

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

November 2008

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Student Count 156

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MESSAGE FROM CHAEL WYPER

Imagine Indus: Values

The evening of October 22 brought together a small but enthusiastic group of students, parents, and staff members to discuss and clarify the traits that we, as a school community, believe to be the most important.

The product of the evening was a list of 10 traits that are becoming the criteria against which every action, decision, and direction at Indus School will be measured. Indus School values:

Accomplishment – seeing something through to completion

Adventure - exciting, delight-filled experience

Community – contributing to the good of all

Creativity – working or thinking in unique ways

Hard Work – putting in the best effort possible

Honesty – being truthful in words and actions

Joy – happiness that permeates all aspects of life

Respect – giving a sense of importance to self, others, and property

Service – sacrificing personal time and effort for others

Spirit – the essential, positive, and resilient character of an individual and community

The list will be discussed briefly at the next *Imagine Indus* evening (November 12 at 7:00) then will be brought to the Parent Council general meeting on January 19th for final ratification.

Our Mission

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

SCHOOL PICTURES NOW DUE

The due date for school pictures was October 30th. We will be holding the orders until **tomorrow, Tuesday,**

November 4th, and will be forwarding them to Life-touch via courier tomorrow afternoon.

Just a reminder that retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 13th at 9:00 a.m.

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MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL NURSE

Dressing for the Winter Weather

Although the weather outside can be cold, windy and wet, dressing appropriately can help you enjoy the frosty air. Try these tips for staying warm and dry while being active during the winter months.

Dress in layers. The inner layer of clothing should be made of material that will remove any moisture and keep it away from your skin. The middle layer is for warmth, and the outer layer should keep you dry and protected from the wind and water.

While it may be tempting to wear many pairs of socks, it's important to allow

enough space for your feet to fit comfortably inside the boots or skates. Socks or boots that are too tight may reduce circulation to your toes, making them feel cold. Socks made of material that removes moisture (choose a wool blend over cotton) help keep the feet dry.

A great deal of heat is lost through the head and neck. Be sure to wear a hat that covers the ears.

Consider a neck warmer instead of a scarf to reduce the risk of injury when being active.

A warm pair of mittens or gloves with a windproof shell is best for keeping your

fingers warm in the winter. Gloves provide better dexterity and mittens provide more warmth. Choose what's right for you.

Winter fun is all about staying dry. Wear the gear that will allow you to focus on the activity and forget about the cold. Adjust layers of clothing as needed before you start to sweat and change into dry clothes at your first opportunity.

From your School Nurse,
Stephanie.

GRADE 5: SLEEPING IN THE SHADOW OF DISASTER

On October 8th and 9th, the Grade 4 and 5 students went on an overnight field trip to the Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and the Frank Slide. Seeing a piece of Canada's past brought to life through the magic of film and watching a young Blackfoot boy take part in his first Buffalo Jump had students wanting to know more. Walking along the trail at the Frank Slide, students in the Grade 5 class were amazed to see boulders the size of



small houses scattered about. Learning that these rocks came down in a matter

of seconds sweeping away much of a small town was another moment that inspired amazement in the kids. But the highlight of the trip was sleeping amongst the displays in the in the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre with all of their friends and classmates and making memories that will last their lifetime.

GRADE 4/5: A PRISTINE LANDSCAPE?

Wandering through the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area on a cool October morning, students from Mr. Pederesen's class impressed their program guide with their knowledge of the First Nations' people. As they walked the conservation area, the program guide then turned the tables on the students

and impressed them with the discovery that every era of people that has lived upon the land has left their mark through the waste that they left behind. From the teepee rings of the First Nations people, to the old fence posts of the cattle ranchers, to the towering skyscrapers of downtown Calgary, the

students learned about the impact of man's presence upon our planet and some little ways that they can reduce their ecological footprint.

GRADE 1: SEASONAL CHANGES

The Grade One Sunshines have been learning about seasonal changes. We have explored, discussed, examined and written about the changes that we see, smell, hear and touch when Autumn approaches. Here are our favourite signs of Fall:

I like trick-or-treating! -Cory

I like Thanksgiving. -Adam

I like jumping in the leaves. -Gavin

I like watching the leaves fall. -Riley B.

I like the crunching leaves. -Timothy

I like raking leaves. -Zachary

I like Hallowe'en. -Navdip

I like it when school starts. -Samson

I like seeing the geese fly south. -Riley H.

I like throwing leaves. -Ethan

I like drawing fall pictures. -Austin

I like the colours of the leaves. -Ashley

I like making leaf collections. -Cassidy

I like it when the animals think about hibernating. -Nicole

I like pressing leaves in books. -
Douglin

I like the smell in the air. -Rhys

I like eating pumpkin seeds. -Adele

I like having my birthday. -Alexander

I like picking up leaves. -Joshua

I like carving pumpkins. -Emma

I like wearing a costume at Hallowe'en. -Tristin

GRADE 3: 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 accompa-

nied by a photo of the student and the related topic. In the September issue you read about sound, Accelerated Reader, the Leighton Center and Terry Fox Run, just to name a few. Every student did an exceptional job helping launch our first issue. Publishing the newspaper demon-

strated 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!

KINDERGARTEN

Hello from the Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch!

This month, the kindergarten students had the opportunity to go on our first field trip to Butterfield Acres.

Everyone had a great time petting and feeding the farm animals. They had a fantastic



time riding on the wagons which were pulled by 'Old Blue' the farm tractor.

The search for

pumpkins was tricky, but after finding them, everyone enjoyed decorating their own pumpkin.

This was the perfect chance for the kindergarten students to show their creativity!

HART'S SIXES

Sky Science is the focus in Science for the month of November and December. Students are trying to locate The Big Dipper from their backyard. We will continue to search for things in

the night sky and explore our galaxy for the next five weeks. Students will be choosing from a selection of books for the next Language Arts unit. Individual, small group and teacher directed activi-

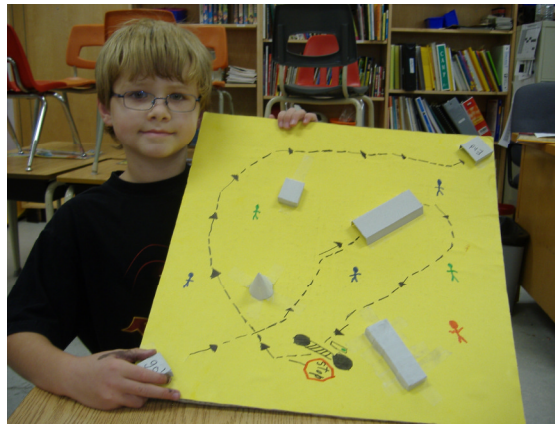
ties will focus on specific writing and reading strategies.

Check out Ms. Hart's plone site link for important and cool things happening in the classroom!

GRADE 2: MAGNET MADNESS

Who would have thought magnets could be so fun? The Grade 2 Gems have been hopping with anticipation this past week as we prepare to wind up our Magnet unit in Science with presentations to the class. Each student was presented with the following assessment task: *Parker Brothers is one of the largest toy companies in the world. They would like to add a new line of magnetic toys for children ages 5-10. Because you are a child who knows about toys and magnets, you have been asked to design and create a magnetic toy to present to the company president.* The Grade 2 Gems initially completed a design plan for their toys, brought the

necessary materials from home, then



waited anxiously for the assigned day

when they could unleash their creativity.

When that day arrived, the students were focused and fully engaged in the task of building magnet toys! The president was very impressed with all the new toys presented this week as it was evident that all students had fulfilled the necessary requirements and many had gone beyond, adding elements of challenge, skill, competition and child appeal. We may see some of these toys on the shelves of Toys R Us by Christmas!

SAFETY AT SCHOOL

You may have heard in the news last week about a school on Crowfoot Trail that had an intruder enter and perform indecent acts prior to fleeing. Shivers go up our spines when we hear about such incidents, and I'm sure many of you wonder what provisions we have in place at Indus School to avoid similar incidents.

Safety of students is our first priority. We attempt to keep our safety measures as low-key as possible without sacrificing effectiveness. We do this because we do not want children to grow up with the belief that everyone is evil and that they should live in fear of "the big bad world." We attempt to impart the lesson that

living safely is vital, but living in fear is counterproductive.

Our first line of safety is our location; being relatively isolated and having vigilant neighbours protects us from most random intrusions. The next line of safety is having locked doors; the only door that is unlocked during class time is the main entrance (the other doors are opened to allow students to enter before school and at recesses). Our final, and most effective, measure in keeping unwanted visitors out (except for the odd garter snake and mice, but we do get them eventually) is our sense of community. To enter our school unobserved is extremely difficult, and

most faces are familiar to staff members. Those people which whom staff members are not familiar are observed and either approached and greeted directly or reported to the office, after which the Principal or designate will approach and greet the person. Sorry to anyone we have made to feel uncomfortable with this practice, but better safe than sorry.

In the case that there is an intruder in the school or on the school grounds, staff members have a protocol to follow and students conduct "lockdown drills" twice every year.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The school will be holding a Remembrance Day Ceremony in the gym on Friday, November 7th beginning at 10:30 a.m. Parents and members of the community are welcome to attend.

The Royal Canadian Legion has provided us with Poppies for distribution at the school. They are available at the office.



UNICEF

Students have raised in excess of \$1,000.00 for UNICEF. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The Firefighters will be coming to the school on Wednesday, November 12th to collect the money. Well done Indus

Students. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.

LIBRARY NEWS

It is almost time for our “Pyramid of Books” Book Fair – mark your calendar! We will be open on Monday and Thursday, November 17 & 20 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 18 & 19 from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. (Parent/Teacher Interviews). Students will be bringing home more specific information about the book fair within the next week or so.

Thank you to our wonderful parent

volunteers who have helping in the library. There are many different tasks to do, so if you still would like to give an hour or more of your time, whether it’s on a regular basis or occasionally, call me and we’ll figure out together the best time slot for you.

If you have been wondering why your child is bringing home pet magazines, and says that “Mrs. Potter said I could keep it!” here’s the scoop: We have a

wonderful parent, Mrs. Blair, who merchandises the magazines in pet stores every month, and saves the discarded copies for us! And yes, students may keep them! She brings me more every month! So if YOU would like to come pick out some reading material to help you in training your pet, or just want to know more about lizards and snakes, drop in to the library. And thank you, Mrs. Blair!

FOOD BANK DRIVE

The South East Rocky View Food Bank would like to thank the students, parents and staff of Indus School for an-

other successful food drive. We received approximately 340 items from the school. Our food bank shelves are once

again full thanks to the generosity of the Indus School Community.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held Tuesday, November 18th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, November

19th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you would like to schedule an interview with your child’s teacher, please call the

school at 403-936-5855 . Report cards will be going home on Friday, November 14th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 3 Council Executive Meeting
 Nov. 4 Hot Lunch (Subs)
 Nov. 7 Remembrance Day Ceremony
 Nov. 10 NO SCHOOL
 Nov. 11 Remembrance Day (No School)
 Nov. 12 Imagine Indus Meeting at school at 7:00 p.m. –Goals

Nov. 13 Picture Retakes
 Nov. 14 Report Cards home
 Nov 17 to 20 Book Fair
 Nov. 18 Parent-Teacher Interviews
 Nov. 19 Parent-Teacher Interviews
 Nov. 21 NO SCHOOL (Professional Learning Day)

Nov. 24 Parent Council General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the school

COUNCIL CORNER

Thank you to Susan Wall for volunteering to coordinate the Soup Label Program for this school year.

The following is a list of the General Meeting dates for Parent Council. Please

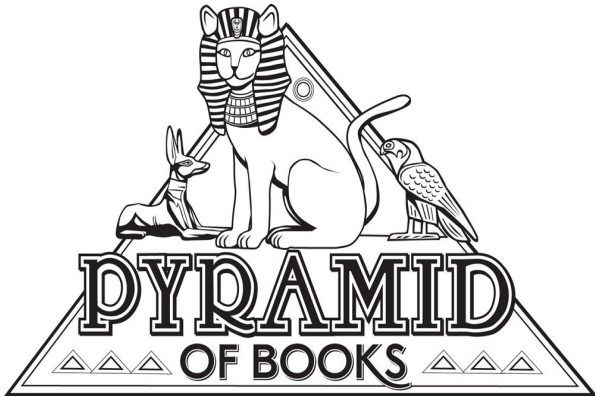
note that all meetings are held at the School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

November 17 April 20
 January 19 May 25
 February 23 June 22
 March 23

We encourage all parents/guardians to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

Sue Wood
 Chairperson

BOOK FAIR!!!
INDUS SCHOOL LIBRARY is hosting the:



Nov. 17th—9 am to 4 pm

Nov. 18th—9 am to 8 pm

Nov. 19th—9 am to 8 pm

Nov. 20th—9 am to 4 pm

Featuring Scholastic and Books are Fun merchandise! All forms of payment are accepted.

Lorie Potter 403-936-5855 has more info.

Public is welcome!

There are great Christmas gift ideas and a wonderful selection of books for all

DATES TO REMEMBER