

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

February 2009

Volume 9, Issue 5

Student Count 161

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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Curiosity is our natural state. Anyone who has reared children through their twos will testify to the ongoing (dare I say, incessant), "why?" In an attempt to tap into children's natural curiosity about the world around them, Indus School has a Science Fair each year. During this annual event, younger children exercise their creative talents in projects based

on the concepts they are studying in class. Whether it is through an individual project, or in a class assignment, the Science Fair gives children a great opportunity to explore exciting ideas and showcase their work.

Students in Grades 4 through 6 are able to choose topics of personal interest to them

in a structured, scientific manner. Their projects, be they experimental or research in nature, are then evaluated. The top four Grades 5 and 6 projects move on to enter the Calgary Youth Science Fair in April.

All parents are welcome to attend our annual Science Fair. It will be held in the Gym on February 5th starting at 9:00 a.m.

GAME BOYS REMINDER

Game Boys and other hand-held computer games are not allowed to be used while a student is at school. Students are allowed to have these games on the bus, however, before the student enters the

school, the games must be placed in the bottom of their backpacks and are not to be removed before they leave the school to board the bus at the end of the day. We have had problems in the

past with these games disappearing, and it should be noted that if this happens, the school does not accept responsibility.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

Feb 3	Hot Lunch (Subs)	Feb 12	School Assembly (Primary Presents)	Feb 24	Hot Lunch (Meat Pies)
Feb 5	Science Fair - 9:00	Feb 16-20	NO SCHOOL	Feb 24	STRIVE Presentation
Feb 6	NO SCHOOL (PD Day)	Feb 23	Council General Meeting		
Feb 9	Council Executive				

Our Mission

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

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HOT AND COLD TEMPERATURES, GRADE 2 GEMS

The Grade 2 students discovered first hand the effects of temperature on our lives while scurrying to the arena as the winds whipped viciously and the mercury plummeted, stinging any exposed skin and making it difficult to breathe at -28°C .

After learning to read a thermometer and taking our own temperatures, curiosity lead students directly to our classroom thermometer, just outside our window, upon entering the classroom many cold mornings. Their excitement was contagious and often there was a huddle of students trying to read the temperature. This week, all eyes were intent on our window as the wind swept across the parking lot followed by the flickering of lights and then a loss of power. Again the students were checking the temperature but were surprised to



"Marla Wheeler, our weather person for the week, diligently records our daily temperatures."

find that this time the winds brought an increase of 10°C .

The Grade 2 Gems have been learning, in our *Hot And Cold Temperatures Unit*, that humans use insulation to prevent the loss of heat from our homes and our bodies, as do animals that have adapted to the freezing waters of the arctic and survive at -89°C in Antarctica. The students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of insulation when our unit culminates with the Science Fair on February 5, where they will display their inventions for keeping ice frozen.

Thank you for all your support, parents, and we hope to see you at the Science Fair.

PEANUT ALLERGIES

It's hard to believe peanuts are over three times as deadly as wild bears, but in the United States (Canadian information unavailable) between 2001 and 2006, peanut allergies were responsible for 51 deaths, while during the same time period, only 15 people were killed by bears.

There are different degrees of severity when it comes to peanut allergies. Most sufferers must eat, or at least come in contact, with peanuts (or the oil from them) in order to have an

anaphylactic reaction. There are others, however, who are so sensitive that the tiny particles floating in the air (our noses sense them as smell) can cause a life threatening reaction.

At this time, Indus School does not have a "No Peanut" policy. We do have students who are allergic to peanuts, but their

safety can be ensured by not sharing or trading food.



Who's more dangerous?

In the future, we will in all likelihood have students who are extremely sensitive. At that time we will become a peanut free school. Although this will be a bit of an inconvenience for

some, it will be a life-saving change for others.

GRADE ONE SUNSHINES

The Grade One Sunshines are getting ready for the Science Fair. We have a few people away on holidays. Some are sick and some went to the dentist.

We would like to talk to you about mixing colours.

Riley B.: I like when the colours mixed into purple.

Zachary: I like how blue and yellow turned into green.

Ashley: You can make any colours out of blue, yellow and red.

Jacob: I like how the picture was.

Samson: I like when we mixed blue and yellow to make green, and yellow and red made orange, and red and blue made purple. Yellow, red and blue all made brown.

Emma: I liked how the shapes looked like something real.

Timothy: I like how they turned brown.

Navdip: I liked the colours and the colour red, blue and yellow.

Joshua: I liked the colours mixed up.

Cory: I like painting the pictures.

Rhys: I had fun seeing what the colours can make.

Adam: I like how the colours turned into a rainbow.

Ethan: I liked to mix the colours.

Adele: I had fun mixing the colours.

Tristin: The colours were rainbowish.

Cassidy: I like how the colours combined.

Miss Paul: It was neat to see the children interact with the paint and watch the colours change. They really did look like little scientists!

DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT WITH NICHOLAS COOKE

On October 22, 2008, Nicholas Cooke, one of our Grade 3 students, was fortunate in being selected to join the *Dreams Take Flight* crew who flew to Disneyland in California for the day. Every year, *Dreams Take Flight* takes approximately 140 kids to Disneyland. Air Canada donates the plane, and everyone who helps out on the trip is a



volunteer, including the pilots,

flight attendants, a doctor, nurses and one adult supervisor for every child.

Here is what Nicholas had to say about his trip to Disneyland:

"Probably one of the best rides was Thunder Mountain Railroad. Splash Mountain had a 50 foot drop. On the way home, I fell asleep on the plane."

THANK YOU TO OUR PARENT COUNCIL

As you know, all Indus School students in Grades 1 to 6 were given the opportunity to take swimming lessons in January at the Bob Bahan Pool. You may not know, however, that this

was all made possible through funding provided by our Parent Council for the busses in the amount of \$2,079.00.

In the March newsletter, Parent Council will be providing an arti-

cle that highlights the many funding projects they have undertaken for this school year.

Thank you, Parent Council, for your continued support.

GREAT 5 ARTISTS!

This month the Grade 5 students were very creative as they took time to more fully explore their artistic talents. Creating masterpieces based on the work of Helen Frankenthaler, an American painter, they worked with paints, challenging themselves to use abstract shapes to create compositions that capture the



moods of various nature scenes.

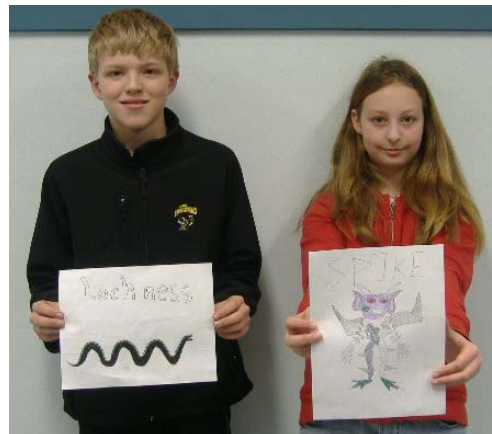
These works of art are as beautiful and elegant in form as they are simple in design. Working with paint is something that the students really enjoy and this shows in the final product. Feel free to visit and view the finished products on display in our hallway if you get the chance.

AND THE SEARCH IS ON ...

The grade 4/5 students in Mr. Pedersen's class have embarked upon a journey to crown a new class mascot. They have been drafting descriptive paragraphs based on creatures that are either real or that they have dreamt up. Through detailed descriptions, they are taking their creatures from mental images and creating full colour drawings of their magnificent mascots. From there, the students' drawings and descriptions will be posted for the whole school to view and vote on, after which a winner will be crowned, with his or her crea-

ture becoming the new 4/5P mascot for the year.

The process has been very rewarding, as not only are the students developing their skills as descriptive writers, but they are also working hard for the opportunity to be the creator of a fun mascot for our room.



Jeff and Danielle show their drawings.

THE GRADE 3 SMARTIES

Happy New Year!

Our new year started off with a week of swimming and then a week of skating. Both activities were extremely successful for the Smarties. Swimming taught us invaluable life skills while skating taught us invaluable balancing skills.

Upon our return, we dived into many other new activities in the classroom. In Language Arts we have learned, practiced and created alliterations, onomatopoeias, metaphors and similes in our writing. We are working hard at multi-digit subtraction and addition in Mathematics and have created riddles in Social Studies.

The students are very excited about our new building unit in Science. Students are currently creating amazing playgrounds to put in the Science Fair.

Please look for the new *Smartie Sun* coming out mid-February where the students will give you details of all the exciting things going on in Grade 3.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SIXTH GRADER?

Grade 6 students will be starting a new *Air and Aerodynamics Science Unit* soon. They will be designing and carrying out experiments to discover the properties of air, researching the



ideas of Bernoulli's Principle and comparing the common characteristics of birds/insects and airplanes.

Will you be ready to participate in the *Air and Aerodynamics Jeopardy*

Challenge? Will you be ready to go head to head with the Grade 6 students?

Information about the unit and Jeopardy will be sent home after February break. Let's get ready to rumble into March!

RECYCLING IN RESOURCE

Resource students have been collecting our recyclables and returning them to the bottle depot in Langdon. We are saving our money to purchase something exciting for the school. Stay tuned!



KEYS FOUND

One of our staff members found a set of GMC keys on the way over to the Indus Recreation Centre last week. There are two keys on the ring. One is smaller and looks like it might be for a toolbox or truck topper.

If you know of anyone who may have lost a set of keys, please call the school.

LIBRARY NEWS

Guinness World Record attempt. Thank you for the amazing support from our parents in our attempt to break the Guinness World Record for "Most children reading with an adult, multiple locations" on Friday, January 23. We won't know for some time yet if we were successful, but over 190,000 people were registered across Canada, so if they all took part, we definitely will have shattered the previous record of 78,791! Check your copies of the *Chestermere Anchor and Rocky View Weekly* for coverage of Indus School's event! Our count was 141 children and 37 adults! Way to go, Indus!

Our school won a *Family Literacy Day World Record Attempt*

prize pack from the *ABC Canada Literacy Foundation* which included two more copies of the *2009 Guinness World Record* book (I can't keep them on the shelf!) as well as pencils, and other goodies. Ask your child about the 5 Robert Munsch books we read that day. Parents can borrow books from our Library, too, so come "check us out"!

Reading – Give it a Shot! is a literacy program offered to Grades 4, 5, and 6 students. This special program shows what can be done when the community works together with our schools to inspire the joy of reading! *Reading... Give it a Shot!* runs from January 7 to March 20, 2009. Students record their

reading time - whether it is books, newspapers, magazines, computer programs, or the Internet - on a student tracking sheet. The students' parents, guardians or teachers can sign-off on the students' reading. After every 100 minutes read, students are rewarded with a **Calgary Flames** bookmark. Counting minutes rather than books allow all students, regardless of their reading ability, to participate. This year, a total of 24 bookmarks are available for the students to earn. The object for the students is to collect the entire Calgary Flames Set. So far, two students have completed their 2400 minutes of reading already! That's 40 hours! Keep reading, everyone!

I GET KNOCKED DOWN, BUT I GET UP AGAIN!

January was an exciting month for the Kindergarten students. For many, it was their very first time on ice skates. In only 3 days, many of them were able to go from learning to walk on skates and using a variety of methods to stay up on the ice, to skating on their own with confidence.



Pictured here is Anthony, one of our new skaters.

The kindergarten students are also making leaps and bounds in their abilities to read and write. It's truly amazing to watch them succeed in believing that they are readers and writers.

During the past few weeks, many of them have started sounding out words on their own. They are becoming more and more independent each day.

Seeing learning through the eyes of a 5 or 6 year old really is a beautiful experience. They remind us that when we fall, we just have to get back up and keep trying!

ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEYS

Alberta Education is conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Surveys from January to the end of February 2009.

Parents of students of grades 4, 7 and 10 students (all parents of students grade 4 and above for Charter schools) will receive a survey mailed to their homes directly from Alberta Education. In addition to English and French the survey will be available in Mandarin/Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog. Parents wishing to have surveys in a language other than English

or French can contact their principal.

In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 (all students grades 4 and above in charter schools and level 2 private schools) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online through their schools.

All surveys are anonymous and no reports will be issued if the number of respondents is fewer than six to further protect the privacy of respondents. Respondents are expected to answer the questions based upon the experi-

ences they have had at their school. Responses for parents of students who have moved during the current school year will be attached to the school in which the student was registered on September 30, 2008.

We strongly encourage your participation as the results help us identify our school and jurisdiction's strengths and weaknesses. Survey results will be available to jurisdictions by the start of May 2009, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of the Annual Education Results Reports in the fall of 2009.