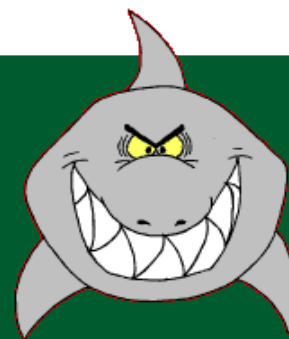


David Suzuki

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

SUZUKI SOURCE



davidsuzuki.ps.yrdsb.ca

Volume 01

SEPTEMBER 2014



Principals' Message

Welcome to our 2014-2015 school year! We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer holiday with your children and are looking forward, as we are, to the year ahead. A very special welcome to all of our new families - we will do our very best to ensure that you and your children feel very much a part of the David Suzuki family.

Welcome back to our returning staff members and welcome to all those staff members who are joining our David Suzuki staff for the first time this year! We know that all of our staff members bring with them unique gifts and talents that contribute to making David Suzuki a great place to be.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the caretaking staff who have worked hard all summer to ensure that our school is ready for the new year. The construction of the new addition was a challenge that they had to contend with all summer and they put in many extra hours to accomplish the goal of having the school ready for the students and teachers. We are truly grateful for their dedication and hard work. Thanks, too, to our office administrative staff, Gail Koidis, Sunitha Krishnan and Rama Kanagaraj for handling all the administrative tasks that goes into ensuring a smooth start for us all! And, of course, thanks to all of our teachers who have spent many hours this past week preparing for the return of our students!

The beginning of every school year is filled with excitement, adventure and perhaps for some, even a little apprehension. Please be assured that at David Suzuki we are committed to ensuring that all of our students have the opportunity to grow and learn in a positive and safe environment. Our job is to help your children become the best they can be - the best learners and the best citizens. We know that we cannot accomplish this without your support and so we look forward, as always, to working with you in pursuit of this goal. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any of your questions or concerns or simply if you would like to come in to introduce yourself to us - we would love that!

Yvonne West
Principal

Shelley Anand
Vice Principal

Celebrating Character!

**September's Character Trait:
Respect**

We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity and positive regard. We honour the rights of others. We respect their belongings, the environment, and the world around us.



School Day Schedule

Entry Bell—9:00
Classes Begin— 9:05
Morning Recess—10:45
Lunch Hour—12:55—1:55
Dismissal—3:35



School Organization and Staff 2014-2015

Listed below are our classes for the new school year and the names of the teachers who are teaching them. Please keep in mind that with the Ministry Class Size Reduction Policy, we may have to do some re-organization by the end of September. We have also included in this list the names of our administrative staff, educational assistants, DECE staff, and caretaking staff - all the people who, at David Suzuki, are integral to the effective running of our school and the creation of our positive school climate.

Assignment	Staff	Assignment	Staff
JS Kindergarten	Neate, Alison	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	Firozkouhy, Mahboobeh
SK/1A	Hall, Maxine	DECE	Kathiravetpillai, Rajiny
1/2A	Barovier, Janine	5B	Avruskin, Cami
1A	Wood, Sarah	6A	Benson, Kathleen
1B	Tsiampouris, Anna	6B	Kermally, Alam
1C	Sambrook, Karen	6C	Duffus, David
2/3A	Hwee, Christopher	7/8A	Scott, Nadine
2A	Chan, Jackie	7A	D'Alessandro, Chris
2B	Clements, Rhonda	7B	Ricketts, Nicole
2C	Steele, Erin	8A	Lowrie, John
3/4A	Arumugam, Padmasri	8B	Ming, Shauna
3A	Kawnik, Patryk	French	Belfiore, Patricia
3B	Nedelkovski, Jackie	French (J/I)	Chien, Belinda
3C	Cooper, Amy (Arkeveld)	French (Jr)	Fung, Michelle
4/5A	Haider, Tonia	Library	Tompkins-London, Susan
4A	Wilson, Brooke	Music	Schaub, Mark
4B	Simmons, Kristina	PHYS-ED	Blando, Anna
5A	Orr, Catherine	Music, Phys-Ed	Binner, Jonathan
5A Reading Recovery	Kilgour, Joanne	gr. 3 Social Studies	Krikorian, Maral
2B Reading Recovery	La Marca, Lisa	Spec Ed (I)	Bansal, Sumir
EA	Ponton, Paivi	Community Class	Suganth, Nelushiya
EA	Park, Jermain	ELL, Spec Ed (J)	Chiu, Ken
EA	Aitchison, Louise	Spec Ed (P/J)	Fenwick, Jennifer
EA	Caccavella, Claudia	CYW	Bond, Leanne

Please know that **all** the staff at David Suzuki are here to support your children!

Sign in/Out

For Students & Visitors/ Volunteers

Whenever students enter or leave school between 9:05 and 3:35, they must sign in/out in the main office. This is the only way the office knows if your child is actually here or not.

For safety reasons, we ask that **all visitors and volunteers, whether family members or other community members, sign in at the main office when entering the school.** You will then get a "Visitor" badge to wear while you are here.

Photo Day

Our school photos will be taken on 2 different days due to the large number of students and in order to ensure the photos are not rushed. The kindergarten to grade 3 will be taken on Wednesday, October 1st. The Grade 4 – 8 students will be done on Thursday, October 2nd.

Photo re-take day will be Wednesday October 29th.

**Remember to
bring your
smiles!**



Lunch Assistant Positions

If you are interested in working as a lunchtime supervisor at our school, please contact the school office at 905-209-0435.

These are paid positions and require one hour every day over our lunch hour which is from 12:55-1:55.

Reporting Your Child's Absence

You **MUST** call in your child's absence! We have a 24 hour absence reporting line. When you call in please clearly state and SPELL your child's name and state their **teacher's name** as well. In accordance with the policy of the Board of Education, if we do not receive a telephone call, we will attempt to call the parent/guardian or emergency contacts in order to ensure the child's safety. If we do not know where your child is we are obligated to contact 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)

In addition, we would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your child/ren arrive at school on time each day. If a **student arrives late** it interrupts the learning process for both the child who is late, as well as his/her classmates. Thank you for your support with this matter. In the event that your child is late, he/she must report to the office for a late slip before reporting to class. Students who are repeatedly late for unexcused reasons, will receive a late letter from the office to be signed by a parent and could receive a detention to make up time missed.

If your child will be missing school for an extended period of time for a family holiday or surgery please send a written note to the office with dates of departure and return.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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 is 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. Longo`s and some other stores carry `Nut Free` mini cup cakes & other items. Tim Horton`s does not.

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

Forgotten Lunches

If you are dropping off a forgotten lunch for your child, please make sure his/her name is clearly marked on the lunch bag. There will be a table located in the office where you can place the forgotten lunch. After the lunch bell rings, your child can come to the office and pick it up. Students will not be paged to the office to pick up their lunch.

Students have been reminded of this procedure. If they don't have a lunch, they should automatically check the lunch table by the office.



Lost and Found

Now is the time to make sure your child's belongings are readily identified. Please take time to clearly label the items your child brings to school (e.g., indoor shoes, boots, backpacks, lunch bags). Doing this makes it much easier to return the lost items to the rightful owners.

Forks and Spoons

Please make sure that your children have proper utensils to eat their snacks and lunches, the school does not provide these.



Textbooks

Textbooks are supplied to the students free of charge, with the understanding that each student is responsible for the texts assigned to him/her. In the event of a lost or damaged book, a request to replace the book or supply the funds necessary to purchase a new text will be made.

Lockdowns and Fire Drills

We will be reviewing safety issues and practicing some specific safety procedures/drills with all of our students. As you know from previous years, schools across the province engage in Lockdown drills which prepare students for occurrences such as an armed intruder. Schools are required to practice 2 Lockdown Drills in addition to 6 Fire Drills per year.

Our first Lockdown will take place later in the month and our fire drills will randomly occur throughout the year, with the first one occurring within the first 2 weeks of school. Our teachers do a really good job of preparing our students for these drills so that anxiety levels are kept to a minimum.



Student Birthdays

Every year we recognize our students' birthdays on the announcements and provide them with a bookmark for their special day.

If you do not wish your child to be recognized, please let us know.

*In addition, if you wish to provide a treat for your child's birthday, **you must speak to the teacher a couple days ahead to ensure that there are no allergies. Items that do not say "Peanut Free" on the label should not be sent and will be returned home to the family.***



Dropping Off Children 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.) and 20 minutes before school after the lunch hour (1:35 p.m.). Please ensure that the students do not arrive prior to these times as the yard will not be adequately supervised and we want all of our students to be safe.

****If you need to drop off your child by car, please use the loop around the parking lot. We ask that you do not use the bus loop due to limited space and safety. ****In the past at other schools there have been close calls and some scary incidents.

****Please do not park your car in our drive through lanes as this significantly inconveniences other parents who are trying to get to work on time. Kindly do not leave your cars running or idling as it creates a harmful impact on the environment.**

Your cooperation in these matters will ensure the safe arrival and departure of all of our students.

Thank you.

School Council



The York Region Board of Education has always believed that education is a shared responsibility involving a partnership of students, parents, staff and community.

School Councils have been mandated by the Government of Ontario to be an advisory body which may make recommendations to the school principal or to the Board.

The purpose is to support improved student learning and to support an increased sense of shared accountability for public education.

As the new school year begins, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing executive and school council members for their support and hard work last year. Under the leadership of Romila, Chair, supported by Co-Chair Vana and the other members, our school council did a wonderful job of working in partnership with the school to support events such as our Literacy Evening and Welcome to Kindergarten evening. They showed their appreciation for staff by providing us with a wonderful luncheon, and they brought the entire community together with the well attended and very enjoyable Fun Fair! The service that School Council provides the school and community is invaluable. Serving on Council is an opportunity for parents to be a part of discussions and decisions being made that shape the direction and decisions of the school. See the School Council insert included in this newsletter for more details about being a part of David Suzuki's School Council. We look forward to seeing many new faces at our first meeting on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 P.M.!

Our first School Council meeting in which the elections take place will be held on Monday September 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the staff room.

****If you nominate yourself, please be sure to attend the meeting on Monday, September 15th. You will NOT be contacted by the school.****

REFLECTION ROOM

At David Suzuki, we try to use a positive and restorative approach when dealing with inappropriate behavior. In order to work through issues with students more effectively, we have established an area where students can be sent to meet with a staff member to talk about what occurred - we call this area our **Reflection Room**. This room is open daily at morning recess and at lunch recess and is located in our Conference Room on the lower level. When students arrive at the Reflection Room, they first complete a form which asks them to discuss what happened and who was harmed by what happened. They will then have the opportunity to discuss the incident with the teacher or educational assistant in the Reflection Room with the aim of identifying more appropriate strategies to deal with conflict and how to repair whatever relationships have been damaged as a result of the behaviour. This approach to discipline is called a **Restorative Approach** and has been proven to be effective in changing behaviour. If your child spends time in the Reflection Room, you will automatically be informed as he/she will bring home the Reflection Room Form that he/she completed while there for you to sign and return. This will provide you with the opportunity to discuss the incident with your child and to reinforce appropriate behaviour. For more serious incidents and for ongoing and repeated inappropriate behavior, specific consequences may be brought to bear and you will be called by the Principal or a teacher. *(Please refer to the Board's Safe School Policy that you received at the beginning of the school year and the Behaviour Code in your child's Agenda for details on behaviours that are considered to be serious infractions and the range of consequences that may be applied).*

Environmental Information

Our environment is a very precious thing and needs our help to protect it and make sure it is available for us all to enjoy. To start the school year all the staff, students and parents are asked to work together to demonstrate this respect by:

- ***bringing boomerang snacks and lunches (using reusable lunch containers or bringing home all left over food and garbage)***
- ***participating in a full recycling program within the school***
- ***turning “lights and screens off” for electronics when not in use (energy conservation)***
- ***avoiding extended idling during pick up and drop off of the children***

Please see some of the other ideas in the back of our school calendar.

Our school has also continues to involved in a new composting program partnership between the Board and the Town of Markham.

We are also excited to be continuing environmental education and fundraising program entitled, **“Think Recycle”**. The “Think Recycle” program is simple. The students and community members are asked to collect used cell phones, ink cartridges and laser cartridges and return them to the collection boxes in the front hall of the school. David Suzuki P.S. will earn funds for each cartridge or cell phone that is collected.

We are requesting your support in ensuring the success of this cost-free fundraising program. Your place of employment can also support the school by saving used cartridges and cell phones and having them brought to the school by your child(ren).

Supporting the “Think Recycle” program will help teach our students the importance of recycling and the benefits of tree planting.



School Bus Information

For school bus information please go online to:

www.schoolbuscity.com



This site will give you bus stops, pick-up and drop-off times. You must be at your designated pick-up 10 minutes prior to the stated time. Students under the age of 10 years require an adult to be present at the drop off stop. If no adult is present the student will stay on the bus and be returned to the school where you must pick them up **immediately**.

If buses are 10 minutes late or more please consult the website for late bus details, please do not call the school as we do not have any further details.

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.

SAFE SCHOOLS - UPDATES/REMINDERS

There are a number of policies and procedures that are in place in all York Region District Schools to ensure the safety of our students. These policies can be found on the Board's website under Safe Schools and they can also be found in the Board and School's Start-Up Package which you are receiving with this newsletter. The Start-Up Package includes a number of forms that require your signature - please take the time to read through the package and sign and return the required forms to your child's teacher ASAP.

We have chosen to highlight a few of the policies below and we ask for your support in helping us to ensure that David Suzuki is a safe place to be for everyone:

Locked Front Door Policy Continues To Be In Effect:

As you are aware, in order to comply with our Safe Schools Mandate, our practice is that once the school day gets underway (15 minutes after the bell), all the perimeter doors are locked, including the front doors. Please ring the buzzer located on the wall to the left of the doors and one of the office staff will let you in. We encourage you to send lunches and all items that your child needs for the school day in the morning with your child if possible. This will assist the office staff in managing this process while continuing to effectively manage their workload.

Celebrating Student Success and FOIPOP (Freedom of Information)

York Region District School Board and its schools believe in recognizing and highlighting the achievement of our students through a variety of sources such as school/hall displays, Board publications and, on occasion, through the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, we request that only those parents who **do not** want their children's work and/or picture displayed in any way to notify the Principal in writing.

Cell Phone Camera Functions and Cameras - Board and School Policy



As per Board Policy, "Cell phone camera functions (and cameras) are not permitted to be used on school property without the explicit permission from the Principal." We feel that capturing school memories through photos or video is a long-standing tradition which we would like to continue and, so, special permission from the Principal may be granted for certain school trips and special occasions. Any pictures taken must be done so with good intent, in good taste, and with the person's permission. Photos or video clips **must never** be shared or displayed via the internet (e.g. Face Book, MSN, YouTube, etc.) or in any other way without the **explicit** consent of **all** people depicted. Abuse of this will result in consequences laid out in the Board's Safe Schools' Policy.

Search and Seizure

In accordance with Police Protocol, members of our school community should be aware of the right of the school administrator to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. The police may, if deemed necessary, be invited or come onto school premises to conduct their own searches. Those searches may be conducted without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal.

Volunteers - Vulnerable Sector Screening:

It is our Board's practice that all volunteers hold a valid Vulnerable Sector Screening (Police Check). The purpose of this is, of course, to ensure the safety of students, staff and community members. There are some exceptions to this requirement that may be considered:

The volunteer is always in the presence of school staff

The volunteer is never alone with students and is not in a position of trust or responsibility

The volunteer is directed not to use student washrooms, change rooms

Situations in which we will require volunteers to get a VSS are:

Volunteers driving students on trips, to sport events, etc

Volunteers on school trips that require them to be alone with a small group of children

Situations that require the volunteer to be completely alone with a student

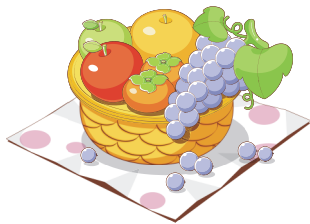
We truly value the assistance of all of our volunteers and we hope that you will continue to work with us and support our efforts to ensure the safety of all our children.



Ensuring a strong home school partnership are the keys to success for our children. If you are interested in volunteering in a classroom or supporting pizza lunches and milk program please come speak to us at the office.



Your support would be greatly appreciated.



Healthy Schools - Nutrition Break

We know how important good nutrition is for optimum academic performance, thus, we will continue to dedicate the last few minutes before morning recess to a structured, indoor nutrition break. We ask that you encourage your child to bring only nutritious snacks (e.g. fruit, vegetables, yogurt, etc.) to enjoy at school.





HELP PREVENT HEAD LICE!

Each year cases of pediculosis (head lice) are found throughout our schools. In an effort to reduce the numbers of cases found and decrease the inconvenience to parents/guardians and students, the York Region District School Board requests your assistance. As your child is now returning to school after a long holiday, please inspect his/her hair and scalp for pediculosis. Periodic inspections during the year will help prevent the spread of head lice.

Head lice are tiny (1/8" or 3mm long) wingless insects with flattened bodies. They cling to the hair by means of six legs. They live mostly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. The female lays tiny, yellowish-white eggs called nits. They resemble dandruff but are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are very difficult to remove. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first.

If head lice are found, do not return your child to school until treated. This will prevent the spread of pediculosis. Children are only allowed to reenter the class when all the nits are removed from the hair.

For more information, please call the Public Health Nurses at York Region Health Services *Health Connection* line, 1-800-363-5653, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30pm

On-Line Newsletter and our NEW Website

At David Suzuki, we are an eco-school and have a major focus on the environment. One of the key ways in which we are hoping to make a positive impact is through reducing, reusing and recycling. In the area of reducing, we have made a commitment to use less paper and take advantage of electronic communication. As a result, our goal is to send all communication, e.g., newsletters, parent notices, etc., through email.

It is very important that we have your (parent) e-mail as we will e-mail you a direct link to the newsletter and other communications. If we do not have it please write it on the verifications that will be sent home later this week.

Please visit our new website and subscribe for our newsletters.

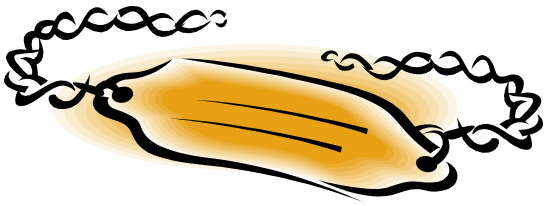
Our David Suzuki Public School Newsletter and other important school information can be found on line on our **NEW** school website:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/davidsuzuki.ps/Pages/default.aspx>

It is published the **first** Thursday of every month. **It is very important to read this as important information and dates are in this publication.**

A paper newsletter will not be sent home.





MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency.

MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed
- MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information,

call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.

Student Information Verification Forms

Student Information Verification forms will be going home the 2nd week of school. **Please carefully go over this form and make any necessary changes to information such as work phone numbers, new cell phone numbers and emergency contact updates as well as e-mail addresses.** If there are no changes just sign the form and send back. We need these corrected forms back immediately to update our records to ensure the safety of your children.

Please remember to update any changing information such as new work numbers or extensions throughout the school year in writing to the office.

Thank you



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 .**



Important Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 15th	School Council Elections
Sept. 18th	Curriculum Night
Sept. 22	P. A. Day (no school)
Sept. 26th	Terry Fox Run
Oct. 1st	Photo Day K-3
Oct. 2nd	Photo Day 4-8

Curriculum Night

We will be holding our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 18th, from 7-8 pm. At this evening, parents will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet your child's teacher. More information about this evening will follow next week or two.



Environmental Corner

What is the responsible way to dispose of dead batteries?

Dead batteries **should not** be placed in your garbage. You can drop them off in our front foyer and they will be sent to a household hazardous waste dispose site OR Visit www.makethedrop.ca to get more information on locations and the proper disposal of other household hazardous waste products.

Thank you for your support.



Child Safety!

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