

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

# SUZUKI SOURCE



davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Volume 2

October 2016

## Principal's Message



**Principal  
Terry Weatherill**

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**Vice-Principal  
Jennifer Cowley**

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**Admin Assistant  
Helen Olidis**

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**Secretaries  
Aklak Meharaj  
Sunitha Krishnan**

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**Superintendent  
Peter Tse**

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**Trustee  
Juanita Nathan**

Is it really the end of September? They say, "Time flies when you're having fun". We are off to a great start at David Suzuki and that's maybe why time appears to be moving at such a fast pace.

Our teachers have established routines and procedures to best meet the needs of their students. While students have made new friends and reconnected with old friends, they have adapted well to their new surroundings and expectations.

All classes have started off the year with a focus on literacy lessons that highlight the expectations around improved literacy skill, establishing the literacy block and the importance of focused literacy.

We were pleased with the great turnout of parents at our Curriculum Night. The staff appreciated the support you showed in attending and learning about what your child will be taught at school this year. We know that more parent involvement in a child's education makes a difference in educational progress.

Partnership with our parent community is the key to our continued success and we urge you to continue communicating with your child's teacher as well as checking for homework and assignments to help support and encourage your child throughout the year.

We wish to welcome 2 teachers who are filling in for teachers on leave. Replacing MS. Wood is Mrs. Veiga in our grade 1/2 class. Ms. Agnihotri is filling in for Mrs. Krikorian in our JK-SK class. We're pleased to welcome Ms. Wang who is our DECE in Ms. Eng's class. We're also pleased to welcome back Ms. Wilson to her grade 7 class. We wish to thank Ms. Veale who has done an excellent job with the grade 7 class during the first month of the school year. We wish her continued success.

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.

Sincerely,

*Terry Weatherill & Jennifer Cowley*

### **Character Trait for October**

#### **Responsibility**

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



## Character Matters at DSPS

September's focus was on Respect. We were pleased to see so many students around the school demonstrating respect on a daily basis. Congratulations to the following students for being selected this month:

Ms. Agnihotri	JK/SK	Hari, Kishog
Ms. Eng	JK/SK	Rindha, Farhan, Lia
Ms. Orr	JK/SK	Ameera, Nura
Ms. Halliday	JK/SK	Rayaan, Khadijah
Mrs. Hudspith	JK/SK	Fiza, Aikam
Ms. Llewellyn	JK/SK	Sanvi, Aakif
Mrs. Neate	JK/SK	Reet, Ali
Mrs. Gertsakis	GR1	Ajanth, Eyalpan
Mrs. Mcmichael	GR1	Ismail, Racquel
Mrs. Kennedy	GR1	Vinujan, Justin
Mrs. Veiga	GR1/2	Aarzu, Sharvein
Mrs. Barovier	GR2	Ryan, Ameila
Mrs. Cooper	GR2	Sohani, Kieran
Mr. Binner	GR2	Kajena, Aswitha
Mrs. Kilgour	GR3	Matthew, Neda
Mrs. Clements	GR3	Muhadissa, Aiden
Ms. Hall	GR3	Ashana, April
Ms. Nedelkovski	GR3	Cairo, Aleesha



The character trait for the month of **October** is **Responsibility**. ***"We are accountable for all our actions. We follow through on our commitments."*** We look forward to seeing the responsible and respectful students throughout the hallways and classrooms of David Suzuki P.S. Our character quote for the month is, ***"Let the choices you make today be choices that you can live with tomorrow"***.

## David Suzuki School Council



The 2016-2017 School Council would like to welcome all families back to another exciting year at David Suzuki P.S. At our first School Council meeting, we were pleased with the good turnout of interested parents. We discussed the importance of parent involvement in our school, the positive attitude and respectful behaviour of our students, and community spirit.

The new executive council was selected during our first meeting on September 26th. We are delighted to announce the following representatives on our council:

**Chair:** Sharon Reid

**Co-Chair:** Naeem Siddiqi

**Co-Treasurer:** Niki Paizis, Kathy Pigatsiotopoulos

**Co-Secretary:** Stephanie Dimitrievski, Satish Shankar

**Council Members:** Jasmine Balakumaran, Haleela Banu, Romila Jeevithan, Kumaran Mahathevan, Harshini Suren

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 7th, 2016 at 6:30pm**. We encourage all parents and guardians to attend.

### Reorganization at DSPS

Due to a reduction in student enrolment, our school was required to reduce our staffing component by one teacher.

We had to bid a fond farewell to Ms. Suganth, one of our Kindergarten teachers. We wish her well in her teaching assignment at Castlemore P.S., and in all her future endeavours. Ms. Agnihotri has moved into the kindergarten assignment.

Mrs. Veiga is now teaching a grade 1 / 2 split class, Mrs. Cooper a grade 2, and our grade 1, 2 and 3 teachers are welcoming students to their classes to even out the numbers in each class.

We not only appreciate the long hours which our teachers have spent during the summer preparing their classrooms for their students, but also the flexibility and willingness to change assignments to best meet the needs in programming for them. All parents of students affected by the changes have been informed.

We wish to thank students and parents who were directly affected by the changes and moves for their support as we continue to provide a sound educational experience for every student in the school.

### Halloween Message

Each year, many of our students celebrate the long-standing tradition of Halloween.

Under the Province Safe School legislation, students may not bring toy replicas or other items resembling guns, knives or any other weapons, as accessories to their Halloween costumes. In addition, staff has reminded students that they cannot bring to school any such costume accessories, including fake blood, or masks as part of their Halloween costume. This applies to all students in our school.

At David Suzuki, we will continue our instructional program as usual on Halloween. There will be a special day that invites students who celebrate Halloween to wear their costumes, and if that's not possible, they are more than welcome to wear black or orange on Monday, October 31st. If their costume includes a mask, please leave it at home for safety reasons.

Primary grades will have a parade in the gym. For David Suzuki students who do not celebrate Halloween, alternate seasonal activities will be planned. We also appreciate that not all families celebrate Halloween and this is respected. Thank you for your understanding.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or the office at the school. We look forward to having a safe and enjoyable day for all.





## MILK & PIZZA

Our milk and pizza programs will be up and running shortly. Our Pizza Program begins **Friday, Oct 21, 2016.**

Please be sure to promptly return all forms and ensure that your child's name is printed on the cheque.

If you are interested in volunteering with the pizza lunch program please feel free to contact us at the office. We look forward to working with you!



### *West Nile Virus Info*

York Region Community and Health Services (Public Health) has asked that we refer you attached West Nile Virus fact-sheet with you.

You may also find this information on their website:

[york.ca/westnile](http://york.ca/westnile). If you have any questions, please contact Community and Health Services directly at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933.

### **David Suzuki P.S. will be accepting online payments through School Cash ONLINE!**

School Cash Online provides the following benefits:

- A convenient fee payment option that saves time
- Reduces paper
- No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- A quick way to register. It takes less than 5 minutes.

Parents that opt to participate will receive notification via email of student fees owed (both required and optional), and can make secure online payments by credit card or Interac and receive a receipt.

To view a presentation about the program, go to: [School Cash online](#)

More information & instructions on how to register will be sent home this month!



## East Area Cross-Country Meet 2016

On Tuesday September 28th, 45 students from David Suzuki Public School competed at the East Area Cross-Country Meet at Milliken Mills Park. The weather was perfect for competition and enjoyment!

Congratulations goes out to those members who finished in the top 15 of their event and will have the opportunity to compete in the Regional Meet on October 13th at Bruce's Mill.

- ⇒ Shanjai T. (Gr. 4) placed 11th in Tyke Boys.
- ⇒ Peter P. (Gr. 5) placed 3rd in Atom Boys.
- ⇒ Tina T. (Gr. 5) placed 15th in Atom Girls.
- ⇒ Nivetha K. (Gr. 6) placed 14th in Junior Girls.
- ⇒ Branavan J. (Gr. 7) placed 4th in Intermediate Boys.
- ⇒ Ausha Uma (Gr. 7) placed 4th in Intermediate Girls.
- ⇒ Sonya S. (Gr. 7) placed 7th in Intermediate Girls.
- ⇒ Tyler L. (Gr. 8) placed 7th in Senior Boys.

Mrs.Fenwick, Miss. Steele, Ms. Puskar, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Arumugam and Mrs. Hudspith would like to congratulate the entire team on respectfully representing our school at the East Area Cross-Country Meet. They should be proud of being fine ambassadors of our school, their hard work and achievements this season.





## School Bus Information

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

[www.schoolbuscity.com](http://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.

## **Kiss 'n Ride and Traffic Safety**

When dropping off students, please use the Kiss'n Ride loop. **Please do not park your car along the curb in our Kiss 'n Ride and entry curb.** This is a fire route and cannot be blocked. We have staff on duty beginning at 8:50 a.m. to ensure that your child is supervised as they enter our school yard. If you would like to wait with your child until the morning bell, you must park your vehicle along the adjoining streets. Sorry but we do not have room in the school's parking lot. We thank you for your cooperation to ensure safety for all our students.

## **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.

## **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.**



## 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 770 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 inside our front doors.

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 with rain or snow.

Thank you.

### **Safety Week**

Each September, our school practices safety routines to make certain that our students understand the rules to ensure their safety all year.

#### **Lockdown:**

On Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, our school practiced a successful Lockdown drill.

The 'Lockdown' response would typically be called in the event of an armed intruder entering the school, a fatality or a violent storm. The 'Lockdown' calls for all students and staff to be secured in a locked classroom, gym or other secure area, and to situate themselves on the floor, away from doors and windows. During this past month all schools in the York Region District School Board participated in an exercise to test their response to the 'Lockdown' conditions in the school.

#### **Fire Drills:**

On Friday, September 18th, our school carried out a successful fire drill. We plan to have a second drill in October.

Staff and students practice our safe procedures during fire drills. Students are trained to leave the school in an orderly manner when the alarm is sounded to ensure the safety of all.

#### **Bus Evacuation Safety :**

On September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Student Transportation Services of York Region provided a school bus safety education program to help ensure the well being of our students at David Suzuki. The mandate of this program is to educate our students on how to safely ride and evacuate school vehicles in the event of an emergency.

## 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.

**Information Night Dates: Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>.** Applications will be available from our website after the last parent information evening;

**Applications are due: Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

The information session will occur at Bill Crothers Secondary School, 44 Main Street, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 2E4 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the cafeteria.

Due to building capacity regulations, we request that only students and parents interested in attending BCSS for the school year 2017 - 2018, 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 .

### International Baccalaureate Program Information Evening

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is student-centred with a focus on developing intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills for students who live, learn and work in a rapidly changing world. The program emphasizes critical, compassionate thinking, community involvement and intercultural understanding. It is founded on international standards and assessment. Students who complete the program earn both an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and an IB Diploma.

We are pleased to announce the expansion of York Region District School Board's IB Program offerings. In addition to Bayview Secondary School's IB Program, YRDSB has four candidate school sites for the Diploma Program:

- Alexander Mackenzie High School
- Dr. GW Williams Secondary School
- Maple High School
- Milliken Mills High School

Current Grade 8 and Grade 9 students and families interested in YRDSB's IB Program are invited to attend an information session to learn more about the program and application process. No registration is needed.

#### IB Information Evening – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Location: Le Parc , 8432 Leslie Street, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 7M6

Hall: to be announced

Times:

Families living EAST of Yonge St. 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Families living WEST of Yonge St. 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Students eligible for Grade 9 and Grade 10 in September 2017 may apply.

Assessment Dates – Saturday, November 19 or Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Admission to the York Region District School Board IB programs includes an assessment. At the time of application, students will select to write in either the a.m. or p.m. on Saturday, November 19 or in the evening on Tuesday, November 22.

There is a \$35 fee to apply to this program.

**For additional information, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/IB](http://www.yrdsb.ca/IB)**

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## Grade 6 Field Trip to the Markham Fair

On Thursday, September 29th, Mr. Duffus, Mr. Kermally, and Ms. Benson's grade six classes visited the Markham Fair, and had a blast! Despite the cold, windy, rainy weather, we had tons of fun walking around the fairground and seeing all of the attractions. Jugglers, magicians, Superdogs, show horses, motocross tricks, baby animals, and sheep shearing. And these are just some of the fun things we experienced. We are definitely looking forward to going to the Fair again soon! Thank you to our parent (and grandparent) volunteers. We really appreciate your help!



## Curriculum Corner

Math is everywhere!

Understanding mathematics builds confidence. Support your child's learning by engaging in math in a supportive environment which

encourages risk taking.

Just by comparing items around the home, your child can begin to understand some basic principles of measurement.

Some big ideas:

Sometimes we can estimate an amount.

The same object can be measured in different ways.

A measuring tool needs to be used the same way each time.

Try this:

Ask your child to estimate how many of a grocery item your family will need for the week.

Ask "Why do you think that amount will be needed?"

Gather boxes, packages and containers and ask your child to sort them or put them in some type of order (for example: Which holds more, less?)

Taken from :Doing Mathematics With Your Child-  
Kindergarten to Grade 6,  
Ministry of Education

## Indoor Shoes

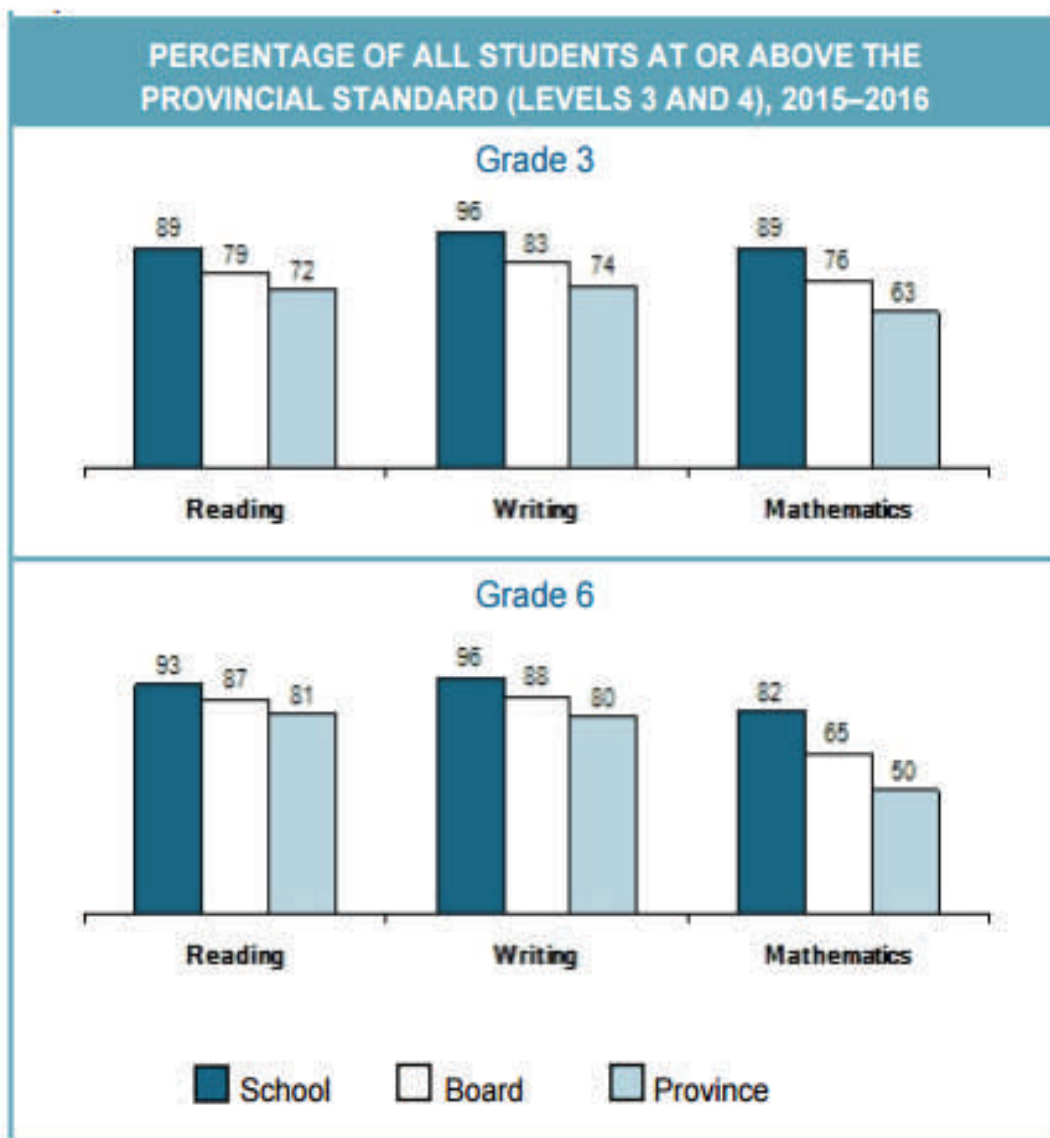
Indoor shoes with non-marking soles are essential to keep our classroom carpets and floors dry and clean. Please ensure that your child has a pair of shoes that can be left at school. Please also make sure that your child's name is inside the shoes. Children are not permitted to wear wet outdoor running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



## EQAO - School Results:

We have received the 2015-2016 results of the Provincial Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grade 4-6). As you can see from the graphs below, our David Suzuki Grade 3 and 6 students performed well, scoring in all cases, above the Provincial averages. Please keep in mind that the student contextual data differs from year to year, e.g. the number of exempt students, the number of students identified with special needs, the number of ELL students, and specific context pieces do impact the overall results.

Our staff will be analyzing the results and we will use this information to help us with our plans for overall school improvement. The EQAO testing results are a snapshot of achievement and are used along with other school-based assessments to plan for improved student achievement. Ongoing classroom assessments remain a fundamental method of determining each student's strengths and needs as we plan for each student's success.



## Child Safety!



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

### THE DAVID SUZUKI PS NEWSLETTER

[www.david.suzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.david.suzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

We are requesting that parents go to this website to register for our newsletters to be sent directly to you via email rather than receiving a paper copy. Please go to the new function feature on the homepage to sign up. This is a secure feature that can only be accessed by the school.

**This box appears on the school's home page.**

**The user must have a client side mail program (i.e. Outlook Express, Outlook) set up on their computer for this form to work and java script must be enabled in their browser.**

We are very committed to this endeavour and we ask for your cooperation. If you do not have Internet access at home, please make every effort to read the newsletter monthly on line.

**Go to**

**[www.david.suzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.david.suzuki.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)**

Thank you to the parents who have already registered online!

## Upcoming Dates

Oct. 6 : Terry Fox Run

Oct. 10 : Thanksgiving (no school)

Oct. 27 : Hep B & HPV vaccinations  
(gr. 7 & 8)

Oct. 28 : P.A. Day (no school)

Nov. 2: Photo Re-take Day

## Allergies

In recent years the number of people suffering from environmental and food allergies has dramatically increased. We at David Suzuki are very sensitive to this situation as we have a number of students and staff members who suffer from these kinds of allergies. In some severe cases life threatening allergic reactions can be triggered simply by entering a room in which a peanut product or perfume is present. For this reason, we ask you to refrain from sending peanut/nut products to school with your child and we ask that anyone entering the building refrain from wearing scented products. We recognize that trying to maintain an allergen safe environment is very difficult and, to some, an inconvenience. For this we apologize but we are prepared to experience a slight inconvenience to protect the life of another.

**If your child has any serious allergies or medical condition that we should be aware of, please notify the office immediately.**

