

David Suzuki
Public School
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SUZUKI SOURCE



david Suzuki.ps.ca

Volume 11

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Administrators' Message

The Summer Holidays are finally here and, as we look forward to the carefree weeks ahead, it is important for you to know that research shows that students who review their skills during the summer and who read and write on a regular basis have a stronger start for the next school year. We urge you to facilitate, encourage and engage in continuous learning opportunities with your children throughout the summer so as to lessen 'summer lag'. But, don't forget to also have lots of fun!!

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our entire David Suzuki Staff for their hard work. Our Teaching staff, DECE's, Educational Assistants, Administrative/Office staff and Caretaking staff all have a hand in ensuring that our students are safe, that they are learning, and that our school runs smoothly.

I would also like to thank the School Council for their work and contributions on behalf of the parents and students. Their final contribution this year, our annual Fun Fair, was a resounding success and brought our families out for an evening of togetherness and fun! Look out for the dates of our Council Meetings for the next school year in our September newsletter. We hope to see many more parents coming out to our meetings!

Along with this, I would like to thank all of our Volunteers and our entire parent community for your efforts and ongoing support of our staff and students. We appreciate all that you do, but most importantly, we appreciate your trust and partnership in the daily work we do with your children.

And finally, I would like to thank Mrs. Anand for all she has done to support the students, staff, and parents of David Suzuki. Her commitment to excellence and to doing the best she can in support of our students, as well as her passion and belief in equity and inclusivity is a beacon for us and deeply appreciated. We will miss her!

We wish all our families in the David Suzuki Community a safe, happy and restful summer! We look forward to seeing all of you in September!

The office will be closed from June 27th to August 30th, re-opening on August 31st. 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**.



Principal
Yvonne West

Vice-Principal
Shelley Anand

Admin Assistants
Gail Koidis
Rama Kanagarajah
Sunitha Krishnan

Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Walsh
Trustee
Juanita Nathan



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:

Mrs. Neate	FTJSA	Sharmista, Ryan, Mathew
Ms. Llewellyn	FTJSB	Nephian, Imran, Sajegan
Miss Halliday	FTJSC	Prithvi, Hanna, Rafay
Mrs. Gertsakis	FTJSD	Arishan, Mikayla, Laxshana, Sugan
Miss Eng	FTJSE	Briyanna, Sammar, Anthony
Mrs. Hudspith	FTJSF	Mustafa, Sintheya, Aswitha
Ms. Hall	FTS/1A	Parth, Brandon, Chelsea, Thivigan
Mrs. Barovier	1/2A	Darren, Mikaella
Ms. Wood	1A	Vincent, Aneesa
Mrs. Tsiampouris	1B	Carlos, Armaan, Nikhil
Mrs. Sambrook	1C	Ethan, Krishanth, Madison
Mr. Hwee	2/3A	Arman, Tanraj
Miss Chan	2A	Saharnah, Rudra, Arya
Mrs. Clements	2B	Shiroth, Sathun
Miss Steele	2C	Sabaresh, Vibesha
Mrs. Arumugam	3/4A	Tina C.
Mrs. McMichael	3A	Nelan, Ariaan
Mrs. Nedelkovski	3B	Harishh, Thivera
Mrs. Cooper	3C	Ethan, Nethura, Janushan



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.

Character Matters - 4A's



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!

TEACHER	ACADEMICS	ARTS	ATHLETICS	ATTITUDE	MOST IMPROVED
Arumugam	Taniya	Kubi	Jibran	Jashan	Shawn
Elsner	Aditya	Diya	Ausha	Veer	Ibrahim
Benson	Christina, Akash, Rathisa	Kelly, Stacey	Daja, David, Tyler	Harvansh, Aishani	
DAlessandro	Amaan, Vivien	Amanda	Raabia	Ali, Taha J.	Ivan
Duffus	Mahesa	Janki	Kevin	Akash	
Haider	Sonya, Navid	Seyoohn	Nilavan	Aakash	Roshan
Kermally	Ugbat	Dianne	Bilal	Keila	
Orr/Kilgour	Harnir, Alyssa	Shahves	Muhammad	Shaima	
Lowrie	Angelina, Luckshanna	Sanah, Urooj	Ashley	Osmund, Saieesan	Jenisha, Naviatha, Ashley, Haran, Gavein
Ming	Doaa	Tooba	Yathavan		
Ricketts	Linda, Shibani	Adelaide, Timothy, Aishwarya	Brashaya, Haran	Suwetha, Deepika	Ashna, Pragathi
Scott	Jolina, Chitravel, Mackenzie, Sabrina, Mihir, Sanjay	Tanya			Omar, Vithurshiga
Simmons	Dhara	Affan	Sharan	Rida, Viramdev	
Wilson	Saryu	Krishna	Mukilan	Aaravee	Justin





SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

Congratulation to or graduating class of 2015!
You make us very proud!

FAREWELL TO OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS OF 2015



On Tuesday, June 16th, we honoured our Grade 8 students who are leaving us to continue their learning at high school. Many of these students have been a part of the David Suzuki School Community since the school opened and others have attended over the course of the past 6 years.

All of them, regardless of the number of years they have attended here, have contributed significantly in a variety of ways to the school. We wish them the very best and hope that we have served them well in preparing them to be learners for life as well as caring citizens of character.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our Grade 8 students!



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.

On the first day of school (September 8th), 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, students 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.

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** 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!

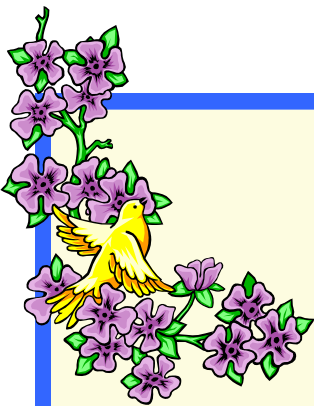
**To our School Council members for all the time and effort you put into meetings. We appreciate your support!

**To our Caretaking staff, Mr. Lehman, Ms. McCormick, Mr. Mc Ghee, Mr. Michael and Mr. Whitney 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. Koidis, Mrs. Krishnan and Mrs. Kanagarajah 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. Bond, Mr. Parks, Ms. Aitchison, Ms. Caccavella and Ms. Ponton 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!!





7B LASER QUEST TRIP

Laser Quest was one of the greatest experiences ever! Although at first we were confused on how to play with the lasers, we soon learned. We had a blast and enjoyed working as a team. Skills like strategy and decision-making helped us to have fun. It was great playing games with friends. Overall, it was a competitive, and amazing trip. We hope to do this again next year.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN:

HEALTHY COOKING AROUND THE WORLD

On June 10, 2015, a group of students took over the kitchen in the staffroom! Under the supervision of some staff and intermediate student leaders, they cooked up a storm, as they chopped, stirred, baked and ate their delicious creations. In the process, they learned about cooking healthy foods from around the world. The recipes included Greek salad, Nigerian fruit salad, Vietnamese spring rolls, Canadian maple tarts, American berry mint ice-tea and chivda from India. Students not only left with new culinary experiences, but they also received a recipe book to share at home with family and friends. This event was made possible by a dedicated team of intermediate students, led by Anish in grade 8. Appreciation also goes out to members of the intermediate team: Agalyaa, Brashaya, Deepika, Pragathi, Rasiha, Shibani, Vanessa and Vishaali.



Bicycle Safety

With the warm weather, many children are outside riding their bikes. Bike riding keeps you fit and healthy and it is a lot of fun! When participating in any physical activity, always consider safety first.



Every year, about 300,000 children go the hospital because of bike injuries. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die, usually from **head** injuries. Head injuries can also lead to brain damage.

Did you know wearing a certified helmet can reduce the risk of serious head injuries by 85 percent?

Did you know that children and youth under 18 are required by law to wear a helmet with the chinstrap clip fastened under the chin when cycling?

Wear a bike helmet EVERY TIME YOU RIDE, even if you are going for a short ride!

Regional Track & Field Results

This month, we had over 55 athletes travel to Stouffville to represent David Suzuki in the Area Track and Field meet. These individuals excelled in a specific event and showed impressive athleticism at the meet. We had a large number of student place in the top 6, and 5 qualified to participate in Regionals. The Regional Meet was attended by Haran (gr. 7), Raabia (gr. 7), Kevin (gr. 6), Branavan (gr. 5) and Navid (gr. 4). These athletes competed with the best of the best in all of York Region. With exceptional success our athletes did a great job, and a special congratulations goes out to Navid who placed 5th in all of the Region for grade 4 standing long jump. Thank you to all the athletes and coaches who helped with these two days. Each of you showed great sportsmanship and character as you competed. We look forward to another great meet next year.



Good-byes



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

Vice-Principal Ms. Anand will be leaving us to be the Vice-Principal at Buttonville Public School.; Mr. Lehman, our Lead Caretaker will be moving to Little Rouge P.S.; Mrs. Bond, our CYW will be moving to Wismer P.S.; Mrs. Firoz, one of our DECE's will be moving to Red Maple P.S.

Miss Chan, Miss Fung and Ms. Ponton thank you for filling in for the past year while we have had staff on leave.

We wish you all the best and thank you for your support here at David Suzuki P.S.

Welcome Aboard!



We welcome Vice-Principal, Ms. Marion Ahrens from Unionville Meadows P.S. to David Suzuki P.S. in September

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

Ms. Rujeedawa and Ms. Shum.

Volunteer Appreciation

On Monday, June 8th 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!



SUZUKI FUN FAIR

Our fun fair was a super success this year! Fabulous weather, record number of attendance and great fun had by all! Thank you so much to our Parent School Council for organizing this fantastic event and all of our staff, students and volunteers for making it happen.



YOUNG ACTIVIST CLUB CLOTHING DRIVE

On June 4th, the Young Activist Club provided David Suzuki with a humbling opportunity to give back to the community. At the Fun Fair, large bins were set up where people could donate lightly used clothes and shoes. The clothing was donated to the charity “Bags 2 School”, which pays schools, businesses and organizations for their unwanted clothing. The charity then recycles the fabric and puts it to use in things like insulation stuffing and upholstery, as well as reused clothing. As for the shoes, they were donated to the “Soles4Souls” charity, which donates lightly used shoes to children living in poverty. Shoes are sent to places like homeless shelters, orphanages and domestic abuse shelters. The Young Activist club would like to thank Lily and her family for organizing the shoe drive. They would also like to thank the staff, students and community of David Suzuki for their generous donations, and we would like to encourage you to continue being selfless and giving to others.

Written by: Ashna N, 7B





Graduation

Congratulations to our grade 8 graduating class who had their ceremony June 16th. 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

Botanical Gardens Field Trips

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

after August 31st.

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 7th	Labour Day Holiday
September 8th	First Day of School
September 28th	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.