr. Bansal, Mrs. Barovier, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Kermally, Ms. Kilgour, Mr. Lowrie, Mrs. LaMarca, Mrs. McMichael, Mrs. Neate, Ms. Nedelkovski, Mrs. Veiga's** also took part in the event. Teachers integrated this activity into their regular instructional planning and instructional tasks. Today's students benefit from understanding basic computer programming skills. The Hour of Code allowed students and teachers to "demystify coding and show that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, creator and an innovator" (code.org). Photos below of coding by

students in **Mrs. Veiga's** class:



JUNIOR WINTER WONDERLAND CONCERT

The Junior Winter Wonderland concert on December 14th was a huge success! The junior classes worked so hard to prepare for the artistic performances and we could not be prouder of the students!

We heard great musical talents from Ms. Prasoulis and Mr. Hwee's Grade 4 recorder ensembles, to Mr. Kermally, Mr. Duffus and Ms. Benson's Grade 6 instrumental bands. Beautiful singing and choral reading was performed by Ms. Carter, Ms. Shum and Ms. Elsner's Grade 5 classes, while dancing and singing from Ms. Prasoulis and Mr. Clarke's Grade 4 classes added a touch of holiday fun!

We finished off the concert with a phenomenal comedic performance by Ms. Benson's Grade 6 class! In addition to the performances, we also saw delightfully crafted artwork on display by Mr. Hwee, Ms. Prasoulis, and all of the Grade 5 classes.

We hope that all of the parents enjoyed the concert as much as the staff did! A sincere thank you goes out to all of the staff and students who worked so hard to make the evening such a big hit.



The Junior Division wishes all of our Suzuki families a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Buddy Bench

A Buddy Bench is a designated place in the school yard for a student to sit to signal to other students that they would like someone to play with. The Buddy Bench serves as a reminder to students to be kind and to reach out to others. The Board supports the use of these designated benches as they promote and encourage inclusivity. Due to the ongoing support and hard work of Ms. Halliday, Ms. Eng and Mr. Lowrie in ordering a Buddy Bench, putting it together, and painting it, we now have one which will be ready for installation in the school yard in the new year.



The Buddy Bench is:

- A very special place that reminds you to be your kindest selves.
- A place to sit and decide what looks interesting to you to play on the playground.
- A place to include people in your play and make new friends.
- A place to say "YES!" to friends who ask you to play.

The Buddy Bench is NOT:

- A place to hang out and play with friends you already have.
- A place where you say "NO!" to a friend who invites you to play.
- A place where being mean or hurtful is OK.
- A place where excluding others is OK.

Perfect Gifts for Your Children

*Give the gift of acceptance. Teach those around you that they are loved for who they are.
Give this gift with a kiss.*

*Give the gift of self-confidence. Help them understand that they must trust themselves, not the opinions of others.
Give this gift with a hug.*

*Give the gift of possibilities. Give them the freedom to be anything they want to be.
Give this gift with a smile.*

*Give them the gift of life without needless fears. Show them that you tackle problems and encourage them to be doers as well.
Give this gift with a laugh.*

*Give them the gift of being a person who has spark and an appreciation for all of life.
Give this gift as they go out the door, for all these gifts will last forever.*

Message from our Trustee

As we near the end of 2016, I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school.

It is wonderful to have opportunities to see not only what our students are learning, but to see how they are learning – collaborating and problem solving, using technology in exciting new ways, and engaged in hands-on activities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff members, students, families and community members across our Board. Thanks to all of the great people we have in our system, we continue to advance student achievement and well-being.

Our Board continues to have a strong commitment to creating welcoming, inclusive learning environments that enable all of our students to thrive. Engaging families in your child's education and the school community is in an important part of creating that environment.

There are resources for families available on our Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/parents, including information on Board programs and supports, and tips for parents to support your child's learning at home and at school.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2017. I hope you are able to enjoy time with family and friends.

Juanita Nathan

416-885-3479

Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.ca



Mark your calendar!!

January is Tamil Heritage Month



Jan 9	Welcome Back-1st day of school for 2017!
Jan 16	School Council 6:30 pm
Jan 20	Kindergarten registration begins at 9 am
Jan 20	P.A. day
Jan 28	Lunar New Year!!
Feb 3	P.A. day

Grade 7 Milne Outdoor Conservation Trip



Throughout the two days of December 5th and 6th, both grade seven classes had the opportunity to visit Milne Outdoor Conservation Center and were able to learn about natural disasters and the effects on a person or place. The students worked together in a culminating task to gain a better understanding of various disasters and how the victims of these devastations are affected. As the day began, Ms. Wilson's class was introduced to the different natural disasters, and steps needed to organizing a community. Medical care, clean water, shelter, food, and communication would be necessary when re-building an area.

We were then taught the economic state and development of all places in the world, and what would happen if a random city was affected by a

tsunami or another natural disaster. For example, if Canada experienced an earthquake, we would have plenty of money to recreate our cities because of our high state of development. Approximately all citizens of Canada have an income of about \$64,000 per family per year. However, Kenya, for example, would not have much money due to their economic development, to rebuild their country after a natural disaster. As we took a look at all the countries of the world, we had to infer and ask questions about countries' income per family, student enrollment, and their economically developed state (high, medium, low, N/A).

As the day went on, our class was divided into teams in which we had a specific country as a guide during our group scavenger hunt. The premise of the game was to collect all the items that would be needed during a natural disaster. Our



teachers, Ms. Poupart and Ms. Cory taught us a finger method when locating a specific part on our map. Many groups such as Nepal, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan found this part easy, but when the shelter building task was introduced, many teams got a low ranked mark. In addition, each team was given ropes, poles, and tarps based on the rank of their countries' development. Low ranked countries were given more essentials since that country would need it more at that time of need. After each team's tent was

complete, the teachers would give them a mark based on its sturdiness and whether or not it could withstand another aftershock if another natural disaster were to occur.

As a whole, I believe our entire class was given the outstanding opportunity to learn about the development and economic state of various countries. This advantage has not only affected myself, but all my classmates in the sense that if teamwork and diligence is applied to a task during a devastating time, the entire country can be re-joined once again by the working hands of all citizens.



FEES

Soccer - 7 Weeks:

\$18/hr + HST

\$128 + HST

Total: \$142.76

MERCHANDISE

\$15.00	TAC T-Shirt
\$20.00	TAC Hat

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Please register online to receive quick email confirmations and TAC RECEIPTS

1. Go to: <https://tacsports.ca/in-schools/>
2. Click "Register" under FOR PARENTS
3. Enter in DAVIDSUZUKI

If you do not have access to a computer,
please call our office 416-627-1092.

TORONTO ATHLETIC CLUB



Continue development at our

Weekend Lessons
+
Holiday Camps

**SOCGER
SCHOOL**

Also available online at
www.tacsports.ca

**AT DAVID SUZUKI
PUBLIC SCHOOL**

For any inquires
please contact us at:
info@tacsports.ca
416-627-1092

45 Riverwalk Dr,
Markham, ON L6B 0L9

Winter 2017