

# Indus School **SPiRiT**

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

## Parent Newsletter

October 2007

Volume 8, Number 1

### EDUCATIONAL CONCEPTS by Mr. Wyper

#### **G.L.A.**

The end of the 2007-2008 school year will bring something new for parents of students in Grade 1 to 11 all across Alberta: **Grade Level Achievement (GLA) Reporting** for Language Arts and Mathematics. These are intended to give parents a clearer idea of exactly where their child is in relation to the grade level expectations identified by Alberta Education.

#### **What it looks like:**

Parents will be given a one-number grade level for their children's ability. For example, students finishing grade 2 might have a GLA of 1 in Language Arts and 4 in Mathematics. Most children will have a GLA that is

the same as the grade they just completed.

**How it is determined:** Students' achievement will be compared to a list of specific outcomes at each grade. The GLA is the highest grade for which students are able to demonstrate mastery of the majority of outcomes.

**What it means:** For the majority of students, the GLA will confirm the fact that the child has met the expectations for the grade just completed. For those who have a GLA that is higher or lower than the grade, it will mean that plans will need to be made to address the specific needs of the child, be it greater challenge or greater support.

#### **How parents are**

**involved:** In addition to receiving the GLA at the end of the year (it will be sent home separate from the report card), parents will be kept "in the loop" throughout the year. Teachers will be sharing the grade level outcomes and identifying specific areas in need of work at parent - teacher interviews and at other times when deemed necessary. When the final GLA is determined, there should be no surprises for anyone.

If you have any questions about GLA or your child's achievement in general, please don't hesitate to contact his or her teacher. We love to hear from you.

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*plus much more !*

#### **Our Mission**



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

## C.D.A. NEWS BY MRS. WOOD

**Feeding Your Mind**

When it comes to feeding your mind, it's important to consider more than reading, writing and arithmetic. The foods that we eat and how often we eat have a lot to do with how well we learn and how we perform on activities throughout the day. Here are just a few examples:

- Starting your day with a healthy meal improves problem solving and learning skills
- Regular meals and snacks make a difference because it's tough to concentrate on



an empty stomach

- Choosing nutritious foods and eating regularly improves well being and helps maintain a healthy body weight.
- Getting enough iron in your diet is needed to carry oxygen to the brain and helps you to feel alert, while too many high sugar foods can make you feel "sluggish" a few hours after eating them.

So next time you're tempted to skip a meal or fill up on junk food - think again - **choose whole grains, fruits, vegetables, milk products and**

**meat/alternatives from Canada's Food Guide.**

Kids often like vegetables that are brightly coloured and crunchy. This usually means raw vegetables – which is good news because it means less work for you! Some vegetable ideas are carrots, celery sticks, cucumbers, broccoli flowers, green beans, and cherry tomatoes. Try serving them with their favourite dip for an added treat.

For more information, please contact the Calgary Health Link at 943-LINK or the School Nutrition Handbook (available online at <http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/nutrition>).

## LEARNALBERTA.CA 2007-2008

Alberta Education has created a great online collection of print and multimedia resources for teachers, students and parents. It includes safe, appropriate, materials specifically related to

the Alberta curriculum. Although all teachers, students and parents in Alberta are welcome to use the site, some of the material is licensed for authorized users only, the site is password

protected. The site is found at **www.learnalberta.ca**. Our user I.D. and password are:

User ID: LA 53  
Password: 1929

## TERRY FOX—ALIVE IN OUR HEARTS

Terry Fox is an example for anyone who has ever faced a challenge. He not only recovered after losing his leg to cancer, he went on to become one of our nation's greatest heroes. Each year millions of people walk, run, and roll to raise money in his honour.

This year, as we do every year, the staff and students at Indus School completed our own 4.2

km run, symbolic of the 42 km he ran on average every day. Our efforts resulted in \$2596.80 being raised for cancer research.

Congratulations to everyone who partici-



Mark in Grade 3 finished first for the second year in a row!

pated and thank you to everyone who supported the run. A special thank you to parent council; they generously donated drinks and snacks for the end of the run.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### 1<sup>st</sup> Bow Valley Scouts

With the start of a new Scouting year, we happily welcome all new and returning Leaders and children. We have 16 Beavers, 14 Cubs and 3 Scouts registered. At the present time, our Scout group has only one Leader and we encourage more youth and adults to join the adventure! The Scout program offers lots of fun and outdoor activities for boys or girls between the ages 11 and 14. Want to try your hand at archery or canoeing? You can! In Scouts, the possibilities are endless! Call Kelvin @ 936-5458 for more info.



### Scout Popcorn

Available October 10-24<sup>th</sup>. Interested people at Indus School should contact any of the Cooke boys or Clayton (6) to order!

### Curlers Wanted!

Tuesday night Ladies League is seeking curlers. No experience needed—just a desire to curl and have fun!

If you are interested, contact Sue Lefebvre at 936-5994

### Indus Preschool Christmas Bazaar

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 @ the Indus Rec. Center

#### Vendors needed!

*Please call 936-3648 to book a table*

### Child Care Required

One of our kindergarten students requires before school care (not after school) as well as full days on those days kindergarten is not operating, i.e. every Monday and Wednesday and alternate Fridays. If you can help out, please call Mrs. Terri Burris, Kindergarten Teacher, at 936-5855.

## MACBOOKS AND CABINET POSTS

Time is flying in the grade six room. We are anxiously waiting for the deployment of the *MacBook* computers this week to begin our exciting journey. Ms. Hart has been involved in several conferences and professional development days geared at utilizing the programs to en-

hance the work done in class. She will continue to work with colleagues to find ways to best utilize this tool to help meet curriculum expectations in fun and practical ways. Look for students to be working on an *iPhoto* project, beginning in the next couple of weeks.

We also had the exciting opportunity to travel downtown to explore McDougall Centre and the inner workings of the Provincial Government. Grade sixes were sworn in and had a "lucky" chance to be Ministers for a short time.

## CASINO UPDATE by Cori Saretsky and Sue Lefebvre

Our biennial fundraising Casino at Frank Sissons is being held this school year. The date has yet to be announced. The money raised from this event is used to finance a majority of the schools bonus programs like:

- AR Reading Program
- Fieldtrips
- Swim Program

- Artist in Residence
- Microscopes
- Clay for Kids
- Motivational Magic
- Kindergarten ducklings
- Sound System and more!

Without your volunteer involvement at the Casino, your child would not be able to participate in these programs free of

charge. Please remember this when the request for volunteers is sent out! For more information about fundraising casinos please visit: [www.aglc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.aglc.gov.ab.ca)

Please note that the informational sessions listed on the "GAIN" website are open to all, not just Casino Coordinators!

## FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Hello to the students, parents, and staff of Indus School – from your school nurse!

My name is Stephanie McGill and I am your public health nurse at Indus School. I will be available at the school every other Tuesday afternoon.

The nurse is an excellent source of information for public health concerns, and can help you and your child in a variety of ways. Some services provided and

available to students, parents and school personnel include:

- Immunization and control of communicable disease
- Working with students and families to address physical and emotional health concerns
- Providing consultation to teachers in the area of health education
- Participating in health pro-

motion activities such as injury prevention programs to improve the overall health of the school community

I look forward to meeting all of you – please come drop by and say hello anytime!

If you have any questions or require more information, please feel free to contact me at (403) 944-7276 or call the community health centre in your area.

## THE SMARTIE SUN

The Grade Three Smarties have published their first newspaper. Every month our class will publish a newspaper where each member of the class will write about an event, subject or activity we have done that past month. This month, each article was accompanied by a photo of the student and the related topic.

In the September issue you will read about sound, Accelerated Reader, Power of 10, Terry Fox Run, and more. I would like to extend congratulations to Mark in our class who not only finished the Terry Fox run first, but wrote about the experience. Every student did an exceptional job helping launch our first issue. Publishing the newspaper

demonstrated how well this class works together.

The students will be bringing the newspaper home at the end of the month to share with friends and family. Be sure to look for the October issue next month!

## HATCHET KISSES

Grade four/fives have started to read "Hatchet" an award winning novel by Gary Paulson. Imagery, similes and metaphors are used frequently throughout the story. Our class has been attempting to use some imagery in their



own writing. The following paragraph is an example of what Gary Paulson might have written if the main character, Brian, had discovered a bag of Hershey's Kisses in his possession after crashing, alone, in the wilderness of the Canadian North.

*Brian was digging through his pocket wildly, looking for things he could use to help him. Suddenly he stopped. He pulled his hand out of*

*the pocket with a bag of Hershey chocolate kisses. The crinkly wrapping shone like a star at night in the sky. He opened the bulgy wrapper as if it were made of pure gold and popped it into his mouth. He chomped the rich, creamy chocolate down, his mouth drooling, watering, making a puddle of drool at his feet. He grabbed another one and opened the wrapper, ripping, tearing it like it was a birthday present, popped it into his mouth, chomped down on it and gulped. By Starr*

## CAN'T CATCH ME!

September is such a busy month in kindergarten! It is a major adjustment for many of the little ones as even a tour of the school becomes an adventure in finding the gingerbread man.

Mrs. Nagy, our wonderful assistant, was very excited when she interrupted our story of The Gingerbread Man, to exclaim that she saw a gingerbread man racing toward the grade two room.

The children were very eager to pursue him, discovering the clues he had left behind and relating the story to each class

and staff member along our path. What excitement when Tyler found the gingerbread man in Mrs. Wood's room visiting her stuffies! When we brought him back to kindergarten he had



Timothy and his gingerbread man... after one bite!

21 friends waiting for him, ready to be decorated. We eventually finished our story and then retold it many times using our felt board during literacy centers and, of course, ate our gingerbread cookies!

## BUGS 'R' US

We are really shining in the Grade Two Sunshine classroom! We are learning about Small Crawling and Flying Animals. Insects have an exoskeleton just like crabs and lobsters. All insects have six legs, one head, one thorax, one abdomen and two antennae. Some insects fly.

Most insects crawl. Some hop! Some are hurtful because they can sting you. Spiders are arachnids, not insects.

Insects have many ways to protect themselves from their enemies and predators. Some insects are camouflaged. This means they look the same as

their surroundings or environment. Insect homes are different than human homes. We are becoming insect experts so please ask us questions as we continue our research!

Written together with everyone's brilliant ideas by the Grade Two Sunshines.

## TRASH TALK

September has seen our Grade 4 students begin to tackle the increasingly troublesome issue of waste in our world. What began as a simple discussion as to what waste actually is has led to some larger understandings, with even greater one's yet to come. There was shock and awe in the room when some number crunching was completed and it was learned that each year the equivalent of 4.8 million half-ton trucks worth of

garbage goes into Alberta's landfills. However, we in room 4P are not deterred by this staggering amount of waste. As detectives for Solutions Inc., we are busily devising plans and discovering methods that everyone in our community can use to reduce the ever-growing mountain of trash we are creating. We will get to the bottom of this stinky dilemma!



Clinton collects the recycling to help cut down on our school's waste.

## Council Connection

We held our Annual General Meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> and we voted on the members of the council executive. All the positions were filled except for Treasurer but we have since had someone step forward to fill this spot. The members of the Parent Council are:

- Chairperson- Sue Wood
- Vice Chairperson- Jean Wilsdon
- Treasurer- Jodi Gingras ( to be ratified)
- Secretary- Pam Dombowsky
- Hot Lunch Coordinator- Tracey Uptigrove
- Volunteer Coordinator- Tania Cooke
- Casino Coordinators- Cori Saretsky and Sue LeFebvre
- Special Events/ Fundraising Coordinator- Sandy Lapp

A huge Thank You to everyone who volunteered to be a part of Parent Council this year and thank-you also to Susan Wall who volunteered to organise Indus School shirts for us. It is great to have so many new faces (with new ideas!) this year.

Our next General Meeting will be on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the gym.

## Dates to Remember

- Oct. 2 School Photos  
School Nurse – P.M.
- Oct. 3 Grades 1, 2, 3 - Leighton  
Centre Field Trip
- Oct. 4 UNICEF Assembly  
Gr. 1 Parent Info. Meeting
- Oct. 8 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Oct. 9 Hot Lunch – KFC
- Oct 10 - 11  
Grades 4, 5  
– Tyrell Museum Field Trip
- Oct. 15 General Council Meeting
- Oct. 16 Gr. 5 Hep B Shots
- Oct. 18 Kgt n – Butterfield Acres  
Field Trip
- Oct. 23 Hot Lunch – Booster Juice  
Handwriting Competition
- Oct. 25 Author Visit  
-Patricia Mullin
- Oct. 30 School Nurse – P.M.
- Oct. 31 "Haunted House"

## LOST AND FOUND

It is only the first week of October and already our *Lost and Found* box is overflowing. Please encourage your children to check it on a regular basis.

## GRADE 1 STAR-BRIGHTS

Grade One Star Brights are learning new things about each other. Throughout September and October we are sharing our Life Boxes with each other. When we bring our special Life Box to school, it is an opportunity for each of us to explain to our classmates the people and the things that are important to us in our lives. Sharing our Life Boxes with each other promotes a learning environment of trust, belonging, and respect. Be sure to ask your child the things he/she is learning about his/her teachers and classmates!

