

David Suzuki

Public School
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Yvonne West

Vice-Principal

Shelley Anand

Admin Assistant

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Secretaries

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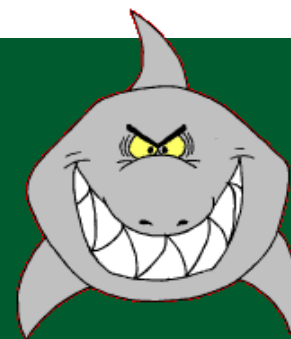
Dr. Lisa Walsh

Trustee

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SUZUKI SOURCE



davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Volume 9

May 2015

Administrators' Message

Spring has finally arrived! We hope you are enjoying the wonderful weather!

On April 22, 2014 we celebrated Earth Day. Our students engaged in various activities around the school such as cleaning up our school yard and surrounding community, turning off lights for a short period in the afternoon as way to conserve some energy, getting a seedling to take home to plant and participating in a presentation by Earth Rangers. It was an opportunity for all our students to remember the importance of stewardship and show an appreciation for Earth. Students were able to think critically about personal actions that can be taken to protect our environment. Although Earth Day has passed, some of the things that we can encourage are things such as taking part in planting trees, walking or biking to school instead of getting a drive, packing a Litterless or Boomerang lunch.

On April 29, 2015 our School Council hosted an Internet and Cyberbullying presentation in partnership with the York Region Police for parents. Some of the messages shared were around the inappropriate use of the internet and social media and the potential consequences. Officer Doug discussed the importance of teaching our children to be mindful of their online interactions while using social media and understanding how to be safe. He stressed that it is imperative that parents monitor what their children are doing online while at home and suggested that parents know their children's passwords. Thank you to our school council for organizing such an informative session for our families!

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.



Inspire Learning!

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:

Mrs. Neate	FTJSA	Vaisnavi, Parveena, Arushan
Ms. Llewellyn	FTJSB	Nivedha, Sherena, Akshayan
Miss Halliday	FTJSC	Alexandros, Anika, Sarah
Mrs. Gertsakis	FTJSD	Ashwinie, Parveen
Miss Eng	FTJSE	Aarav, Harshita, Reshan
Mrs. Hudspith	FTJSF	Ryan, Ashaz, Alexia, Ilyas
Ms. Hall	FTS/1A	Arthanan
Mrs. Barovier	1/2A	Neda, Luxman
Ms. Wood	1A	Greesan, Roheth
Mrs. Tsiampouris	1B	Oviyaa, Anshul
Mrs. Sambrook	1C	Jayla, Srivatsa
Mr. Hwee	2/3A	Sameeka, Siya
Miss Chan	2A	Nathan, Liara, Debby
Mrs. Clements	2B	Kaaviya, Shiv
Miss Steele	2C	Fatima, Aditya
Mrs. Arumugam	3/4A	Umaimah
Mrs. McMichael	3A	Ethan, Anisha
Mrs. Nedelkovski	3B	Farhaan, Travon
Mrs. Cooper	3C	Raman, Zoha, Boomika


Congratulations!






SUZUKI SHOUT OUT!

Last month, Vanessa Lau in Grade 8 was selected as the winning submission for the *2015 African Heritage Writing Contest*. Her entry was an essay entitled **My Thoughts On Equality**. Vanessa was awarded with a certificate of achievement from our Inclusive Schools and Community Services

"In the past few weeks Vanessa has been joining us in the Multiple Exceptionalities classroom during recess to read to our students, support learning through shared play and supplying us with wonderful music by playing our piano, which we recently received from a kind teacher (Laurian Halliday). She continues to show a strong sense of commitment to foster community in our classroom and for her love of music! We are very proud of her!"

Ms. Wong
Multiple Exceptionalities
Classroom Teacher



May is Mental Health Month

It's important that we stay attuned to our emotional health and find the time to participate in activities that help us look after ourselves and our well-being and May is a great time to do that as it is Mental Health Awareness month. The Ministry of Education's "Achieving Excellence" publication is their renewed vision for education in Ontario and promoting well-being is one of the key actions listed in the document. Students who maintain positive mental health and experience well-being often have a strong sense of resiliency. Resilience is our ability to cope with the normal stresses of daily life, and bounce back from challenges. As a school, we are committed to supporting the development of resiliency in students by encouraging students to believe in their own strengths, abilities and self-worth. For more information, supports and resources, please visit the Ministry website at

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/links.html>.



Earth Week

Earth Week was a great success here at David Suzuki Public School! We started the celebration with a whole school assembly to inspire and encourage staff and students to participate in all the Earth Week events. The Eco-team shared some simple everyday things we could each do to help the earth every day. Some ideas included using a reusable water bottle, turning off lights and electronic devices, recycling and composting properly, and packing a litterless lunch.

During the week we had a whole school reusable water bottle challenge. Each student and staff member was challenged to bring a reusable water bottle each day during the week. There was great participation by many students and staff members. The class that had the most amount of reusable water bottles at school during the week was Ms. Chan's grade 2 class. They enjoyed a class pizza party to celebrate.

During one lunch recesses Primary students came to the gym to watch a Magic School Bus video about using our natural resources properly and the importance of recycling. Many students attended and enjoyed the informative and fun video. Junior and Intermediate students were also invited to see an environmental video titled 'Bottle Gate'. This video was about the impact that the bottled water industry is having on our local water resources and waste system.

A great big thank you to all staff and students that participated in all these events and who try to make our school and environment a greener place to be!



Taking Care of Your Seedling

We hope you have had a chance to plant your little white pine seedling your child received during Earth Week. Baby trees need to be looked after for three to five years after planting. Growing trees require nutrients, water, sunlight and room to grow. You can help by watering, weeding, adding compost to the soil and mulch to the tree bases, and by protecting the trees from animals and the weather. We would like to give a big thank you to Copernicus for donating over 800 trees to each of students. Check out their website to see if you can find some of our students with their trees.

<http://www.copernicused.com/treesforschools>



Class Placements for the 2015-2016 School Year

For those students who will continue at David Suzuki for the 2015-2016 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 second week in May.

7B AT MILNE OUTDOOR CENTRE

On Monday, April 20th, 2015, Miss Ricketts' class went on a field trip to visit and discover Milne Outdoor Education Center (MOEC). We did an inquiry task that helped us understand different perspectives of people who use Milne Park, which is part of the Rouge Valley Conservation area. We also learned how the park has changed over time. For example, the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle was introduced to the park and is now an invasive species. We went on a hike through Milne and Crosby Parks. During our hike, we were able to take photographs and analyze them from the different perspectives (e.g., biologists, families, anglers, campers, cyclists, farmers and conservationists). Even though it was a wet and muddy day, we still enjoyed our learning because we borrowed rain gear from MOEC. We certainly had a lot of fun, and many of us will miss it, as it is our last year to visit Milne.



READY FOR THE WEATHER!



EVIDENCE THAT EMERALD ASH BURROW BEETLES ON ASH TREES.



FROM MILNE BEACH

*Written by
Agalyaa & Shibani*

Congratulations to our Junior Choir and Mr. Schaub

Congratulations to Junior Choir on receiving a Platinum designation at the York Region Music Alive Festival in Richmond Hill in April. With their award came an invitation to participate in the National Music Festival, MusicFest Canada. This invitation stands for 2 years.

A Platinum designation is very difficult to achieve so it was very gratifying for all who participated that the many hours of practicing and perfecting paid off. You should have heard the whoop of joy when the result was announced!

The Choir continued the legacy of other groups from our school, behaving in an exemplary manner both as respectful audience members and on the bus.

Special mention goes to Ashan Prapaharan, Sivaharan Janahan, Mathusha Kugathasan, and Jessica Kumaran for singing with expression and for being excellent storytellers. Well done Thardsageni Ganesalingam and Diane Yu, who did a great job introducing the choir.



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.

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**

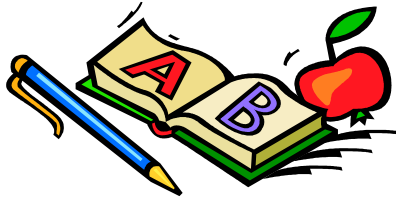


Students not following these guidelines will be asked to cover up or change. Parents/guardians may also be contacted to provide appropriate clothing.

Welcome To Kindergarten Evening

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

May 13, 6:30—7:30



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 2015-2016 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*



Curriculum Corner

Mathematics At Home






"You are an important partner in your child's mathematics education.

When you find ways to engage your child in thinking and talking about mathematics, you are providing an important key for unlocking his or her future success. Today, critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning ability and the ability to communicate mathematically are essential skills. These processes are the foundation of mathematics instruction in Ontario schools." (Doing Mathematics with your Child K-6)

Do some math with your child every day. Reading, cooking, or playing basketball can provide opportunities to improve mathematical understanding and provide practice for children, rather than just doing a half-hour of drill practice of basic facts. Families should look for opportunities to do math that connects to meaningful activities for the child.

Here are some fun examples of activities that you can do at home with your child:

- Play board games, number cube (dice) games, card games, and dominoes, and solve puzzles together. In conversation, ask your child to tell you what he or she did to try to win the game or solve the puzzle. Then ask your child to tell you whether he or she would do the same thing next time and give reasons why or why not.
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- Invite your child to save his or her change in a piggy bank or other suitable container. Identify coins and bills, and estimate and count money.
 - Bake or cook together and follow directions for favourite recipes.
 - Make a third, fourth, or half of a simple recipe or try doubling it.
 - While baking cookies, let your child make an array of columns and rows of cookies and practice multiplication
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- Have your child estimate and count! Count everything (e.g., books, chairs, compact discs, towels, steps, tiles on a floor).
 - Count by 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's, and 7's, and remember to consider the ability and grade level of your child to know where to begin and when to stop.
 - Talk about math experiences in daily events (e.g., measuring laundry detergent, packing a suitcase, creating a grocery list, setting an alarm clock).
 - Have your child read through the newspaper to find math-related material (e.g., advertisements for retail sales, stock market quotes, sports box scores and statistics, classified ads for mathematics-related career opportunities).
 - Explore opportunities for your child to make connections with mathematics in daily routines (e.g., estimating the distance to a nearby location, measuring the time it takes to complete a chore). Be sure to talk with your child about the math connections in these activities.
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Fun Fair June 4th, 2015



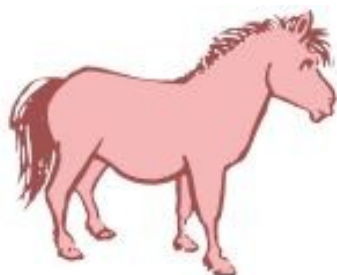
David Suzuki PS will be holding its 5th Annual Fun Fair on Thursday, June 4th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. **Rain or Shine.** This event is being organized by our School Parent Council.

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.



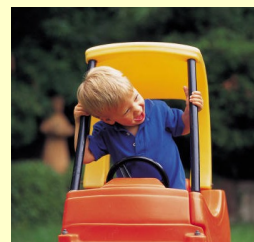
Volunteers may be family members, high school students or community members, so please spread the word! We are asking anyone who could give their time at this event to contact Karen, our Fun Fair School Council Chair, through email at karenr@scarfamgolf.com

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!



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



You can do your part to help the earth! Start by thinking about Transportation Alternatives...

Walk, cycle, car pool or use public transportation

When driving reduce idling and maintain correct tire pressure

If you are thinking about riding your bike to school we have a bike rack to store your bike by the bus loop.

Thank you for your support.

UPCOMING DATES

May 13	Welcome to Kindergarten
May 14	Intermediate Drama Night
May 19	Track & Field
May 20	Jump Rope for Heart
May 20	Primary Literacy Night
May 14	Intermediate Drama Night
June 4	Annual Fun Fair
June 5	PA Day (no school)
June 16	Grade 8 Graduation
June 25	last day of school (1/2 day) Report Cards home
June 26	PA Day (No school)

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 **July 2 - 24 2015**

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 on line.

More information about summer programs and registration can be found using the links below:

Grade 7 & 8 – Literacy & Numeracy [Elementary Summer School](#)

Grades K-8 – Academics, Recreational and Athletic Activities [Summer Institute](#)