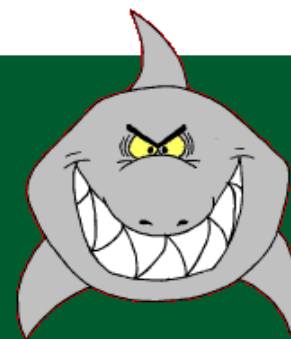


**David Suzuki**  
Public School  
45 Riverwalk Drive  
Markham, L6B 0L9  
905-209-0435

# SUZUKI SOURCE



[david Suzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://david Suzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca)

Volume 6

March 2016



## Principal

**Yvonne West**

## Vice-Principal

**Marion Ahrens**

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## Admin Assistant

**Gail Koidis**

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## Secretaries

**Sunitha Krishnan**

**Dina Tsigaridis**

\*\*\*

## Superintendent

**Peter Tse**

\*\*\*

## Trustee

**Juanita Nathan**



## Administrators' Message

On February 25th, we had the pleasure of seeing our Kindergarten students perform songs and dances from around the world. They worked really hard to prepare for this event and their performance did not disappoint! They sang 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 provide enhancements to our Kindergarten program, in particular, to enhance their outdoor learning and play spaces. See below for the dates of the concerts involving the rest of our students.

We are in the process of planning for a month long focus on a variety of safety issues. We have deemed April to be Suzuki Safety Month and during this time we will educate our students on things like pedestrian safety, seat-belt and car seat safety, cyber safety. We will be working with our community partners like the York Region Police and York Region Public Health Department to provide presentations and workshops that we hope will educate our students on how to be safe in many different situations. We feel that it is important to involve you, our parent community, in this initiative and so there will be events and opportunities for you to be involved. For example, on **April 12**, we are having a very important parent information evening to discuss cyber safety as this involves the inappropriate use of technology that students are engaged in, 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 that date and look out for a flyer to come home about this and all of our other Suzuki Safety Month initiatives 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. Next week, we will meet 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

Marion Ahrens  
Vice Principal

# 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. Hudspith & Ms. Kathir

Mrs. Seepaul & Ms. Donnan

Mrs. Gertsakis & Ms. Elmi

Miss Halliday & Mrs. Zhao

Miss Eng & Mrs. Khalil

Ms. Llewellyn & Ms. Abreu

Mrs. Sambrook

Mrs. McMichael

Mrs. Cooper

Ms. Risman

Mrs. Barovier

Mr. Binner

Mrs. Clements & Mrs. Arumugam

Ms. Wood

Mr. Kawnik

Mr. Hwee

Ms. Kilgour & Mrs. LaMarca

Ms. Hall

JSA Mustafa, Ryan, Mehrab, Shivan

JSB Kristina, Calina, Zehra, Reet

JSC Sahisha, Alexander, Justin

JSD Nathaniel, Rayaana, Jacqueline

JSE Advikaa, Jason, Aharen

JSF Vinujan, Annika, Sherena, Farahnaz

1A Hasini, Ariana

1B Isabelle, Sarah

1C Karish, Diviya

1D Nikhil, Shanugen, Sintheya

2A April, Thivigan

2B Aiden, Luxman

2C Vinoj, Ashwin

2D Neda, Barleen

3A Nirosh, Shaumya

3B Shivaani, Aisrria

3C Hisha, Devanshi

3D Dhruvi

Character Trait  
For March

~ Honesty ~

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



Congratulations!



# 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.

TEACHER	ACADEMICS	ARTS	ATHLETICS	ATTITUDE	IMPROVEMENT
<b>Krikorian</b>	Saeyon	Sachgin	Rima	Ishan	Ethan
<b>Haider</b>	Thenuja	Thevakini	Peter	Tina, Umaimah	Sameer
<b>Benson</b>	Tvisha, Varsha	Jordan, Vernujen, Likhitha	Kadin	Riya, Maya	
<b>Carter</b>	Taniya	Ashwinii	Nilavan	Preitheiga	Ashley
<b>Elsner</b>	Navid	Rehan	Ashan	Sayisa	Esha
<b>Shum</b>	Dhara, Gawtham	Rachel	Mukilan	Vaishika	Johney
<b>Duffus</b>	Imran	Katherine	Branavan	Muhammad	Jakhishan
<b>Kermally</b>	Alyssa	Sonya	Ishani	Mekavi	Salman
<b>Ricketts</b>	Tharachi	Stacey	Anoushka	Bilal	Achchuthan
<b>D'Alessandro</b>	Anjali, Akash U, Mindy, Ivy	Tulsi, Karanveer	Shan	Akash B, Kelly	
<b>Chung</b>	Diane	Sydney	Tyler	Nia	Prachi
<b>Bansal</b>	Umen, Abishek	Vivien, Amanda	Matthew, Mihir	Akhshaya, Pragathi	Ali, Bulent
<b>Scott</b>	Shyami, Ali	Aishwarya, Karthigan	Haman	Taha, Sanjay	Ahmed, Sanjay
<b>Lowrie</b>	Isha, Sanjay	Razmiya, Ashton	Mackenzie	Kevin, Yaathavi	Raabia, Shakiran



## GIRLS' INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL

The Intermediate Girls' Basketball Team completed their season on Friday, February 29th. The girls trained very hard at each and every practice, while having a great time and forming bonds that will last long after the basketball season is over. Whether practices were early in the morning, or after school, the girls showed up on time, prepared, with a positive attitude, and ready to work. This dedication and perseverance paid off. In six tournaments, our Sharks earned a spot in the championship game each and every time, winning three pennants for our gym wall! Finally, at the year-end tournament, the girls placed second out of thirteen teams in the area, finishing the season with an overall record of twenty-seven wins, and only five losses! Congratulations on a successful and FUN season girls! The coaches are extremely proud of each and every player for their commitment, sportsmanship, determination, and positive attitude.



## Varley Art Gallery Trip

On February 19<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Barovier's and Ms. Wood's grade two students went on a class trip to the Varley Art Gallery in Unionville. They had a great day! To start their art adventure they were taken on a tour of the gallery where they got to see various portraits drawn by Fred Varley. They were also introduced to some local artists that create abstract art. While touring the gallery they had the opportunity to see real life examples of the elements of design. After the gallery tour they put their creative skills to work and worked on constructing two abstract pieces of art.



# 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 19, 2016**, 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 19** between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. local time.



## What can you do?

**On Saturday, March 19 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

### **Boomerang lunches**

Do your kids really eat all the fruit and veggies you stay up late chopping and preparing, or are they just eating the 'treats' in their lunch bags? What about the other healthy snacks you pack?

Boomerang lunches make it easier for parents to figure out what their children actually like and what they are really eating. Another benefit of boomerang lunches is to drastically cut the amount of garbage produced at school. We appreciate the effort that many of the families at our school are making to pack boomerang lunches for their children!

## Safe Arrival

The York Region District School Board values the safety and security of its students. Each day we take attendance in the morning and the afternoon. Parents/Guardians are requested to notify the school when their child is going to be absent by calling is at **905-209-0435**. An answering machine is available to receive telephone calls before the arrival of the office staff.

In accordance with the policy of the Board of Education, if we do not receive a telephone call, we will make an attempt to call the parent/guardian or emergency contact in order to ensure the child's safety. If we are unable to reach any of the people listed on your contact list, the school is **obligated to contact the police**. Please help us to ensure all our children are safe by remembering to call if your child is away.

*When calling your child's absence in please speak clearly and spell your child's name, state the teacher's name and advise us of the reason for the absence such as fever, cough, cold, stomach flu or parent withdrawal.*

In the event that your child is late he/she must report to the office for a late slip before reporting to class.

***Thank you for your support.***



## 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	Quaker	Kisko Trebor	Allan
Christie	Dare	Hostess Frito-Lay	Weston Bakeries
Peek Freans	Vadeboncoeu	Humpty Dumpty	Dempster's
Kellogg's	Chapmans	Concord Confections	Nestle
General Mills	Hershey's		

**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 25th, the Kindergarteners held their Around the World Concert! All the Kindergarten students have been practicing hard for the last couple of months to learn songs and/or dances that celebrate various cultures of the world. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support the hard work of all our students. The Kindergarteners did an amazing job performing their dances and songs 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 to raise money for the Kindergarten Program. The money raised will go towards enhancing our Kindergarten program both inside and outside the classroom. Thank you so much to all our families who purchased tickets to support our school fundraising efforts. As a thank you for your support, each family will receive a copy of the concert DVD within the next couple of weeks!

## Markham Theatre Field Trip

On Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Kindergarten and Grade One students went to Markham Theatre to see Judy and David's production of GoldiRocks.

GoldiRocks tells the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears with a Rock n' Roll Twist! The students really enjoyed singing and dancing along with the performers. It was a great opportunity for the students to see live drama at its best!



## 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~*



## SAVE ENERGY!

### Turn Your Computer Monitors Off!

It is important to turn off your computer monitor at school, work and home. If you don't turn off the monitor you will waste energy and this causes stress to the Earth. Think about when you get sick, that's how the Earth feels when we waste energy. You can make a difference by turning off your computer monitor when you are done using it. It's really easy! All you need to do is press a button and turn off your monitor to save energy and electricity. **Think Green!** You can help by spreading the word and telling your friends and family to turn their monitors off too!

# Letter to our Favourite Author!



Over the last couple of weeks, Mrs. Haider's class was focusing on letter writing. They compared and contrasted formal letter writing style, to informal letter writing. They focused on proper word choice by discussing and choosing words and phrases that would be used for an informal or formal letter. As a final activity, they wrote a formal letter to their favourite author!

All the students went through the stages of writing (brainstorming, writing, editing and then publishing). They typed their good copies and made sure they followed proper letter format. In the letters they told their author's what texts they really enjoyed reading. They also wrote about what their favourite parts were, and offered advice about a new book theme or topic that their author could consider writing about in the future. Finally, students learned how to address an envelope.

This month, we are mailing our letters out! We are hoping to receive a response back from our favourite authors. All the students went through the stages of writing (brainstorming, writing, editing and then publishing). They typed their good copies and made sure they followed proper letter format. In the letters they told their author's what texts they really enjoyed reading. They also wrote about what their favourite parts were, and offered advice about a new book theme or topic that their author could consider writing about in the future. Finally, students learned how to address an envelope.

This month, we are mailing our letters out! We are hoping to receive a response back from our favourite authors.



## 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...

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

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

## UPCOMING DATES

March 12	Primary Spring Concert 7:00
March 14-18	March Break, NO school
March 25	Good Friday, NO school
March 28	Easter Monday, NO school
April 1	Character Matters Awards 12:00
April 4	School Council Meeting 6:30
April 11	Grad Photos
April 20	Primary Concert
May 12	Junior Concert
May 19	Intermediate Drama Night

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday June 2nd for Annual Fun Fair**

Primary Concert  
Wednesday, April 20th  
at 7:00 PM

The grades 1, 2 and 3 will be performing  
please join us!



## 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>