

David Suzuki
Public School
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SUZUKI SOURCE



davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Volume 6

March 2015

Administrators' Message



Principal

Yvonne West

Vice-Principal

Shelley Anand

Admin Assistant

Gail Koidis

Secretaries

Rama Kanagarajah

Sunitha Krishnan

Superintendent

Dr. Lisa Walsh

Trustee

Juanita Nathan



Last week, we had the pleasure of seeing our Kindergarten students perform their Love and Friendship Concert. They worked really hard to prepare for this event and their performance did not disappoint! They sung beautifully and they looked beautiful, too! Thank you to our Kindergarten Team for their dedication to preparing the children for their special evening and thanks to all of our families for coming out to show support for your children. The proceeds from the ticket sales will be used to support our upcoming Eco Project which will provide outdoor learning and play spaces to enhance our children's schooling experience. More information on this project, which will be a joint effort between the school, our Child Care and our school community, will be shared with you soon.

During the month of February we took part in the Canada-wide 'Say My Name' campaign which focused on performing Random Acts of Kindness and Bully Prevention. The campaign at Suzuki was spearheaded by our Student Equity Team and culminated with our Say My Name assembly on March 5, hosted by musician Glenn Marais, who also wrote the acclaimed song, Say My Name. Sadly, bullying and cyberbullying continues to be a concern all across the country and so we must continue to address it and take a stand against it. **On April 22**, we are having a very important parent information evening to discuss cyberbullying as this involves the inappropriate use of technology that is occurring primarily at home. It is important for parents to be aware of what our children may be doing or may be facing while online. Please save the date and look out for a flyer to come home about this shortly.

At the end of this week, we will be heading off for a week of rest and relaxation before embarking on the final few months of this school year. In the past few weeks, we have met with all classroom teachers to review their mid-year student data and to speak about any of our students who are not progressing as we would like. This mid-year check-in provides us with the opportunity to monitor student progress and to put additional supports in place where needed. Our goal is to work as hard as we can, all year long, to ensure that all of our students are learning and reaching their full potential!

Have a wonderful, restful and safe March Break!

Yvonne West

Principal

Shelley Anand

Vice-Principal

Character Trait For
March

~ Honesty ~

*We behave in a sincere,
trustworthy and
truthful manner.*



Character Matters - Initiative

February's character trait was **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."

Mrs. Neate	FTJSA	Sanjana, Kajena
Ms. Llewellyn	FTJSB	Raagavi, Christian, Farahnaz
Miss Halliday	FTJSC	Ariana, Eyalpan
Mrs. Gertsakis	FTJSD	Gia, Arpita
Miss Eng	FTJSE	Sarah, Devin
Mrs. Hudspith	FTJSF	Pranjal, Lalit, Nikhil
Ms. Hall	FTS/1A	April, Ashna
Mrs. Barovier	1/2A	Naira, Harini
Ms. Wood	1A	Dishani, Menusha
Mrs. Tsiampouris	1B	Nijaniha, Daksh
Mrs. Sambrook	1C	Orjwan, Raveen
Mr. Hwee	2/3A	Ishan, Timmy
Miss Chan	2A	Nida, Navvya
Mrs. Clements	2B	Kaitlyn, Cynthia
Miss Steele	2C	Abina, Akschaya
Mrs. Arumugam	3/4A	Tina C.
Mr. Kawnik	3A	Jolie, Safwan
Mrs. Nedelkovski	3B	Apithaa, Ethan
Mrs. Cooper	3C	Sharan, Jordan


Congratulations!





Keeping Our Air Clean! Turn OFF Your Car!

The eco team has been monitoring our parking lot and drop off loop to look for any vehicles that have been left running. We are pleased to report that many vehicles are turned off when we have been monitoring. Please remember that if you are parked for more than 20 seconds you should turn off your vehicle so you don't waste gas or pollute our air!

Remember to always turn your car or van off when you are waiting!

School Council News

We are excited to let you know that due to the positive feedback from parents and students for the Outside Service Providers' extra-curricular activities, School Council has requested that the soccer and guitar programs be extended for another season. There may be a possibility that the guitar lessons may also be offered to senior students. Watch out for more details...

Upcoming events:

Mar 13th – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon – School Council is, once again, organizing a luncheon for our teachers and staff at David Suzuki P.S. as a “Thank You” for their dedication, hard work and time invested in our kids’ learning and well-being.

April 22 – Cyberbullying Parent Presentation – 6:30 p.m. – childcare will be provided.

Fundraising Activities:

Thank you for your support of our popcorn sales which has helped us to raise \$582 towards the Teacher Appreciation event and our annual Fun Fair. Please continue to support our fundraising activities.

Please join us for the **next parent council meeting on April 13th, @ 6.30** and take a part in kids learning.

Equity Corner

York Region District School Board is committed to supporting schools to become more equitable and inclusive in order to ensure student achievement and well being. “Equity and inclusive education aims to understand, identify, address, and eliminate the biases, barriers, and power dynamics that limit students’ prospects for learning, growing, and fully contributing to society. Barriers may be related to gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnic origin, religion, socio-economic background, physical or mental ability, or other factors. It is now recognized that several factors may intersect to create additional barriers for some students. These barriers and biases, whether overt or subtle, intentional or unintentional, need to be identified and addressed.”(Equity & Inclusive Education In Ontario Schools). As a school, we are committed to developing resilient students who are engaged in their learning and who feel a sense of belonging. We look forward to continue working with our students and families who enrich our school in order to make David Suzuki an equitable and inclusive place for all members of our community.

For more information on Equity & Inclusive Education in Ontario schools please refer to:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/inclusiveguide.pdf>



SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

David Suzuki is a busy place with many great things happening such as extra-curricular activities, a focus on character skills development and teaching and learning.

On March 2, 2015 our school was asked to host visiting principals from Denmark.

Thank you to Anish, Vanessa, Tooba and for presenting to our Denmark guests and highlighting some of the initiatives happening at David Suzuki.did an outstanding job!

Thank you to our Student Equity Committee for organizing our Random Acts Of Kindness Challenge and our Say My Name Assembly!



Thank you to Tooba and Abisha (from Mr. Lowrie's) for being the MC's at our Kindergarten Concert!

10 Tips to Help Your Child with Homework

Homework is an important part of learning. When you support your children's homework routine, you can help them do better at school. Here are some simple tips to help get the most out of their homework.

- 1. A routine is good.** Homework can be habit forming and that's good news for you and your child. Work out a homework schedule and make sure children adhere to it. It won't be long before homework is complete without your getting involved.
- 2. Give space for homework.** Distractions and homework don't mix. So do your best to create a bright and quiet space where your child can concentrate on schoolwork. Make sure it's away from distractions like TV, music and loud siblings.
- 3. Practice makes perfect.** Repetition reinforces learning. That's why it's helpful to have kids practice reading, writing and math with you every day. Ten to 15 minutes a day can work wonders, whether reading a favourite book together, or helping measure ingredients in the kitchen.
- 4. "How was your day?"** Every school day is an adventure. Kids will do and learn so much they'll be bursting to tell someone all about it. So take a few moments every day to chat about the school day—and be a good listener.
- 5. Check in occasionally.** When kids do their homework all alone, their concentration can often wander. Check in once in a while and see how it's going. Ask if there are any questions. Sometimes kids just need to talk about a homework problem to figure out the answer.
- 6. Turn everyday activities into homework.** Teachers give homework and so can you. Include children in everyday tasks and assign activities such as searching newspapers, reading recipes, creating shopping lists, plotting out routes on a map, etc. Small activities can often teach big lessons.
- 7. Make kids proud of their effort.** Getting the answers right is important, but it's only part of what homework is all about. Doing a thorough and neat job is important, too. Make it a habit to sit down and go over completed homework. Look at it together for thoroughness and overall quality of work. Always look for something positive.
- 8. Motivate with applause.** "Hey, you did a great job". Words like these have an amazing effect on children. Encouragement gives them confidence and makes them feel good about doing their best. At the end of every homework session, try letting your son or daughter know that you appreciate and admire the effort.
- 9. Encourage curiosity and questions.** Learning really begins when kids start asking questions. Who, what, where, when and why are magical words of discovery that make learning more interesting and fun. Give your children the confidence to ask for help if the homework is difficult or confusing.
- 10. Know what's going on at school.** Unfortunately, kids don't always tell parents everything. Make a point of staying in touch with teachers, especially if you have a question or concern. Let teachers know they can always call you if there is a problem.



Earth Hour

The ninth annual Earth Hour takes place at 8:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, March 28, 2015, only months before a new global climate deal is negotiated.

On this day, six continents, 120 countries, and 24 time zones will be united as a global community, making our voices heard through the individual action of turning off the lights. Last year, WWF's Earth Hour broke global records, mobilizing hundreds of millions of people to call for action on climate change. The symbolic hour has grown into the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, with activities and initiatives throughout the year

Earth Hour shows how great things can be achieved when people come together for a common cause. Please join us on Saturday, March 28, 2015 between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. local time.



What can you do?

On Saturday, March 28 at 8:30 all you need to do is turn off your lights for one hour. It is also a great time to turn off any electronic devices such as computers, televisions and radios. Use this time to play board games or to tell stories. We will also choose a time during the school day to turn off our lights to show support for earth hour and our planet.

Please turn off your lights!

David Suzuki Public School ECO News

A new initiative in the world of Education is creating natural spaces outside schools to promote student learning. David Suzuki Public School along with the Upper Canada Childcare centre are joining forces to transform our Kindergarten play areas and the school grounds into engaging spaces which will allow students to explore and interact with the environment allowing them to learn through being immersed in nature. Please stay tuned for more information regarding this exciting initiative!

A Shocking Grade 6 Classroom!

What's going on in here? A lemon is powering a light bulb and a clock? A potato is making a buzzer go off? It must be Ms. Benson's class and their electrifying science experiments!!

This year, the students in Ms. Benson's grade 6 class have been studying the shockingly exciting science of electricity. They had tons of fun conducting all kinds of experiments, learning about static electricity, and even how to stick a balloon to almost anything! They learned why we use switches to control our classroom lights, why long hair will often stick to a plastic chair, and of course, why finding the *one* broken bulb on a strand of Christmas tree lights can make a parent go crazy!!!

Perhaps the most memorable experiences involved the hands-on experiments conducted in class. Who will ever be able to forget the time we tried to find out how many D batteries one bulb can take?! In case you're curious, the answer is 6 – as we learned when Ms. Benson burnt out 4 light bulbs in a row!

The other amazing experience was when we actually accomplished something previously thought to be impossible.... The illustrious lemon powered clock experiment! Working in groups, the students used trial and error to not only use a lemon to power a clock, but a potato as well!! "It was actually something that worked out well." said grade 6 student Nirushan, "The group got together and it was all about teamwork. It's interesting how different materials in the world can conduct electricity."

And what's up next you ask? The study of Space and Flight!! Needless to say, the sky's the limit!



The Young Activist Club

The Young Activist Club would like to tell you a little bit about Who We Are.
We believe we are:

Change Makers!

Helper's Of the World! A Group Of Children Who Have a Dream!

Ordinary People Who Make Injustice Into Justice!



Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are the Young Activists Club, a group of grades 4-8 students working to resolve global issues. These global issues are about animals, people, and the environment. We are here to help the school for the year. Our projects will focus on the school and the community. The animals group is planning a fundraiser to help abused animals; the people group wants to bring awareness about homelessness; and the group focusing on the environment is trying to encourage people to stop littering. The reason we are doing this is to make our school and community a better place.

Please help spread the word to the community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

The Young Activists Club

PEANUT / NUT-FREE TREATS

Please be aware that some of our students and staff have severe nut allergies. In some cases, the allergy is severe and life threatening. In order to ensure their safety, David Suzuki P. S. is a **Peanut/Nut Free School** and therefore, we request that you do not send birthday treats, snacks or lunches to school which contain peanut or nut products.

The manufacturers listed below are **allergy-aware** and responsibly provide warning labels on their packaging when there is a risk of peanut/nut contamination. Please **REMEMBER** that **not all products made by these manufacturers are safe**. Always read the label to make sure that peanuts/nuts are not listed as an ingredient and the label does not contain a warning such as “**may contain traces of peanuts/nuts**” below the ingredient list.

Kraft
Christie
Peek Freans
Kellogg's
General Mills

Quaker
Dare
Vadboncoeu
Chapmans
Hershey's

Kisko Trebor
Hostess Frito-Lay
Humpty Dumpty
Concord Confections

Allan
Weston Bakeries
Dempster's
Nestle

IT IS CRITICAL TO READ THE INGREDIENT LISTING EVERY TIME YOU PURCHASE A PRODUCT SINCE INGREDIENTS CAN CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ALWAYS MAKE SURE THERE IS NO WARNING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE INGREDIENT LIST (“MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF PEANUTS/NUTS”)



Tim Horton's and cakes from Costco are NOT peanut free. Any birthday treats brought into the school must display the peanut free symbol.

KINDERGARTEN CONCERT

On Thursday, February 26th, the Kindergarteners held their Love, Family and Friendship Concert! All the Kindergarten students have been practicing hard for the last month to learn songs that teach us about how to share our love to those around us and how to be a good friend and family member. We would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate the hard work of all our students. The Kindergarteners did an amazing job performing their songs and actions for their families and friends at the concert. We are so proud of all of them!

This year, the Kindergarten Team sold tickets to the concert and recorded DVDs to raise money for the Kindergarten Program. Thank you so much to all our families who purchased tickets and DVDs to support our school fundraising efforts. We were able to raise over \$1000 which will go towards transforming our Kindergarten pens and the school grounds into engaging natural play spaces. We are looking forward to using them in our outdoor play and for our learning.



Curriculum Corner

Tips For Reading Comprehension



- Go back and reread.
- Read ahead to clarify meaning.
- Identify what it is you don't understand: a word, a sentence or a concept/big idea
- If it is a word read beyond it and see if the meaning is clarified or think about the text and infer what the word may be about
- If it is a sentence in a picture book, look at the pictures
- Keep sticky notes with you as you read, write down any questions that come to your mind as you read, write down any connections that you make

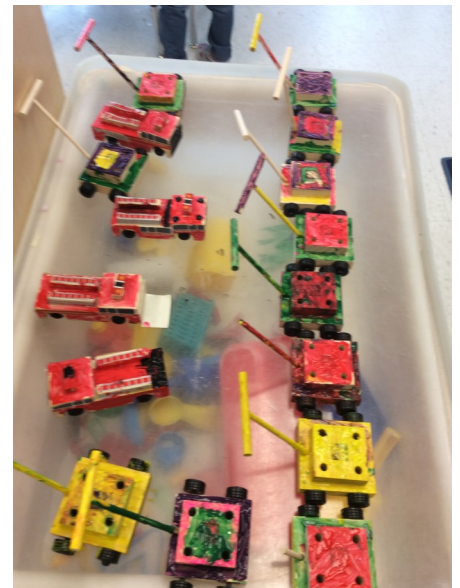
~Adapted From 7 Keys To Comprehension~



Kindergarten Builders

Thanks to our local Home Depot store, for coming into our Class and giving our students the opportunity to explore real life materials. What a wonderful experience this was.

Mrs. Hudspith and Mrs. Firoz



The Clarkson Cup

“The 2015 edition marks the seventh annual Clarkson Cup, which recognizes the top women's hockey team in the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

The league itself includes teams on both sides of the American-Canadian border, featuring the Boston Blades, Brampton Thunder, Calgary Inferno, Montreal Stars and Toronto Furies.

The Clarkson Cup was named after former Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson. It is widely regarded in the women's hockey world and beyond as The Stanley Cup of women's hockey, as it is quickly becoming the ultimate trophy to strive for in this fast-growing female sport.



This season the Toronto Furies look to defend their first-ever Clarkson Cup title, the Boston Blades battle for the chance to hoist it a second time, three-time cup-winning Montreal Stars want to make it four, and both the Calgary Inferno and Brampton Thunder will be fighting for their first chance to claim CWHL championship bragging rights.

This year the Clarkson Cup playoff tournament takes place March 4-7 at Markham Centennial Arena, the third straight year the venue has hosted this prestigious female hockey event.

For more information on the 2015 Clarkson Cup, please contact media@cwhl.ca with questions.”

Article and Photo courtesy of Brandon Taylor, Canadian Women's Hockey League

David Suzuki Students were again invited to watch a Clarkson Cup game on Wednesday, March 4th. Mr. Binner did a great job of organizing this very enjoyable event for our grades 2-8 students this year!



Did You Know?

Orange peels take 2 years to decompose

Paper napkins take 1 year to decompose

Wool socks take 4 years to decompose

Newspaper takes 5 years to decompose




Tin cans take 50 years decompose

Aluminum cans takes 500 years to decompose

Plastic bags take 1000 years to decompose



Some things That Go In the...

Garbage 	Recycle 	Compost 
Plastic wrappers	Juice Boxes	Left Over Foods
Plastic straws	Tin Foil	Soiled Tissues
Old markers	All Paper	Soiled Paper Plates
Styrofoam	Aluminum cans	Soiled paper towel
Kool-aid Jammer juice pouch	Some plastic containers	Microwave popcorn bags

Let's make sure we put everything in the right spot to keep our earth clean and healthy!

UPCOMING DATES

March 11	4 A's Awards
March 12	Primary Spring Concert 7:00
March 13	PA Day, NO school
March 16-20	March Break, NO school
March 30	Character Matters Awards 12:00
April 2	Grad Photos
April 3	Good Friday, NO school
April 6	Easter Monday, NO school
April 13	School Council Meeting 6:30
April 22	Cyberbullying Presentation for Parents

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday June 5th for Annual Fun Fair

Primary Concert Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 PM

The grades 1, 2 and 3 will be performing songs about spring or the environment this year.
please join us!



Visiting Guinea Pigs

We were lucky to have guinea pigs visit us for one day this month. The students loved to have the opportunity to learn all about them.



Thank A Caretaker Week

March 9 – 13

Everyday, as we move through our school, we easily forget the thoughtful people behind the scenes who keep this building clean and working the way we need it to. This week, we will be making a point of showing our outstanding Caretaking Team the appreciation they deserve. But, let's try to remember to be mindful to show them our appreciation every single day of the school year!

Thank

You