

SPIRIT

February
2016

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

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Don't miss the
Science Fair
Public viewing in the
Gym on Thursday,
Feb. 4, 12:45-1:45.

Remember that Indus is
a nut-aware school.
Please be sure that
any Valentine treats
coming to school are
nut and peanut free.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- Feb. 2 Me to We Fundraiser Kickoff
- Feb. 4 12:45 - 1:45 Science Fair open for public viewing
- Feb. 5 Boys and Girls Basketball Playoffs
- Feb. 8 - 11 BOOK FAIR!
- Feb. 9 Hippie spirit day
- Feb. 10 5:00 - 8:00 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Feb. 11 100th Day of School!
- Feb. 11 4:00 - 7:00 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Feb. 15 - 19 Family week (no school)
- Feb. 22 Professional Learning Day (no school for students)
- Feb. 24 Pink Shirt (anti-bullying) Day
- Feb. 29 Grades 1 - 6 Skiing at Canada Olympic Park

HOT & COLD TEMPERATURES IN GRADE 2

The Grade 2 students spent the month of January learning about hot and cold temperatures in Science. Students have been learning about thermometers and measured the temperature of different areas of the school, then reasoned why the temperature varied in each area. In relations to our "I AM CANADA" unit, students have also been studying the tem-

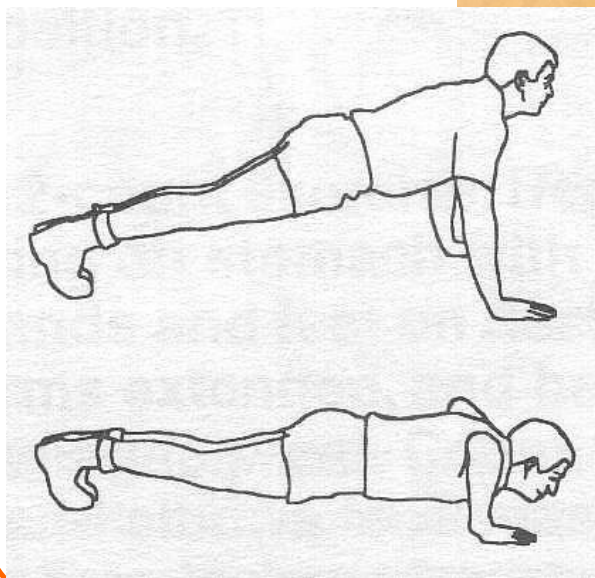
peratures of Indus compared to other Canadian communities. Students will be lucky enough to take a tour of the school basement and furnace rooms with Mrs. Preete, in order to learn about methods that are used to control temperature in buildings and how insulation is used to keep things hot or cold. In class, students designed and constructed a device to keep an ice

cube frozen for up to 45 minutes. Please come and check out our inventions at the Science Fair!

We are also very excited about starting the reading program with the Indus Pre-School kids in January. Please ask your child about their reading buddy.

GRADE 4/5T: PUSH-UP FRIDAYS

This month we have been working on fitness for physical education. As part of our fitness plan we celebrated Friday January 22nd as Push-up Friday. Every 10 minutes students would do a set of push-ups, the number of push-ups being unique for each student, based on how they wanted to challenge themselves. By the end of the day almost all students completed over 100 push-ups, with many completing over 200.

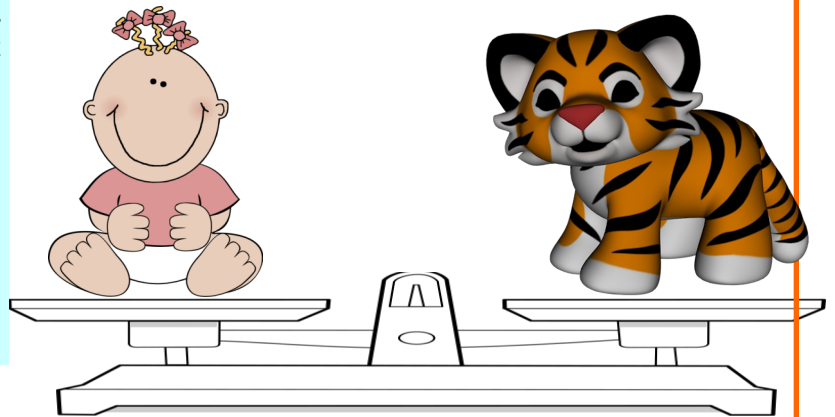


GRADE 6: THE TWO LEVELS OF MATH

Thus far in the Grade 6 Math program, we have studied number concepts, number relationships, fractions, the multiplication and division of decimals, and are now looking at patterns and equations. Students are discovering that math is a subject that has two levels of mastery. The first level is simply understanding and being able to perform a math operation. However, the more difficult second level of mathematics is being able to apply your learning to a variety of math questions. This is where Grade 6 Math students often struggle. The question below is one which my students have had to practice several times before mastering. Initially only a few students could get the correct answers, even with using a calculator to perform addition and multiplication. Each time I give them this assignment the numbers are changed, but they must use their understanding of math patterning and math operations in order to come up with the correct answer. Challenge your students of all ages to see if they can "do the math"!

A baby tiger weighs 1300 g at birth and gains 115g every day. A human baby weighs 2700g at birth and gains 240g a week.

- A. What does a tiger weigh after two weeks?
- B. What does a human baby weigh after two weeks?
- C. How much does a tiger weigh after six weeks?
- D. How much does a human baby weigh after six weeks?
- E. How much more does a tiger baby weigh than a human baby at 3 weeks?



LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for something to read? February themes include Groundhog Day (Feb.2), Chinese New Year (Feb. 8), 100th Day of School (Feb. 11), Valentine's Day (Feb. 14), National Flag of Canada Day (Feb. 15), Family Day (Feb. 15), and Black History Month. Our library has books about all of these subjects, and many more!

Our next Book Fair will be upon us on February 8! The theme of *Feel-*

in' Groovy Book Fair will be a lot of fun, including a day for everyone to dress like a hippie on February 9! We are open late during parent/teacher conferences on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and we would love to see you!

Our amazing collection of books is a very valuable resource for all students, including future ones! Please help your child remember

how to care for our Library books carefully, and return them on time. Many books are returned sticky, wet, moldy, bent, broken, dirty, etc. When available, I purchase special Library editions of books that are made extra sturdy with reinforced binding to last many years (and are more expensive!) But they don't last if care is not taken to keep them out of harm's way. Thank you for paying a little extra attention to this issue.

SUTP COUPONS & APP: A WIN-WIN DEAL

These coupon books cost just \$20 and you will save way more than that after using it just a couple of times. Half of the purchase price helps our school purchase much needed technology as well as part of the subscription price of our AR reading program. Thank you to all who have already purchased and sold coupon books to others. Please call the school or email lpotter@rockyview.ab.ca to purchase!

NEW YEAR STARTS WITH A SPLASH IN GRADE 4/5 M

January was bursting with activity. To get back into shape after the holidays, swimming lessons got every part of students' bodies moving again. Each day our class enthusiastically jumped into the pool. Proficient swimmers, who do not always get the opportunity to shine in school, dazzled peers with their skills. The instructors commented on the students' positive attitude to-

wards their lessons. Swimming is a life saving skill and all the students recognize the importance of these lessons. The fact that it is also fun is just a bonus.

Of course the month of January is also always about preparing for Science Fair. This year, Indus has created a new twist. Although the grade 4 students are too young for The Calgary Science Fair, they will still be given the opportunity to en-

ter their projects in the competitive category. Outside judges will evaluate all competitive projects. The school will reward top projects in each grade for this category. With the Science Fair on February 4th, everyone is focused on completing a fabulous project. Hopefully, some of you will be able to join us that afternoon.

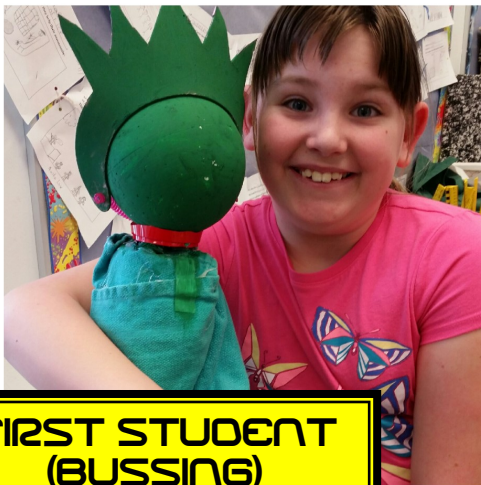


KINDERGARTEN FUN WITH MEASURING

Kindergarten students had a very busy start to 2016! We have focused a lot of our math instruction on measuring with non-standard units. When we read *The Mitten*, we measured various items in our classroom with our own mittens and gloves. It was fun to measure the length of our large carpet with a partner using a mitten! During our mini-unit on Hot Chocolate we measured items using both mini marshmallows and the jumbo ones! We learned that when we use a larger unit of measure, the smaller the outcome or result. It also doesn't take us as long either! I think the students enjoyed eating their jumbo marshmallow the best, once the activity was done!

GRADE 3s BUILDING STRUCTURES

The Grade 3 class worked hard this month on their building unit. Each student picked a famous building, monument, bridge, or other structure of their choice. They spent hours and hours planning and constructing some incredible pieces of art! They also had to do an inquiry project and answer 20 questions of their choice about their amazing structure. This week, these amazing projects will be on display at the school's Science Fair! Hope you can come on Thursday and check out these fantastic projects. A HUMUNGOUS thank you to the parents who volunteered their time and helped the Grade 3s to construct such amazing, creative pieces of art! Kayla built her Statue of Liberty out of cans!



FIRST STUDENT (BUSSING) NUMBERS

Ride-along (before
noon):

403-948-9107

Late Bus Line:

403-250-0016

Questions or Concerns?

403-948-1180



GRADE 9 SCIENCE - OUT OF THIS WORLD!

In early January, the Grade 9s accompanied the Grade 6s to the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory for their upcoming astronomy unit. They got to explore how telescopes work, as well as construct and use their own refracting telescope. Following the personal telescope exploration they got to tour the facility, including three different telescopes. The students also learned about the types of data they can collect and what celestial bodies can be studied from the earth. The science filled field trip has the kids buzzed to learn more about space exploration.



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Beginning last month, Rocky View Schools has requested that parents use our **School Cash Online** program to pay for their children's Board Established Instructional Resource Fees, School Established Optional Course Fees, and School Established Optional Program Fees.

The primary purpose of our School Cash Online initiative is to minimize the administrative costs associated with administrative personnel time, paper, and other overhead. Payments made through School Cash Online are more efficient than processing manual payments because the payment is instantly applied to the selected outstanding fees. The funds are immediately deposited into the school's bank account and receipts and statements are system generated.

We sincerely hope that you will support our initiative to efficiently process fees by utilizing School Cash Online to pay for your child's school fees online and is certified compliant with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). For more

information, please access School Cash Online at <https://rockyview.schoolcashonline.com/>.

If you would like to discuss, please call Mrs. Hansen at (403) 936-5855.

GETTING *TECHIE* IN ROOM 1025

You can find Room 1025 at the top of the stairs at the north end of the school. There you will find students using lots of really cool and unique assistive technology. Everyone can figure out how to get onto the Internet or type in a story, but did you know that a student can use technology to tell someone what they need or to help play music through hearing aids?

The students in Room 1025 have some of the coolest gadgets around. The *Nova Chat* is a communication device that allows one of our students to chat with others. Without it, it would be very difficult to ask or tell people what they wanted or needed. It is a very nifty device for sure!

Everyone knows what hearing aides do for a person. Do you know what an FM system is? An FM system uses a transmitter and receiver so a student can better hear the teacher or the things going on in the classroom. The awesome thing about an FM system is that our student is able to hear their favorite songs through the hearing aides without being directly connected to their Ipad. No cords or machines to carry!

Switches, we all use switches to turn things on. Students in Room 1025 also use switches, but they are modified a little bit. They use a switch called a Lollipop switch to move the mouse around on a computer and another called the Candy Corn Switch. The Candy Corn is one of the coolest because it is a motion sensor switch. The student using it doesn't have to push on the switch, but just move their hand over the button. They can play their favourite game or ACDC song independently, with some practice. Students also use a switch to communicate. Many of you have seen a student using a Big Mack switch to say good morning. It is a perfect way to say hello when you can't verbally say it.

Assistive technology helps all students be the best they can be. Everyone has used assistive technology at some point; a calculator, a computer or some might even consider an eraser as a form of assistive technology. Room 1025 is no different!

The door is always open if you're interested in learning more about the cool technology in Room 1025. Come say hi and check it out.

ALBERTA EDUCATION'S GUIDELINES FOR BEST PRACTICE: CREATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT RESPECT DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS; GENDER IDENTITIES & GENDER EXPRESSIONS

As many of you are no doubt aware, the Minister of Education recently released *Guidelines for Best Practice: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations;*

Gender Identities & Gender Expressions. Rocky View Schools is currently studying the document and developing procedures to meet the expectations of the Ministry.

We will pass on information about any new procedures as soon as possible.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHILD'S MARKS?

For parents of students in Grades 1 through 9, it is easy to check on your child's progress. Simply set up an account for *Parent Portal* and you can access up-to-date marks for all your child's classes. You can even see if there are any late or missing assignments. Follow the green and white badge at the top of our school web page or login directly at: <https://ps.rockyview.ab.ca/public/home.html>

GRADE 7 S.S. SKITS

In Social Studies the Grade 7s have been learning about a historical event in Canada where Acadians were deported from their homes in eastern Canada by the British. To show their understanding, the Grade 7s created multimedia skits, where they combined their live perfor-

mances with projected picture/ PowerPoint backgrounds. The class did a fantastic job and made their presentations entertaining and informative. They were able to work effectively and collaborate within their groups. Well done Grade 7!

MUSIC NOTES

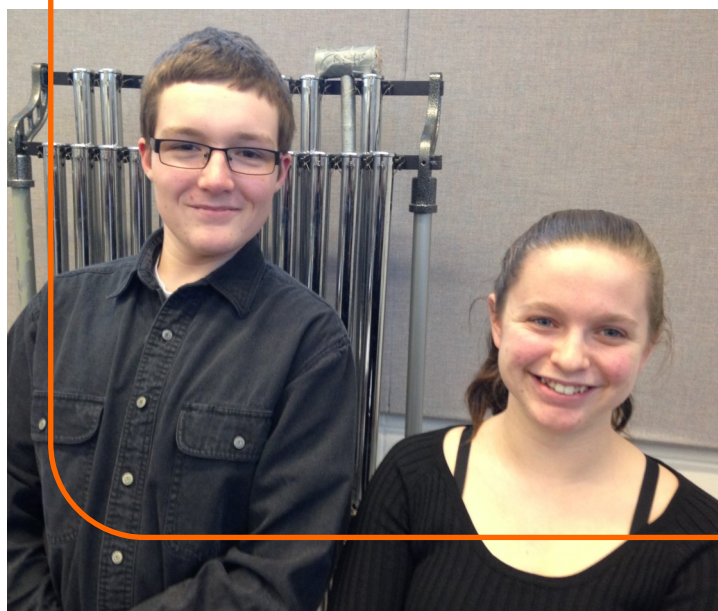
We've been discovering our inner maestro in Grades 1 through 6 music classes! Through an in-depth study of *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, students have explored conducting patterns, a steady beat, dynamics, musical phrases, and learned about the instruments of the orchestra and life and troubles of Ludwig van Beethoven. Students even brought home their own music map so they can guide you through this famous piece of music.



GREAT READS!



Looking for a good book? Carys recommends *The Volcano of Fire* by Geronimo Stilton and *The Secret Fairies* by Thea Stilton.



Also in January, two of our talented Senior Band students; Miranda W. on flute and William S. on trombone, participated in the annual Rocky View Junior Honour Band. This year, the band involved over 85 musical students from Rocky View schools. Students rehearsed with their guest conductor and clinicians on a Friday night and Saturday all day. After all this rehearsing, the students performed an excellent concert for family and friends on Saturday afternoon that really showcased their talents and musicality. Congratulations Miranda and William!

ART THAT CALMS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



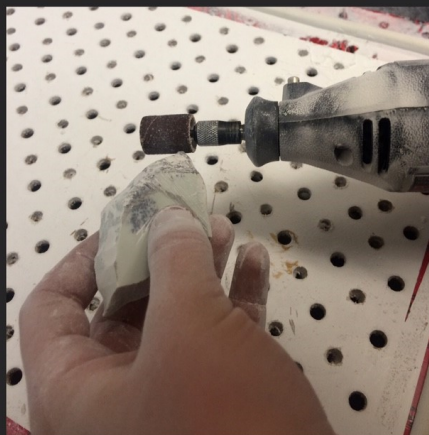
Finding ways to calm the mind or decompress after a long day are important for a healthy life balance. Zentangle art projects or a lunch hour soapstone workshop provide students opportunities to explore possible activities that may be beneficial for them.

Zentangles provide a simplistic and creative way to unwind from a busy or stressful day. It can draw focus away from your thoughts and allow you to create simple or complex pieces of art.

Division 3 Art classes are creating Zentangles around a "crazy hair" theme. Repeated strokes and patterns are designed around a "selfie." Many of the Zentangles create a whimsical, almost Dr. Suess feel to the students' artwork. Zentangle projects have been a regular part of Ms Hart's art class for several years. She encourages students to continue to design these therapeutic doodles if they are effective in dealing with or reducing stress.

Designing Zentangles is not the only opportunity the students have to try calming activities. Ms Hart has been working with soapstone for several years and is offering lunch hour workshops to students on Mondays and Tuesdays. The workshop is open to Grades 6-9 students. Students start with a chunk of raw rock, create a simple design and then use files, sanding blocks, steel wool and sometimes a Dremel to bring their worry stone to a polished finish.

Sometimes it is not easy to balance life's daily grind and finding ways to calm or reset the mind during or after a busy day can be difficult. Finding simple activities or strategies that work is important and beneficial, no matter what your age. Do you know what works for you?



FAMILY LITERACY DAY EVENT



Wednesday, January 27th, was a night to celebrate with Poetry and Pizza. Sticking with alliteration around the letter "P", all Division 1 (K-3) students were invited to share a number of literacy stations with their families along with some pretzels, pork, punch, purpleness (in jello), pie, peas, parrots (looked like carrots to me) etc. Dressing for the letter 'P' resulted in a plethora of pants and pajamas as well as pinks and purples, plaids and polka dots.

The fun didn't stop with the food and dress. Parent volunteers developed and manned five centres. We had a rhythm centre with shakers created expressing the beat in poems; karaoke to read and sing those rhymes and poems out LOUD; cozy corner to snuggle with poetry in QUIET; rhymes that produced a lot of cats in hats and rhyming with tasty words hung for all to see.

Our kids need exposure to great words first through our conversations. Reading is about prediction as much as learning specific sounds, so as families we need to build time together that is all about oral language. Make observations of the world, add information when needed, share experiences, read together and build a world of words our children remember as they predict for the text in front of them. Encourage these discussions. Not only are they the foundations for relationships, but they are also the foundations of literacy.

