

Indus School

SPIRIT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 4

Student Count 225

Inside this issue:

Grade 2	2
Grade 4	2
Grade 5	3
Grade 3	4
Grade 6	4
Grade 1	5
Kindergarten	5

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

Mar. 31—Apr. 3 Book Fair

Apr. 2 Student Showcase

Apr. 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Apr. 7 Grs. 1-3 Telus Spark Field Trip

Apr. 8—11 Gr. 6 Outdoor School

Apr. 8 Hot Lunch

Apr. 17 Talent Show

Apr. 18—25 NO SCHOOL

Apr. 28 Classes resume

Apr. 29 Gr. 9 PARTY Program

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2014-2015

If you or someone you know has a child who will turn five before February 28, 2015, that child is eligible for Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. Advance registration is now available at the school between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and a \$25.00 registration fee which is non-refundable.

Kindergarten is a full day program that normally runs every Tuesday and

Thursday as well as on Fridays, beginning sometime in the Spring.

There is no transportation charge for Kindergarten students, however, you are still required to register for bussing prior to July 31st.

The registration form is available on the Rocky View Schools website at www.rockyview.ab.ca if you prefer to fill it out prior to coming to the school for registration. There will be additional forms to complete at the school that are specific to Indus School.

Our Mission

The purpose of Indus School is to build in students a multifaceted personal foundation to carry them successfully through life.

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FAREWELL MRS. GRIFFIN. WELCOME MRS. HANSEN

After 47 years in the work force, the last 10 of which were here at Indus, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Griffin, our secretary who will be retiring on May 2. Mrs. Griffin has been the glue that binds us, the oil that keeps the machine running, and loom that mixes warp and weft to maintain the tapestry of Indus School. She

will be missed by all.

Who has the skills, knowledge, and courage to take over our office once Mrs. Griffin has retired? We searched high and low to find our new secretary, Mrs. Andrea Hansen. Mrs. Hansen comes to us from a management position in the private sec-

tor, but has lots of experience in schools; she is a former teacher.

We welcome her and look forward to a smooth transition.



GRADE 2 MUSHERS RACE THEIR WAY TO NOME!

The excitement was on high speed this month as the Grade 2 students closely followed the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race of 2014. Students cheered on their favorite musher on the 1500km trail from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. Students learned about the sport, the history of the race and the dogs by completing research projects, reading musher

blogs and watching insider videos that were uploaded daily from the trail. First place winner of the race went to Dallas Seavey, which was Mitch Gosling's favourite musher! Second place went to Ms. Allard's favourite musher, Aliy Zirkle, and third place was Douglas Lotoski's favourite musher, Mitch Seavey.

Please stay tuned in April for our

upcoming Boats and Buoyancy unit in Science. Students will be designing, testing and making modifications to their own boats. Please send in your child's materials if you haven't already. We will also be completing a Floating and Boating Program on the Telus Spark field trip, which has been rescheduled for Monday, April 7th.

GRADE 4 ENJOYS READING WITH GRADE 1

Parents might be surprised to find out how much their Grade

4 child enjoys reading with younger children. *Reading Buddies* give them the opportunity to play the role of teacher. It is impressive how well they listen and encourage a younger child with reading. The

Grade 1 children also love to hear a story read to them by an older child. It is like having your

own kind big brother or sister.

The Grade 4 students guide their



reading buddies to choose appropriate books from our class library. To hold the attention of

a younger child, the Grade 4 students realize they must read the book in an engaging manner. The Grade 4 class chose to have different reading buddies each week. They thought this method would give the Grade 1 students an opportunity to get to know more than one Grade 4 student. They remembered what it was like to be in Grade 1 and thought this would be better for them. This is remarkable insight and empathy in children so young.

GRADE 5 CHEMISTRY AT ITS FINEST!

During the month of March, the Grade 5 students have been learning about chemistry. Each year, they learn about solids, liquids and gases. They learn about mixtures and solutions. We also have our annual sugar crystal growing competition. Immy's crystal was off to a quick start and through her nurturing of her crystal, she has an early lead on having the largest crystal. They haven't figured out why hers is bigger yet, but they are starting to come up with various hypotheses. The race isn't over yet! I have seen another few crystals that are close in the competition. If the owners figure out how to manipu-

late their crystal, they will find ways to make theirs the biggest in the end, or is it too late? Only time will tell.

In the upcoming month, a few students from the U of C will be coming to spend 2 hours with the Grade 5s to learn more about electricity and magnetism. It will be an amazing opportunity for the class. Our class will also be putting copies of their recent stories to match with their pastel works of their alien landscapes. How did they end up on these strange planets? You will have to stop by the display wall next week to find out!



STUDENT SHOWCASE AND PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This will clarify that the K-6 students will participate in a Student Showcase on Wednesday, April 2 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. which operates on a drop-in ba-

sis. Parent-teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday, April 3rd from 5:00—7:45 p.m. Interviews must be pre-booked, so please call the school for an appoint-

ment. There will be Parent-teacher Interviews on both April 2 and 3 for the Grades 7-9 students.

NEW COMMITTEE—COSL (REPORT CARDS)

A planning committee for developing parent sessions on the new Communication of Student

Learning process has been struck. If any parent/guardian is interested in joining this group, please

contact Mrs. Graham before April 7th.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK—MANY THANKS!

The Indus School staff and bus drivers would like to thank Indus School Council, and in particular, Sherry Bishop and Katherine Winkler, for organizing the daily treats, scratch tickets, Tim Horton's gift cards and, of course, the wonderful lunch that was

served to all staff in the gym on the Thursday. As well, we wish to thank those parents who brought food throughout the week, and provided supervision during the lunch so we could all eat together.

We are very fortunate to have such a caring and generous community of parents.



GRADE 3 ROCKS!

In Grade 3 Science, we have just begun our Rocks and Minerals unit. It's proving to be very fun. We brought our favourite rock to school to present to our class and determined there are many different reasons for choosing our favourite. Lots of our rocks were also tied to great memories. This week we started an experiment. Believe it or not, we are making edible rocks! We began the process of making rock candy in a jar that we brought from home. All of us chose and mixed our own colours, learned about how to create a solution with sugar and



water and to bring it to a boiling point. Students also measured their string for their project, which their yummy crystals will grow on. Each day we will check on the progress.

During the month of April, we will

be working on the following units:

Math

Measurement (time, capacity, perimeter)

Geometric shapes

Language Arts

Story writing

Figurative Language (Similes, Onomatopoeia, juicy words)

Science

Rocks and Minerals (types, classification)

Social Studies

Quality of Life in India, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Peru

WHERE HAS MRS. GRAHAM BEEN?

March has been so busy for me as Assistant Principal, I thought an update of the various *pies we have our thumb in*, might give everyone an idea of the wealth of opportunities created for our school, students and jurisdiction. The events noted take me away from the classroom. My follow-up job is to bring this learning to the staff and students in ways that will build an exciting learning culture.

As a new Assistant Principal, I participate in a series of leader-

ship meetings which are half-days held in various schools throughout the jurisdiction. This month, along with an RVS administrators' meeting, I met with the Associate Superintendent as a check-in with my progress and completed a weekend course on Coaching. I spent a half-day at Banded Peak School learning more about 'Learning Walks' and how this process engages both teachers and students in building more inquiry and active learning. I spent another half-day as part of a series of days looking at build-

ing a more student centric theme for middle schools. I spent another half-day learning more about success with the new process for communication of student learning which includes, as one element, a new *report card*. Yet another half-day meeting was spent with specialists as we plan specific program needs for some of our students.

I look forward to these opportunities for new learning and exciting prospects for Indus School. Please feel free to ask me more.

GRADE 6 NEWS

With the newspaper story format well in hand, we now tackle the fine points of creating a captivating short story narrative. We are cycling back to the narrative in final preparation for our May Provincial Achievement

Test. Parents and students can locate the rubric and an exemplar from a previous test at learn.alberta.ca. Please continue to discuss current events with your children. We have spent a great deal of time watching events un-

fold in the Ukraine and considering the importance of prediction being supported with the evidence of experts and events. Opinion without evidence is careless and counter our Canadian values of respect and acceptance.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair

By the time you read this, *Book Fair Fiesta!!* will be under way from March 31 – April 3. We will be open late on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (student showcase and parent/teacher interviews) for your shopping convenience. We always have a great selection of affordable books for every age group, from

preschool through mature teen, as well as adult. Every purchase you make earns our library some free books!

Reading – Give it a Shot!

Congratulations to the Grade 4, 5 and 6 students who have done so well in their *Reading – Give it a Shot!* program and earned Calgary Flames trading cards. I have extended the end date until April

30 for students to finish earning their cards, so keep reading!

The younger students are very excited to be earning their Harvey the Hound trading cards!

Talk to your child about what they are reading, and tell them what YOU are reading! Don't forget to read with and to your kids over the Easter break.

GRADE 1 NEWS

Grade 1 is looking forward to an exciting month of growth and learning in April! We are happy to have our field trip to Telus Spark re-scheduled for April 7, 2014. In Language Arts, we have begun our Daily 5 program and like it because we get choices in



what we do. In Mathematics, we are finishing up our numeracy work and will soon start 2D and

3D shapes. In Science we are beginning our exciting *build a playground* project which finishes up our building unit. All Grade 1 students are now part of a home reading program and are expected to read at home fifteen minutes per night on average. Thank you to my wonderful volunteers who came in during March and for those who have signed up for April! It takes all of us to grow lovely children - thank you so much!

I WISH FOR... IN KINDERGARTEN

The month of March brought mischief and havoc to the Kindergarten classroom! Pandemonium ensued with the realization that a wee trickster had visited while we were briefly out of the classroom. The students were appalled when they were confronted with overturned chairs and pencil boxes but soon discovered a path of shamrocks leading to a mysterious green

box. The box described the mischievous nature of leprechauns from Irish folklore and was filled with special leprechaun writing paper! The Kindergarten students were eager to decipher a rhyming verse left by our playful visitor on our SMART Board. It portrayed and was signed by Liam the Leprechaun and alluded to the possibility of granting wishes to those who used the

special writing paper in the mysterious green box. The students were fervent to begin writing at our literacy writing-centre. But was it a trick or stroke of good luck? Gold coins were discreetly hidden around the classroom later in the month but ...they turned out to be only chocolate!

MUSIC NOTES

In March, some of our Grade 7 and 8 band students went to Alberta Pioneer Camp in Sundre for Band Camp. The trip started off in a positive way; it turns out

that the Indus band students are the best bucket-brigade team that Mrs. Istchenko has ever worked with! We loaded our coach quickly and effi-

ciently with harmonious teamwork. It was a sight to behold! At camp, we met with Banded Peak School and Springbank Middle School bands and

jumped into our first rehearsal right away. The 55 students worked hard, prac-

ticed a lot, and had fun making new friends and trying new camp activities. Some highlights were our instrument clinicians –

professional musicians who drove through a snowstorm to work with us at camp - archery, outdoor climbing wall, and team-building games that in-



involved throwing things at each other, squishy tarp activities, Kiss the Can, a giant teeter totter, predator-prey in the forest, and Capture the Magic Brick in

the dark. We hope to make Band Camp an annual event for our senior band students.

Roxanne Wideen deserves a big round of applause for being our parent volun-

teer at camp. Thank you.

And now that band camp has helped to prepare the students



for our festival on May 15, let's keep the momentum going by practicing! A hard copy of the Term 3 Band Practice Log is now available in the band room,

and a PDF copy can be found on our school website under "Band" or "Mrs. Istchenko."

But wait, there's more ... also in March, we started our all-new Glee Club. This extra-curricular group of Grade 7, 8, and 9 students meets Tuesdays at lunch in the band room. The Glee Club will perform at our Spring Concert, along with the bands, on Wednesday, June 4. Because of Glee Club rehearsals, students who need extra help from Mrs. Istchenko can now come to the band room on Wednesdays, instead of Tuesdays.



STUDENT COUNCIL

After such a busy February, we have taken a bit of a break in March. We did have a couple of leprechauns in disguise "hanging about" the school. Some classes did a great job figuring out the identity of the leprechaun and earned their class a small pot of "gold" to share.

Four members of the student council attended the RVS Middle School Leadership Conference at the Education Centre on March 27th. The day was full of activities with some involving candy, corn pops, shaving cream, tents and canoes to name a few. High school stu-

dents in the RVS Leadership Academy lead a number of small group sessions, which were packed with ideas to build school spirit in your school and personal capacity for leadership. Students' conclusions – it was a great day!

COUNCIL CORNER

Indus School Merchandise: We currently have toques in stock and on sale for \$10.00 each, as well as t-shirts and hoodies. Some sizes are in stock. Other sizes can be ordered.

The Coco Brooks fundraiser was successful with 28 people raising \$1020.00 for the school. Thank you.

The WestJet raffle is underway. Don't miss your chance to win two roundtrip tickets to any destination WestJet flies. Clos-

ing sale date is April 11th and the draw date is April 15th.

Purchase of AED: We are actively searching for corporate or personal donations towards the purchase of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to be housed in the school. If you can help us out, please call me.

The Annual General Meeting is on May 12th at 6:30 pm at the School. Agenda items will include the year's recap, financial statements, and nominations for

positions.

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*.

Please feel free to contact me.
Michelle Alm, Chair
malm@platinum.ca
403.936.4570

A complete listing of our executive contact information along with meeting minutes are available on the website.

CALLING ALL WRITERS... CHALLENGE FROM DIVISION 3!

Writing is always a focus for us in the north end of Indus. Seventy plus students have written descriptive paragraphs depicting an imaginary town. The depictions attempt to evoke strong images and emotions from the reader. We would like to extend a challenge to writers of all ages to participate in our "Trigger Town" activity and write your own paragraph to be put in our display outside Ms. Hart's room. Below are the assignment details. Any writing can be sent via e-mail or hard copies brought to school! Thanks for participating in this fun!

"This activity gets you to SHOW, NOT TELL what is happening. The activity is called TRIGGERING TOWN. Pick a strong verb/noun (hate, acceptance, disgust, infatuation, fear etc) and pretend there is a town called by that name. Arrive in the town and SHOW what your strong verb/noun is through your explanation of what you see and feel. It is important to use literal and figurative descriptions.

Example: I arrived at a town and the town was called REJECTION. This is what I saw and felt.

The gas pedal was frustrated and

hard to put down as I entered the town called Rejection alone. I was thrown carelessly toward downtown by an asphalt carpet that was the road. My tires bit aggressively into the ground as I stopped my car and stretched my legs towards the parking meters in front of me. I attempted to coax a smile from a passerby, but received only an eyeful of dust. The people in the town moved like random bumper cars; they noticed and acknowledged no one."

We look forward to "seeing" your town!