

Indus School

SPRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus To-

Parent Newsletter

November 2007

Volume 7, Issue 2

Student Count: 155

Provincial Achievement Test Results

Across Alberta each spring, Students in grades 3, 6 & 9 write the Provincial Achievement Tests. These tests are designed to determine how well students are meeting provincial learning expectations, to report that information to all Albertans, and to assist schools, divisions, and the province in monitoring, and hence improving, student learning. The Grade 3 results reflect on all the learning that has

taken place from Kindergarten to Grade 3, while the Grade 6 results profile everything the students have learned from Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Indus School students were generally on par with the rest of the province in meeting the acceptable standard. We did fall down a bit in the number of students meeting the standard of excellence in some subject

areas. The staff is anticipating that our study of differentiated instruction will help us find ways to ensure that all students are meeting the acceptable achievement levels, as well as increasing the number who are excelling.

The table below outlines the percentage of students who wrote the tests and achieved the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence.

Subject	Acceptable		Excellence	
	Province	Indus	Province	Indus
Gr. 3 Language Arts	89.1	89.7	19.6	3.4
Gr. 3 Mathematics	88.4	89.7	25.9	17.2
Gr. 6 Language Arts	89.6	81.8	22.1	13.6
Gr.6 Mathematics	81.9	81.8	16.1	13.6
Gr. 6 Science	84.3	86.4	30.2	27.3
Gr. 6 Social Studies	86.4	90.9	25.5	22.7

* It is important to note that the small number of students at Indus School means that any one student's mark has a significant impact on the overall results.

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Our Mission



Indus School provides an environment that inspires and facilitates learning for all in our school community.

Effective November 19, the new mailing address for Indus School will be:

7 Indus Court, Rocky View, AB T1X 0H7

www.rockyview.ab.ca/indus

936-5855

indusschool@rockyview.ab.ca

Child Development Advisor

Mrs. Wood – Child Development Advisor

Who's the Boss?

When it comes to mealtime struggles, parents often wonder who's the boss? Well, believe it or not, both parents and children have to share the role. Parents and caregivers have the responsibility of providing a selection of nutritious foods in a relaxed environment, and setting a good example. For more information on keeping mealtime struggles to a minimum, contact the Calgary Health Link at 943-LINK or register in one of the following information sessions:

Quick and Easy Family Nutrition – FREE of charge

November 14, 2007

Register at: 955-7420

Registration: 6:15pm

Session 6:30-8:30pm

Location:

Learning Village Family Place at Cappy Smart School

5808 Madigan Drive NE

Learners will:

-understand how to provide healthy food choices for children

-gather ideas for quick nutritious family meals

-understand how to pack easy nutritious snacks and lunches

Picky Eating – FREE of charge

Ever had meal time struggles? Learn about ways to cope with picky eating, refusal of foods, getting your child to eat vegetables, and more!!!

Sessions held on the following dates from 6:30-8:30pm

Nov. 21, Dec. 11, Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 26, April 23.

South Calgary Health Centre, 31 Sunpark Plaza SE

Register at: 943-9500

Information provided by the Calgary Health Region

Leighton Centre by The Grade 2 Sunshines

At the beginning of October we went with the Grade Threes and the Grade Ones to the Leighton Centre. Our leader let us use special art pencils. We learned how to use our fingers to smudge our art work. We learned how to make paper. Each of us had a screen on top of material. We squished the slurry onto the screen with a sponge. The slurry was quite gooey because it was shredded paper that had been sitting in water for a few days. We

added flower petals and tissue paper to our designs. It took almost a week for our homemade paper to dry. We went on Echo Hill. The view of the mountains was marvelous and our echoes were loud. We had a tour of Mr. and Mrs. Leighton's house which is now an art gallery and museum. We liked the parrot, Rojo, in the Secret Garden. In the old schoolhouse where we did our learning, there was a real owl that was killed when it ran

into wires. It was in the freezer and now it is stuffed. We all liked the dog who wandered around the property. We're not sure if his name is Kasey or Katie. There were some statues in the forest. The hundreds of aspens all came from one seed! We learned about and saw wild rosehips. During our break we played in the wagon. We made our banner together. Everyone had a great time!

Handwriting Contest

While computers and keyboarding have moved to the forefront of the communication world, there is still a need for people to be able to write quickly and legibly. The Alberta program of studies recognizes this need and includes cursive handwriting as a part of the intermediate grades curriculum.

At Indus School, we have decided to celebrate the students' efforts in working to learn and improve their

handwriting with a series of fun competitions. In the first of these, all of the students in Grades 4,5 & 6 wrote out an Arabic Proverb: *Write the bad things that are done to you in the sand, but write the good things that happen to you on a piece of marble.* The finished pieces were then evaluated on letter form, size, alignment, spacing, and slant. The results were:

Grade 4 Winner: Siranda
Runners-up: Andrew, Dannielle, Morgan

Grade 5 Winner: Meghanne U.
Runners-up: Alyssa, Dallas, Liana

Grade 6 Winner: Scott
Runners-up: Joel, Tara, Taylor

Congratulations not only to these students, but to everyone who participated. Keep up the good work!

Gr. 4 & 4/5 Royal Tyrell Museum Trip *By Derrick, Grade 5*

On October 10th & 11th, the Indus grade fours and fives went on an over night field trip to THE ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM. We took a big yellow school bus driven by Mrs. Cooke. There was a lot of construction on the road, but we still made it.

When we arrived I went to my group, which was Kaylee's mom, Liana's mom, Kaylee, Kaden, Jordan W, Liana, and Danielle. When we went inside we all headed to a "welcome greeting". After the greeting, Mr. Pederson's class went on a hike through the badlands while Mrs. Gibson's class stayed and dug for dinosaur bones. We got to use a dental pick, a paintbrush, a toothbrush and a screwdriver to help us dig and clean off the bones. When the others were done their hike, we switched, and they went and dug up bones and we went on our hike. On our hike we found some rocks that you could actually eat!

After we were done it was time for a little snack. After the snack we got into our groups again and looked around the Museum, and learned a lot of cool stuff. A little while later, we went through a scary room

called the Burgess Shale Exhibit where the floor was made of glass (it was supposed to represent water).



Derrick and Tia playing with raptor legs.

Then it was supertime. We had awesome spaghetti, bread, and broccoli. Next on the list was casting fossils. We made all kinds of stuff, and Kaden even made a t-rex tooth! Kaylee made a footprint and I made a crocodile jaw!

Finally we had a 15 min. break. At 7:15pm it was time to do a little ac-

tivity called "RAPTORS IN ACTION" which was about dinosaurs, and items today. Plus they let us build a raptors leg out of wood, and then play a cool game with the leg.

At 8:15pm, we got ready for swimming at the DRUMHELLER AQUAPLEX, which had an outdoor pool, an indoor pool with a water slide, a diving board, and a rock-climbing wall. Sadly, at 9:30 it was time to go back to the museum.

At 10:00 pm it was time to go to sleep, with lights out at 10:30. But Kaden and I stayed up all night telling hilarious jokes to each other!

At 7:30 am, it was time to get up, then have breakfast and watch another movie. We had time to visit the giftshop for an hour. We all said "good bye," and left for a place that was called "REPTILE WORLD". Here, some of us got to hold a snake. That was sure cool! We had to leave REPTILE WORLD at 12:00pm and head back to Indus School. At least on the way back there was no construction!

I would recommend everyone to visit the Tyrell Museum because there is so much to learn there, and it is so much fun. It was truly awesome!!

Riding the Bus

Cardinal Coach Lines is contracted by Rocky View School Division to provide bussing for over 10,000 students.

With Safety being their paramount concern, Cardinal has established a number of procedures to ensure smooth and safe operation. Drivers spend a significant amount of time teaching the students emergency procedures and, earlier this month, the students participated in bus evacuation

drills to help them be ready in the event of an accident, fire, or similar crisis.

Parents must phone the Cardinal Ride-Along line (948-9107) before noon if they wish to change their child's bus route for the day.

before noon if they wish to change their child's bus route for the day. It is vital that parents make the call for two reasons. The bus dispatcher will check

Another procedure that helps ensure smooth operations and safety is the Ride-Along line. Parents must phone Cardinal (948-9107) be-

that there is a spot available on the requested bus, and if there is, will record the name of the student riding that bus for the day. The latter is important if there is an accident or similar problem. If there is no official record of students, emergency responders might not know to look for them.

For that same reason, it is vital that students "sign-off" their bus if they will not be riding for the day.

By following these two simple procedures, parents will help Cardinal to keep children safe.

Alberta Initiative for School Improvement

This is our second year of our current AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) project. We are striving for Excellence through our topic of Responsive Education. Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Hamel are sharing the lead teacher position to allow our teachers time to work together and plan their units of study using the backwards design model we studied last year. Mrs. Gibson is currently teaching a unit on weather

that she planned this way (she spent many hours over the summer planning).

We attended a two-day workshop in October with Damien Cooper on Assessment for Learning. This focused on using assessment as a tool to enhance learning. Mr. Cooper compared the teacher to a coach who gives his/her players many practices (assignments, tasks

etc.) before the big game (test). The practices don't count in the overall standings, only the games. When you look at learning this way, the students are more involved, responsive and successful.

If you want more information, check out the AISI bulletin board near the office or contact us at the school.

By Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Hamel

Grade 6 Laptops By Ben and Joel

October has been an exciting time for the grade sixes. The MacBooks have finally arrived. The students will use them for the next three years. Principals and teachers hope that using the laptops will help kids learn better. The computers have several programs including, Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Inspirations, and Art Rage and Garageband. We have used the Iphoto program to do an ap-



ple art project and have used the special effects to take cool pictures. Some students are finding it easier to work on their writing using the computer because of the tools they can use to help them. It will be very exciting to eventually take the computers home to experiment and learn about how these MacBooks can make learning fun. The grade sixes are thrilled that they get laptops for the next three years.

Kindergarten in the Pumpkin Patch

What a perfect autumn day for a pumpkin hunt at Butterfield Acres! We all headed out to the pumpkin patch in a hay wagon in search of a

pumpkin for every child. Natural materials such as sheep wool and seeds were used to decorate and then we enjoyed a most exciting

lots of activity and laughter, as they persistently jumped up on our tables hoping to share our food.

The afternoon was spent petting the farm animals in their own environment from soft bunnies to a huge prickly pig.

Thank you to School Council for sponsoring this field trip and to the parents who joined us for this adventure.

Many thanks to everyone who sent in Halloween treats and attended our spooky sing-a-long.



This billy-goat didn't seem too gruff to Riley.

picnic lunch.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff were quick to join us in the picnic area causing

What's the Big Idea in Grade 1?



How many books can we buy from the UNICEF bake sale money for the children in Africa?

*** \$20.00 will buy 2 books.***

First, the Grade One Star Brights sorted all the money from the bake sale.

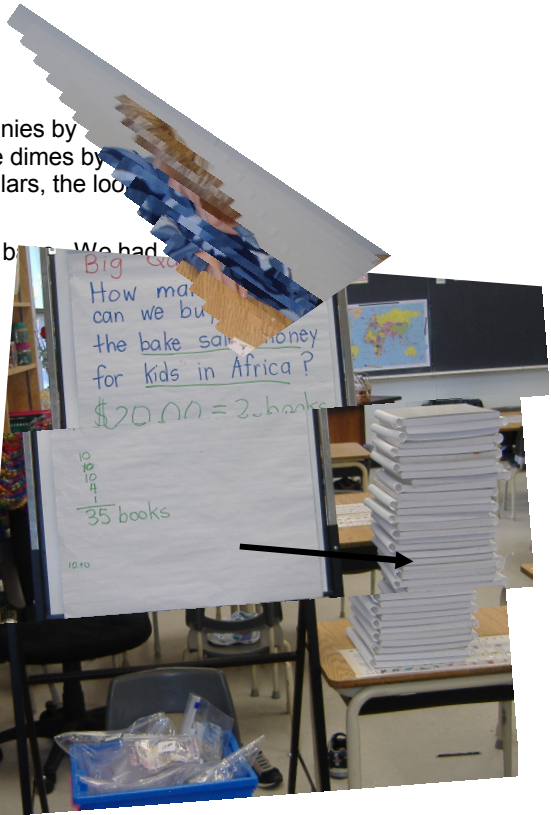
Next, we counted the pennies by 1's, the nickels by 5's, the dimes by 10's, the quarters into dollars, the loonies by 1's, and the toonies by 2's.

Then, we divided the sorted and counted money into \$20.00 bags. We had 1 \$20.00 bags and 1 \$10.00 bag.

Lastly, we counted by 2's for each \$20.00 bag and 1 for the \$10.00 bag to calculate exactly how many books we could buy.

The answer is: We could buy **35 books** for the children in Africa from the UNICEF bake sale money.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated baked goods for the sale and to everyone who bought the treats! Your support is greatly appreciated!

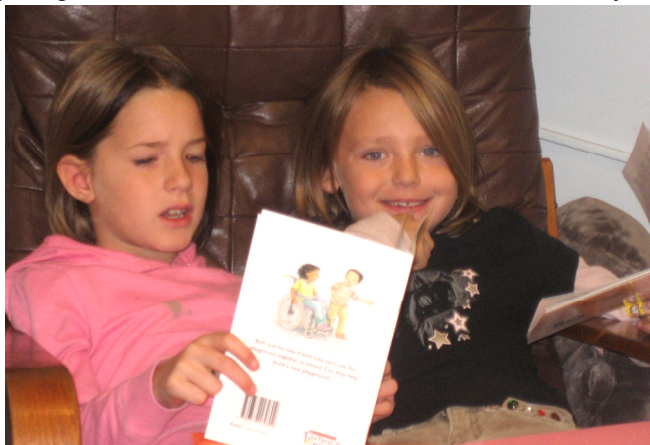


Guided Reading in Grade 3 by Mrs. Stevens

We love reading in Grade 3! Reading is happening all day long. Students need to be fluent in order to be successful in all parts of Grade 3. In class we have reading groups that read the same book (of appropriate difficulty) together. Group leaders keep them on track and assign pages to read aloud. After reading the book, the students complete activi-

ties on character, setting, or main idea to demonstrate how well they

have understood the book. The students' goal is to receive a WOW (understood the book with ease) on every assignment. Each day, I meet with one group to discuss the book being read. We talk about the story, what the student liked or disliked about the book, and reading strategies. Ask your child about their reading group and the book they are currently reading. To encourage reading at home please make sure your child is reading his or her Accelerated Reading book every night.



Carmen and Brianna like reading together in the big chair.

Council Corner

Parent council is up and running. As of the last meeting on October 15, we have a full slate of officers and coordinators. Your parent council executive is:

Sue Wood: Chair and Past Chair

Jean Wilsdon-Long: Vice Chair

Pam Dombowsky: Secretary

Sandy Lapp: Special Events and Fundraising Coordinator

Sue Lefebvre: Casino Coordinator

Cori Saretsky: Casino Proceeds Coordinator

Tania Cooke: Volunteer Coordinator

Tracy Uptigrove: Hot Lunch and Milk Coordinator

Herman Kranendonk: Community Liason

Bev LaPeare: School Trustee

A big thank you to all these hard-working volunteers who do so much to make the school a better place for children to learn.

In addition to filling the executive positions at last month's meeting, the council also approved several funding requests:

- \$500: Gr. 1 field trip to the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra
- \$770: Clay for Kids (K –Gr. 3)
- \$100: Author visit — Pat Mullin
- \$1500 for library books
- Gr. 4/5 field trips to the Museum of the Regiments (\$200), Fort Calgary(\$200), and Theatre Calgary (\$450).

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 on Nov. 26. Everyone welcome!

Dates to Remember

Nov 5 CCAT – Grs. 2,4,5

Nov 6 Hot Lunch – Subs

Nov 7 CCAT – Grs. 2,4,5

Nov 8 Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00

Nov 9 No School

Nov 12 No School

Nov 13 School Nurse – P.M. Picture Retakes

Nov 15 Clay for Kids Div I

Nov 16 Report Cards Home

Nov 19-22 Book Fair

Nov 20 Hot Lunch McDonald's Gr. 5 Hep B Shots

Nov 21 Parent/Teacher Interviews 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Nov 22 Farm Safety 10:00 – 3:00 Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Nov 26 General Parent Council Meeting

Nov 27 School Nurse – P.M.

Nov 29 Gr. 1 CPO Field Trip

November 21 & 22 from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Parent/Teacher Interviews). If you have a child in Kindergarten or Grade 1, and are available to volunteer for the time that your class is previewing the Book Fair, please call me. The little ones need extra help making their wish lists, and it's lots of fun! Previews will be Monday, November 19.

I am concentrating some purchasing power on books for boys this year, thanks to the generosity of the Parent Council. I have already started spending some of the \$1500 they approved for library books this year. Finding reading material that interests older boys (grades 4-6) can be challenging, so I'm grateful for the extra funding – thank you Parent Council!

NEW MAILING ADDRESSES:

If you have a new mailing address effective November 19th, please let the school office know.

Library News by Mrs. Potter

The whole school enjoyed an Author Visit by local author Patricia Mullin on October 25. She read a



few of her books (about a boy named Ryley and a spider named Hairy!) to our classes and they asked her questions about her books and the publishing business. Mrs. Mullin lives on a farm near Lyalta, Alberta, and is a teaching assistant at a school in Calgary. If you are interested in seeing her books, we have them at the school library, and they are also available at many bookstores in Calgary. Students can pick up order forms in the library, or you can purchase them at our Book Fair in November. Thank you to Parent Council for funding our Author Visit.

Speaking of Book Fair – mark your calendar! We will be open on Monday and Tuesday, November 19 & 20 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Wednesday and Thursday, No-