David Suzuki Public School 45 Riverwalk Drive

905-209-0435

Markham, L6B oL9



Principal
Yvonne West

Vice Principal
Marion Ahrens



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Secretary Sunitha Krishnan Debbie Watrous

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Superintendent Peter Tse

Trustee Juanita Nathan



## SUZUKI SOURCE



VOLUME 4 davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

DECEMBER 2015

#### **Principals' Message**

Progress Report Cards will come home on Thursday, December 10. These reports will give you a good idea of how your child is progressing in school so far. If teachers have concerns about your child, he/she will have contacted you and invited you in for a discussion of these concerns. Thanks to all of you who visited the school for Parent/Teacher Conferences and engaged in thoughtful discussions about your children's learning. We know that all of our parents are very committed to your children's academic success and so it is so important that you engage with your children and with the teacher about their strengths, their needs and their next steps for improvement. If, after you receive your child's report card, you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the teacher. Our strong partnership will ensure your children meet with success!

As 2015comes to an end, the staff at David Suzuki would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt wishes to all of our families for a safe and happy holiday and to wish you the very best for the upcoming year of 2016! **Yvonne West**Marion Afrens

Principal

Vice Principal

The character trait for the month of December is **EMPATHY**. "We strive to sense and appreciate the emotions of others, to "stand in their shoes."

We demonstrate appreciation of, and concern for their feelings. We try to understand issues from their perspectives even though we may not agree with them personally. We look forward to this character being observed through the hallways and classrooms at David Suzuki.

### School Morning Bells...Small Change

Due to the onset of the cold weather necessitating additional layers of clothing, it takes our students a longer time to get into their classrooms in the morning. And, so, in order to maximize learning time, we have begun to ring the first bell 3 minutes earlier to provide the children with a little additional time. Thus, our first bell, signifying Entry, now rings at 8:57 (instead of at 9:00) and our second bell, signifying the start of the school day, rings at the usual time of 9:05.

#### **Character Matters - COURAGE**

November's focus was on Courage. We have a lot of students who demonstrate courage on a daily basis which is a very important character trait. I know the staff are pleased and impressed. *Congratulations to our Courage winners:* 

impressed. Congrutations to our courage winners.						
Mrs. Hudspith & Ms. Kathir		JSA	Pranjal, Prateek, Ashaz,	Arlo		
Mrs. Seepaul & Ms. Donnan		JSB	Ronin, Harrison, Anushka, Thushara			
Mrs. Gertsakis & Ms. Elmi		JSC	Ameera, Meher, Elias			
Miss Halliday & Mrs. Zhoa		JSD	Dinoja, Saara, Kishog, Hari			
Miss Eng & Mrs. Khalil		JSE	Sabareena, Jacob, Aarukshi			
Ms. Llewellyn & Ms. Abreu		JSF	Arathana, Lipi, Nathan, I	Kanisha		
Mrs. Sambrook		1A	Laksha			
Mrs. McMichael		1B	Shabi, Braden			
Mrs. Cooper		1C	Anishika, Akshaya	Congratulations!		
Ms. Risman		1D	Sharvein, Denai, Aarzu			
Mrs. Barovier		2A	Nabiha, Greessan			
Mr. Binner		2B	Muhaddisa, Hana			
Mrs. Clements & M	rs. Arumugam	2C	Menusha, Aneesa, Elza			
Ms. Wood		2D	Aaryan, Simran			
Mr. Kawnik		3A	Dalya, Veer			

3B

3C

Mr. Hwee

Ms. Kilgour & Mrs. LaMarca



Khaleel, Ansh, Shiv

Safa, Tianna



#### David Suzuki P.S. Book Fair December 7—10

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school and it is a great opportunity to purchase books for holiday reading. You will find hundreds of quality books at our Book Fair with a wide assortment of titles for all reading levels. Attached is a flyer providing a preview of only a few of the hundreds of books available to purchase at our Fair.

Everyone is invited to attend our Book Fair being held in the library from Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday December 110<sup>th</sup>. The Fair will be open Monday to Thursday from 9:10 am to 12:40 pm and from 2:00 pm to 3:20 pm for Classroom visits. During the Classroom visit students will browse the Fair and have time to make a purchase.

The Book Fair will also be open during morning recess and students are invited to the Fair to make purchases only.

We are looking forward to this exciting literacy event!

Thank you,

Mrs. Tompkins-London

Teacher-Librarian

P.S. Did you know that for every \$10 you spend at the Book Fair, up to \$6 goes back to our school? This allows us to purchase new books and build our library collection

#### **Remembrance Day**

On November 11, students, staff and parents attended an inspirational and innovative Remembrance Day assembly. It gave us an opportunity to honour Canadians, and other people around the world, who have sacrificed their lives in the name of peace and freedom.

Through the use of Mandalas the audience was engaged in remembering our past, reflecting on the current and hoping for the future. Student performances were very impressive as they reinforced the message through drama, music and dance. It was a pleasure to have a number of parents, relatives and community members join us for the assembly. Thank you to the grade 8 students, teachers and other staff members for organizing this special event.

# Bullying Awareness Week BULL November 16-20th

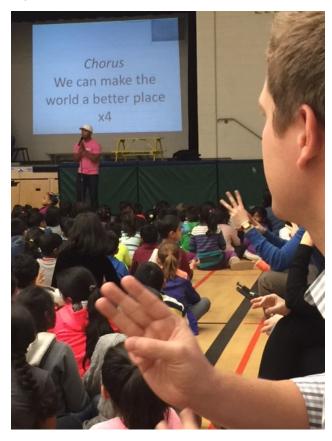
Bullying Awareness Week was a great success at David Suzuki Public School. On Monday we kicked off the week by having two assemblies from Errol Lee.

For the Grade 6 to 8 students Errol focused on being a HERO. Be a HERO was a thought-provoking concert presentation that promotes the value of the human experience. This concert presentation helped students to find peaceful, respectful and responsible solutions to issues related to bullying. He focused on the importance of treating people the way you would want to be treated and what it means to treat people with respect. He also engaged the students in thinking about the importance of thinking through the impact of your actions.

For students in Kindergarten to Grade 5, the presentation focused on the prevention of bullying by focusing on character traits. It also focused on recognizing when people need help finding a friend and doing something about it. He shared his book called, Hero Club, which taught students about the Buddy Bench. At the end of the assembly students were introduced to David Suzuki's own Buddy Bench!

Since then students have been using the Buddy Bench on a regular basis at recess.







#### How to use the Buddy Bench



#### 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.

#### The Student Equity Team Makes the school a more positive place to be!



On November 20th, the Student Equity Team covered the school with positive messages. Post-it notes were placed on EVERY locker n the school. Students also wrote messages on glass surfaces such as doors, window and mirrors. These messages certainly added kindness and positivity to everyone's day!

A big thank you to the members of the Student Equity Team who spent countless hours writing post-it notes and came in early on the Friday to place the notes on lockers.



#### Kindergarten Registration — January 15th, 2016

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 15, 2016 at 9:00 am for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: <a href="www.yrdsb.on.ca">www.yrdsb.on.ca</a>. Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, 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 this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local 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:

<u>Elementary School Registration Form</u> Junior/Senior Kindergarten Questionnaire

#### **Inclement Weather**



Parents are advised to listen to local radio and television stations on inclement weather days. In the event that the York Region District School Board finds it necessary to cancel school busses, most stations will start reporting information by 6:00 a.m. If busses run in the morning, they will run at the end of the school day. Please remember that if the YRDSB does cancel busses in the morning, the afternoon busses are also cancelled.

www.schoolbuscity.com

#### **Late School Busses**

Please remember to check <a href="www.schoolbuscity.com">www.schoolbuscity.com</a> in the morning and click on **Late Bus Report** before your children leave for the bus stop to make sure the bus in on time, especially on days when the traffic may be worse due to a snowfall the night before etc. If your child is late due to the bus they will not be recorded as late.

#### SCHOOL PARKING LOT AND TRAFFIC FLOW

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:

Parking in a fire route
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.

#### SCHOOL PARKING LOT



There are only enough spaces in our parking lot to accommodate school and daycare staff.

Please <u>do not park in the</u>
<u>parking lot</u> when dropping off or picking up your children.

Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

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. 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.





#### **Tobogganing and sledding safety**

Tobogganing and sledding are fun, popular winter activities; however, every year hundreds of children are injured on toboggans. Here are some tips to keep your children safe!

- · Parents should always actively supervise children at the toboggan/sled hill
- Dress children in warm layers of brightly coloured, waterproof clothes and boots
- Use a neck warmer instead of a scarf, and cover children's head, ears and hands
- · Teach children to toboggan/sled down the middle of hill and use the sides to walk to the top
- To prevent head injuries, children should wear a hockey or ski helmet; they are designed to protect the head in all directions in icy conditions
- Toboggans/sleds should be sturdy, easy to control and in good condition
- Remind children to sit on a toboggan/sled, face forward and avoid lying on their stomach no sledding head first
- · Choose a hill with a gentle slope and enough room to stop. The hill should be free of hazards (e.g., trees and rocks) and be well lit to see any potential dangers and to be seen by others
- No jumping in front of toboggans/sleds going downhill and make sure only the recommended number of children ride the toboggan/sled

For more information, visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



1-800-361-5653 TTY: 1-866-252-9933

ork Region Health Connection

**Community and Health Services** 

www.york.ca





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#### BULLYING (a poem)

I hear the whispers

They forn info rumors

They lead me to wrong answers

I seem 19ke a stranger, all I hear are murmurs

I see the stares

They turn into glares

The lead me 40 prayers

I feel like an alien as I walk up the stairs

I feel the hate

The 40rn me 9n40 ba94

They lead me 40 fa4e

I am on outsider so I walk out the gate

They smell the fear

They drive me to tears

They 19ke 40 sneer

as they were never sincere

Written by agalyaa

Mr Bansal's Grade & class

We welcome you to our School Council meetings!

All parents are encouraged to join us once a month in the staff room, participate in a sub-committee, share your thoughts and ideas. Don't be shy. If you prefer just to sit and listen we have a space for you!

This month meeting is December 7th

#### **School CouncilUpcoming Meetings**

The 1st **Monday** of the month

6:30-8:00

January 11th

February 8th

March 7th

April 4th

May 2nd

June 6th

#### iPad/iPod Apps for Primary Students @ DSPS

Online activities and educational Apps are a great way for students to learn new concepts and practice a variety of skills.

Below you will find some of our favourite Apps at David Suzuki PS.

Suzuki students enjoy using these Apps in their classrooms with their classmates and teachers, and would love to use at home with you.

All of the Apps are available through iTunes or the Apple App Store free of charge.

LANGUAGE							
Abby Phonics ABC		Sight Words	Alpha Cards		Hooked on Words		
PHONICS		WORDS FREE			W		
Interactive Touch Books Jumb		led Sentences	Letter Quiz Free		Phonics Tic Tac Toe		
Interactive Touch Books	JUMBLED 6 SENTINGES		Ao Ž		X O X O O X O X Phonics		
Puppet Pals 2	Rea	d Me Stories	Word Bingo		Word Domino Free		
	READ ME		WORD BILLION		MI NO		
MATH							
AB Math Lite		Adventures Under The Sea		Flash To Pass Free			
+- × *		1+	2=3	± <u>1</u>			
Math Academy		Math vs.	Zombies	2048			
*		<b>8</b>		2048			
FUN/REFERENCE							
Hangman Free HD		My Blac	kboard +	Google Translate			
2"		(o)		<b>XA</b>			



#### This Holiday Season, Make a Family's Holiday a Little Brighter!

As part of the holiday season, David Suzuki PS will be holding its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Donation Drive to support the Women's Centre of York Region.

The Women's Centre of York Region offers unique programming and services that address a range of circumstances for women with a desire for positive change. Our goal is to fully support each woman on her personal journey of discovery in order that she thrives fully. They are mothers, daughters, aunts and neighbours – all part of the community as a whole. Your donation has a ripple effect on the lives of women and children in our community.

Who am I helping? All women and children of the Women's Centre of York Region.

When and where can my donations be made? Please have your child bring their donations to their classrooms between **Dec 4**<sup>th</sup> **and Dec 17**<sup>th</sup>. We will ensure to pass along your donations to those that are in need.

Please see the following chart with each grade's recommended donation:

**Kindergartens** – Warm winter items for women and children

Eg: Scarves, Hats, Mittens, Gloves

Grades 1 & 2 - Baby items

Eg: diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo and soap

**Grades 3 & 4** – School Supplies

Eg: lined paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, binders, construction paper, glue, lunch bags, etc.

**Grades 5** – Toiletries for women and children

Eg: shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap, deodorant, hand cream, body moisturizer, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, etc.

**Grade 6** – Girls and Boys undergarments

Eg: socks, pajamas, slippers, tights, undershirts, thermal under-garments

**Grades 7 & 8** – Household Cleaning Products

Eg: dish detergent, Windex, cleaning cloths, toilet paper, paper towel, cleaning wipes, rubber gloves, fabric softener, dish cloths, laundry detergent, etc.

The Women's Centre of York Region is looking for **NEW ITEMS only**. These items can be brought from home, or purchased at stores such as Wal-Mart, Dollarama or Giant Tiger.

For more information on the Women's Centre of York Region, please visit their website at <a href="www.wcyr.ca">www.wcyr.ca</a> or for further information about the David Suzuki Holiday Donation Drive, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Natalie Shum at natalie.shum@yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

We thank you for your support and donations.

Sincerely,

Ms. Shum's Grade 5 Class



#### French Immersion registration will take place from January 15 - February 12, 2016

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at <a href="FRED VARLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL">FRED VARLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL</a> on January 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 15, 2016. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2016, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office (where your child currently attends) 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 your <a href="designated French Immersion school">designated French Immersion school</a> to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrolment information or to pre-register

Families registering students who do not currently attend a YRDSB school will need to complete <u>full registration</u> paperwork at their designated FI school. Information required for registration includes:

- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Any legal documents related to custody arrangements 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, and Category B - utility bill, bank statement or other driver's license

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 enroll. 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. 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.

#### Message From Our Trustee

It is that time of year when our schools brim with energy and excitement for the many diverse celebrations taking place across our region. I am always happy to join the festivities happening in our schools and appreciate the efforts of our students, staff and community members to bring the holiday season alive.

As we wind down 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their support of our students and staff over the past few months. A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. Our students, staff and community members have continued to demonstrate respect, character and commitment in their work and interactions over the last few months. As a trustee, I consider myself very fortunate to work with such supportive community and staff members.

On behalf of all of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

All the best for 2016!

416-885-3479

juanita.nathan@yrdsb.ca

Juanita Nathan





As we grow closer to the winter season and snow, we want to remind everyone of an important rule.

As you know, the safety of our students is our first priority therefore, students are prohibited from throwing snowballs on school property as it could result in others getting hurt.

We will remind our students on a consistent basis of the importance of keeping snow on the ground and hope as parents, you will do the same at home. Students are encouraged to build "snow people" or to make snow angels.

Students who do not follow this rule will have consequences ranging from missed recesses to being sent home depending on the number of incidents and the result of the incident. We're confident that our students will remember the rules and not have this happen.

Again, we would ask your cooperation by discussing the above policy with your child. *Thank you*.



#### Lost and Found

We have a number of items in our lost and found boxes inside the front door of the school. If your child is missing any items, please take a look in these boxes - we would like to find homes for everything. Parents, please take the time to look through these items while visiting the school.

#### **Upcoming Dates**

Dec 7-19	Book Fair in the library
Dec 16	Character Awards Assembly
Dec 21—Jan 3	Winter Break NO SCHOOL
Jan 4	Welcome Back-1st day of school for 2016!
Jan 11	School Council 6:30 pm
Jan 15	PA Day (no school)
	rgarten & French rsion registration begins



GOOS paper stands for Good On One Side paper. Instead of putting all of your paper in the recycling bin start a container for your GOOS paper. It is great for drawing on or writing quick notes. Doing this one small thing you will be saving hundreds of trees.