

Indus School

SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Parent Newsletter

March 2009

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Student Count 162

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THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’

Bob Dylan’s 1964 song epitomizes the sense of social upheaval that consumed many young people in his day.

Fast forward 45 years to 2009. Not only are times *a changin’*, they’re *a changin’* fast. Unprecedentedly fast. Technological advances are redefining every aspect of our lives. Moore’s Law (named after one of the founders of Intel) tells us the speed of silicon chips doubles every 18 months. Words like *blog, wiki, Google, Facebook, Stumble, twitter, Flickr, and YouTube*, unheard of five years ago, are now commonplace. Advances in communication have facilitated greater social awareness and opportunities for

global business than ever before. The benefits and challenges associated with the new face of our planet are also greater than ever before.

Preparing children to be successful in today’s complex world is very different than it was in Dylan’s day. That, however, is not the job of Indus School. Our job is to prepare children to be successful in the world that will exist 10, 15, or 20 years from today, *a world we can only imagine*. How, then, do we undertake this daunting task?

At the elementary level, our purpose is clear: building in students a multifaceted foundation for their futures.

We whole-heartedly commit ourselves to the fundamental (now) five R’s: reading, writing, arithmetic, reasoning and relationships. These skills, coupled with timeless virtues such as hard work, personal responsibility, and respect, will carry our students forward with confidence.

We may not know exactly what the future will hold, but we do know it will be (to quote Bob) *a changin’* and we do know that if we focus on what we know is right, our children will be ready for whatever comes.

Chael Wyper
Principal

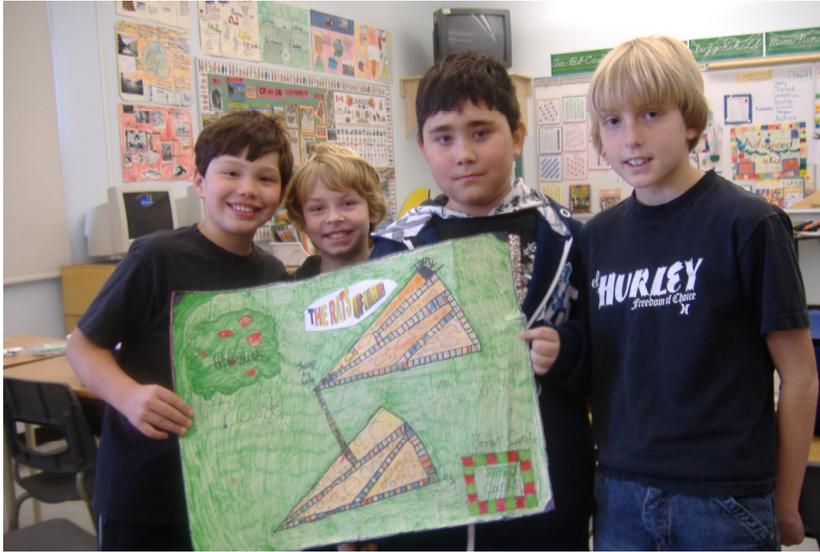
Raison d’etre

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

GRADE 5 BOARD GAME CREATORS!

What a great idea to create a board game after completing our novel study on *The Secret of NIMH* by Robert C.O'Brien. This activity provided students in Ms. Javorcikova's class with the opportunity to explore their understanding of the book in an interesting way. Students worked diligently to create trivia questions and three-

dimensional playing pieces of the creatures and characters



from the novel, which they then proudly showcased during group presentations. As part of the presentations, the audience really enjoyed being quizzed by their classmates using the questions from the board games. The finished products will bring lots of entertainment and joy into our classroom. The children are looking forward to sharing and playing their unique creations with everyone who comes down our hallway.

2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the 2009–2010 school year is now available on the Rocky View Schools website at

www.rockyview.ab.ca. Click on "Our Jurisdiction", "School Calendars". A colour version of the calendar will be forthcoming. If

you are unable to access the calendar, please call the school and we will send a copy home to you.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair Dig out your flip flops for Book Fair Beach! You can catch the Reading Wave from March 9 – 12. It's almost report card time, and a new book from the Book Fair is a great reward for a job well done. I've also heard that the Easter Bunny likes to shop at Book Fair! More information will be sent home shortly.

Sewing Club Have you noticed sewing machines in the library lately and wondered what THAT

was all about? Our grade six students have the option of learning to sew with me at recess. Their final project can be a cushion or a wheat bag, in the fabric of their choice, to keep. It takes us about three weeks of recesses for a group of four students to finish a project.

New Books I have been putting out new books every week, for all ages, in all genres. Is there anything more fun than being the very first one to sign out a

brand new book? Parents are welcome in the library anytime. Come check us out!

Reading – Give it a Shot! We are more than halfway through this literacy program for grades 4, 5, and 6 students. How exciting it is to earn those Calgary Flames bookmarks! Keep reading!

Library Page on the Website Check to see what's new on our website's library page at <http://plone.rockyview.ab.ca/indus/library>.

EXPLORING INDUS IN GRADE 3

The Grade 3 Smarties have been busy in Social Studies. We started off exploring ourselves and family, then our school, and have now moved on to our community. We began the unit looking at old photo albums of past students. Some students even found pictures of their parents as students of Indus School! To help us learn about the community we had a surprise guest. Herman, a senior citizen within the community and a former bus driver of Indus School, came in to talk with the students about Indus. We learned that the school was a lot



smaller and the Grade 2 and Resource rooms combined used to be the gymnasium. Amazingly,

he told us that there were four grain elevators and unfortunately two of them burned down. The students were surprised to learn

that there was a skating rink on the school grounds, which was used at recess. We noticed similarities as well. Science Fair, backwards day and games day were celebrated as they are now.

The students were shocked when Herman informed them that teachers were very strict and many students had to stay after school to serve detentions.

Overall, the students learned a lot about the community and have a new appreciation for our school.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY—K AND GRADE 2

You haven't heard the "real" story of *Jack and the Beanstalk* until you have listened to the kindergarten students retell it. After reading three different versions of the story, the kindergarten class started putting their ideas together to make their own version of the story. Although the story is not yet finished, other students, parents and teachers will not believe how amazingly the story is developing. The students are learning everything from remembering important events, to using strong adjectives, to using all of

the different types of punctuation marks. Keep an eye out in the school library for our finished class project!

In their words, "You have to use quotation marks to show that someone is talking." "The quotation mark 66 goes before someone talks. The 99 goes at the end to say they don't want to say anymore." "A period goes at the end because they are done talking."

The Grade 2 class also had opportunities to show creativity this month. They made amazing Mardi Gras masks and wore them

around the school in a short Mardi Gras parade. Our Social Studies unit involves people and celebrations, and we linked it into our art and music program. During our Mardi Gras celebration, we celebrated our successful art project, enjoyed dancing to Mardi Gras music, and they even performed a throat singing competition for our parent volunteers. We are hoping to make videos of our throat singing groups and will be posting them on the school website in the next few weeks.

FORGET STATE FAIRS! THIS IS THE INDUS SCIENCE FAIR!

Each and every year the Science Fair offers our students the chance to showcase their skills as budding scientists, and this year was no exception. Late January and early



February saw the Grade 4/5P students working hard to expand their knowledge through

research and experimentation. Through careful planning, preparation, and presentation, the students put on a fair that was exciting and memorable. In addition, they learned the importance of controlling their experiments to ensure that their projects gave them reliable and valid results that could be reproduced by other scientists.

INDUS PARENT COUNCIL

The next Indus Parent Council Executive Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the School on Monday, March 9th. The Parent Council General Meeting will be held at the School, at 7:00 p.m. on

Monday, March 23rd.

Attached please see a summary of the various projects funded during the 2007-2008 school year.

THANK YOU INDUS PARENT COUNCIL FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT!

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 for next year have not yet been determined by Rocky View Schools.

SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION FEE WAIVERS

Beginning January 2009, Rocky View parents/guardians who receive the Goods and Services Tax Credit from the Government of Canada, will be eligible to have their child's student fees or transportation fees waived.

The Board of Trustees amended its fee waiver procedures October 16, 2008. Previously, fee waivers were based on Alberta Health Care Insurance waivers. With the elimination of Alberta Health Care premiums on January 1, 2009, a new standard was

required on which to base RVS fee waivers.

Fee Waiver application forms are available at the school office.

REPORT CARDS

Watch for Report Cards to come home on Friday, March 6th. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be

scheduled for Thursday, March 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you would like to schedule an

interview time, please call the school after March 6.

GRADE 2 GEMS

For Valentine's Day the Grade Two Gems created a class book titled: Love is... The dictionary definition is: *1. a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person 2. a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.* Love is so precious and fundamental to a child's development. But when does one feel love? Whom do we love? Can we compare love using a simile? For children, love is innocent and so simple.

In the hearts of children,
Love is...

~ like the sun because the sun makes the moon shine and love makes people shine.
~ like a friend. Love is like a mom and dad. Love is like a family. Love is like a teacher.
~ spending time with my family.
~ like the sun because it is so bright and so hot. Love is so happy.
~ like a heart, a circle, a moon. With one half and with one more half, then that makes two.
~ like a cinnamon heart because when you eat it, it feels like it is hugging you.
~ just feels good. Love is helping. Love is beautiful.
~ like a heart because it is special. Love is you and your par-

ents.

~ like the sun. The sun is hotter than 144 degrees. It is like love. Love is hot like the sun.
~ like a heart because whenever I think of it, it warms me up.
~ like cinnamon hearts. They zap you with love!
~ like a sunset. Love is like a rainbow. Love is like a butterfly because love is beautiful.
~ like a cinnamon heart. Cinnamon hearts make my tongue sting.
~ like your family. My mom is my love. My dad is my love. Love surrounds me like a hug.
~ birds singing in a tree.
~ when my mom and dad read me a story because mom reads my favourite story.
~ like a rainbow because the colours in the rainbow make me feel happy!
~ like Valentine's Day because you tell people how much you love them.
~ like the sun because it is beautiful.
~ like a rainbow because it has lots of colours and it looks like love.
~ like cinnamon hearts. They are special because they are sweet and they are spicy.
~ like when I am with my dogs because they jump on me. They are happy that I am back from

school. They lick me and make me giggle.

~ like a heart. I think a heart is my way to say I love you. Love is like a feather that floats like love. Love is like a rainbow.
~ like the stars shining on the earth. It makes me feel warm. It is the opposite of hate. Love is a nice thing because it makes me feel better. The world would be a horrible place without love. Love is the best thing ever!
~ like a feather because it has two halves that fit together. A feather is like a couple in love being gentle to each other. A feather is light and gentle too. It is soft on your skin when it touches you like when your mom hugs you when you are sad.
~ like an onion. It has layers. You have a heart that is the same but the outside changes. You have the same feelings in your heart but you look differently as you grow old.
~ like a mandala because at first we only see the outside ~ what someone looks like. But then we get to see what is important like the inside of a mandala.

SPREAD THE NET

Malaria kills a child in Africa every 30 seconds. A bednet to prevent malaria costs just \$10 and can save many children. During our March Book Fair, reusable Indus School cloth

book bags will be available for just \$5. If you wish, you may top up your purchase with a further \$5 donation to \$10 to completely pay for one bednet. All money from the sale of book

bags will go to purchase bednets. For more information about this organization go to www.spreadthenet.org. Further info about our book bag sale will come home with Book Fair info.

GRADE 1 SUNSHINES

The *Grade 1 Sunshines* are talking and learning about families. We know there are different kinds of families. We know that families live together and apart from each other, and that the glue that keeps families together is love. Here are some other things we know about families.

Ethan: My family is nice to me.

Riley H.: People in families sometimes have the same kind of hair.

Adam: My family shares with me.

Samson: Some families have allergies. Like me and my grandma.

Tristin: Some families read together.

Alexander: My family cuddles with me.

Nicole: My dad goes to Houston and stays there for quite a while. We're still a family.

Navdip: In families, people could be adopted.

Cassidy: Some families have to go to different places.

Riley B.: My family likes to travel.

Emma: Families can be different sizes.

Timothy: Some families have cats.

Zachary: It was fun in Montana

with my family.

Gavin: I like my family because they take care of me.

Douglin: My family takes me dirt-biking.

Adele: I like my family because they take me to Mexico.

Joshua: I like my family 'cause they cook food for me.

Ashley: In all the families, they have lots of love in their house.

Cory: Six people in my family.

Austin: I like to bike ride with my family.

Miss Paul: I love being with my family. It doesn't matter what we do!

THINKING IN GRADE 6?

The Math 6 students are learning to think. Actually, they already knew how to think; they are simply refining the process. A few weeks ago they began a study of a book called *Harry Stottlemeier's Discovery*. This book, which is part of the *Philosophy for Children* series, was

developed to prompt students to explore such topics as logic, ethics, perception, and even reality itself. After reading a short passage, the students discuss a variety of questions. In doing so, they will learn the importance of clarifying their understanding of ideas and the need for precision

in communicating their understandings. With practice and persistence, the students are developing critical thinking skills that can be applied to any aspect of life.

ALIEN IN-LINE SKATING

All Indus School students will be participating in the Alien In-line Skating Program for four days, beginning Monday, March 9th. The program will be held in the school gym. All of the skates and protective equipment, including knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards and helmets,



needed to fit all sizes will be provided by Alien In-line Skating. This program is consistent with the Alberta Learning Physical Education Curriculum for all students.

A big thank you to our Indus Parent Council for providing the funding for this program. Please watch for further information to come home this week.

GRS. 4, 5, 6 ASSEMBLY PRESENTATION

On Thursday, March 19th, at 1:30 p.m., the Grades 4, 5 and 6 students will be presenting to a

General Assembly in the School Gym. *Parents are welcome to attend.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mar. 6 Report Cards Home
- Mar. 9 Council Executive Meeting
Alien In-line Skating begins until Mar. 12
Book Fair begins until Mar. 12
- Mar. 10 Hot Lunch
Take-home Showcase
- Mar. 12 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Mar. 19 Assembly—Grs. 4-6 Present
- Mar. 23 Council General Meeting
at 7:00pm
- Mar. 30 No School—Professional Day



The Board of Trustees, the superintendent, associates and staff of Rocky View Schools are excited to announce Links to Learning 2009, our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament, to be held August 19 at the Links of GlenEagles in Cochrane. Funds raised from the tournament will be deposited into the RVS Bursary Fund. This fund will directly benefit students by supporting a wide variety of programs and projects like playground enhancements, disability programs, educational partnerships, student scholarships and citizenship awards.

If you would like to participate in the tournament as a golfer, sponsor or donor, please visit www.rockyview.ab.ca or call Jacquie Mirtle at 403-945-4054.

**Indus Parent Council
2007-2008 Casino Expenses**

3 teatherball posts	\$799.15
Accelerated Reader Annual Subscription	1,392.01
Bank service charges and cheques printed	133.41
Boardwalk	8,537.05
Book Bags	229.95
Books to enhance writing programme	252.00
BVAS Donation 07-08	1,000.00
Camera	177.39
CD player	155.14
Clay for Kids - Div 1	751.15
Field trip - Butterfield Acres	408.74
Field trip - CPO Gr. 1 Piccolo's Paintbrush	457.49
Field trip - Fort Calgary Gr. 4/5 - bussing	182.88
Field trip - Heritage Park Gr. 1	485.97
Field trip - Heritage Park Gr. 3+4 - admission and bussing	287.88
Field trip - Leighton Centre - Gr. 1	1,233.30
Field trip - Museum of the Regiments Gr. 4/5	183.46
Field trip - Outdoor school	280.00
Field trip - Outdoor School - bussing	490.35
Field trip - Royal Terrell Museum	200.00
Field trip - Royal Terrell Museum	844.65
Field Trip - Sensory Room	205.20
Field trip - Swimming at Bob Bahan Pool - bussing	1,004.06
Field trip - Telus world of science Gr 1. - bussing and admission	322.45
Field Trip - Theatre Calgary (Gr. 1) cancelled	327.30
Field trip - Theatre Calgary Gr. 4//5 - adm. and bussing	697.81
Field trip - Zoo Gr 1-3	699.41
Field Trip to Sensory Room	444.60
Fridge for Lunch Program	3,045.00
Games for CDA	217.09
Laptop for multi media unit	639.00
Library Books - Reading for Boys	1,189.22
Library Books - Reading for Boys	243.45
Light Rentals for Christmas Concert	445.90
Radios for Resource room	164.39
Safety on supervision	218.08
Science Enrichment	619.97
Stopwatches	32.04
Uniforms - Indus Circle of Courage	240.00
Total	\$29,236.94
2007-2008 General Account	
Income Hot lunch/Milk Program	\$ 3,601.10
Indus T-shirts	300.80
Total	\$ 3,901.90
Expenses Administration Supplies	\$ 315.26
Atomic Clocks	558.91
Bank Service Charges/cheques	259.76
Childcare	140.00
Executive/General Mtg. Treats	218.56
Honorarium re: Author visit	100.00
New Teacher	200.00
Piano Tuning	115.00
Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week	647.15
Terry Fox Run	176.07
Tree Memorial	560.35
Total	\$ 3,291.06