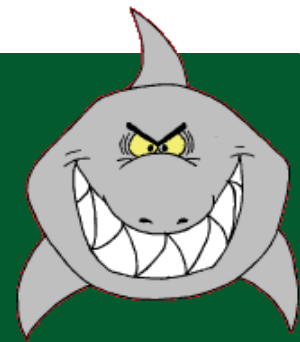


David Suzuki

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

SUZUKI SOURCE



david Suzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Volume 01

SEPTEMBER 2013



Principal's Message

The Suzuki staff would like to welcome back all of our families from last year, and to extend a very warm "Suzuki Welcome" to all of our new families joining the school community. We certainly trust that everyone had a very relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Our staff have worked very hard, to prepare the school and their classrooms to be ready for the students. I know you will agree with me that they have done a great job!

The elementary years are crucial to your child's long-term success. In these years, children will learn to read, write, do mathematics, problem solve and work with others. They will learn appropriate work habits as well as the skills, knowledge and habits of mind needed for success in school and beyond. We believe a strong partnership between home and school is essential for this development.

During school hours, teachers work with students and are committed to ensuring the success of each individual. By the end of kindergarten we expect students to have developed emergent literacy skills and by the end of grade one we expect every child to read. We work hard to ensure that all students achieve these goals. In addition to focused classroom teaching, we provide intensive instruction through our Reading Recovery and Special Education programs for students who need additional support.

After school, parents have an important responsibility for supporting the work students do at school and for extending learning beyond the classroom. Parents demonstrate both through their words and actions that school is important and valuable. The time children spend outside of school with parents exceeds the time spent at school with teachers and it is very important for learning. The quality time parents spend with their children in a variety of activities, both in the home and on family outings, support the quality programs which we implement in the school setting.

Your child's education is a shared partnership. We look forward to working together with you to ensure your child's academic success.

Principal

Nancy Dodds

Vice-Principal

Shelley Anand

Admin Assistant

Linda Smithson (Bond)

Secretaries

Gail Koidis

Denise Sumi

Superintendent

Dr. Lisa Walsh

Trustee

Juanita Nathan



School Day Schedule

Entry Bell—9:00

Classes Begin— 9:05

Morning Recess—10:45

Lunch Hour—12:55—1:55

Dismissal—3:35

Message from the Vice Principal

Welcome to a new school year, it is with great pleasure that that I join the community as the new vice principal. I look forward to working with you to ensure the well being of all our children at David Suzuki. As a community, it is important that we continue to create a strong partnership between home and school in order help our children reach their full potential and become responsible citizens of the global world. We encourage you to share your ideas, experiences and ask questions. Every voice is important and diversity is our strength as we continue to move forward together creating conditions for success. Some important resources such a Ontario Curriculum Documents, Tips to support learning at home and Ontario's Equity & Inclusive Education Strategy can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>. I look forward to an exciting school year ahead.

Ms. Anand



Reporting Your Child's Absence

You **MUST** call in your child's absence! We have a 24 hour absence reporting line. When you call in please clearly state and SPELL your child's name and state their **teacher's name** as well. In accordance with the policy of the Board of Education, if we do not receive a telephone call, we will attempt to call the parent/guardian or emergency contacts in order to ensure the child's safety. If we do not know where your child is we are obligated to contact the police.

When calling in please indicate whether the absence is an illness, a medical appointment, an injury or a parent withdrawal (a day off). If it is an illness please indicate the following:

- Has a fever
- Stomach and intestinal symptoms (vomiting or diarrhea)
- Respiratory breathing cold symptoms (coughing, sneezing and congestion)

In addition, we would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your child/ren arrive at school on time each day. If a **student arrives late** it interrupts the learning process for both the child who is late, as well as his/her classmates. Thank you for your support with this matter. In the event that your child is late, he/she must report to the office for a late slip before reporting to class. Students who are repeatedly late for unexcused reasons, will receive a late letter from the office to be signed by a parent and could receive a detention to make up time missed.

If your child will be missing school for an extended period of time for a family holiday or surgery please send a written note to the office with dates of departure and return.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Nut FREE School



Please be aware that some of our students and staff have severe nut allergies. In some cases, the allergy is life threatening. In order to ensure their safety, David Suzuki is a **Peanut/Nut Free School** and therefore, we request that you do not send snacks or lunches to school which contain peanut or nut products.



If you would like to bring in birthday or holiday treats for your child's class please be sure that they are NUT FREE. If the package does NOT state 'Nut Free' we cannot take a chance. Longo's and some other stores carry 'Nut Free' mini cup cakes & other items. Tim Horton's does not.

If your child has any serious allergies or medical condition that we should be aware of, please notify the office immediately.

Forgotten Lunches

If you are dropping off a forgotten lunch for your child, please make sure his/her name is clearly marked on the lunch bag. There will be a table located in the office where you can place the forgotten lunch. After the lunch bell rings, your child can come to the office and pick it up. Students will not be paged to the office to pick up their lunch.

Students have been reminded of this procedure. If they don't have a lunch, they should automatically check the lunch table by the office.



Lost and Found

Now is the time to make sure your child's belongings are readily identified. Please take time to clearly label the items your child brings to school (e.g., indoor shoes, boots, backpacks, lunch bags). Doing this makes it much easier to return the lost items to the rightful owners.

Forks and Spoons

Please make sure that your children have proper utensils to eat their snacks and lunches, the school does not provide these.



Textbooks

Textbooks are supplied to the students free of charge, with the understanding that each student is responsible for the texts assigned to him/her. In the event of a lost or damaged book, a request to replace the book or supply the funds necessary to purchase a new text will be made.

Code of Behaviour/Expectations of Students

Over the next few weeks, Ms Dodds/Ms Anand and/or the staff will be reviewing the code of behaviour and expectations for the students. In addition, reviewing and discussing the code of behaviour with your child would be appreciated.

We are confident that the discussions at school and home will explain the policies and help to keep Suzuki a safe place for our students to work and play.

Photo Displays

During the school year, we like to profile work of our students in the classroom, hallways, front foyer or newsletter. Many teachers also take photos of their students and these may be displayed as well. If you do NOT wish your child's work, photo or name on display, please notify the teacher and school office.



Student Birthdays

Every year we recognize our students' birthdays on the announcements and provide them with a bookmark for their special day.

If you do not wish your child to be recognized, please let us know.

*In addition, if you wish to provide a treat for your child's birthday, **you must speak to the teacher a couple days ahead to ensure that there are no allergies. Items that do not say "Peanut Free" on the label should not be sent and will be returned home to the family.***

Dropping Off Children at School

Students who do not take a bus should be walking to school every day. Walking to school promotes a healthy lifestyle, encourages older students to be responsible for younger children, gives students an opportunity to socialize with friends, and much more. Fewer vehicles in front of the school reduces traffic congestion and lowers pollution levels in the schoolyard during drop-off times.

Teachers are on duty 15 minutes before the start of school in the morning (8:50 a.m.) and 20 minutes before school after the lunch hour (1:35 p.m.). Please ensure that the students do not arrive prior to these times as the yard will not be adequately supervised and we want all of our students to be safe.

****If you need to drop off your child by car, please use the loop around the parking lot. We ask that you do not use the bus loop due to limited space and safety. ****In the past at other schools there have been close calls and some scary incidents.

****Please do not park your car in our drive through lanes as this significantly inconveniences other parents who are trying to get to work on time. Kindly do not leave your cars running or idling as it creates a harmful impact on the environment.**

Your cooperation in these matters will ensure the safe arrival and departure of all of our students.

Thank you.

Photo Day

Our school photos will be taken on 2 different days due to the large number of students and in order to ensure the photos are not rushed. The Monday/Wednesday Kindergartens and Grades 1 – 4 will be taken on Wednesday, October 9th. The Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten, the Grade 5 – 8 students will be done on Thursday, October 10th.

Remember to bring your smiles!



Suzuki Shark Water Bottles



We are selling blue stainless steel water bottles with the Suzuki Sharks name and logo on them. They are \$12 each. Students can purchase the water bottles from the office at recess or lunch.

Student Information Verification Forms

Student Information Verification forms will be going home the 1st week of school. **Please carefully go over this form and make any necessary changes to information such as work phone numbers, new cell phone numbers and emergency contact updates as well as e-mail addresses.** If there are no changes just sign the form and send back. We need these corrected forms back immediately to update our records to ensure the safety of your children.

Please remember to update any changing information such as new work numbers or extensions throughout the school year in writing to the office.

Thank you

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Ensuring a strong home school partnership are the keys to success for our children. If you are interested in volunteering in a classroom or supporting pizza lunches please come speak to us at the office. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



David Suzuki Public School is an **EcoSchool!**

Here at David Suzuki P.S. the environment is very important to us. As an EcoSchool we have made a school wide commitment to protect, think and learn about our environment by joining a program called Ontario EcoSchools. 'Ontario EcoSchools is a province wide environmental education program for Grades K-12 that helps students develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens. Developed and run by school boards, Ontario EcoSchools also helps improve school building operations to reduce environmental impacts.'

(<http://www.ontarioecoschools.org/>)

What is Happening at David Suzuki P.S. to Make us an EcoSchool?

- Litterless lunch campaign
- Anti-idling campaign
- Classroom composting
- Various student and teacher eco-teams
- Paper conservation initiatives
- Battery, cell phone and toner recycling
- Various energy conservation initiatives
- Plus lots more to start up this year!!!

School Council



The York Region Board of Education has always believed that education is a shared responsibility involving a partnership of students, parents, staff and community.

School Councils have been mandated by the Government of Ontario to be an advisory body which may make recommendations to the school principal or to the Board. The purpose is to support improved student learning and to support an increased sense of shared accountability for public education.

Please consider taking an active role in our Council. We will meet for approximately one hour 6 times a year. We will be looking for a School Council chair, vice- chair, secretary and treasurer as well as voting members. If you are interested in any of these positions, please fill out the form (your child's start up package) and return it to the school by Wednesday September 11th. If you are interested in being a voting member only, or just want to attend the meetings without committing to any executive position, you do not need to fill out the form – just come to the first meeting.

Our first School Council meeting in which the elections take place will be held on Monday September 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the staff room.

**** If you nominate yourself, please be sure to attend the meeting on Monday, September 16th. You will NOT be contacted by the school.****

Lockdowns and Fire Drills

Every year the York Region District School Board recognizes Safety Week for one week in September. This year Safety Week is being held the week of September 30th-October 4th.

During Safety Week, teachers will be discussing a variety of safety related topics with their students. Safety topics are also taught as part of the Physical Education and Health curriculum at various points in the school year.

A Lockdown Drill is also held during Safety Week. A Lockdown Drill is intended to prepare the students in the event of a real emergency. Although situations threatening the safety of our children are extremely rare, it is important that students know how to react. To minimize any fear, particularly with our younger students, teachers will be preparing their students ahead of time. One further Lockdown Drill will be held later in the year.

Throughout the school year, the students in all York Region schools participate in 6 fire drills. The first drill will be announced to the school and the others are "surprise" drills. In addition, the Markham Fire Department visits each school and has a "surprise" drill for us as well.



Environmental Information

Our environment is a very precious thing and needs our help to protect it and make sure it is available for us all to enjoy. To start the school year all the staff, students and parents are asked to work together to demonstrate this respect by:

- *bringing boomerang snacks and lunches (using reusable lunch containers or bringing home all left over food and garbage)*
- *participating in a full recycling program within the school*
- *turning “lights and screens off” for electronics when not in use (energy conservation)*
- *avoiding extended idling during pick up and drop off of the children*

Please see some of the other ideas in the back of our school calendar.

Our school has also continues to involved in a new composting program partnership between the Board and the Town of Markham.

We are also excited to be continuing environmental education and fundraising program entitled, “**Think Recycle**”. The “Think Recycle” program is simple. The students and community members are asked to collect used cell phones, ink cartridges and laser cartridges and return them to the collection boxes in the front hall of the school. David Suzuki P.S. will earn funds for each cartridge or cell phone that is collected.

We are requesting your support in ensuring the success of this cost-free fundraising program. Your place of employment can also support the school by saving used cartridges and cell phones and having them brought to the school by your child(ren).

Supporting the “Think Recycle” program will help teach our students the importance of recycling and the benefits of tree planting.



School Bus Information

For school bus information please go online to:

www.schoolbuscity.com



This site will give you bus stops, pick-up and drop-off times. You must be at your designated pick-up 10 minutes prior to the stated time. Students under the age of 10 years require an adult to be present at the drop off stop. If no adult is present the student will stay on the bus and be returned to the school where you must pick them up **immediately**.

If buses are 10 minutes late or more please consult the website for late bus details, please do not call the school as we do not have any further details.

During inclement weather if the buses DO NOT run in the morning, they will NOT run in the afternoon. If they do pick up in the morning they WILL drop off in the afternoon.



HELP PREVENT HEAD LICE!

Each year cases of pediculosis (head lice) are found throughout our schools. In an effort to reduce the numbers of cases found and decrease the inconvenience to parents/guardians and students, the York Region District School Board requests your assistance. As your child is now returning to school after a long holiday, please inspect his/her hair and scalp for pediculosis. Periodic inspections during the year will help prevent the spread of head lice.

Head lice are tiny (1/8" or 3mm long) wingless insects with flattened bodies. They cling to the hair by means of six legs. They live mostly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. The female lays tiny, yellowish-white eggs called nits. They resemble dandruff but are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are very difficult to remove. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first.

If head lice are found, do not return your child to school until treated. This will prevent the spread of pediculosis. Children are only allowed to reenter the class when all the nits are removed from the hair.

For more information, please call the Public Health Nurses at York Region Health Services *Health Connection* line, 1-800-363-5653, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30pm

On-Line Newsletter

At David Suzuki, we are an eco-school and have a major focus on the environment. One of the key ways in which we are hoping to make a positive impact is through reducing, reusing and recycling. In the area of reducing, we have made a commitment to use less paper and take advantage of electronic communication. As a result, our goal is to send all communication, e.g., newsletters, parent notices, etc., through email.

It is very important that we have your (parent) e-mail as we will e-mail you a direct link to the newsletter and other communications. If we do not have it please write it on the verifications that will be sent home later this week.

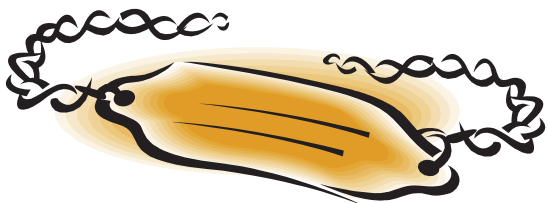
Our David Suzuki Public School Newsletter can be found on line on our school website:
<http://www.davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

It is published the **first** Thursday of every month. **It is very important to read this as important information and dates are in this publication.**

A paper newsletter will not be sent home.



Medic Alert's No Child Without Program is at Our School



The ***No Child Without*** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency,

MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline.**
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed
- MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

If your child is already part of the ***No Child Without*** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information,

call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.



Indoor Shoes

Indoor shoes with non-marking soles are essential to keep our classroom carpets and floors dry and clean. Please ensure that your child has a pair of shoes that can be left at school. Please also make sure that your child's name is inside the shoes. Children are not permitted to wear wet outdoor running shoes or boots in the classrooms. **Stocking feet are dangerous in the event of a fire drill .**



Important Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 16th	School Council Elections
Sept. 19th	Curriculum Night
Sept. 23rd	P. A. Day (no school)
Sept. 25th	Right to Play (grades 1-6)
Sept. 26th	Terry Fox Run
Oct. 9th	Photo Day M/W & gr. 1-4
Oct. 10th	Photo Day T/T & gr. 5-8

Curriculum Night

We will be holding our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 19th, from 7-8 pm. At this evening, parents will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet your child's teacher. More information about this evening will follow next week or two.

Child Safety!

Parents are NOT permitted to wander through the school. This is a safety issue. When dropping off or signing out students please report to the office. Please ensure all other caregivers are aware of this procedure.



Environmental Corner

What is the responsible way to dispose of dead batteries?

Dead batteries **should not** be placed in your garbage. You can drop them off in our front foyer and they will be sent to a household hazardous waste dispose site OR Visit www.makethedrop.ca to get more information on locations and the proper disposal of other household hazardous waste products.

Thank you for your support.

