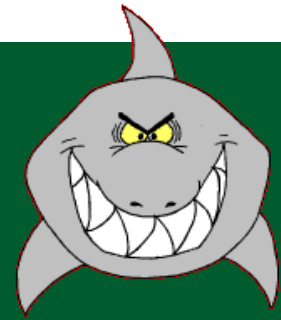


**David Suzuki
Public School
45 Riverwalk Drive
Markham, L6B 0L9
905-209-0435**

SUZUKI SOURCE



Volume 6

davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

February 2016



**Principal
Yvonne West
Vice-Principal
Marion Ahrens**

**Admin Assistant
Gail Koidis**

**Secretaries
Sunitha Krishnan
Dina Tsigaridis**

**Superintendent
Peter Tse**

**Trustee
Juanita Nathan**



Administrators' Message

We've certainly been on a roller coaster ride with the weather for the past four weeks of January, with some very chilly days on the one hand and some spring-like days on the other! As we move through February, we may see much of the same and so we urge you to always make sure your child is ready for the colder days. It's far easier to take off a layer of clothing, if the weather is warmer than expected, but not quite so easy to add a layer if your child doesn't have a layer to add, if the weather turns colder throughout the day. Remember, your children are expected to go outside to play at recess, even when it's quite cold, and so it is important that they come to school each day with boots, gloves/mitts, hats, scarves, and a nice warm winter jacket. 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. Later this month, you will be receiving information about Activity Day, which, in the past, has been a highlight for most of the children. Although, Activity Day won't be occurring until March, we do need to confirm attendance well before that. This is an exciting day for our children and it is our hope that every child will attend an event. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this day so that we can address them and ensure your child's participation. We thank Mrs. Koidis for all the work she is doing to plan this special day for all of our students!

Term 1 Report Cards will arrive on Thursday, February 18. 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

Marion Ahrens
Vice-Principal

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:



Mrs. Hudspith & Ms. Kathir	JSA	Mustafa, Prateek, Arlo, Ashaz
Mrs. Seepaul & Ms. Donnan	JSB	Neela, Emelyn, Tanroop, Rayan
Mrs. Gertsakis & Ms. Elmi	JSC	Anushka, Harini, Ananya, Nura
Miss Halliday & Mrs. Zhoa	JSD	Tianne, Abbigail, Kitson, Adhena
Miss Eng & Mrs. Khalil	JSE	Mahishsha, Jaagavi, Sammar, Urvashi
Ms. Llewellyn & Ms. Abreu	JSF	Anish W., Sanvi, Kyle
Mrs. Sambrook	1A	Ryan, Rajeesh
Mrs. McMichael	1B	Aashia, Christian
Mrs. Cooper	1C	Khai, Sohani, Tamileanthi
Ms. Risman	1D	Minak, Joy
Mrs. Barovier	2A	Mekinan, Guneet
Mr. Binner	2B	Jaylan, Harini
Mrs. Clements & Mrs. Arumugam	2C	Januya, Daksh
Ms. Wood	2D	Armaan, Oviyaa, Krishiv
Mr. Kawnik	3A	Anoushka, Anojan
Mr. Hwee	3B	Meilayna, Archana
Ms. Kilgour & Mrs. LaMarca	3C	Mustafa, Ashley
Ms. Hall	3D	Arya, Anoj, Suhani



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!

EARTH RANGERS

We were very lucky to have the Earth Rangers come and visit our school this past month. They host three presentations: a Meet & Greet for the Kindergarten students and 2 hour long presentations for grades one to four and five to eight. During the presentations, the students were introduced to several of their Animal Ambassadors. They learned about these special animals and the importance of protecting their environments. The Earth Rangers also launched our new battery recycling program which has been hugely successful. Thank you for everyone who has sent in batteries to be recycled so we can keep them out of our landfills. Please continue to send in any old batteries!



David Suzuki's Kindergarten Concert

The Kindergarten students have been eagerly preparing for our upcoming Kindergarten concert on Thursday, February 25th at 6:30pm in the Suzuki gym. The students will be singing songs around our theme of "Around the World." Invitations have been sent out. We hope to see you there!



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.



Shark Tank

We all need to let our imaginations run free now and again.....and what would be better than creating your very own invention?... With the only limitation being your imagination! As part of our grade 7 media unit, we have learned a lot about 'media persuasion' and how media producers create effective advertising campaigns. As an exciting and interactive way to sum up the unit, two of our grade 7 classes (7 D'Alessandro & 7 Chung) completed a project based on the popular show Shark Tank. Our task was to create a product and present it to the teachers (the Sharks), and the other students from the two classes. All of the students thought of unique ideas that solve real life issues. However, making an idea for a product wasn't all that we had to do. There was an extensive process behind each particular pitch. Students considered many factors such as: the types of people they would hire, manufacturing costs, how they would start their business, and most importantly, how they would persuade their audience, and the Sharks to invest in their product by using different persuasive techniques such as Pathos, Ethos, and Logos.

All groups did a phenomenal job, but as we know with inventions, only a couple of products will actually ever 'make it', as useful inventions. It was a close call, but 5 groups stood out to the Sharks, as well as the student audience. **The 5 finalists were: The Inflate-a-Case (Christina & Daija), Stylin' (Ivy & Tulsi), Insta Mask (Diane & Mindy), X-cube (Amit & Tuhen), and the Lucid Dreaming Mask (Shan & Akash).** Our 5 finalists had one final task ahead of them! Next, they were asked to pitch their products to some very special guest sharks – Ms. West and Ms. Ahrens! Both Ms. West and Ms. Ahrens told us our ideas would be the future, and as you think about that, you'll realize that it's true. For if you persevere, have courage, be optimistic, and responsible and believe in yourself, your dreams and creative ideas will be reality. At the end of our final pitch, our student audience and sharks chose an overall winner. Congratulations to our Shark Tank winners – **Christina and Daija** with their ingenious 'Inflate-a-Case' travel bag! Way to go Sharks!

By: Ivy, Tulsi, Mindy & Anjali (7 B)



Our Suzuki Shark Tank Finalists: Christina, Daija, Diane, Mindy, Shan, Akash U, Tuhen, Amit

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.

School Council News

Your School Council has worked hard on your behalf to bring in three Outside Service Providers of Extra Curricular Activities for your children. Floor Hockey is every Friday after school in the gym and there are about 30 students from Grades 1 to 5 who attend. Guitar Lessons are being provided every Thursday at lunch for about 30 students from grades 1 to 5 and 2nd session of Little Rembrandts art lessons. The children are very excited about both of these fun activities and parents appreciate the convenience of them being provided right at the school!

Popcorn and cookies sales have been a big hit with the children. Thank you to all of our families for supporting this School Council fundraising activity. All funds raised will be used to support School Council initiatives (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon; Fun Fair, etc...).

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 and by **calling 1-877-330-3001**.



Planning for the 2016-2017 School Year

We have already begun to plan for the upcoming 2016-2017 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

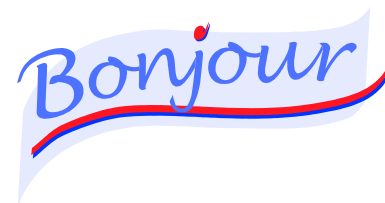


Kindergarten registration commenced on January 15th, for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who were born in 2011 (SK) and 2012 (JK) (turn four or five years old during 2016), live within the school boundary, and whose parents are public school supporters, will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A “welcome to Kindergarten” information session is planned for May 18th 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 15. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2016, 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 Fred Varley PS to register. 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. 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.



Boomerang Lunches at David Suzuki

Here at David Suzuki we are working on our Boomerang Lunch program. You may be asking... **What is a Boomerang Lunch?**

A Boomerang Lunch program is designed to reduce the amount of waste generated at schools by student lunches and snacks. Students will be bringing ALL food waste and packaging back home each and every day. This will also help parents truly see what their children are actually eating while at school.

How can you help with the Boomerang Lunch program?

- Pack drinks in reusable containers - many students don't even finish their juice boxes.
- Use reusable containers for all food packed for snacks and lunch.
- Pack fruits and veggies and sandwiches into snack sized serving- if it isn't all eaten at lunch it can be an easy snack later on in the day
- Involve your child in packing their lunch - it's another way to grow their food awareness!

Some Tips from Ms. Kilgour's Class 3C

Procedure

TEXT

How to Make a Litterless Lunch

TITLE

Goal

You can help keep our environment clean by reducing garbage^{and} by using reuseable containers.

Materials

1. reuseable containers

2. unprocessed food

Step

1 Buy fresh food.

2 Pack your food in reuseable containers.

3 Take home everything.

4 Compost the food scraps.

Conclusion

This is how you make a litterless lunch. Do this every day and you'll help yourself be healthy and help the environment too!

Term 1 Report Cards - Thursday, February 18



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:

Level 4	80% - 100%	A	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
Level 3	70% - 79%	B	Student work has met the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of most of the required knowledge and skills.
Level 2	60% - 69%	C	Student work is approaching the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of some of the required knowledge and skills.
Level 1	50% - 59%	D	Student work falls below the provincial standards. Student has demonstrated an understanding of few of the required skills and knowledge.
R	Below 50%	R	Student has not demonstrated an understanding of the required skills and knowledge. Student will require remediation to improve.

Mrs. Carter's 5A Poetry Café



Mrs. Carter's grade 5 class has been working hard on personal poetry portfolios. To end the unit they shared their hard work in a Poetry Cafe where they had the chance to read and present some of their poems. Below is a few of the pieces that were written by students.

Homework
Why did you do this to me?
You know I was happy with glee.
I wanted to play
But you said no way,
Why won't you let me live happily?

By: Jashan

Nature
Our Mother Nature is very grim
We shouldn't continue to trim.

By: Akshileya

Why Blue Why?
Blue is water dripping down,
like tears and sadness on the ground.
Blue is empty, blue is frozen,
Blue is waves all in the ocean.
Blue is the sky, blue is rain,
Blue is anger, frustration and pain.

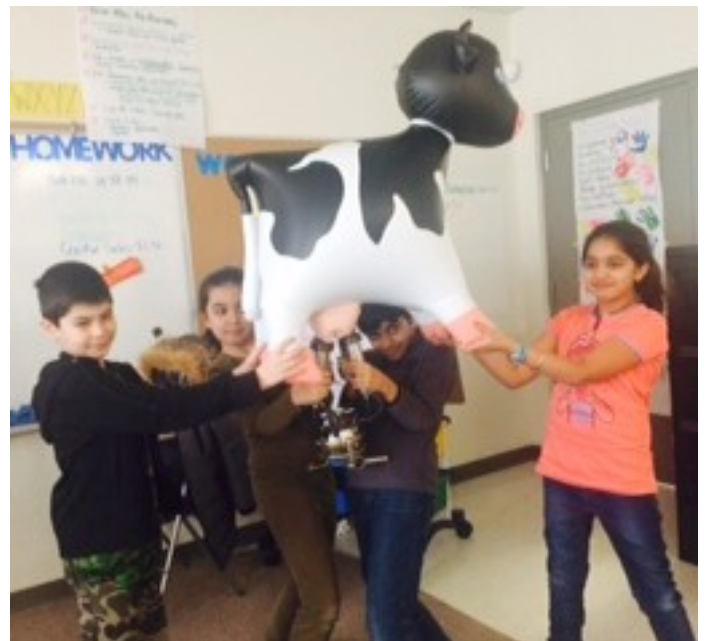
By: Jaylan

Couplets
Couplets, couplets why do you have to rhyme?
It is very hard to make one single line!

By: Abina

Ontario Dairy Farmer's Visit Grade 4

On Tuesday January 19th there was a dairy farmer's presentation for all the grade 4 classes. In part of the presentation, there was information about the life of a cow. This informed us on how a cow gets milked and its growth. There were comparisons between a cow and a human (growth). We were allowed to milk a fake cow and make actual butter from cream...that was fun! Also, we learned about the life of a farmer. We learned about life on a farm and her love for animals and nature. The main focus of this presentation was to understand the life of a dairy farmer and the way the farmers use their animals. Written by Saeyon R. and Dhairya S.



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.



When exiting the parking lot there is a stop sign. You must **stop before the sidewalk** to look for children and parents crossing before proceeding towards the road.

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

Idling

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

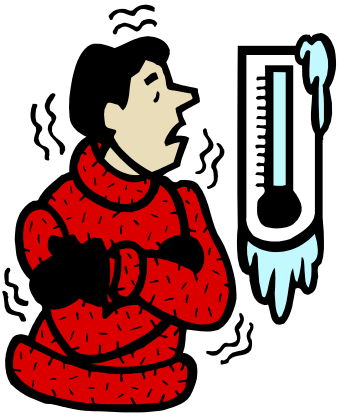


We ask that you take care in abiding by the traffic by-laws, as we do not know when the City of Markham may be making visits to our school. As well, the fines can be quite high and unfortunately, the school has no ability to override a ticket if it has been issued by the City.

Additional Elementary and Secondary P.A. Days

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, **a P.A. Day has been added for all York Region District School Board elementary schools on Friday, May 6, 2016 and secondary schools on Friday, June 3, 2016.** You can see the full updated school year calendars on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.



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. This would typically occur at about the -18°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.

Curriculum Corner



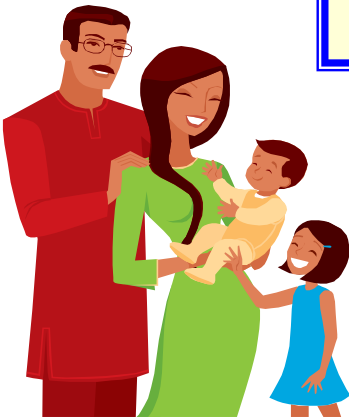
“Oral language is often an assumed or invisible part of the curriculum in the junior grades. It may appear on the timetable only when a particular language form (such as readers’ theatre, debate, or oral report) is directly addressed, either in the Language program or in a content area. Yet much of what students learn is learned through oral language – talking, listening, observing, and interacting with others.

Most of the time devoted to oral language in the junior classroom is taken up by the more informal or unrehearsed, but essential language functions. These include asking and answering questions, brainstorming, recounting and sharing experiences, telling and retelling stories, expressing opinions, and giving explanations. Less formal, unscripted uses of talk and listening occur frequently throughout the day, every day. It is these classroom interactions that engage students in “talk for learning” and provide them with a forum for developing their thinking, understanding, and expression in all areas of the curriculum. Teachers plan and arrange for purposeful talk, provide models and demonstrations of talk about interesting, engaging texts, topics, and experiences, and constantly seek out ways to increase opportunities for all students to use talk as the “motor for learning” in the classroom.
(A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction Grades 4-6 – Volume 4 Oral Language)

It is through the aforementioned description of oral language (within the classroom context) that we come to appreciate its importance from both a teaching and learning standpoint. The talk that students partake in, provide teachers with valuable information around how students are processing the information they receive, the viewpoints they hold, and the questions they have. Through the observation of this discourse, teachers can devise programming (and modify accordingly) to scaffold both expressive and thinking skills.

UPCOMING DATES

Feb. 15	Family Day, school closed
Feb. 18	Report Cards sent home
Feb. 22	School Council Meeting 6:30
Feb. 23	Pink Shirt for Anti-Bullying
Feb. 25	Character Awards Assembly 12:00
Feb. 25	Kindergarten Concert 6:30
March 14-18	March Break, NO school
March 25 –28	Easter Weekend, NO school



FAMILY DAY
FEBRUARY
15TH

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 would like to let families know that we will no longer be accepting printer ink cartridges or cell phones at our school for recycling. Please remember that these items still should be disposed of properly and can be dropped off at a Recycling Depot for proper disposal. There are 2 Recycling Depots close to us:

- 1) Unionville Depot (located at Main Street and Station Street)
- 2) Markham Depot (located at 6041 Highway 7 east).

Both of these Depots are open Monday to Saturday. We are still more than happy to accept household and rechargeable batteries.

Let's all do what we can to keep these items out of our landfills!