

**David Suzuki**

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



**Principal**

**Yvonne West**

**Val Taylor**

**Vice-Principal**

**Shelley Anand**

**Matt Champion**

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**Admin Assistants**

**Heather Witjes**

**Gail Koidis**

**Denise Sumi**

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**Superintendent**

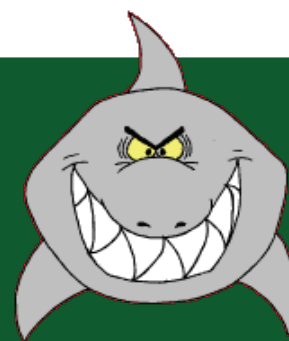
**Dr. Lisa Walsh**

**Trustee**

**Juanita Nathan**

# SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 11



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

JUNE 2014

## Administrators' Message

As the school year draws to a close, school staff experience “bittersweet” emotions. We will miss seeing our students and friends every day, but we look forward to a change of pace and the slower days of summer.

Students at David Suzuki P.S. are students to be proud of! They work hard in class, they are respectful to their peers and school staff, and they are generous in nature, always thinking about how they can help to make our world a better place. We are extremely proud of them. Our senior students are heading off to new challenges and adventures in High School, and we will welcome our first year of all-day, every-day students to Junior/Senior Kindergarten in September.

It has been a highly successful year at David Suzuki P.S., with our students' many accomplishments captured inside this – our final newsletter for this school year.

It is also a time to thank the School Council for their support and contributions over this year. What a wonderful Fun Fair! Congratulations to all the School Council parents and school staff who worked so hard to make this year's Fun Fair a resounding success!

Finally, thank you to all parents who have given us wonderful children to teach. We know that when we work together, wonderful things can happen. Best wishes from all the staff at David Suzuki P.S. to all families for a safe and enjoyable summer break .

The office will be closed from June 30th to August 25th, re-opening on August 26th. Please do not leave any phone messages over the summer as they disappear after seven days and will not be heard. The YRDSB Community Education Centre—East will be open by appointment only, they can be reached at **905-940-7800**.

**Closed**

## Character Matters - Perseverance

We had our final Character assembly for this school year on June 22nd. The trait for June was Perseverance.

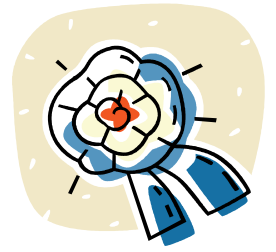
Congratulations to our Perseverance winners:

<b>Miss Lim JK/SK:</b>	<b>Karish, Parth, Arujan, Matthew, Dhivya</b>
<b>Mrs. Neate JK/SK:</b>	<b>Matthew, Dishani, Raveen, Lalit, Aaron, Jayla</b>
<b>Mrs. Gertsakis JK/SK:</b>	<b>Arishan, Abisha, Caaviyan, Bianca, Sajepan, Orjwan, Hishara</b>
<b>Miss Halliday JK/SK:</b>	<b>Mekinan, Oviyaa, Arththanan</b>
<b>Mrs. Barovier 1:</b>	<b>Marya</b>
<b>Mrs. Tsiampouris 1:</b>	<b>Arman, Aneeshan</b>
<b>Miss Chan 1:</b>	<b>Fatima, Alyssa</b>
<b>Miss Steele 1:</b>	<b>Rudra, Vibesha</b>
<b>Mrs. Neveu 2:</b>	<b>Jashpal, Janushan</b>
<b>Mrs. Abbi 2:</b>	<b>Kadin, Alaina, Mithusan</b>
<b>Mrs. LaMarca 2:</b>	<b>Merveena, Nikke</b>
<b>Ms. Suganth 2:</b>	<b>Nelan, Angad</b>
<b>Mr. Hwee 3:</b>	<b>Ahmed, Janu</b>
<b>Ms Arkeveld 3:</b>	<b>Daniel, Michael</b>
<b>Mr. Kawnik 3:</b>	<b>Rachel Ann, Rishi, Sujana</b>
<b>Mrs. Nedelkovski 3:</b>	<b>Shaaf, Asha</b>
<b>Miss Wilson:</b>	<b>Sayan</b>
<b>Mr. Kafieh:</b>	<b>Arushan</b>



Students, keep demonstrating the character traits throughout the summer as we know you are all great examples of the kinds of citizens we want in our community.

## SUZUKI'S 4 A's for 2nd Term



This year, the junior and intermediate classes have moved to the 4A model for success recognition. Each term and also following progress reports, students are recognized for their outstanding achievements. Each teacher selects a deserving student in each of the following categories: Athletics, Arts, Attitude, and Academics. The homeroom teachers collaborate with the rotary teachers to select these students and awards are presented at the 4As assembly.

*Congratulations* to those individuals who earned awards our 4A assembly!

<b>David Suzuki's 4 A's</b>					
<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>ACADEMIC</b>	<b>ARTS</b>	<b>ATHLETICS</b>	<b>ATTITUDE</b>	<b>MOST IMPROVED</b>
<b>Wilson</b>	Pavan	Archanaa	Soniya	Fariya	Kayla Livia
<b>Simmons</b>	Shreya	Jessica	Methunan	Sidhardh	Katherine Thanush
<b>Krikorian</b>	Shawnzay	Sarania	Seyoohn	Mekavi	Anjali
<b>Orr</b>	Mahesa	***	Dev	Michael	Nicole
<b>Ducas</b>	Rima	Tuhen	Achchuthan	Nathan	Mesha
<b>Buczowski</b>	Mindy	Nia	Ivy	Emanuel	Evelyn
<b>D'Alessandro</b>	Haresh	Diya Krupali	Saieesan	Alyssa Urooj	Nishaana
<b>Scott</b>	Vikalp	Layla Vanessa	Chelsea	Adnan	Samrah
<b>Korman</b>	Umen	Thipa Thepa	Kaley Abhishek	Aaron, Shyma Razmiya	Sanaa
<b>Maronitis</b>	Ali Vivien	Ashton	Haran	Amanda	Joshua
<b>Lowrie</b>	Ahmed Jenna	Emma S.	Kris	Lagsana	Emma M. Daniel
<b>Benson</b>	Charlene Obatimilehin Doaa	Jason Charlene	Heena Taran	Layma Jessica	Ratul Niruban



# SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

Congratulation to or graduating class of 2014!  
You make us very proud!



## School Addition Update

Our Daycare addition is running on schedule. Construction meetings with staff have been continuing on a bi-weekly basis to ensure that any difficulties are dealt with quickly, and problems are solved as we progress towards September. We appreciate very much the ongoing support of our YRDSB plant personnel in guiding us through the new Daycare construction.

During the summer vacation, Daycare will continue to serve many parents in our community. Kindergarten classrooms will be used by Daycare staff while the existing Daycare rooms are converted to Kindergarten classrooms for September. We will have 7 JK/SK Full Day classes starting in September!



We know that there have been times when this work has been inconvenient for staff and for parents. We thank everyone for their support



## *First Day of School*

### *Procedures*

Due to the Freedom of Information and Privacy laws, the Board recently informed all schools that we are no longer able to post class lists on the first day of school. Because of this, we will need to change our usual first day procedures.

On the first day of school (September 2nd), there will be signs posted on the school windows with the different grades on them, e.g., grade 1, grade 4. Before the bell rings there will be teachers outside with orange vests who will have class lists on clipboards. You can give them your child's name and the teacher will be able to tell you what class your child is in. When the bell goes, student should line up by themselves (without the parents) at their grade level sign.

We are asking that parents stand back from the signs and the lines so that the teachers can organize the children and ensure that all the children are put safely into their classes. Thank you for your understanding with this process. Once the teachers have their students, they will be escorted to their classrooms.



### *Parents are asked to say good-bye to their children outside the school.*

We do not want parents coming into the school or classrooms due to crowds and safety issues.

We appreciate your support with this process.

If it is raining on the first day of school, the students will be taken into the gym to be assigned to their classroom teachers.

At lunch (if your child/children are going home) and after school, please wait outside the school for your child/children to be dismissed. Again, we thank you in advance for your support with this.

## **PEANUT FREE**



**A reminder for September, we are a PEANUT FREE school. We have several students and staff that have severe nut allergies. We must ask that all party treats coming into the school must be peanut free and display the symbol or state on the package that it is Peanut Free. Cupcakes are a terrific option and Peanut Free ones can be purchased at Longo's and Loblaws. Unfortunately Tim Horton's and Dairy Queen cannot offer a peanut free product so they are unacceptable to serve to our students and will be sent home.**

***Thank you***

# **Combined Grade Classrooms**

As you are aware, many schools in York Region and across the province have combined grade classrooms. A combined or split grade class contains students from two consecutive grades, for example, a grade 7/8 split class is comprised of students from grade 7 and 8. Over 30% of classes in York Region this year were combined grade classrooms.

## ***Why do combined classrooms exist?***

Frequently, combined grade organizations are the result of there being a cumbersome number of students at particular grade levels. Sometimes, there are too many students to form one class, but not enough students to form two classes. In these situations, students from two different grade levels are grouped together to form a combined class. Smaller schools are particularly challenged because of lower overall enrolment. In these cases, students may be in combined grades for several years in a row.

## ***Why was my child chosen for the combined class?***

When the school principal and staff consider students for a combined class, the following criteria may be considered:

- A balance according to gender
- Work habits, maturity, cooperation
- A balance of ability, interests and talent
- Social and behavioural considerations
- ESL or Special Education needs
- Learning styles of the student



## ***Are there any benefits to my child in a combined class?***

Educational research supports many benefits for students in combined classes, including:

- The development of independent learning skills
- Students learn from each other
- The enhancement of social/emotional development
- Leadership opportunities for students

## ***Are there disadvantages to a combined class?***

No. An effective teacher and supportive parents provide a positive learning environment for children in any classroom organization. When student achievement is examined, the educational research has determined that there is no significant difference between single and combined or multi-grade classes.

## ***Will my child be prepared for the next grade if he/she is in a combined class?***

Yes. At the beginning of each school year, teachers use a variety of methods to assess the needs of each student regardless of the composition of the class. Using the Ontario Curriculum in each subject as a basis, the programme is planned to meet the needs and abilities of all students in the class and to prepare students for the next grade.

“Combined Classrooms” con’t.

***Is the achievement of students in a combined grade comparable to children in a straight grade?***

Educational literature shows that children in combined grad groupings function at a level that is comparable to children in a straight grade. Student achievement is not compromised. In addition, the research suggests that multi-age grouping is associated with a more positive self-concept and an enhanced attitude towards learning.

***Although we have not finalized our class lists for 2012-2013, we know that David Suzuki P.S. will have a number of combined grade classrooms for the next school year.***

**School Lunch Assistants**

David Suzuki P.S. is in need of School Lunch Assistants. This is a paid position for one hour a day, every school day over the lunch hour **12:55 – 1:55**. We also need people for occasional back up too.

If you are interested please e-mail your resume to **[gail.koidis@yrdsb.ca](mailto:gail.koidis@yrdsb.ca)** or bring it to the school office the last week of August **before** school starts.



**Some Special Thank You's**

\*\*Thank you to our community! Our hats are off to you! Thank you for your time and commitment!

\*\*To our many parents and community volunteers who help in our classrooms, on excursions and with special events. We couldn't do it without you!

\*\*To our lunchroom assistants for taking good care of our students who stay for lunch. It is really appreciated!

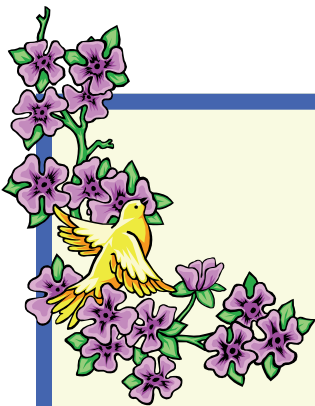
\*\*To our School Council members for all the time and effort you put into meetings. We appreciate your support!

\*\*To our Caretaking staff, Mr. Lehman, Mr. Loveys, Mr. Mc Ghee for all your hard work in keeping the school looking wonderful all year long. We couldn't do it without you!!!

\*\* To our office staff, Mrs. Smithson, Mrs. Whitjes, Mrs. Koidis and Mrs. Sumi for keeping the office running and taking such good care of the students. Your hard work is so appreciated!

\*\*To our Educational /Health Assistants, Mrs. Jang, Ms. Aitchison, Ms. Caccavella and Ms. Curran for all your help with the students in the classrooms and all the extras you do around the school. You're great!

\*\*To our teaching staff, you work so hard every day to teach our students to be successful in their academics and extra-curricular. Thank you so much for all you do!!





## Medieval Times for the Grade Fours

On Wednesday June 11, 2014 the grade 4's watched a medieval performer. His name was Peter Hurley. He started his presentation in a funny language which believe it or not was actually ENGLISH! He held a weapon called an English Bill...and he swung it in front of us which was so scary. He talked all about medieval weapons and all the armor they had to wear back in the Medieval Times.

When it was time to actually see and handle the weapons, I held a flayer which is a spikey ball that you wave with a handle. All the weapons are replicas. My favourite part was when we got to touch some of the weapons displayed all around the gym, of course following the safety rules. I think every grade 4 class would love to listen to this presentation and I feel fortunate to have seen this during our Medieval Unit in social studies.

By Roshan



### Volunteer Appreciation

*On Tuesday, June 17 the many volunteers who support our school throughout the year gathered together in our lovely library.*

*Approximately 40 people attended to enjoy punch, cucumber water and a variety of savoury and sweet snacks from 10:30 - 11:30. Volunteers had time to chat with each other and also with the many teachers who dropped in to thank them for their support.*

*Our sincere thanks go to Ms. Gail Koidis, our school office administrative assistant for her outstanding management of this event. Her organizational skills ensured that this event was a huge success!*

*We know that when the community and the school work together, those who benefit most from this partnership are our students. On behalf of all our students, we want to let volunteers know how much we appreciate their contributions. Thank you!*





## Good-byes



It's the time of year when we must say goodbye to a number of staff who are moving to other opportunities in other schools, or taking leaves.

Ms. Neveu, Ms. Abbi, Ms. Lim ; our students and staff will miss you very, very much. You've been with us since our school opened five years ago, and we know how lucky we've been to have teachers of your calibre work with our young learners. Thank you so much for your many contributions over the past five years! You will be missed.

Mr. Maronitis; thank you for all your work with our Junior students. We know that your new position will provide you with the different experiences and learning that you enjoy so much.

Mr. Kafieh; your work with our Community class has added something special to David Suzuki P.S., and we thank you for that. We wish you all success in your new school as a French teacher.

Ms. Mok; although you have been with us a short time, we know that you will be missed. We wish you success next year in your new school.

Ms. Buczkowski, Ms. Chan, Ms. Ducas, and Mr. Korman; you've been with us this year while other teaching staff have been on leaves. We appreciate your hard work with our students and wish you the very best for your future careers in teaching.

Ms. Rujeedawa; thank you for your work with our students in the French program. We hope you enjoy your year's leave with your family.

Mrs. Sumi & Mrs. Smithson: Mrs. Sumi has taken a part time position at another YRDSB school in order to support the many activities of her busy family; and Mrs. Smithson will be on a year's leave next year. We will miss them in the school office, and wish both of them all the best!

## Welcome Aboard!



We welcome the following new teaching staff to David Suzuki P.S. in September:

Sumir Bansal, Ken Chiu, Rhonda Clements, David Duffus, Maxine Hall, Michelle Hudspith, Alam Kermally, Michelle Llewellyn, Ms. Suriyakumar and Nicole Ricketts.

We welcome the following returning teaching staff back to David Suzuki P.S. in September;

Ms. Wood, Mrs. Ming, Mr. Kawnik and Miss Blando

# Graduation

Congratulations to our grade 8 graduating class who will be having their ceremony June 23rd. Thank you to the parents and other guests who will be coming to support the graduates. I know they will really appreciate it. Thank you as well to the staff who organized, set up and participated in the graduation. The event could not happen without you.

Best wishes to our grade 8's as they enter high school in September. Please be sure to come back and let us know how you are doing!



## Suzuki June Highlights

Fun Fair

Area Track and Field

Primary Movie Night

Jump Rope for Heart

JK/SK Picnics in the Park

Character Assembly

Grade 8 Graduation

4 A's Assembly



## BUS ROUTES

All bussing information will be posted on the website [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

after August 23rd.

Please confirm your route on this site as there may be some changes.



*Have a great happy and safe summer!*

*See you in September!*

## Important Upcoming Dates:

September 1st	Labour Day Holiday
September 2nd	First Day of School
September 22nd	First P.A. Day (school closed)



## Environmental Corner

If you're wondering how you can conserve water...

- Try taking shorter showers
- Checking the faucets in your house. Do any of them drip-drip-drip? Let your parents know, so they can tighten them up!
- Do your parents water your lawn and flowers everyday in the summer? Ask them to cut down to only a few times a week and let the rain do the rest.

Thank you for your support.

## Pulleys and Gears with Scientist in the School

On Thursday May 22, 2014 Scientist Chung visited David Suzuki P. S. Mrs. Krikorian's grade four class had the opportunity to learn about pulleys and gears. We learned that pulleys are ropes attached to wheels with grooves in them that can lift a load using force. We also learned that gears are wheels with teeth that work together to make a machine work. Some examples of pulleys are fixed, movable, block and tackle pulleys. Some real life examples of pulleys are cranes pulling weights, flagpoles and shutters. Some real life examples of gears are clocks, fishing rods and egg beaters. Scientist Chung made science so much fun to learn.

by Imran

The grade four classes at DSPS had Scientist at School, the scientists name was Scientist Chung. The grade 4's were excited to meet her and learn more about pulleys and gears. During the day the grade 4's were participating in some cool fun activities with grade 8 volunteers. Some of the activities were involving the grade 4s to get their hands on. The grade 4's were doing some activities like getting to see different pulleys and gears, trying pulleys and gears, making for themselves pulleys and gears, looking at how both of these work, and listing some pulleys and gears. These grade 4's were really tired but wanted to learn much more. The gr 4's were all so thankful at the end of the day and their brains were full of great learning. They all learned a lot about pulleys and gears and they felt fortunate to have had this experience.

by Marwa



## Young Activists' Update

A group of our senior students have been extremely active working on behalf of homeless youth.

They organized and managed to deliver a submarine sandwich lunch for David Suzuki P.S. students.

As a result of their hard work, more than \$300 was raised to support homeless youth. This money was used to create hygiene kits for homeless youth.

We are extremely proud of these young activists!







## Regional Track & Field Results



On Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 our students from David Suzuki Public School competed at the Regional Track & Field Meet in Stouffville. The weather was perfect for competition and enjoyment!

Daniel (8L) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Senior Boys Running Long Jump

Haran (6M) placed in the top 12 of Junior Boys Triple Jump

Raabia (6M) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Junior Girls Standing Long Jump

Anoushka (5D) placed in the top 12 of Atom Girls Triple Jump

Miss Blando would like to congratulate the four students on representing our school so well. They should be proud of their achievements this track season.





## SUZUKI FUN FAIR

On Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> hundreds of students and their parents enjoyed the entertainment provided at the David Suzuki P.S. Fun Fair. This was a joint project undertaken by our School Council with support from school staff.

What a terrific turn out we had! The weather cooperated, sales were wonderful, and everyone enjoyed the music of the Glen Marais Band. The Bouncy Castle bounced all evening long, and sales were brisk at the many sales tables run by school and community members. Our students enjoyed every minute of the evening. It was wonderful to see so many families attend this once-a-year event!

Our sincere thanks go to School Council for their commitment to our school families. We know how much work it takes to create such a wonderful evening, and how much time our volunteers give in order to make an event of this size happen. Thank you everyone for an outstanding Fun Fair!

