

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



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Yvonne West

Vice-Principal
Marion Ahrens

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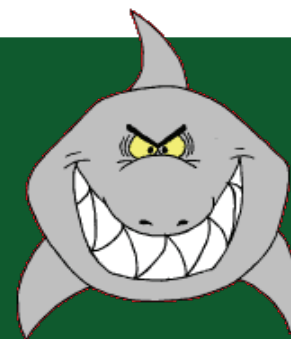
Trustee
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SUZUKI SOURCE

Volume 2

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david Suzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Principals' Message

As expected, September has been a very busy month as we settled into the rhythm of being back at school. We had the unexpected challenge of having to re-organize many of our classes due to a variation in enrolment over the summer, however, our teachers worked extremely hard to ensure the students experienced a smooth transition from one class to another. We are happy to report that all of our students appear to have adjusted well to their new classes and are off to a great start for the new school year!

We know that the current Job Action is of concern to all families across the Province. Although there are certainly some challenges presented by this, please be assured that, at David Suzuki, we are trying our very best to minimize any impact to our students. We will attempt to keep you apprised of any significant information related to the ongoing Job Action.

As busy as we have been this month, our teachers have made the time to begin some extra-curricular activities. We have students who have been training for cross-country and we will be sending 55 students to the Area Cross Country Meet on October 9. We also have many of our grade 7 and 8 girls trying out for the Senior Girls' Volleyball Team and they have already begun to plan for a number of tournaments. As the year progresses, we hope to have a variety of extra-curricular activities available for our students. It takes a tremendous amount of additional personal time on the parts of the teachers to run these extra-curricular activities and we truly appreciate their commitment to this.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have anything you would like to share.

Yvonne West
Principal

Marion Ahrens
Vice Principal

Character Trait for October **Responsibility**

We are accountable for all our actions. We follow through on all our commitments.



Revised School Organization and Staff 2015-2016

Due to our increased enrolment over the summer, we had to make some adjustments to our original organization of classes in order to comply with the Ministry's Primary Capped Sized directive. Only classes from Grade 1 to 8 were impacted. Below is our new organization:

Assignment	Staff	Assignment	Staff
JS Kindergarten	Seepaul, Faye	DECE	Donnan, Meghan
JS Kindergarten	Llewellyn, Michelle	DECE	Abreu, Iola
JS Kindergarten	Halliday, Laurian	DECE	Zhao, Vivian
JS Kindergarten	Gertsakis, Lisa	DECE	Elmi, Fereshteh
JS Kindergarten	Eng, Justine	DECE	Khalil, Eva
JS Kindergarten	Hudspith, Michelle	DECE	Kathir, Rajiny
1A	Sambrook, Karen	5C	Shum, Natalie
1B	Nina McMichael, Nina	6A	Kermally, Alam
1C	Cooper, Amy	6B	Duffus, David
1D	Risman, Amanda	7A	Ricketts, Nicole
2A	Binner, Jonathan	7B	D'Alessandro, Chris
2B	Barovier, Janine	7C	Chung, Jenny
2C	Clements, Rhonda	8A	Bansal, Sumir
2D	Wood, Sarah	8B	Scott, Nadine
3A	Kawnik, Patryk	8C	Lowrie, John
3B	Hwee, Christopher	French	Belfiore, Patricia
3C	Kilgour, Joanne	French (J/I)	Chien, Belinda
3D	Hall, Maxine	French (Jr)	Rujeedawa, Sarah
4A	Krikorian, Maral	Library	Tompkins-London, Susan
4B	Haider, Tonya	Music	Schaub, Mark
4C	Benson, Kathleen	PHYS-ED	Ming, Shauna
5A	Carter, Megan	Music, Phys-Ed	Tsiampouris, Anna
5AB	Elsner, Brooke	Community Class	Lanni, Sarah
3C Reading Recovery	La Marca, Lisa	2C Reading Recovery	Arumugam, Padmasri
EA	Ramsahoi, Christine	Spec Ed (I)	Fenwick, Jennifer
EA	Parks, Jermaine	Spec Ed (J)	Steele, Erin
EA	Aitchison, Louise	Spec Ed (J/I)	Chiu, Ken
EA Health Assistant	Caccavella, Claudia	ELL	Simmons, Kristina
		Spec Ed	Clarke, Harold

“We are Terry Fox”

*“Even if I
don’t finish,
we need
other’s to
continue.
It’s got to
keep going
without me.”*

Terry Fox

Our Terry Fox Run at David Suzuki was a success. The students ran hard and continued Terry Fox’s legacy of finding a cure for cancer. Thanks to all the parents, students and teachers for all their efforts and donations. Together, we raised a total of \$494! Here’s to finding a cure for cancer!

Photo Day

Our school photos will be taken on ONE day
this year:

Friday, October 2nd

Remember to bring your smiles!



Nut FREE School

Please be aware that some of our students and staff have severe nut allergies. In some cases, the allergy is life threatening. In order to ensure their safety, David Suzuki strives to be a **Peanut/Nut Free School** and therefore, we request that you do not send snacks or lunches to school which contain peanut or nut products.

If you would like to bring in birthday or holiday treats for your child’s class please be sure that they are **NUT FREE**. If the package does NOT state ‘Nut Free’ we cannot take a chance and will be sending them back. Longo’s and some other stores carry ‘Nut Free’ mini cup cakes & other items. Tim Horton’s does not. We encourage you to consider alternatives to food when sending in a treat for your child’s celebration, e.g. pen-



BILL CROTHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Gr. 8 INFORMATION EVENING

Bill Crothers Secondary School (BCSS) is a system-wide school with a focus on healthy active living and sport. The school is open for Grade 9 to 12 students. Students and parents from across the region are invited to attend an information evening. Information will be shared regarding the vision, mission, schedule, programs, the transfer policy, and application process.

All information sessions will occur at Bill Crothers Secondary School, 44 Main Street, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 2E4 from 7 – 8:30 in the cafeteria.

Wednesday October 7, 2015 – Students in the West & North Region

Tuesday October 13, 2015 – Students in the East Region

Thursday October 15th, 2015 – Students in the Central Region

Due to building capacity regulations, we request that only students and parents interested in attending BCSS for the school year 2016 - 2017, attend one of these evening. Parking is limited so we ask that parents carpool or park at the GO Station. Markham By-law officers regularly enforce the parking regulations on school property, so please abide by the posted parking regulations.

Download the YRDSB App!

Did you know that you can download the York Region District School Board app, *YRDSB Mobile*, using your iPhone, Android or Blackberry 10 device?

YRDSB Mobile provides parents and students with up-to-date news, access to student resources, school maps and contact information. Users are able to access the *Report It* tool, school year calendars, transportation information and much more.

To download the free app, search for "YRDSB" in your app store.



School Bus Information

For school bus information including a "Late Bus Report" please go online to:

www.schoolbuscity.com

This site will give you bus stops, pick-up and drop-off times.

During inclement weather if the buses DO NOT run in the morning, they will NOT run in the afternoon. If they do pick up in the morning they WILL drop off in the afternoon.

Indoor Shoes



Indoor shoes with non-marking soles are essential to keep our classroom carpets and floors dry and clean. Please ensure that your child has a pair of shoes that can be left at school. Please also make sure that your child's name is inside the shoes. Children are not permitted to wear wet outdoor running shoes or boots in the classrooms. **Stocking feet are dangerous in the event of a fire drill.**

Reporting Your Child's Absence



You **MUST** call in your child's absence! We have a 24 hour absence reporting line **(905-209-0435)**. When calling, clearly state and SPELL your child's name and their teacher's name as well. If we do not know where your child is we must call the police.

When calling in please indicate whether the absence is an illness, a medical appointment, an injury or a parent withdrawal (a day off). If it is an illness please indicate the following:

- Has a fever
- Stomach and intestinal symptoms (vomiting or diarrhea)
- Respiratory breathing cold symptoms (coughing, sneezing and congestion)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Cold Weather is on the Way



Please make sure your child dresses 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/shoes and on labels of clothing.



If your child has lost any items, please check our Lost and Found boxes (one is in the front hall and a second is in the up-stairs hall).

It is always a good idea to send extra clothing with younger students as accidents do happen or they get wet on the way to school or at recess with rain or snow.

Thank you.

School Council News

A great way for parents to be engaged in the school is through participation in School Council. School Councils support schools in a number of ways and are an important vehicle for parents to provide input into the decision-making that occurs at a school.

We are always interested in having new and diverse voices at the table and we invite all of our parents to attend meetings whenever you are able.

Our first Council meeting will be on Monday, October 2 at 6:30 P.M. At this meeting, we will be conducting elections to determine our new Executive Council members for the 2015-2016 school year.

The executive positions are :

Chair or Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as the general Voting Membership. Please see the School Council attachment for the descriptions of these roles. Please know that regardless of whether you wish to be a voting member or not, you are always welcome to attend a meeting.

Dropping Children

Off at School

Students who do not take a bus should be walking to school every day. Walking to school promotes a healthy lifestyle, encourages older students to be responsible for younger children, gives students an opportunity to socialize with friends, and much more. Fewer vehicles in front of the school reduces traffic congestion and lowers pollution levels in the schoolyard during drop-off times.

Teachers are on duty 15 minutes before the start of school in the morning (8:50 a.m.). Please ensure that your students do not arrive prior to this time as the yard will not be supervised and we want all of our students to be safe. Except in instances of severe weather conditions, students are not permitted to enter the school prior to the bell.



ECO SCHOOL FOCUS




Litterless and Boomerang Lunches at David Suzuki

As an ecoschool, we are focused on making wise environmental choices to benefit our local and global community.

A couple of our first eco initiatives is to examine the waste that we are producing as a school and work really hard at reducing it. We have found that a great deal of our waste is coming from **lunches** and **snacks**. We would like all students and parents to make a serious effort to pack

LITTERLESS LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- 1) Use reusable containers instead of plastic wrap or plastic bags. 
- 2) Pack stainless steel forks and spoons or wash and reuse your plastic ones over and over.
- 3) Use a reusable lunch box or bag, avoid plastic bags or paper bags. 
- 4) Pack your water or juice in a reusable container and avoid juice boxes or disposable plastic bottles. 

BOOMERANG LUNCHES

We are also launching a **Boomerang Lunch Program**. A Boomerang Lunch means that whatever comes to school for lunch and snacks, will go back home...no matter if it is leftovers, containers, or garbage, it all goes back home! The purpose of a Boomerang Lunch is to:

- **Increase awareness of the amount of waste from one day's lunch**
- **Encourage the use of re-usable containers**
- **Discourage the use of disposable containers**

There are additional benefits to a Boomerang lunch in that you get to see how much your child is eating each day! Consider including an empty ziplock bag in your child's lunch bag to put fruit peels, half eaten yogurt, etc. so that lunch bags don't get messy. Ziplock bags are durable and can be washed each evening to be re-used the next day.

Thanks for your support as we try to act in ways that take care of our Environment!



PIZZA Lunches...Volunteers Needed

Our Pizza Program begins next Friday, Oct. 9.

If you are interested in volunteering with the pizza lunch program please feel free to contact us at the office. We would need help for a little over an hour each Friday beginning at about noon. We would love your help!

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 2	School Council 6:30
Oct. 5-9	Jungle Sport
Oct. 6	Cross Country Meet
Oct. 7	Walk To School Day
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving (no school)

Traffic Loop

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 car 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 side between the two lanes of traffic as this is very 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 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 or in handicapped parking spots by the loop.

Child Safety!

Parents are NOT permitted to wander through the school. This is for the safety of the children. When dropping off or picking up students during the school day, please report to the office. Please ensure all other caregivers are aware of this procedure.



Environmental Corner



Here at David Suzuki, we encourage everyone to care for the environment. Whether it's packing litter-less lunches or using reusable water bottles, being eco-friendly is easy! We also highly encourage you to carpool or walk to school which will reduce the number of cars on the roads. Cars send out tons of pollution which is harming our environment and polluting our air day by day. Walking to school can help resolve this problem very easily. In fact, Wednesday, October 7th is "Walk to School Day" and we want all families and community members to participate in this eco event. So, the next time you drop your child off to school, always remember to think eco!