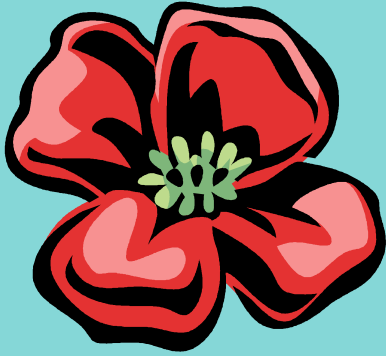


David Suzuki Public  
School

45 Riverwalk Drive  
Markham, L6B 0L9

905-209-0435



“Lest We Forget”

**Principal**

**Yvonne West**

\*\*\*

**Vice-Principal**

**Walter Chewchuk**

\*\*\*

**Administrative Assistant**

**Gail Koidis**

\*\*\*

**Secretaries**

**Rama Kanagarajah**

**Sunitha Krishnan**

\*\*\*

**Superintendent**

**Dr. Lisa Walsh**

\*\*\*

**Trustee**

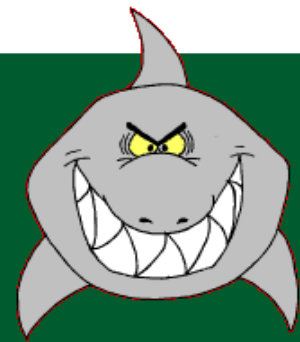
**Juanita Nathan**



# SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 3

November 2014



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

## Principal's Message

Fall is definitely upon us and as we approach winter and the weather gets cooler we ask that you send your children to school with the necessary clothing to go outdoors for recess. Outdoor recess is a wonderful opportunity for the children to engage in physical activity, social interactions with friends and to get some fresh air. Thus, we want them to be dressed to enjoy recess, no matter what the weather brings!

We are looking forward to seeing you here on the 13<sup>th</sup> or the 14<sup>th</sup> as you come in to the school to discuss your children's progress with the teachers. We know that all of you are very committed to your children's academic success and so it is so important that you engage with them and with the teacher about their strengths, their needs and their next steps for improvement. Our strong partnership will ensure your children meet with success!

As you know from a letter sent home a couple of weeks ago, Mrs. Anand has taken a Leave of Absence to support her father who is seriously ill. We are fortunate to have Mr. Walter Chewchuk, a retired Principal, support the school until Mrs. Anand's return. Mr. Chewchuk is a very experienced and highly respected Principal who continues to support the School Board in situations like these. We welcome his assistance and expertise!

Yvonne West

## Spooktacular Fundraiser

The final count isn't in yet, but the participation in our technology fundraiser has been overwhelming! We would like to thank you, in advance, for your support of this initiative to purchase more technology to enhance teaching and learning at David Suzuki! We will provide you with the details of how much was raised and what we plan to purchase in the December Newsletter.

# Character Matters - COURAGE

October's focus was on **Responsibility**. We were pleased to see so many students throughout the school being responsible in the classroom, being responsible for getting their homework done and being responsible in so many other ways.

Our assembly for Responsibility was held on October 29th. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at this assembly:

|                  |        |                             |
|------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs. Neate       | FTJSA  | Rayan I., Amrutha, Rithika  |
| Ms. Llewellyn    | FTJSB  | Jackie, Diviya, Vinujan     |
| Miss Halliday    | FTJSC  | Shanuka, Jacqueline, Aashia |
| Mrs. Gertsakis   | FTJSD  | Aarzu, Justin, Juvala       |
| Miss Eng         | FTJSE  | Nicholas, Vidhi, Shaneil    |
| Mrs. Hudspith    | FTJSF  | Deepika, Sohani, Samuel     |
| Ms. Hall         | FTS/1A | Sruthi, Aaron               |
| Mrs. Barovier    | 1/2A   | Zoya, Aidan, Umair          |
| Ms. Wood         | 1A     | Cairo, Rayyan, Ashani       |
| Mrs. Tsiampouris | 1B     | Maya, Shreya                |
| Mrs. Sambrook    | 1C     | Vishal, Ashana              |
| Mr. Hwee         | 2/3A   | Shivaani, Ansh K.           |
| Miss Chan        | 2A     | Prathesh, Saharnah          |
| Mrs. Clements    | 2B     | Shievan, Snehi, Ashley      |
| Miss Steele      | 2C     | Riya, Tianna                |
| Mrs. Arumugam    | 3/4A   | Thenuja                     |
| Mr. Kawnik       | 3A     | Tvisha, Dhairya             |
| Mrs. Nedelkovski | 3B     | Peter, Anjali               |
| Mrs. Cooper      | 3C     | Sachgin, Alvin              |



The character trait for November is **COURAGE**.

We face challenges directly. We seek help from others when necessary. We do the right thing even when it may be un-popular. We are able to recognize risks and danger and do not take unwise risks to gain the approval of those around us.

I know this is a characteristic that we will see a lot of at David Suzuki!



# **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**NOVEMBER 11**



**Canada, according to the United Nations, is one of the best, if not the best country in the world to live in. Our citizens are blessed with freedom, opportunity and a standard of living that is unrivalled in today's world, and without parallel in history. Canadians are correct to express pride in their ancestors for building such a great nation and in themselves for preserving it. However, this did not occur by chance; it is a result of tireless effort in the past that is carried on by those of today.**

**It is believed that most children, by the time they begin formal schooling, will have had some exposure to Remembrance Day through television, radio, movies, reading and through family observance of the day. Our educational system has the responsibility to enrich these early experiences so that each student may develop a real understanding and appreciation for Remembrance Day. Children new to Canada must also have an understanding of the sacrifices that many Canadians made to preserve and protect the way of life that they now embrace.**

**We must ensure that Remembrance Day is afforded the respect and dignity it rightly deserves and maintains its place among the great traditions of our country. On Tuesday, November 11th, at 9:30 we will have an assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day . We invite you to attend.**

(Adapted from the Royal Canadian  
Legion Teacher's Guide)





## *From the Teachers' Desk part 2*



### **Report Cards**

There will be three report cards written and sent home throughout the year; the Progress Report Card, Term 1 Provincial Report Card, and Term 2 Provincial Report Card.

The Progress Report is designed to show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits during the fall of the school year. It also provides information regarding a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations of first term. Student progress will be reported in all subject areas as either 'progressing with difficulty', 'progressing well', or 'progressing very well', and teacher comments will provide guidance as to strengths and next steps.

The Provincial Report is sent home twice a year. The first term report is sent home between Jan. 20-Feb. 20, and the second term report is sent home towards the end of June. Both reports show a student's achievement of curriculum expectations introduced and developed throughout the term. They also provide an indication of a student's development of the learning skills and work habits that are so important throughout a child's academic life and beyond. The learning skills taught, modeled, and assessed are: Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative, and Self-Regulation.



It's important to state that the primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. The most successful classrooms have teachers who support all students, carefully plan activities related to the curriculum expectations, communicate clearly with students and parents, utilize ongoing and varied assessment tools, provide descriptive feedback, and develop a student's love of learning. It contains students who strive to overcome challenges, work cooperatively with others, ask questions and seek clarification, and make plans to achieve their goals. Finally, successful classrooms have parents and guardians working with both their children and the teacher as partners towards our shared purpose of making this the best possible year full of growth, excitement, challenges, and opportunities.

Hopefully this has provided some useful information about the assessment and evaluation that will take place throughout the school year. As always, please let me know should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, and I look forward to speaking with you more throughout the year.

*By Kathleen Benson, Grade 6 Teacher*

### **Eco Team**

Here at David Suzuki, we encourage our students to make a positive influence on our environment one action at a time. To further promote eco initiatives around the school, Eco Team has started up once again. Throughout the school year, the Eco Team takes part and organizes many events including waste reduction week, sidewalk sale, and litterless lunch week. We also hold fundraisers and monitor our school's eco footprint. As a whole, Eco Team plays a big role in guiding our school to be an eco-success!

~ Doaa Muhammad & Tooba Syeda (grade 8)







# SUZUKI SHOUT OUTS!

## Peace Tree Conference

On October 21, a team from David Suzuki attended the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Peace Tree Conference. The conference is for students in grades 5 and 6 to develop leadership, while learning about promoting respect for diversity and equity.

This year, we had two teams representing our school. Six of our junior students attended under the guidance of Mr. Chiu. Shakira G., Nia W., Harnir R., Sonya S., Jessica A. and Thardchi G. were fantastic school ambassadors. They had an opportunity to participate in some of the 20 workshops that were offered. They returned to school ready to put their new peace-making skills into practice.

We had an intermediate team of student presenters: Karani R., Marco C., Luckshana T. and Rahshmy S. They created and shared a workshop called "Everyone Matters". In this workshop, the participants explored the idea of inclusivity at schools. Our student team facilitated group activities using a variety of differentiated experiences. This committed group of students worked very hard with Mrs. Scott and Miss Ricketts, who facilitated the development and implementation of this workshop.

Overall, it was a fabulous day of learning, sharing and having fun, all while promoting peace.



### School Council News

At our last council meeting our new executive was acclaimed:

Co-Chairs - Romila Jeevithan and Sharon Reid-Brown

Treasurer - Geetha Desu

Secretary – Karen Randazzo

Thank you to these parents for volunteering their valuable time to support the school and our students!

### Student Council Elections

On Monday, October 6, 2014, David Suzuki P.S. held their annual student elections. Students in grades 7 & 8 listened to the speeches of over 40 candidates! We would like to congratulate the following students:

#### **Executive Members 2014-2015**

President – Krupali (8M)

Vice-Presidents – Ashton (7R) & Rohan (8M)

Secretary – Branavan (7D)

Public Relations – Ashna (7R)

Athletic Representatives – Layla (8L) & Adnan (8M)

Treasurer – Osmund (8L)

Eco-Representatives – Tooba (8M) & Doaa (8M)

Well done everyone!

# Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting



The students will be receiving their *progress report cards* on **Wednesday, November 12**. This Report Card will provide you with information on how your child is progressing so far, but it is not summative information, thus, there will be no *grades* provided. The front page will give you information on your child's Learning Skills and the second page will provide information on their academic progress.

*Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences or Student-Led Conferences will be set up for the evening of November 13th and during the day on November 14th.* We urge all parents to attend these conferences as they are opportunities for you to talk with the teacher and your child about his/her progress and about his/her strengths and needs. The conferences are scheduled on a tight timeline and so it will be important for you to come prepared with a list of questions, comments and concerns so as to make the best use of that time. Information regarding scheduling will be sent home shortly. You will also receive information on whether your child will be involved in Student-Led Conferences or the more traditional Parent/Teacher Conference. If you are unable to attend on either of these two days, please contact your child's teacher to set up an alternate time.

All Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario schools, is now based on the policies and practices described in *Growing Success: Assessment Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools*. A variety of Ministry and York Region parent brochures are available to you in over 22 languages including traditional and simplified Chinese translations, Hindi, Farsi, Tamil and Korean. Please take some time to look over the document entitled **Supporting Your Child's learning through Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting** on the links below. These documents are very useful in helping you to understand how teachers are assessing your child and what your role is in supporting your child at home. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the school as it is our work together that will make our students successful!

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=IAL000001>

[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ReportCard\\_En.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ReportCard_En.pdf)

## Electronic Devices and other Valuables

**Students are not to bring cell phones, handheld games, mp3 players, laser pointers, or any other electronic devices to school unless the student and parent have signed the school technology agreement.**

These kinds of devices are often very valuable and provide great temptation for theft. As David Suzuki P.S. and the Board are not responsible for theft or damage to personal property, parents and students are asked to leave all valuables at home.

If a student needs to bring a cell phone to school for safety reasons, it must be kept in his/her locker during class and recess times. Any cell phones that are not put away, will be taken from the student and returned at the end of the day. If a cell phone is taken away more than once, it will only be returned to a parent and not the student.

Camera cell phones are not to be used on school property.

## Gold Certification



As David Suzuki Public School is an eco-school, we are monitored yearly by the Eco Schools of Ontario Program. Our last year's results were amazing and we achieved a gold certificate. Our school demonstrated amazing teamwork and leadership, energy conservation and waste minimization. A special thank you goes out to the Eco Team for effectively guiding our school to this amazing achievement. We are proud of our results and hope to achieve our goals again throughout the upcoming school year.

~ Doaa Muhammad & Tooba Syeda  
(grade 8)

## Kindergarten goes to Willowgrove

In the month of October, the kindergarten students went on a trip to Willowgrove Outdoor Education Centre. The students moved through a variety of different hands-on experiences. The kindergarten students had an opportunity to go on a wagon ride to see the fall colours, build a scarecrow to bring back to the class and learn about how and where pumpkins are grown. Although it was a rainy day, we still had a great time.

The Kindergarten Teachers



## Traffic Loop/Parking Lot

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested traffic 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 be patient, drive slowly and be careful. The loop is for DROP OFF only, not parking. Parents should not leave the vehicle or wait in the loop at any time.

Once dropped off, students should proceed directly to the schoolyard or Kindergarten fenced area. There are two lanes of traffic in the loop. Children should not be exiting the vehicle on the driver's side between the two lanes of traffic as this is extremely 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 directly on to the sidewalk.

If you wish to park and walk your child to the schoolyard, please park on a side street. The Town of Markham parking enforcement could be making visits to the school area and we do not want any of our families being ticketed for parking illegally in the loop, fire route, or in handicapped parking spots by the loop.



## Help Your Child by Working as a School Partner

### **Motivate your children**

- \* Listen to your children. Talk to them about school work and school experiences. They need to know that you are serious about their school work and that it is important.
- \* Be a positive school supporter
- \* Review school work and discuss it with your children
- \* Praise their efforts

### **Communicate with the teacher and school**

- \* Know the school rules, program expectations and discipline policy
- \* Know any teacher expectations
- \* Attend parent/teacher conferences
- \* Attend special events
- \* Read school/class newsletters and teacher notes in the student agendas

### **More ideas for helping your child**

- \* Make your child a partner in the home – give him/her responsibilities
- \* Get your child a library card – this is a great outing you could do as a family
- \* Set a good example – be a life long learner yourself. Learning is life long. Do it together as a family

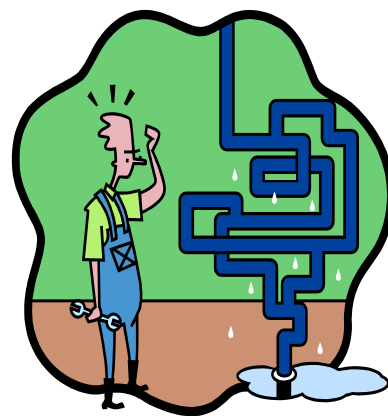
*\*\* taken from*

*"Parents are Teachers – A Parent's Guide",*

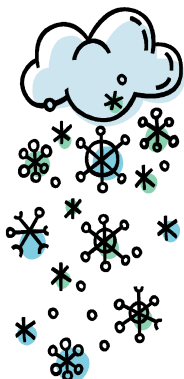
*Edmonton Public Schools*

## Plumbing Mishap at David Suzuki

You may have heard from your children that we had a plumbing mishap a few weeks ago that resulted in quite significant water damage to our Phys Ed Equipment Room and the items stored in that room. Our response, with the support of the Board, was swift and comprehensive. The room was sealed off while a sanitation company sanitized the room and removed all non-restorable items. The Board's insurance company is working with us to identify and replace the items we have lost through this damage and our hope is that, over the course of this next month, we will have replenished our Gym equipment. Please be assured that at no time were any of our students at risk from this damage.



## **Inclement Weather**



**Parents are advised to listen to local radio and television stations on inclement weather days. In the event that the York Region District School Board finds it necessary to cancel school busses, most stations will start reporting information by 6:00 a.m. If busses run in the morning, they will run at the end of the school day. Please remember that if the YRDSB does cancel busses in the morning, the afternoon busses are also cancelled.**







## Bullying Awareness Week November 16th—22nd

Ontario has designated the third week of every November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safer schools and a positive learning environment. At David Suzuki, our commitment to the well-being and safety of our students goes beyond this week and permeates our work as educators over the course of the entire year. Our daily inspirational quotes and reflections, our Character Assemblies and our Reflection Room and Restorative Discipline approach are all ways in which we help encourage students to be kind, respectful citizens who "stand up against bullying."

*Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.*

Bullying can take various forms. These include:

- Physical - hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property
- Verbal - name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments
- Social - excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them

Electronic (commonly known as cyberbullying) - spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and social networking sites

Teachers, Parents and students together can heighten awareness of bullying and its impact on the school community by continuing to openly discuss the adverse effects of bullying and the actions to take if witnessing bullying or if being victimized by bullying. We believe that bullying is a community issue and together with you, our parents, we seek to find solutions. We ask all parents to encourage your children to report all bullying incidents to you, their teacher or their Principals and to coach your child with possible alternatives. Most importantly, treat the school as your ally - if you become privy to a possible bullying situation at the school, please contact us and share this information with us.

We encourage all school staff and parents to learn more about bullying and its effects on student learning and well-being. For more information on how to support your child at home

please visit [www.bullyingawarenessweek.org](http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org)

# Curriculum Corner



## Learning Skills and Work Habits

In the next couple of weeks, your child(ren) will bring home their progress report. The progress report will provide you with important information about your child's learning skills and work habits, and serves as a conversation starter with teachers. You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss specific strengths and next steps that will be areas of focus for your child throughout the remainder of the term.

The learning skills and work habits reported on include: responsibility, independent work, collaboration, organization, initiative, and self-regulation. Within those broad categories are many subsets of skills and work habits, such as persisting, creating, and questioning, that contribute to success both in school and life. Additionally, many of the skills are directly connected to academic achievement, such as the ability to access information, evaluate information, and communicate effectively.

International research has led to a broad consensus that strong learning skills and positive work habits are often an indicator of future success in school, at home, and in life in general. Parents, teachers, and students can work together to understand the importance of these skills, as well as to develop goal plans to support further growth. While understanding that the learning skills and work habits will look different as your child(ren) grow and mature, the following are sample behaviours that can help identify criteria for each of the skills.

### **Consider how well your child:**

- **Responsibility**  
Manages his/her own behavior
- **Independent Work**  
Follows instructions with minimal supervision
- **Collaboration**  
Responds positively to the ideas, opinion, values, and traditions of others
- **Organization**  
Establishes priorities and manages time to achieve goals
- **Initiative**  
Demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning
- **Self-Regulation**  
Perseveres when facing challenges

## RE-WIRED:

### Raising Kids on Technology

With guest speaker Dr. Nasreen Khatri, Clinical Psychologist

**Date:** Wed Nov. 12

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** Franklin Street Public School

Computers, gaming devices, multimedia players and smart phones, our kids are surrounded by technology. What impact does technology have on their cognitive, social, and emotional development? Is it changing the way our kids' brains work? What can parents do to ensure our children are not negatively affected by technology exposure?

Franklin Street P.S. School Council invites Dr. Nasreen Khatri, from the Rotman Research Institute and the Psychology Foundation of Canada, to explore all these questions. Please join us for an informative talk on what research shows about the effects of technology exposure on children's development.

Online registration required. RSVP on school website:

<http://franklinstreet.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

### School Bus Challenges

Unfortunately, we are still continuing to experience some difficulties related to punctuality with a couple of our busses. We appreciate that this can be very frustrating for parents who are waiting for their children to be dropped off or picked up. We are consistently in communication with the bus company about this and they assure us they are doing everything they can to be on time. The challenge is that we are the second run for the busses meaning that they pick up and drop off students for another school with an earlier start time prior to picking up and dropping off our students. Thus, if there is a problem of any sort on the first run that causes delay, we are automatically affected. This is the case for all schools with bussing – if you are an early start school, you are on the first run; if you are a later start school, as we are, you are on the second run and impacted by what happens on the first run.

We want to assure you that if the bus is late, your child continues to be supervised until it arrives.

### **BILL CROTHERS Secondary School Application Process**

Applications are **NOW AVAILABLE**  
on the Bill Crothers SS website

<http://billcrothers.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

for the 2015-2016 school year.

Deadline for submission is  
**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**



## Cold Weather



Please make sure your child(ren) dress(es) appropriately for the upcoming cold, winter weather. Warm boots, socks, pants, sweaters, coats, hats, mittens and scarves tucked inside the coat are very important for children of all ages to wear. Children will be expected to be outside during recess and lunch, so please make sure they are dressed for the weather.

As well, since we have approximately 800 students here at Suzuki, and many children wear the same brands, colours and sizes of clothing, it would be very helpful if your child's name could be printed in ink in boots and labels of clothing.

If your child has lost any items, please check our Lost and Found box just outside of the office.

*Thank you.*



### Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes for the school. With the wet, and soon to be slushy weather, outdoor shoes track mud into the halls and classrooms. If the students are able to change into indoor shoes when they are in the building, this will contribute to a cleaner school environment for us all. Thanks for your support!

### UPCOMING DATES

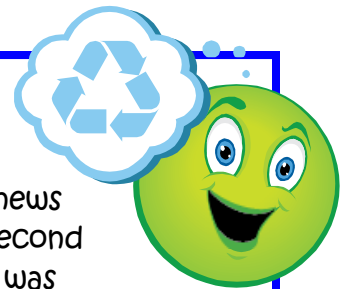
|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Nov. 11        | 9:30 Remembrance Day Assembly (parents welcome) |
| Nov. 12        | Progress Reports go home                        |
| Nov. 13        | Evening Parent Teacher Interviews               |
| Nov. 14        | Morning Parent Teacher Interviews               |
| <b>Nov. 14</b> | <b>P.A. Day (No school)</b>                     |
| Nov. 27        | Character Assembly Awards 12:00                 |
| Nov. 28        | Meningitis gr. 7 & HPV gr. 8 girls              |
| Dec. 1         | School Council Meeting 6:30                     |
| Dec. 3 & 4     | Dental Screening                                |

### Progress Reports and Interviews

The progress report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, November 12th. Interviews on the 13th & 14th.



### Environmental Corner



We have some exciting news to share! Last week, a second water bottle fill station was installed on the top floor of the school. We have currently saved over 24,800 bottles from ending up in the landfill with our first water bottle fill station. We encourage all students and staff to use reusable water bottles so that we can continue to support the environment by reducing waste!

*Thank you for your support.*