

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



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Yvonne West
Vice-Principal
Marion Ahrens

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Debbie Watrous
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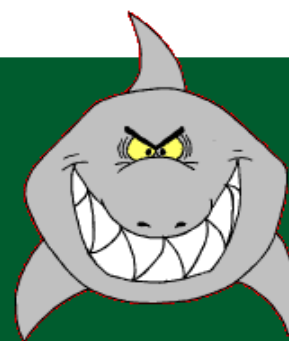


SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 5

davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

January 2016



Administrators' Message

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday filled with the love of family and friends!



Thank you to the many families who contributed items to the Women's Shelter Donation Drive this year. Because of your generosity, we were able to help make a difference in the lives of many people in need. A special thank you to our Grade 5 students in Mrs. Shum's class for spearheading this very successful and worthwhile Drive!

As we begin this New Year, we look forward to continuing to work with your children, helping them to achieve their full potential. Our job is to help your children become the best they can be – the best learners and the best citizens. We know that we cannot accomplish this without your support and so we look forward to our ongoing partnership with you in pursuit of this goal.

Finally, please know that we encourage you to come to us with your questions and concerns; your voice is important and your opinions are valued. Our doors are always open to you, should you wish to meet with us, and, if more convenient for you, we are also accessible by telephone (905-209-0435) or e-mail (yvonne.west@yrdsb.ca and marion.ahrens@yrdsb.edu.on.ca).

Yvonne West
Principal

Marion Ahrens
Vice-Principal

January's Character Trait: 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.

David Suzuki is a great place to be because Character Counts!



Character Matters - EMPATHY

December's character trait was **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."

Congratulations to our Empathy winners:

Mrs. Hudspith & Ms. Kathir	JSA	Pranjal, Ashaz, Arlo, Prateek
Mrs. Seepaul & Ms. Donnan	JSB	Fiza, Rithika, Arathi
Mrs. Gertsakis & Ms. Elmi	JSC	Vaaranan, Juvala, Avandhi
Miss Halliday & Mrs. Zhou	JSD	Naveeda, Dhani, Sharina, Anika
Miss Eng & Mrs. Khalil	JSE	Briyanna, Donn, Thurshyan
Ms. Llewellyn & Ms. Abreu	JSF	Ariel, Sherekahiny, Aisha
Mrs. Sambrook	1A	Kajena, Inaya
Mrs. McMichael	1B	Vitthagan, Arththanan
Mrs. Cooper	1C	Jamai, Arishan
Ms. Risman	1D	Athish, Hishara, Sabareesan
Mrs. Barovier	2A	Shivali, Saad
Mr. Binner	2B	Harini, Zoya
Mrs. Clements & Mrs. Arumugam	2C	Maya, Hemani, Carlos
Ms. Wood	2D	Aaryan, Srivastsa, Naira
Mr. Kawnik	3A	Tyler, Nathan
Mr. Hwee	3B	Cynthia, Maryam, Sophia
Ms. Kilgour & Mrs. LaMarca	3C	Snehi, Joythi
Ms. Hall	3D	Saharnah, Zaire

2015-16
Student Council Members:

President: Ali & Isha
Vice Presidents: Ishan & Akash
Treasurer: Mackenzie
Secretary: Amaan
Public Relations: Karthigan
Athletic Representatives: Matthew





SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

Back in December, Kubi approached me regarding the flooding that had occurred in India. She was concerned about families being left without personal belongings and bare necessities for day to day living.

Wanting to help these families out, Kubi asked if she could run a clothing drive within our class. She took the time to educate the class on what had occurred in India, and invited anyone who was able to contribute, to bring in some outgrown, unused clothes that she was going to send overseas.

Little did she know, that like a small drop in the ocean, it ripples into bigger things.

Over the span of a week and a half, Kubi was overwhelmed with the amount of donations that were brought in by both her classmates, and the staff at David Suzuki P.S.

It was such a delight to see the joy and pride in her face each day she saw more donations. It was a great lesson for all, not only in the spirit of giving, but in character. The students quickly understood (and saw first hand), that if you put your heart and mind into something you truly care about, people will step up and support you.

Way to go Kubi! You have made our class proud. A big thank you to everyone in the class that helped support this wonderful random act of kindness!



To Ms. Shum's grade 5 Class

For creating, collecting, organizing and managing the holiday drive. They showed tremendous empathy for others and used their actions to make a difference. They demonstrated that simple acts of kindness can go a long way.

A very warm thank you to all of the generous families who donated items to the Women's Centre of York Region through the Suzuki Holiday Drive in December. A large variety of items including socks, mittens, hats, diapers, shampoo and household cleaning products were donated by Suzuki families.

The Women's Centre was extremely grateful for our help and generosity.

A special thank you is extended to all of the students in Ms. Shum's Grade 5 class





Prayer Room

At David Suzuki Public School we are committed to embracing cultural and religious diversity.

A Religious Accommodation Form was sent home this week. Thank you to those who have already returned them. Please return them by January 11th. Once all forms are collected we will be able to respond to requests made, for example creating a Multi-Faith Prayer Space.

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

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at [FRED VARLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL](#) 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 [designated French Immersion school](#) 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 [full registration 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](#).

This year, the Senior Girls Volleyball team had another impressive season!

Over the course of their two-month season, the girls put together a record of 13 wins and 6 losses throughout all of their exhibition and tournament play.

Their season was capped off on December 3rd at the East Area tournament where they finished a very respectable 5th place out of 14 very strong teams. All of the Lady Sharks should be extremely proud of their accomplishments this season.

Congratulations on becoming a true “team” who learned to battle through adversity, hardships, and injuries, and who learned to work together while demonstrating sportsmanship and positivity. The countless hours of practice and play helped all of the Lady Sharks develop their athletic and personal skills to new heights.

You ladies are AWESOME!!



*Absent: Anoushka A.

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: www.yrdsb.on.ca. 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:

[Elementary School Registration Form](#)

[Junior/Senior Kindergarten Questionnaire](#)

Curriculum Corner

Learning is an ongoing process. It is important for children to reflect and set goals. Encourage your child to keep a Reader's Notebook to record what they have learned, to reflect and develop their ideas about what they have read.

Some possible prompts for a Reader's Notebook:

This was about...

The most significant event was...

An idea that inspired me...

I did not understand this part because...

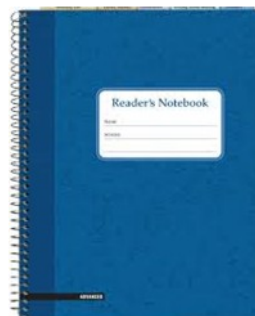
The character reminds me of....

This book relates to my life in the following ways...

I changed the way I think/feel about....because...

Some questions I have....

Another point of view might be....



Taken from "A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, volume 2"



Inclement Weather



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.

Attention Grade 8 Parents/Guardians!



It is that time of year again...**option sheets for grade 9!**

Our current grade 8 students need to start thinking about what courses to select for high school and what level of course is best suited for their learning. Please take some time with your child to communicate and explore through the following website:

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/guidance.services

Each student has already received their user name and password for log in purposes.

Here are a few important dates to note:

- Registration Forms (paper copy) are due to Mrs. Scott, Mr. Bansal or Mr. Lowrie by **Thursday, January 21st**
- Transfer requests for other YRDSB schools, **Thursday, January 21st.**

Please note that Bur Oak Secondary and Pierre Elliot Trudeau are NOT accepting transfers.

- Online Course Selections must be submitted by **Friday, February 29th** (students must also print a paper copy of their course selections and submit them to Mrs. Scott, Mr. Bansal or Mr. Lowrie)

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:

Idling

Parking in a fire route

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.

Kiss and Ride

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.

HELP PREVENT HEAD LICE!



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

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

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

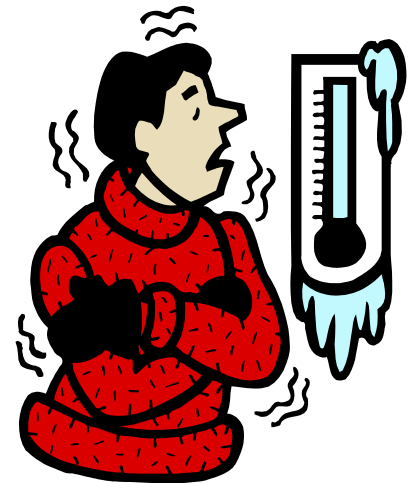
For more information, please call the Public Health Nurses at York Region Health

Services *Health Connection* line, 1-800-363-5653,

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30pm

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 and would typically occur at about the -20°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.



Snowballs



In order to promote a safe and respectful environment on our school playground, students have been told that the throwing of snowballs is prohibited. Students are aware that snowballs may contain pieces of ice and rock and that they can cause injury to others or damage school property. Student safety is a priority at David Suzuki. Parents are asked to discuss the importance of keeping the snow on the ground and to remind students of our safe schools policy.

Reporting Your Child's Absence

You **MUST** call in your child's absence! We have a 24 hour absence reporting line, clearly state and **SPELL** your child's name and state their teacher's name as well. If we do not know where your child is we must call the police.

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation.



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 into 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.

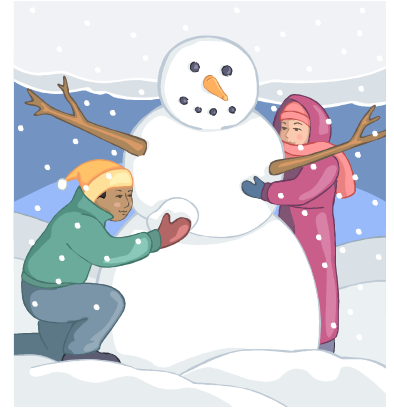
Are you too sick to go outside at Recess?

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.



Winter is Here

Just another reminder that it is very important that students dress appropriately for the cold winter weather. Students should be bundled up! All children should wear boots, socks, snow pants, coats, hats and mittens/gloves. With over 800 students in the school, please remember to label all your child's outdoor clothing with his/her name as many children have items that are the same.



Students should also have a pair of indoor shoes for use within the school.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 11	6:30 School Council Meeting
Jan. 15	Junior Kindergarten registration begins at 9:00 am, P.A. Day (no school for students)
Jan. 28	Gr. 7 Immunization
Jan. 29	Character Assembly K-3 12:00
Feb. 1	P. A. Day (no school for students)
Feb. 18	Reports Cards go home

Phone Number Changes

Just a reminder that if you have any changes in your e-mail, home, work or cell phone numbers, please let the office know so we can update our records. We want to ensure that we are able to reach you in case of any emergencies.

Thank you.

Environmental Corner

Use Less Paper!

Even though we live in a digital world there is still a lot of paper being used and wasted. One way we try to reduce the amount of paper being used here at David Suzuki Public School is to use G.O.O.S. paper (Good On One Side). Here are some ways you can try to reduce the amount of paper you use in your day to day life.

- Ask sales staff not to print receipts** — you'll also avoid BPA.
- Bank and pay bills online** — even cheques can be avoided with money transfers.
- Opt out of the phone book** — it's like a tree branch landing in your recycling bin!
- Rid yourself of ad mail** — put a [No Junk-Mail Please](#) note on your mailbox
- Get news online** — it's the same information as in print!
- Resurrect the hanky** — paper-free nose blowing is possible!
- Purchase with less packaging.** — do those socks really need to be wrapped around cardboard?
- Carry a commuter mug** — no paper cup, nothing to recycle.

Information from David Suzuki Foundation

