

Indus School

SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

April 2009

Volume 9, Issue 6

Student Count 161

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Things go awry. Yes, it happens; even in our near perfect corner of the world. When pipes leak, you call a plumber; when the lights won't light, you call an electrician; when a skunk dies under your back porch, you call your mother-in-law. But when a problem arises concerning your child and school, do you know who the right person is to contact?

Should you have questions or concerns related to class, the first line of contact, is your child's teacher. The vast majority of issues stem from miscommunication and can be cleared up quickly. Some concerns may take a bit more time to solve. For these, set up a meeting and take a list of questions or concerns (such meetings

can be awkward and it is easier to stay focused if you are working off an 'agenda'). During the meeting, work with the teacher to develop an action plan that addresses the problem and establishes a date to review progress. Be sure both you and your child's teacher take written copies of the plan (after brainstorming several ideas it can be difficult to remember the final plan). Keep in touch with the teacher and give the plan time to work. You may have to meet a few times to refine the plan before the issue is resolved, but as long as progress is being made, keep at it and be patient.

If you are unable to resolve your concern by working with the

teacher, please contact me. I will work with you and the teacher in an attempt to solve the problem. Again, follow the same guidelines for the meeting, starting a written detailing of the concern and ensuring we develop a written plan that solves the problem.

Should you be unsatisfied with the response you get from both the teacher and me, the next step is to contact the Associate Superintendent of Schools for Rocky View Schools, Murray Besenski (403.945.4000). Appeals regarding his decisions go to the Superintendent, Greg Bass.

For concerns related to bussing, the process is basically the same except that the first contact should be with the bus driver.

Inside this issue:

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

Raison d'etre

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

BUILDING IN GRADE 1

Despite the chaos and creativity that erupted during our building sessions, we spent 2 weeks designing houses for people, animals and families. We looked at different architectural ideas from around the world and spent time planning. Afterwards we had interesting conversations about the strength of different materials and what worked and what didn't. We spent time making comparisons between houses: what was the same and different.

Thank-you to all of the parents who donated supplies! It was a fun time!

Riley B.: My house was made for an animal and a person.

Douglin: I made a slide out of

paper inside my house.

Adele: My house is for a cat.

Samson: I made a tv out of paper and tinfoil.

Cassidy: I made a generator to power my snake house.

Emma: The hay room has lots of hay in it so my horse can eat.

Rhys: My house has lots of things in it to keep the cat entertained.

Alexander: The shade place is a night-time place too.

Ethan: I added lots of detail to my house.

Joshua: On my house, I have a chimney.

Tristin: This has a bed for a cat.

Ashley: My house is a princess house.

Cory: I like my birdhouse.

Timothy: I have a roof and a chimney.

Adam: There are cups on it.

Austin: I like the pools on my house.

Navdip: My house is for a family.

Zachary: I made a house for my family.

Nicole: I put popsicle sticks on the box so it would look like it was made out of twigs.

Riley H.: I built a power line for my house.

Jacob: I made a garage with popsicle sticks.

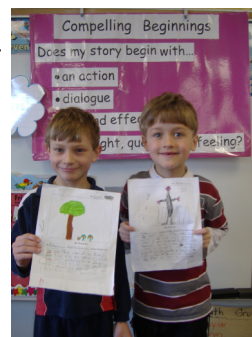
Gavin: My house is made out of popsicle sticks.

GRADE 2 GEMS

The Grade 2 Gems have been examining the art of narrative writing in which the author writes to entertain the reader. While listening to a story, we cover our eyes and use our imaginations, allowing the author to appeal to our five senses. We can experience the biting wind upon our faces, hear the splitting crack of thunder, or enjoy the fresh scent of rain, along with the main characters. Authors can make us laugh or cry or send tingles down our spines. We have also critiqued the writing of many authors to see if we are immediately drawn into their stories. The vivid descriptions of Roald Dahl, Fred Gipson, and Robert Munsch, to name a few well-known authors, have left us waiting eagerly for more. Dur-

ing their own reading time, students have identified and been excited to share descriptive writing and this has naturally been extended to their own writing. They have learned to immediately grab the attention of their audience by writing compelling beginnings using an action or sound effect, then appealing to the reader's senses when describing their main character or setting. This passage from Fred Gipson's classic *Old Yeller* exemplifies the type of descriptions we are aiming for in our own writing. *"The roaring of the bulls was right in my ears.*

The hot, reeking scent of their blood was in my nose. The bone-crushing weight of their hoofs was stomping all around and over me, churning up such a fog of dust that I couldn't see a thing."



Craig and Kalum share their revised writing.

In addition to using vivid descriptions to keep the readers' interest, the students have learned that they need to use a variety of sentence beginnings to help their stories flow. They have found that the hardest part of the writing process is making these changes, editing their stories and using common proofreading marks. Although it is challenging work, the Grade 2 Gems have also learned that it is worth the effort as they proudly share their revised writing with their classmates.

DISCOVERY IN SOCIAL STUDIES!

Students in Grade 5 have spent the last little while discovering the roots of Canada. Through online research, students searched for information on David Thompson, a fur trader, astronomer and surveyor, who mapped more of North America than anyone else, and Henry Hudson, an explorer who sailed closer to the North Pole than any other explorer. After completing this research, students

had a choice to design a diary, a poster or a scrap-book based on one of these famous travelers. Their



final projects were outstanding, and showed that the students really put their best effort into creations that were truly their own. It was great to see them working independently and diligently during their discovery. Fabulous job grade 5s!

BALANCE? WHAT IS THIS THING YOU CALL BALANCE?

As you can see from this picture of the grade 4/5 class, it's just not all that easy to walk like a crab and balance a volleyball on your belly. Our major focus in Phys. Ed. this month was on relays, and while the



subject itself might seem a little dry, the activities were definitely not. From having to dance like a chicken to being a crab stuck on its back until help arrived, the grade

4/5 students found silly, fun and very enjoyable ways to practice the skills of coordination, balance, and teamwork. Just ask some of our boys what it was like to be a pretty ballerina for an instant in life.

POETRY POSTS FROM GRADE 6

Cat by Kaden

I held you in my hands.
Heart
beat,
Tail
throb.
And those ears,
pinker than a pig,
prettier than a swan,
made me believe
if only we could hear
through those ears
nothing
on
this
planet
could
ever
be
the
same.

Cougar by Dallas

We watched each other as if he was

going to attack

But he dove off into the bush
I thought for a moment as if I were him,
a cougar
My eyes would fill with fire,
My tail would be as long as an elephant's
trunk,

And my hair would be as short as a Chi-
huahuas

Nothing on this planet could ever be the
same.

Those Ears by Alyssa

I held you in my hands,
Heart
Scream,
Tail
Flinch,
And those ears, Rounder than a perfect
circle,
Bigger than a newborn mouse
Made me believe,

If only we could hear
Your cries for help.

The Feathers You Have by Derrick

The feathers you have,
Dirty,
Black,
If we could see what your life is like,
You wouldn't look like that.
We tried to help.
It is the way people are,
It's not just you that is dying,
Other animals are too,
Fishes,
Swans,
You can not fly any more because of what is
happening.

RVS TO KEEP STUDENTS IMPACTED BY CALGARY ANNEXATION!

Great news! Rocky View Schools (RVS) has just been informed by the Minister of Education, the Hon. Dave Hancock, that lands annexed by the City of Calgary in 2005 and 2007 will remain part of RVS' jurisdictional boundaries!

Over the past year, the Ministry of Education has been conduct-

ing a review of school jurisdiction boundaries, after the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) requested its boundaries be made co-terminous with the City of Calgary. CBE's proposal would have taken several hundred students away from RVS, Foothills School Division and Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division.

In a letter to RVS' Board Chair, Hancock wrote that at this time he believes it is in the best interest of the students to leave school jurisdiction boundaries as they currently are. Hancock noted that boundaries may be looked at in the future if urban development warrants a further review.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION OPEN

Just a reminder that if you have a child who will be attending Kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year, you can now come to the school to register between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30

p.m., Monday through Thursday, and between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Fridays. Your child must turn five years of age on or before the last day of February 2010. Please bring with you a

copy of the child's birth certificate. School registration fees have not yet been determined by Rocky View Schools.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair Another amazing Book Fair is over! Thank you so much to all the volunteers who put in countless hours to get everyone excited about the Book Fair. Now I'm busy processing all the books we got for free so that students can borrow them!

Aren't we all ready for spring?? We have Easter books and spring books on display this month, and I'm anxious to get the soccer and

baseball books featured. As the hockey season winds down, our minds are on playoffs and the kids are still avidly reading all the hockey 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 bookmarks. This wraps up on April 9.

Have you heard about *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* or the *39 Clues* series? All the kids are talking about them! And the new *Skeleton Creek* book is getting rave reviews. 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.

NEW SCHOOL NURSE

Lisa Chau GN BN is replacing Stephanie McGill for the remainder of this school year as our School Nurse. Stephanie is on a temporary leave. Some of the roles of the school nurse include: working with school and stu-

dent personnel to enhance the health of the school population; being a resource link for teachers; providing vision and hearing screens for those students where there are concerns; and providing consultation and ad-

ministration of age appropriate vaccinations.

Lisa will be at the school every other Monday afternoon beginning April 13th.

FUNDRAISING FOR GRADE 6 OUTDOOR SCHOOL

A big thanks to all staff, students and parents who helped make our hot dog lunch a huge success. Although the numbers are not finalized, we made about

\$400. This brings our total raised to approximately \$1000. Raffle tickets will be available after Spring Break from Grade 6 students or from the office. Prizes

include electronics, artwork, board games, John Deere items and other smaller prizes. Our goal is to raise \$3000 to cover the total cost of Outdoor School.

COUNCIL CORNER

Staff Appreciation Week will be held the week of April 20th. Please watch for forms coming home requesting volunteers for this special event.

Parent Council recently purchased Netbooks (mini laptops) for all of the Grade 6 students.

The Council Executive Meeting will be held on Monday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m., and the Council General Meeting will be held on

Monday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the School. Parent Council encourages parents to attend the General meeting. If you require child care during the meeting, please call Sue Wood at 403-936-7857, so that arrangements can be made for that evening.

On Saturday, April 4, Rocky View Schools will be hosting a **Professional Learning day for parents** who might be interested in joining a School Parent Council. The

program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at RVS, 2651 Chinook Winds Dr. SW, Airdrie. Topics include School Council & Fundraising Societies; Recruiting & Retaining School Council Members; Financial Management/Budgeting; Roles & Responsibilities/Team Building. This workshop is open to all parents. There is no charge and no registration. Is required. If you are interested, please just show-up.

HOW WAS THE CITY OR TOWN NAMED?

Have you ever wondered how Alberta towns and cities were named? The Grade 3 Smarties have been investigating this question. In Social Studies we are learning about our province of Alberta. Students chose a town or city in Alberta and then came up with a story explaining how it was named. They were very creative in their stories and came up with some very inter-

esting and brilliant ideas. Some students used animals to explain names such as Red Deer while others used deaths of heroes to explain names like Peace River. After completing their stories students were given the actual story of how the town or city was named. Some students were shocked by the true story while others found the facts to be not as interesting as their stories. Stu-

dent created pictures to go along with the two stories and will be displaying their work in the hallways. I am very impressed with the brilliant ideas the Smarties came up with. They are all very talented story tellers! Ask your child what town or city they chose to do and you will be amazed by their great imagination.

IS THERE A GOOD WAY TO FALL?

The kindergarten students had their first rollerblading lessons in the month of March. They were taught about the proper way to fall. Playing



“Builders and Bulldozers” was a great way to help them to gain stability and balance on

the rollerblades. There were a lot of falls, but they were eager to get back up and kept on going!

INSPIRING INDUS STAFF THROUGH AISI

Indus staff has been working on the third cycle of AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement). AISI is funded by Alberta Education with the intent of improving education at the school level. Indus School chose the Responsive Instruction option.

This year we have focused on improving student writing across the grades. Every week teachers are given allotted time to collaborate with colleagues and create lesson plans, assessment tools and exemplar packages. Two teachers have been hired to

create consistency during teacher planning times. Our goal is to differentiate for all students and meet learners where they are at to improve student writing. Ask your child about their writing improvements!

APRIL IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

The following phone numbers and websites will provide you with some in-depth dental health information:

Calgary Health Region Phone

Number: 403-22-teeth or check
www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/dental.

Alberta Child Health Benefit at 1-877-469-5437.

Or you can check out:
www.employment.alberta.ca

FIFTH DISEASE (SLAPPED CHEEK)

We have had one diagnosed case of Fifth Disease and one suspected case at Indus School. Fifth disease is an illness caused by a virus that leads to a rash on the cheeks, arms and legs.

Symptoms include:

Rash that first appears on the cheeks, often looks like slapped cheeks. It spreads to the arms and legs about 1 day later, often has a lacy appearance.

Fever

Joint Pain

Temporary anemia: This is only serious if the patient has an immune system problem and some other existing form of anemia.

The reason we are bringing this to your attention is to inform you that if a pregnant woman becomes infected with this parvovirus B19, it can cause

significant harm to her unborn baby.

As one of our staff members is pregnant, we will be contacting the parents of any child suspected of having Fifth Disease so arrangements can be made to have the child picked-up from school immediately.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

CAMP CHESTERMERE

As you may recall, last year we had planned a whole school trip to Camp Chestermere near the end of the school year but had to cancel it due to the weather. We collected \$5.00 from each student at that time and notified parents that we would hold the money and put

it towards a trip this Spring.

The date we have booked for the trip to Camp Chestermere is Thursday, June 4th.

Please watch for further details to come home a little closer to the time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 6 Grs 1, 2 & 3 Heritage Park
- April 6 Council Executive Meeting
- April 10 -17 - NO SCHOOL
- April 20 Students return to school
- April 20 Council General Meeting
- April 20-23 Staff Appreciation Week
- April 23 Dragster Finals—2:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome!
- April 30 Math Fair

READING — GIVE IT A SHOT WINNER!

Congratulations to Christian MacKenzie of Grade 6 for his “most improved” student win. Christian was nominated by Ms. Hart as one of her most improved students and was chosen by the “Reading Give it a

Shot” program to receive the award. Christian and his mom will be attending the Flames game



on April 6th, where he will attend a news conference, meet with some of the players and receive a signed jersey. Great work Christian!

MATH FAIR

Mathematics is a complex, frequently misunderstood, and oft maligned field of study. Developing the ability to understand, manipulate, and communicate

anything that can be represented by numbers is the goal of our math curriculum. Celebrating the exciting possibilities of this field is the goal of our an-

nual Math Fair. Come on out on the afternoon of April 23 to see the Grade 4 through 6’s displays on everything from statistical analysis to games of chance.

PEER SUPPORT TEAM

We have started a Peer Support Team at Indus School that consists of grades 5 and 6 students. The program will provide an opportunity for its members to develop a sense of mastery by teaching students to help other peers. As well, these peers will be developing a sense of self-awareness and belonging that follow with our principle teachings of the Circle of Courage .

The students participated in a one-day workshop with Mr. Pederson and Mrs. Boisjoli, to help them gain the skills necessary to be a peer helper, and will be meeting and further developing their skills until the end of the school year. For now the peers will be in groups of 2 or 3, and will be helping in the Division 1 classrooms during lunch hour, and will be going out on the

playground to assist with any peer problems during recesses. We hope to have more students involved next year. We will plan special events to assist in a positive school climate.

This type of program has proven to be successful in other schools, and we are very excited to develop one here.