

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



**Principal**  
Yvonne West  
**Vice-Principal**  
Shelley Anand

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Admin Assistant  
Linda Smithson

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Secretaries  
Gail Koidis  
Denise Sumi

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Superintendent  
Dr. Lisa Walsh

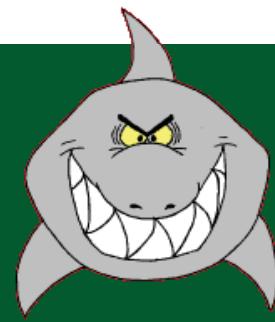
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Trustee  
Juanita Nathan



# SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 6



[davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

February 2014

## Administrators' Message

January has been an extremely cold month, indeed! We have had many days of bundling up, icy sidewalks, and indoor recesses. We are all hoping for a warmer February so that the children can be outside long enough to enjoy the wonders of winter. We know that some of you have questions about decisions regarding sending the students out at recess versus keeping them inside. The Board has identified -20C (with the windchill factor) as a general guideline to use in making this decision. With this in mind, please ensure that your child comes to school with the appropriate clothing to be outside for short periods of time at this temperature.

February promises to be an exciting month for the students, with a variety of events to complement our academic programs. Activity Day is a highlight for most of the children and we thank Mrs. Koidis for all the work she has done to plan this special day! Our Student Council has planned a Valentine's Dance for the Intermediate students and The Earth Rangers will be here to teach our primary and junior students about protecting the Earth and the Animals. Our Eco Team has arranged for Power Stream to come to educate us on conserving electricity and, of course, we also have Family Day to look forward to! What a wonderful month ahead!

Term 1 Report Cards will arrive on Thursday, February 13. Please read our insert regarding Learning Skills and Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting to support you in understanding your child's Report Card. Regular communication between the home and school is necessary to improve student achievement and Report Cards provide us with the opportunity to communicate information about your children's learning. We encourage you to discuss concerns and questions related to your children's academic progress, the development of their learning skills, and their social/emotional well-being with the teacher at any time.

**Yvonne West**

Principal

**Shelley Anand**

Vice-Principal

Character Trait For  
February

~ 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 - Optimism

January's character trait was **Optimism**. "We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future."

Congratulations to our winners:

Miss Lim JK/SK:	Joy, Thibika, Sarah, Ian, Anthony, Adam
Mrs. Khalil JK/SK:	Armaan, Kajena, Lenin, Daksh
Mrs. Gertsakis JK/SK:	Nikhil, Harini, Aarzu, April
Miss Halliday JK/SK:	Tristan, Rehan, Christian, Taruyan, Arav
Mrs. Barovier 1:	Ashvin, Liara
Mrs. Tsiampouris 1:	Mika, Shazia
Miss Chan 1:	Thishanth, Zainab
Miss Steele 1:	Nusaybah, Sneha
Mrs. Neveu 2:	Arjun, Nicole
Mrs. Abbi 2:	Vinuja, Varsha
Mrs. LaMarca 2:	Merveena, Vernujen
Ms. Shum 2:	Tina, Ishan
Mr. Hwee 3:	Rehan, Lathusan
Ms Arkeveld 3:	Marcus, Esha, Fatima
Mr. Kawnik 3:	Rida, Merveen
Mrs. Nedelkovski 3:	Jashan, Mya
Miss. Wilson:	Abishana
Mr. Kafieh:	Arushan

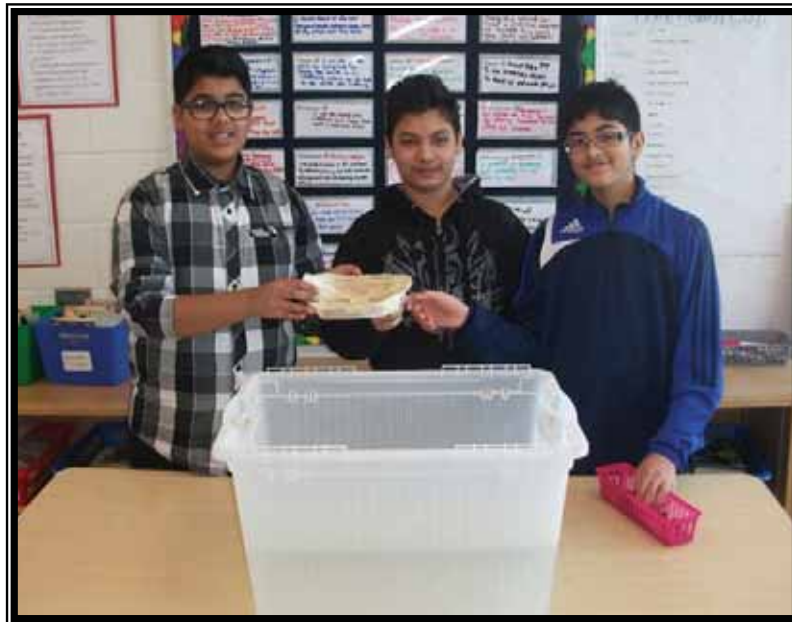


In February our focus is on **Initiative**. "We act without being prompted by others. We are eager to do what needs to be done without having to be told to do it. We take the first step towards the achievement of a goal."

## Co-operative Learning - Building Teamwork and Collaboration Skills

Throughout the year, students in our grade seven classes engaged in a variety of activities and projects working in groups. These cooperative learning activities allow students an opportunity to collaborate with one another and build teamwork skills. In January, students were given a special task in which they were asked to work in groups to design and build a 'boat', made only from popsicle sticks and aluminum foil, which could support the greatest number of pennies before sinking! After working in their groups to design and build their 'boats', each team participated in testing their boats.

Congratulations to the winning team, Ayan, Omar. M and Omar S.! The "O.A.O boat" was able to support 157 pennies! After completing the challenge, students reflected on their experience (below).

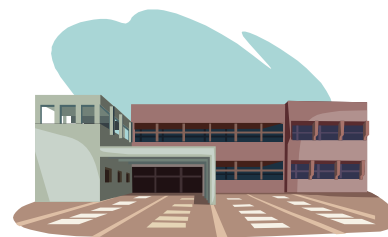


The first day back from winter break, the class of 7D (Mr. D'Alessandro) had a team-building challenge. We had to build a boat and see how many pennies the boat could hold. Our group held the most pennies which was a total of 157 pennies, which broke the class record! As we worked through this task, we had to contribute our own ideas and listen to the ideas of others. By practicing these cooperative skills we are able to learn how to use teamwork skills that we will need to use in the future. For example, whatever career path you choose you will have to be capable of collaborating with others with different personalities in order to be successful. The cooperation that was needed in this activity was not only for school purposes but it was skills needed for the real world. Co-operative learning enhances your skills of working with others and develops the skills you need to work with others for the future and your life ahead. To us, co-operative learning means to contribute our thoughts and ideas to communicate with others in a respectful manner.

Written by Ayan, Omar. M and Omar S

## Front Door Security System in Effect Monday, February 3

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front doors, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office. The letter sent home on January 28 contains the details of this safety measure.



Lunchtime is an extremely busy time for us in the office and so we encourage parents to send your children to school in the morning with their lunch. This would help us alleviate the necessity of dedicating one of our Office staff to simply answering the buzzer.

Please be assured that our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

*Thank you for your support!*

## SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATION NOTICE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER



School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Since busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions are made by the Board and will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region.

**Please note: If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents in the morning will need to be picked up by parents at the end of the school day..**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

**RADIO AM Stations** - 590, 640, 680, 860, 1010, 1050, 102.1, 1540, 1580,

**FM Stations** - 88.5, 89.9, 92.5, 93.1, 94.1, 94.9, 95.9, 97.3, 98.1, 99.1, 99.9, 101.1, 104.5, 100.7, 107.1

**TELEVISION** CITY TV, THE A-CHANNEL, CFTO TV, THE WEATHER NETWORK, GLOBAL

A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by **calling 1-877-330-3001**.



## Planning for the 2014-2015 School Year

We have already begun to plan for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. We are in the process of projecting the number of students who will be attending David Suzuki next year and to consider possible Organizations for the school. In order to help us be as accurate as possible, we would appreciate if you would advise us if you know that your children will not be attending here next year.

Similarly, if you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten here in September, please come into the school to complete the Registration Form.



## Kindergarten Registration



Kindergarten registration commenced on January 17th, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Children who were born in 2009 (SK) and 2010 (JK) (turn four or five years old during 2014), live within the school boundary, and whose parents are public school supporters, will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A “welcome to Kindergarten” information session is planned for May 12 at our school in the gym. For more information please visit the YRDSB website.

We are now accepting registrations for ALL GRADES.

## French Immersion and Registration



FI registration began on January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol 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 David Suzuki PS to register between **January 17 and February 14, 2014**. 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: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). 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.



## Term 1 Report Cards - Thursday, February 13



### Learning Skills

When reviewing your child's report card, pay close attention to the front page which reports on **Learning Skills and Work Habits**. Learning Skills and Work Habits are extremely important for success in and out of school. Although they are assessed on an ongoing basis and reported on at each reporting period, they are not used in determining the grades for the various subject areas. We do, however, know that there is a strong correlation between how well developed a student's learning skills are and how well he/she does in class. Thus, our teachers explicitly teach the learning skills to their students. The six skills/habits are briefly summarized below.

**Responsibility** is shown when students fulfill commitments, complete and submit assignments and manage their own behaviour.

**Organization** involves devising and following a coherent plan for completing work, prioritizing tasks, managing time, and effectively choosing and using resources.

**Independent Work** involves completing a task with minimal teacher direction and/or peer support, following instructions, and revising work as necessary.

**Collaboration** involves skills such as active listening, helping others to build and consolidate learning, giving and receiving quality feedback, and managing disagreements.

**Initiative** is acting on new ideas and opportunities for learning with a sense of curiosity and the willingness to take risks.

**Self-Regulation** involves students monitoring their behaviour and learning, such as attention skills, working memory, and thinking strategies.

### Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

Your child is assessed on demonstrated achievement in relation to Ontario Curriculum Expectations.

The expectations for each grade can be found on the Ministry's website. Teachers use assessment and evaluation strategies that address both what students learn and how well they learn.

The curriculum expectations are assessed using the categories identified on the Achievement Chart: Knowledge and Understanding, Communication, Organization, Application. Student work is evaluated using the following Levels of Achievement:

<b>Level 4</b>	<b>80% - 100%</b>	<b>A</b>	Student work exceeds the provincial standards, while still at grade level. Student has demonstrated a thorough and complete understanding of the required knowledge and skills
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>70% - 79%</b>	<b>B</b>	Student work has met the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of most of the required knowledge and skills.
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>60% - 69%</b>	<b>C</b>	Student work is approaching the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of some of the required knowledge and skills.
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>50% - 59%</b>	<b>D</b>	Student work falls below the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of few of the required skills and knowledge.
<b>R</b>	<b>Below 50%</b>	<b>R</b>	Student has not demonstrated an understanding of the required skills and knowledge. Student will require remediation to improve.

## Ensuring Student Safety in the Kiss and Ride Loop

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested it can be in the morning in front of the school and in the drop off loop in the parking lot. We strongly encourage students to walk to school. However, if you must use the loop in the morning, **please do not leave the car or wait in the loop at any time.**



There are two lanes of traffic in the loop. The lane closest to the sidewalk is for the purpose of drop off. The outside lane is an exit lane to be merged into after dropping off your child.

Children should not be exiting the vehicle on the driver's side between the two lanes of traffic as this is very dangerous. Your child should be exiting in the lane closest to the school and exiting out the passenger side of the vehicle so that he/she is stepping on to the sidewalk. Once dropped off, students should proceed directly to the schoolyard or Kindergarten fenced area. If you wish to park and walk your child to the schoolyard, **please park on a side street as there are only enough parking spaces for our staff to park.**

**Please do not park in the Kiss and Ride Loop,** this is for dropping off only.

The City of Markham has recently issued tickets to the owners of some vehicles parked at our school. Please be advised that the City is able to ticket for the following violations:

### **Idling**

**Parking in a fire route**

**Not physically being inside the car at a kiss and ride area**

**Parking in a bus route**

**Obstructing a fire hydrant**

**Parking in a designated handicapped space without a permit**



We ask that you take care in abiding by the traffic by-laws, as we do not know when the City of Markham may be making visits to our school. As well, the fines can be quite high and unfortunately, the school has no ability to override a ticket if it has been issued by the City.

## **Board Launches New Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan**

*Mission: To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.*

The York Region District School Board is celebrating the launch of its new Mission, Vision and Values statements and slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

The Board last reviewed these statements in the late 1990s. Since that time, education in York Region has been influenced by a number of significant changes, including changes in technology, in our communities and in our learning environments.

Community members, parents/guardians, staff members and students had the opportunity to provide input and share ideas about the ideal future of public education in York Region. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

**For more information, visit the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).**

## **Introducing David Suzuki's Young Activist Club!**

The Young Activist Club was thrilled to be invited to the Launch of our Boards' new Mission, Vision & Values ceremony. We were excited to hear our Director Ken Thurston speak and share his thoughts on education. Some big ideas that we took from the speeches were the significance of innovation and inclusion in education. We also had an opportunity to meet and speak with our Superintendent Dr. Lisa Walsh. We watched performances put on by other students in our board. One of the performances we really enjoyed was put on by a singer named Glen Marais. This performance focused on the importance of being citizens of a global world. We learned that we all are part of one world and we need to work together to support one another and 'inspire learning'. It was a special day for all of us!

### **York Region District School Boards' New Mission, Vision & Values**

#### **Mission**

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

#### **Vision**

To be a leader in public education by empowering all students to become engaged and caring citizens of the world.

#### **Values**

Our School Board operates based on a set of values which guides our actions:

##### ***Inclusivity***

We demonstrate equity and inclusivity in all that we do. We demand an environment in which all students, staff, parents, and our community feel valued and have a sense of belonging. We expect empathy, mutual respect and understanding to be demonstrated in our words and actions.

##### ***Relationships***

We value positive, meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and our community. We value diversity of opinion, sincere dialogue and community engagement.

##### ***Innovation***

We continuously strive to provide the best educational programs for all students. We empower staff and students to take initiative and to be innovative leaders.

##### ***Engagement***

We encourage active participation in all learning and activities by creating an environment that engages students, staff, parents, and our community.

##### ***Responsibility***

We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals. We are responsible for the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and stewardship of Board resources.

##### ***Optimism***

We approach all situations with optimism. We cultivate confidence and resiliency in all students and staff.

**Slogan: Inspire Learning!**





# SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!



Meet our **Young Activists** , pictured here with our Superintendent Dr. Lisa Walsh at the launch of our Board's new Mission, Vision & Values ceremony. Meet our Young Activists , pictured here with our Superintendent Dr. Lisa Walsh at the launch of our Board's new Mission, Vision & Values ceremony.

Congratulations to **Anish U** in Grade 7 who won first prize in an Essay Competition promoted by the Human Rights and Race Relations Center! Anish's essay focused on ways to prevent bullying in school and has thoughtful suggestions for students, parents and teachers. We will post Anish's essay for everyone to read when we launch our new website in March.

Congratulations to **Nevitha** in Grade 3 who was #1 in all of Canada in the international online Math learning competition, Mathletics, on February 6th! What an amazing accomplishment, Nevitha!

If you want your child to enjoy practicing their math skills while taking part in an ongoing international competition, go to [www.mathletics.ca](http://www.mathletics.ca) to find out more.



## February's claim to fame!

Typically the coldest month of the year and known for the winter blues, what else is February known for? Surprisingly, we found quite a lot of interesting facts about our second month of the year.

### Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a holiday celebrated in the US and Canada on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Legend has it that when the groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, if it is cloudy, it will leave its burrow suggesting that winter will end soon. If however, it is sunny and it sees its shadow, it will indicate that we have 6 more weeks of winter. Did you know that Wiarton Willie is an albino groundhog that has been predicting the weather since 1956?

### Valentine's Day

February is the month of chocolates. After Christmas, the most greeting cards are sent on Valentine's Day.

The history and origin of Valentine's Day is not very clear and various legends and traditions have come together to become Valentine's Day as we know it.

One story tells of a priest named Valentine in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The Roman Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriages, fearing that young men would not enlist in his army. Realizing the injustice, Valentine conducted secret marriages and when he was discovered he was imprisoned and executed on February 14<sup>th</sup>. While in jail, he fell in love with the jailor's daughter and wrote her a final letter signing it "from your Valentine". In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared February 14<sup>th</sup> the day to honour the martyr St. Valentine. It remained a Church holiday until 1969 when Pope Paul VI removed it from the calendar. However, Valentine's Day traditions continue to be celebrated all around the world.

### Shrove/Pancake Tuesday or Mardi Gras

This is the Tuesday proceeding what Catholics call Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of a 40 day prayer and fasting season called Lent. In Canada, it is called Pancake Tuesday because there is a custom to eat pancakes this day, which are rich in eggs, milk and sugar. During Lent, many people eat plainer foods and would not consume these items for the fast.

### Did you know?

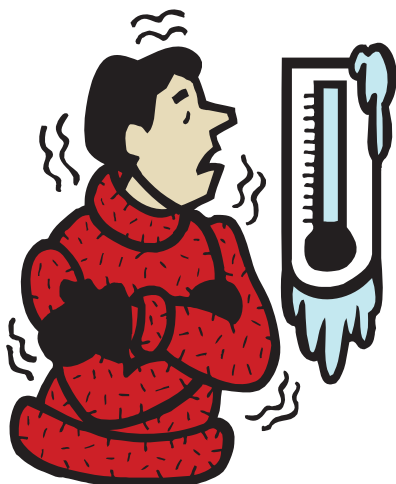
Kid's Kitchen serves Whole Grain Pancakes every day on our menu.

### Friendly reminder:

Starting **February 3rd**, we will be offering our **Spring Menu**, which will be available until June 25. Visit us online for more details.

Kid's Kitchen has been providing hot lunches to school children since 2001. The Kid's Kitchen Hot Lunch Program is available at your school. Make your life a little easier and let us help you with your kids' lunches. To find out more details visit us at [www.kidskitchen.ca](http://www.kidskitchen.ca) or call **905-944-0210**.

## Cold Weather and Indoor Recesses



With the arrival of the cold weather, it is imperative that you send your child to school dressed appropriately. This includes remaining outside for 30 minutes at morning recess and 40 minutes at lunch recess. With severe weather conditions, reduced outdoor recesses or indoor recesses may take place. This decision is made on a day by day basis and would typically occur at about the  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  mark (with wind chill). Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school with extra clothes as it is easier to take off a layer if they get too hot than it is to put on a layer they may not have if they get too cold. Also, please pack extra socks and pants so your child will have something to change into if they should happen to get wet.

### **Are you too sick to go outside at Recess?**

Thank you to everyone who follows our school rule that states that if you are too sick to go out for recess, you are too sick to attend school. Please note that supervision is not available for students to remain in classrooms nor at the office during recess times if they are ill. If your child attends school, he or she will be expected to go outside at both morning and lunch recess.



### **Curriculum Corner**

It is important that we continue to work together to support student learning. We believe in a strong home school partnership. Reading opens the door to all learning. Reading is thinking. While your child is reading encourage him/her to talk about the text. One way to do this is to provide opportunities for your child to ask questions before, during and after reading. Encouraging your child to ask questions will allow him/her to clarify meaning, make some predictions and articulate his/her thinking about the 'big ideas' in the text.

Some possible question starters that you can use with your child are:

- I wonder....?**
- Why might....?**
- What did...?**
- Who is...?**
- How will...?**
- Where could....?**



The questions that our children ask matter, they lead to new ideas and new perspectives.

**Have fun reading!**



## *Message from our Trustee*

This is an exciting time for our Board. We recently launched our new Mission, Vision and Values, and the Board's first slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

Our new mission statement – *to advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community* – will help to guide our work and move us forward in the months and years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input. We look forward to bringing these statements to life in our school communities.

We are now halfway through the school year, a good time to celebrate all that your children have achieved and to set goals for the rest of the year. I encourage you to speak with your child not only about what they are learning, but also how they are learning. There are so many exciting and innovative things happening in our schools.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at

[Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) or by phone at **416-885-3479**. If you would like to be kept informed about various initiatives or topics that relates to your child's education and well being, please send me your email address and I would be happy to keep in touch with you on a regular basis.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and successful second term.

**Juanita Nathan**

416 885 3479

**[Juanita.Nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Juanita.Nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)**

Trustee | York Region District School Board  
City of Markham – Ward 7&8





## Winter is Here

Just another reminder that it is very important that students dress appropriately for the cold winter weather. Students should be bundled up! All children should wear boots, socks, snow pants, coats, hats and mittens/gloves.



With over 700 students in the school, please remember to label all your child's outdoor clothing with his/her name as many children have items that are the same.

**Students should also have a pair of indoor shoes for use within the school.**



## Family Day February 17th

Family Day is observed in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan on the third Monday of February.

This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities.

**David Suzuki Public School will be closed on Family Day.**

### **Things to do on Family Day:**

Family Day is a time to plan and take part in activities aimed at the whole family. These include: visiting the museum, watching movies, skating on outdoor ice rinks, taking a winter hike, playing board games or taking part in shared craft activities.

Milliken Mills arena offers skate and helmet rentals at very affordable rates.

## ECO CORNER



We all drive our kids to school every day, and so do all the people around us! We all think a short drive to school won't leave too much pollution, but if you add up all the pollution each and every one of our cars leaves throughout the entire school year you will be surprised. The best way to reduce this problem is carpooling! Carpooling is sharing a ride with friends or neighbours to reduce car pollution and the amount of fuel being used. Believe it or not, this can be extremely beneficial to the environment. If you live close enough to walk to school, don't be afraid to. Not only will it reduce the pollution, but it will be a great source of exercise too. It's always fun to catch up fresh air. So, the next time you drop your child off at school, always remember to think eco!




By Tooba Syeda and  
Doaa Muhammad  
(Gr. 7 students)



# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
						
9	10 GREG FRANKSON Presentation Grades 4-8	11	12 JACK GRUNSKY Presentation Primary	13 REPORT CARDS go home EARTH RANGERS presentation	14 VALENTINE'S DANCE 	15
16	17 <b>Family Day</b> No School 	18	19 POWER STREAM presentation	20 SUZUKI'S ACTIVITY DAY Grades 1-8	21 	22
23	24	25 Grade 2 FIRE SAFETY	26	27 CHARACTER ASSEMBLY 12:00	28 	

## Cold and Flu Prevention



Please have a discussion with your child about how to best prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. Students need to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly if they are coughing and sneezing in their hands. They should cough or sneeze into a tissue if they have one. If not, they should cough or sneeze into their sleeve. Remind your child(ren) not to share food or water bottles. Also, they should avoid sharing musical instruments unless they have sterilized the mouthpiece. If your child is not well, please keep her or him at home so as to help prevent the spread of flu and viruses.