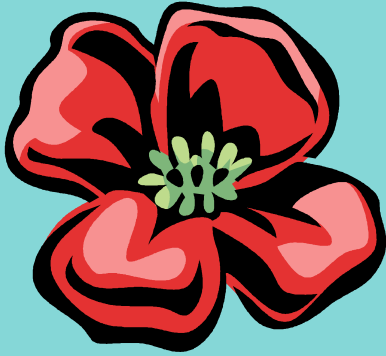


David Suzuki Public
School

45 Riverwalk Drive
Markham, L6B 0L9

905-209-0435



“Lest We Forget”

Principal
Yvonne West

Vice-Principal
Marion Ahrens

Administrative Assistant
Gail Koidis

Secretaries
Sunitha Krishnan
Debbie Watrous

Superintendent
Peter Tse

Trustee
Juanita Nathan



SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 3

November 2015



davidssuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Principals' Message

Our November newsletter comes on the heels of the tragic accident that occurred last week resulting in the very sad passing of one of our Junior Kindergarten students and injury to her 7 year old sister as they made their way back to school after lunch. Over the past days, we have been so moved by the outpouring of sadness and support that have been shared by many in our community. Your kind words and tributes are greatly appreciated by the family as they grieve the loss of their beautiful little girl.

As mentioned in the letter we sent home last Friday, the school's students and staff are being well supported by members of our board's Tragic Events Team and other appropriately trained personnel. If you are concerned that your child may be experiencing lingering emotions as a result of what has occurred, please contact us so that we can work together to provide any necessary support.

In the wake of this tragedy, concerns about traffic safety are being widely expressed. Riverwalk Drive and the streets surrounding the school are extremely busy, particularly during work rush hours as well as during morning drop off and afternoon pick up at the school. You may want to consider contacting our local government to share your concerns and request their support for managing the traffic in our community. We urge you to exercise caution and attention as you drive through the school zone and through the school's Kiss and Ride. We have a number of staff who supervise the students in our Kiss and Ride and who try to manage the flow of traffic so as to keep your children as safe as possible. If you use our Kiss and Ride to drop off or pick up your children, please respect the protocols we have in place to keep it running smoothly and to keep it safe (i.e. no parking; drop students off only when against the curb on your right – not in the middle of the lane; proceed slowly and cautiously as soon as you enter the school property—*see reminders on last page of this newsletter*). Thanks to those of you who are attending to these safety protocols.

At the school, we are exploring a variety of options to further educate our students about traffic/street safety. We **must** continue to work together to ensure that student safety remains our top priority.

Ms. West

Principal

Ms. Ahrens

Vice Principal

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.



Bullying Awareness Week

BULLYING

November 16-20th

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 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



ERROL LEE

Errol Lee Hero Club and Be A Hero Presentation – November 16th

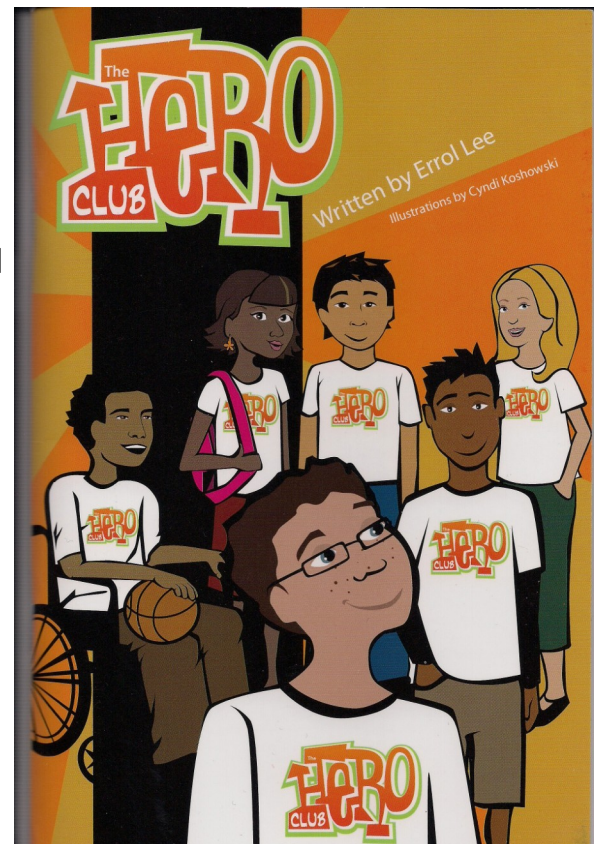
Errol Lee will be coming to kick off the Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. He will do two presentations. One presentation will be aimed at Kindergarten to Grade 5 students and the other presentation will be for Grades 6 to 8 students. Errol is an entertainer and motivational speaker. He sings and is an incredible dancer!

HERO CLUB: Kindergarten – Grade 5

This presentation will focus on the prevention of bullying by focusing on character traits. It also focuses on recognizing when people need help finding a friend and doing something about it. There will be a very exciting new initiative revealed at the end of the presentation. Stay tuned for more details...

BE A HERO: Grades 6 to 8

Be a HERO is a thought-provoking concert presentation that promotes the value of the human experience. This concert presentation will help students to find peaceful, respectful and responsible solutions to issues related to bullying.





REMEMBRANCE DAY

NOVEMBER 11

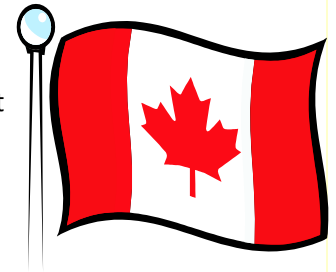
Canada, according to the United Nations, is one of the best, if not the best country in the world to live in. Our citizens are blessed with freedom, opportunity and a standard of living that is unrivalled in today's world, and without parallel in history.

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.

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

At David Suzuki, we will do our part to ensure that Remembrance Day is afforded the respect and dignity it rightly deserves and maintains its place among the great traditions of our country. We will also take this opportunity to look optimistically towards a future of peace for all people. On Wednesday, November 11th, at 10:30 we will have an assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day. We invite you to attend.



School Council News

At our last council meeting our new executive was acclaimed:

Co-Chairs:

Sharon Reid & Thiva Kulasingam

Treasurer:

Sakanja Senthil

Secretary :

Sathish Shankar

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

Next meeting:

Monday, November 2nd 6:30 pm

UPCOMING DATES

Mark your calendar!

Nov 2: School Council Meeting at 6:30

Nov 10: Diwali

Nov. 11: Remembrance Day

Nov 13: Picture Re-take day

Nov 16-20: Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week

Nov 16: Errol Lee Presentation K-5 & 6-8 Gym

Nov 18: Hep B & HPV shots – Grade 7&8

Nov 20: Dental Screening JK/SK

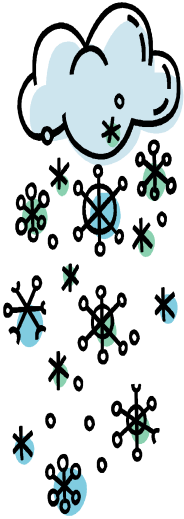
Nov 23: Dental Screening Grade 2&8

Nov 24&25: Bus Safety Presentations

Nov 27: PA DAY



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.

For more information go to: WWW.SCHOOLBUSCITY.COM



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!

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.



High School Information Nights for Grade 8 Parents

Markham District High School November 26th, 7pm

ARTS Unionville at Unionville High School November 3rd, 7pm Markham Theatre.

Reserve seats by calling 905-305-7469



Traffic Loop/Parking Lot

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested traffic can be in the morning and afternoon in front of the school and in the drop off loop in the parking lot. If you use the loop in the morning, please be patient, drive slowly and be careful. The loop is for **DROP OFF** only, not parking. We notice that some parents park their cars and walk their children to their entry door or to the Kindergarten fenced area. Parents should not leave their vehicle or wait in the loop at any time. If you have a student in kindergarten, we have many staff members on Duty in the area to walk your child safely to the Kindergarten Pen.

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 City 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. Please also be aware that the police are also monitoring traffic for in the school zone for dangerous driving (i.e. speeding, distracted driving).

Thank you for your support as we try to keep your children safe.



The Cross Country team had a very successful day at the Area Cross Country meet on October 19th. There were 56 students from grades 4-8 that represented David Suzuki at this meet. All of them competed hard and showed perseverance. Four students (Tyler, Abdullah, Alli, and Branavan) made it to the Regional Cross Country meet where all the schools in York region came together to compete. We are so proud of all of our runners and look forward to another great race next year.

