

David Suzuki

Public School
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905-209-0435



**Principal
Yvonne West**

**Vice-Principal
Val Taylor**

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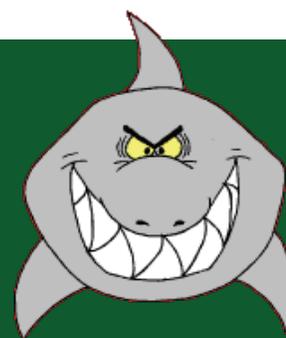
**Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Walsh**

**Trustee
Juanita Nathan**



SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 9



davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

May 2014

Administrators' Message

Spring is in the air... the birds are singing, buds are appearing, and the grass is greening...finally! It's such an appropriate time to take a minute to appreciate the wonders of Mother Earth! During Earth Week, the entire school went out in the afternoon to clean up our schoolyard and the surrounding community and on Earth Day we had an inspiring Assembly to reaffirm our commitment to caring for our Earth and to being environmentally responsible citizens.

On April 25, the School Council hosted a Staff Appreciation Luncheon for all the David Suzuki Staff on behalf of the parent community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank School Council for their thoughtfulness and to thank the many parents who contributed to this special event!

As you know from a letter sent home a few weeks ago, Mrs. Anand has taken a Leave of Absence to attend to some personal matters. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Val Taylor, a retired Principal, support the school until Mrs. Anand's return. Mrs. Taylor is a very experienced and highly respected Principal who continues to support the School Board in situations like this. We welcome her assistance and expertise!

Yvonne West

Principal

Val Taylor

Acting Vice-Principal

Inspire Learning!

Character Trait For May

~ Integrity ~

We are truthful and sincere. We ensure consistency between what we say and what we do as well as between what we believe and how we behave.



Character Matters - Honesty

April's character trait was Fairness. "We are sensitive to the needs of each individual. We treat each other as we wish to be treated ourselves. We interact with others without stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination. We stand up for human rights."

Congratulations to our Award Winners:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Miss Lim JK/SK: | Keashavan, Surthy |
| Mrs. Khalil JK/SK: | Amrutha, Rahavi, Suhayb, Aswitha |
| Mrs. Gertsakis JK/SK: | Pranavi, Feroza, Brandon, Abishek, Aaron |
| Miss Halliday JK/SK: | Aatheeshan, Ariana, Nubia, Maha, Ashani |
| Mrs. Barovier 1: | Tyler, Snehi |
| Mrs. Tsiampouris 1: | Edmund, Kaaviya |
| Miss Chan 1: | Ashley, Safa |
| Miss Steele 1: | Joshua, Sophia |
| Mrs. Neveu 2: | Siya, Jennah |
| Mrs. Abbi 2: | Sharan, Athushan |
| Mrs. LaMarca 2: | Vikash, Thevakini |
| Ms. Suganth 2: | Ali, Ethan |
| Mr. Hwee 3: | Sivaharan, Sharan |
| Ms Arkeveld 3: | Keshini, Abina |
| Mr. Kawnik 3: | Camena, Affan |
| Mrs. Nedelkovski 3: | Vaishika, Vinith |
| Miss. Wilson: | Eray |
| Mr. Kafieh: | Thulaksiya |



In May, our focus is on Integrity. "We are truthful and sincere. We ensure consistency between what we say and what we do as well as between what we believe and how we behave."



SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

Omar Shafiq (7D) & Gedeon Itoua-Mamic (8L) for demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities in assisting Miss. Blando with the Junior Boys Basketball team. The entire team would like to thank Omar and Gedeon for volunteering their time and being wonderful role models!



Junior Girls Basketball Team: Coach: Mr. Korman

The 2014 David Suzuki Junior Girls Basketball Team have been practicing since early March. Through hard work, and dedication, our team has gone from a group of beginners, to a team playing strategic defensive systems. Our team played in the Bill Crothers, Central Park, and Ashton Meadows basketball tournaments. The girls displayed a high level of commitment when they selected to practice on a Tuesday morning following a 4-day weekend. As a team, we worked hard in over 20 games, but more importantly we had fun, leaving us with lasting memories.

-Passion and Pride

Junior Boys Basketball Team:

Coach: Miss. Blando

Members: Muhamid, Kevin, Michael, Terel, Karaneer, Umen, Harrishon, Sanjeiv, Matthew, Jordan, Sanjay S, Haran, Bilal, Christopher, Jaden, Ishan, Abhishek, Amaan, Ali, Shakiran, Lakish

Congratulations to the Junior Boys Basketball Team on a successful season! This year's team was made up of 21 hardworking boys. Each player demonstrated sportsmanship and teamwork during every practice and game. The team competed in the Bill Crothers Secondary School Tournament and placed 2nd overall. The boys played numerous exhibition games and finished with a 3-1 record. The team qualified for the Area Tournament held at Cornell Village Public School where they finished 3rd out of 15 local schools. The team exhibited dedication and perseverance throughout our exciting season. Miss. Blando would like to thank the team for a memorable season!

EQAO Testing for Grade 3 and Grade 6 – May 26- June 6

The Ministry EQAO tests will be administered to our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students between May 26 and June 3. The Grade 6's will write the test on May 26, 27 and 28, and the Grade 3's will write the test on May 29, 30 and June 2. Parents of students in these grades are asked to please refrain from booking any appointments or vacations during this time as it is very important for all students to participate in this province-wide testing.



Class Placements for the 2014-2015 School Year

For those students who will continue at David Suzuki for the 2014-2015 school year, we have begun to think about their class placements for the new school year. When we place students, we take the time to consider a variety of factors such as learning styles, strengths/needs, and relationships with peers. If you feel that you would like to provide some additional information related to your child's learning and/or social/emotional needs for us to consider for next year, please provide this information to Ms. West in writing by the end of the first week in May.



Lights Out!

The students and teachers at David Suzuki have been working all year to reduce our impact on the environment. Although Earth Hour was last month, we continue to turn the lights out whenever possible to help save energy. The students in Mrs. Neveu's class have been keeping track of how often the downstairs classrooms have the lights turned off during morning recess.

From our data we realized that we are doing a great job turning off the lights at Suzuki! However, we should try to open our blinds and turn our lights off during recess if there are only a few students or teachers working in the classroom. During earth week, all classes continued to turn the lights off in the building from 12:30 to 2:30 every day to save energy. Do you want to try and save energy at home too? Here are a few simple ideas to get you started and it will help you save money too!

- turn off the lights, televisions, and other electronic devices when you leave the room
- change your light bulbs to CFL (compact fluorescent lights) or other energy saving bulbs
- unplug all appliances (e.g. toaster) when you are not using them
- use more energy efficient appliances (look for the Energy Star symbol)
- install energy efficient shower heads



Mrs. Neveu's Grade 2 Class

Earth Week April 22nd to 25th

Earth Week was a very busy week at the school filled with events that promoted eco-friendly behaviours and helped the environment. The week began with a whole school assembly which included a performance by the Kindergarten students, videos from David Suzuki, and a presentation about the dangers of plastics to our health and the environment by the Junior/Intermediate eco team. On Wednesday and Thursday, every class in the school was involved in a 20 minute makeover of our school yard and community. Each class had an assigned time and area that they were responsible for cleaning up. We also promoted Water Bottle Wednesday. Students from the eco team went around and recorded students who had a reusable water bottle or did not have a plastic water bottle. The results were great! In addition, we turned off our classroom lights everyday from 12:30 to 2:30 to conserve energy and held a Waste Free Lunch Challenge. The winners from Water Bottle Wednesday and the Waste Free Lunch Challenge were shared on the announcements the following week!

We thank everyone for their support of our eco initiatives at the school. As was reiterated at the Earth Day assembly, every little thing helps!



Young Activists' Club – Sub Sandwich Fundraiser on May 14

The Young Activists' Club is a group of Grade 7 students who believe that we can make a difference. We have been learning about Youth Homelessness and decided that we needed to take action to try to make the lives of homeless youth a little bit better.

To do this, we are having a Sub Sandwich Lunch on Wednesday, May 14 to raise money for a Youth Shelter called Pathways. The cost of each sandwich will be \$4, 75c from each sub sold will be used to purchase items like tooth brushes and toothpaste to create Care Kits to donate to the Shelter.

We hope that all the students at David Suzuki will buy a sub to support our efforts to make a difference!

One Activist Can Change The World...Every Little Action Counts! (Our Motto)



SUZUKI SPRING CONCERT

The Staff and Students of David Suzuki P.S. cordially invite to our Spring Concert

Thursday, May 8th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The following clubs and grades will be performing:

Grade 1

Chan, Barovier and Tsiampouris

Grade 3

Arkeveld, Hwee, Kawnik, and Nedelkovski

Grade 5

Buczowski, Ducas, and Orr

Grade 6 Korman

Sign-Language Club

Dance Club

Grade 3 – 5 Choir

Junior Band (Grades 6 and 7)

Concert Band (Grades 7 and 8)

Grade 3 – 5 choir and Concert Band are the first performers and so should be at the school by 6:35 p.m.

Choir members should go straight to the gym and get in their seating arrangement.

Concert Band members should go to the music room and get their instruments ready.

All other performers should be at the school by 6:45 p.m.

Hope to see you there!



It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.

This is a good time for parents to learn about and review ways to protect their children from potential dangers.

Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.

It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, contact the York Regional Police Community Services Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7980, or by e-mail at info@yrp.ca, or visit www.yrp.ca.

Staff Appreciation Lunch



Thank You To Our Parent Community For Showing Us Your Appreciation!

On Friday, April 25th, the School Council hosted a luncheon for all staff members. Many parents contributed a variety of dishes and we had the opportunity to sit, relax and enjoy a delicious meal. More importantly, this was an opportunity for parents and staff to come together as a result of our common bond – your children!

A member of School Council, Kathy, shared a heartfelt tribute to the staff, on behalf of all the parents, in which she expressed how much parents appreciated our efforts to teach and care for your children. We were very moved by this and we want to thank all of you for your support and appreciation.

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to this event in any way and a special thank you to Kathy and Nikki, School Council Representatives, for their coordination of this wonderful event!

DRESS CODE REMINDERS

We need to remind students of our dress code, especially the items highlighted below regarding warm weather clothing.

Clothing can be relaxed and comfortable, but should not detract from the learning atmosphere at school. Appropriateness of clothing will be determined according to the age of the child.



Students are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Clothing shall not be offensive with respect to cultural and/or religious groups
- Clothing shall not promote alcohol, tobacco, drugs, weapons, violence, hate, gang affiliation or have obscene/vulgar language
- Chains, bracelets or other jewelry shall not have dangerous spikes
- Clothing shall not have any sexual connotations, either written or visual
- Tops shall cover the midriff and back (no muscle shirts, belly shirts, tube tops or backless tops)**
- No spaghetti straps/halter tops to be worn by students in grade 3 and higher** (shoulder strap should be about 3 fingers wide)
- Shirts shall not be see-through or be made of mesh** (low cut cleavage-revealing shirts should also be avoided)
- Clothing shall cover undergarments (bra straps, boxers, etc.)**
- Shorts and skirts must be of a reasonable length and provide adequate coverage for the age of the child** (bottom edge of shorts or skirts should reach finger tips when arms are held at sides ... with staff discretion)
- Hats shall be removed upon entry**



Students not following these guidelines will be asked to cover up or change. Parents/guardians may also be contacted to provide appropriate clothing.

School Climate Survey for Parents/Guardians

Between May 20 and June 2, we will be inviting parents/guardians to participate in a school climate survey. The surveys provide the Board and our school with valuable information about how you feel about the school environment and your child's education. The results will be used to identify areas that need to be addressed, monitor progress and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. We value parent input and encourage you to complete the survey. The information parents provide will be anonymous, considered confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Information about how to access the survey will be sent home with students later in May. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Together We're Better Conference

In an ever-changing society, it is important for today's youth to recognize, understand, and celebrate the diversity of people in our world. Recently, a group of intermediate students from David Suzuki attended an annual student conference to learn and broaden their understanding of equity. These students left the conference inspired and ready to create change and raise awareness about racism, human rights, Aboriginal, and cultural issues within our community. This team is now tasked with informing, guiding, and inspiring the student community to be tolerant and understanding citizens.



After the conference, students reflected on their experiences and has offered to share some of their thoughts with you.

"Differences are the things that unite us..."

"I learned about how sometimes voices can be hidden and you have to find them to listen to what they have to say..."

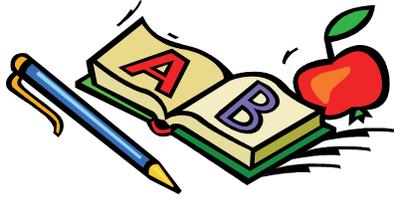
"Gossiping is a big problem in our schools today. The important thing we need to remember is that, the way someone interprets your words out – weighs your original intent..."

"I learned that less privileged people are more likely to make an impact in the world... less privileged people would want to change the world so that nobody else in the world would struggle"

Welcome To Kindergarten Evening

(For children entering Junior Kindergarten or children entering Senior Kindergarten who are new to this school)

May 15, 6:00—7:00



Please join us to:

- Learn about a typical day in Kindergarten
- Find out about Bussing
- Hear about our Safe Arrival Program
- Learn more about the Full Day Kindergarten Curriculum Expectations
- Learn about how we work hard to ensure your child's social and emotional well-being
- Engage in some hands-on activities with your child that will give you a little taste of what your child will be doing in Kindergarten
- Take home a bag of resources to use with your child during the summer to prepare him/her for Kindergarten!

Playing on the Schoolyard After School Hours

With the warm weather here, we are noticing that many of the students are lingering at the end of the school day to play or just hang out with friends. It's wonderful that the students are spending time outdoors (far better for them than sitting in front of a screen), however, we need you to be aware that there is **no supervision outside at the end of the day**. We have teachers supervising the Kiss and Ride and in the Bus Loop only, until 3:50, so children playing on the schoolyard after school are doing so at their own risk, but, hopefully with your knowledge and your permission. We again remind you of the construction occurring on our site and the caution that needs to be used in that area.



Are you planning on moving?

Our preparations for the 2014-2015 school year are underway, and our success depends on accurate projections of the school population. If you are moving out of our school area, please take a few minutes to send in a note to inform us of this as soon as possible. *Thank you*



Learning with Lego

The students in Mrs. Fenwick's class are learning to write stories. They are learning about the different elements in stories. We had Glenn Bratti from 'Brick Door' Lego explorers come in and work with the students to build the story elements in two fairy tales read in class. The fairy tales read were 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. Students built characters and various scenes from the stories using Lego.

They presented their creations which required them to talk about the elements in the story. This helped to deepen their understanding of the stories we read. Working with Lego allowed students to use their creativity and have fun while learning. Check out our work in the front display case!

From the students in Mrs. Fenwick's class.



Curriculum Corner

Let's talk! It is important that we spend time talking with our children every day. We know that oral communication is the foundation for literacy. Just as we know that the more children read, the better readers they become, the more opportunities children have to talk, the better they are at using language effectively. Fostering children's oral language development will help support their engagement in reading and writing from the start. Children need lots of opportunities to explore and talk about the world around them. Take time every day to share daily experiences, including what your child did at school, how your day went, or simply talk about a movie or book that you've seen or read. Talk to your children in the language that you know best! Daily talk with your child enforces the following important skills that they will need in school and in life:

- Making connections
- Listening
- Sharing ideas
- Expressing opinions
- Turn taking



Fun Fair & Sidewalk Sale

June 5th, 2014



Fun Fair:

David Suzuki PS will be holding its 4th Annual Fun Fair on Thursday, June 5th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Rain or Shine. This event is being organized by our School Parent Council, Teachers, Student Council and our Eco Team.

It is our hope that the Fun Fair will bring together our school community for an evening of fun! There will be music, food, games, bouncy castles, and much, much more. Any proceeds from this event will go toward school initiatives. In order for such an event to occur, we are in need of volunteers.

Volunteers may be family members, high school students or community members, so please spread the word! We are asking anyone who could give their time at this event to contact Vana, our Fun Fair School Council Chair, through email at vana198@hotmail.com.

Through your participation we can develop an active and welcoming school neighborhood and get to know each other better. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fair!

Sidewalk Sale:

The sidewalk sale is an important event for the Eco Team as the funds raised from this event supports our eco initiatives by allowing people to rent tables/sidewalk space to sell their gently used items for other people to enjoy! There will be an order form coming home soon with your child. If you are interested in renting a table or sidewalk space, please return the form with your payment as soon as possible to ensure you reserve a spot.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kindergarten Yard

The Kindergarten teachers and students are looking for outdoor toys for the Kindergarten yard. If you have any gently used toys (ie. Playhouses/kitchens, cars, Fisher Price basketball nets etc.), we would love to have them!

If you would like to donate any gently used outdoor toys please drop them off in the Kindergarten yard at your convenience.



Thank you in advance for any donations!



Environmental Corner

Walk or Bike! You can reduce your car use and get good exercise by walking or riding your bicycle rather than asking your parents for a ride in the car.

The amount of toxic gas that a car ride would release into the air might be small, but lots of small actions can lead to big changes. When it comes to protecting the planet-and your health-every little bit helps!



Tamil speaking Women's Group

Please join us together with other women, have fun and discuss topics that matter to you and your families!

When: Monday, May 5th, 2014

Languages: Tamil and English

WHERE: Legacy Public School in Markham
61 Russell Jarvis Drive

FREE!!

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm **Yoga or Zumba included**

You are welcome to Join Anytime!

How to help your child with **Parenting**
literacy and math **Family Stress**



Adjusting to Canadian living
Health & Nutrition self care

Dealing with children with different learning needs.

For Registration and more information call

Initha Subramaniam at (905) 884 2046 ext 270 or
FSYR's Tamil line at (416) 857-6308

Language specific funding provided by 

www.fsyrr.ca



YOGA, ZUMBA & EXERCISE

MAKE FRIENDS

FREE CHILD CARE, SNACKS

May 2014

Character Matters! Integrity
We are truthful and sincere. We ensure consistency between what we say and what we do as well as between what we believe and how we behave.



BUS ROUTES HOTLINE
1-877-330-3001
www.schoolbuscity.com

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----|--|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 HOLY FRIDAY | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Spring Concert | 9 | 10 |
| 11 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> | 12 Junior Kindergarten Orientation 6 pm | 13 | 14 VISAKHA PUJA WESAK | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 International Museum Day | 19 VICTORIA DAY | 20 | 21 Track & Field Gr. 4-8 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | 22 | 23 Rain date For T & F | 24 |
| 25 | 26 EQAO Testing Starts for grades 3 & 6 (May 26-June 6) | 27 | 28 | 29 Intermediate Drama Evening | 30 | 31 |

Respect Responsibility Courage Compassion/Empathy Optimism Initiative/Independence Honesty Fairness/Integrity Perseverance Inclusiveness Updated: 28-Apr-14

SAVE the DATES
 Spring Concert – May 8
 Welcome to Junior Kindergarten—May 12
 EQAO Testing grades 3 & 6 May 26 to June 6
 Drama Night – May 29
 Sidewalk Sale and Fun Fair – June 5
 Grade 8 Graduation – June 23

The Kid's Summer Institute



The York Region District School Board's Summer Institute is a program that offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum for children and youth entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Weekly sessions are offered at eleven elementary schools throughout the region from **June 30, 2014 to August 8, 2014.**

The York Region District School Board Summer Institute for Kids Program provides a variety of academic, recreation and sports activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum to reinforce skill development and curriculum expectations for students from kindergarten to grade eight.

Weekly sessions run at sites for either 4 or 6 weeks from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm with extended before and aftercare programs available at all locations.

Applications are available at our school.