

Indus School

SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Parent Newsletter

April 2010

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Student Count 170

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Raison d'etre

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

EDUCATIONAL CONCEPT

YOUR BRAIN AT WORK

I have often heard it said that humans only use between 10% and 20% of their brains. This figure was derived through brain activity scans that show large areas of inactive brain matter. Recent brain research has discovered that those "inactive" areas only appeared to be "silent" because they were not actively processing sensory input. They are, however, actually the parts of the brain in which the highest levels of thinking are occurring. It is somewhat comforting to know that between 80% and 90% of our brain power is dedicated to those most critical forms of thinking.

What, one might ask, are those highest forms of thinking. A researcher by the name of Benjamin Bloom developed a ranking system for types of

thinking. Blooms Taxonomy, as it has become known, although recently undergoing some minor changes, has been the benchmark for understanding different types of thinking since the 1950s. The levels of thinking, from simplest to most complex are:

Remembering - the act of retrieving or recognizing information stored in long-term memory

Understanding - the act of constructing meaning through interpreting, inferring, explaining, or comparing any type of message (written, visual, auditory)

Applying - the act of completing a task through the practical use of theoretical information

Analyzing- the act of breaking down materials or ideas into their essential parts of classifying, organizing, determining attributes, etc.

Evaluating - the act of making judgments that are based on clear and consistent criteria or standards

Creating - the idea of putting together functional ideas and material objects through the organization of the component elements in unique and original ways.

Even a quick glance at the taxonomy shows that the simpler the type of thinking the more common it is in our everyday lives. It is an interesting testament to the complexity of analyzing, evaluating, and creating, and even though we do these far less frequently than other types of thinking,

HOT DOG LUNCH—GRADE 6 FUNDRAISER

The last Grade 6 Outdoor School fundraiser will be a Hot Dog Lunch on **Thursday, April 15th**.

Order forms will be sent home with each student on March 29th. **These forms must be re-**

turned to school by Thursday, March 31st (tomorrow).

GROWING CRYSTALS - GRADE 5

As part of our classroom chemistry unit, students in Mrs. Pedersen's Grade 5 class explored the processes of saturation and evaporation this month. First, they created a super-saturated saltwater solution to which they then added food colouring. Next, they played the patient scientist and made daily observations, watching as the water evaporated and the salt collected around a paperclip suspended in

the solution. The result was a newly formed and colourful crystal that they had "grown". This experiment allowed them to examine how solids and liquids can interact as part of a chemical reaction.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN GRADE 1

The Grade 1s are currently working on story writing. Our focus is on answering Who, What, When, Where and Why, while developing and illustrating our short stories. For the most part, the stories have been very entertaining, often including vampires

and werewolves as main characters!

As we continue to work on these short stories, the Grade 1s will be introduced to the concept of setting, characters and problem/solution.

I look forward to reading all of the stories that will be created, and taking a little peek into the Grade 1s' imaginations!

Have a safe and happy spring break!

RESEARCHING DINOSAURS - GRADE 2

The Grade 2s have been hard at work writing research reports on dinosaurs. They have learned how to take notes and create sentences from the information that they gathered. We are so proud of all the hard work the students have done on these amazing projects! The students

also drew pictures of different dinosaur scenes and used pastels, markers and crayons to colour them. The end products are beautiful and are displayed on the bulletin boards in and outside the classroom!

In Math, we are continuing to work on adding and subtracting

large numbers and creating and solving word problems. We used our knowledge of both of these skills to help us figure out what we could buy at the Book Fair! What a great way to incorporate our skills into the real world!

WHAT IS ANIMATED LITERACY?

If you pass by the kindergarten room, likely you will hear us singing and dancing. Advertisers have known for a long time that catchy jingles can be used to place information into our long-term memories. Brain research shows that music, rhyme, rhythm and movement are all effective in improving memory. Extensive research has gone into the Animated Literacy program,

which uses literature, singing, dancing and gestures to teach children the sounds that corre-



spond to the letters of the alphabet. Attaching emotion to a memory assists in keeping memories in place and music is a powerful way to evoke emotion. In Kindergarten, we do specific actions as we are singing and these gestures are stored in our muscle memory, which assists with the retrieval of information. An example of this concept is when one learns to ride a bike or drive a car that has a manual transmission. Once it is in our muscle memory we won't forget it!

THANK YOU FOR STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

The staff of Indus School would like to thank the many parents who contributed to the most amazing *Staff Appreciation Week* from March 15th to the 19th. We enjoyed a wonderful fruit basket from *Edible Arrangements*, numerous tasty treats each day of the week, including everything from ice cream cake



to cheese and crackers, gift cards, a beautiful rose, and a personalized, framed "We appreciate you because..." that recorded various quotes from different students.

On the Thursday, we were served a delicious lunch in the gym, and parents took over supervision responsibilities so that we were all able to eat together.

It was such an amazing week! It means so much to each and every one of us to be acknowledged and appreciated in such an extraordinary way.

A very special *thank you* to Charlene Gosling for all of her work in coordinating this special week!

THINGS TAKE FLIGHT IN THE FISHBOWL

With April quickly upon us, Grade 6 students are experimenting with design details in objects that take flight. What design details keep a parachute in the air for the longest period of time? Does it have to do with the shroud lines, basket details or is it the material used to make the canopy? Maybe it is all three! Students will be experimenting to discover the answers

to these and many other questions in Science. Don't be alarmed to have paper airplanes yawing, pitching and rolling in your neck of the woods! Happy, safe landings!

A quick thank-you to everyone who has been helping with Outdoor School fundraising! There are so many people who have contributed time, prizes, crafts, baked goods, and in many other

ways. Your time and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

The class would also like to thank Mr. Beck for sharing his knowledge of airplanes and such, and Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Dominique-Aris for helping out with our writing skills on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

Have an awesome Easter Break!

THE HISTORY OF CANADA IN 90 SECONDS??!

Yes, it is possible. As we end our current unit in Science entitled, *Plants for Food and Fiber*, students will be returning to the study of Social Studies. After the

Easter Break, students in Grade 7 will be learning Canadian history in combination with a program that will allow them to tell it in 90 seconds. We encourage you to

quiz them daily on their recitation and hand actions. It will be a new and exciting way to bring Canadian history alive.

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.

Reading – Give it a Shot! Con-

gratulations to the Grades 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 April 1.

The next Book Event will be our annual Used Book Sale in June. If you are spring cleaning and have books in good shape that you are finished with, save them for our sale. All books sell for 25 cents each so that everyone can have something "new" to read for the summer. Everything

from board and picture books to chapter books for tweens and teens, as well as adult novels are welcome. Just please don't send them to school until June!

Have you heard about *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* or the *39 Clues* series? All the kids are talking about them! 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.

CARETAKING POSITION AT INDUS SCHOOL

Indus School is attempting to fill a caretaking position, available immediately. The position is for 2.5 hours per day, five days a week, only on school days as per the School Year Calendar. Starting

salary is \$15.86 per hour, plus 6% vacation pay and 4% incentive pay.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in this position, please send resume and professional

references to the School office. For more information visit the Rocky View Schools website at www.rockyview.ab.ca or call 1-403-945-4053.

CONNECTING WITH THE PAST - GRADE 4

The students in Mr. Pedersen's Grade 4 class have been exploring a different way of talking about their past. After learning about the story robes that the Blackfoot First Nation used to tell their stories, students created their own. Having chosen 10 important events from their past,

beginning with their birth, students designed their robes so that anyone who was "reading"



them would be able to interpret them. They really took their time and worked hard to create pictures that required no written or verbal explanation. The results were quite good and allowed a glimpse into the lives of the students. Excellent job everyone!

PHYS ED NEWS

Indus School Health Fair

Students will be participating in a full day of health related activities and lessons on Thursday, May 27th. More details to follow!

Junior B Basketball

It's been an exciting season so far! Both boys and girls teams have experienced wins and losses, providing for a great learning experience. The next tournament date is **Friday, April 16th**.

Thank-you AGAIN to the McHarg and Brocklesby families for the donations of the team jerseys. Our new uniforms look fantastic!

Grade 6 & 7 Curling

Unfortunately, the March 24th & 25th curling classes were cancelled due to the malfunction of the curling rink ice plant. Money that was collected will be carried forward to next year's curling program. A HUGE thank-you goes to Sue Lefebvre, Laurie Jamieson, and Dani McKearney

for their coaching expertise. Students were introduced to the basics of sweeping, sliding, and throwing the rocks.



We look forward to more curling next year!

2010-2011 BUS TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

The 2010-2011 student transportation fees for Grades 1-12 rural resident students remain unchanged at \$115.00 per annum, per student, to a maximum of \$230.00 per family.

No student transportation fees are applicable to Kindergarten children. In order to process kindergarten children who wish to be transported by bus, the school office will submit copies of all kindergarten registration forms to the Transportation Department.

New rural students must register for school bus transportation.

Applications will be available on the Rocky View website at www.rockyview.ab.ca, after June 1, 2010. To ensure service in September, rural applications must be submitted **prior to July 31, 2010**. An information letter and invoice will be mailed to rural families in late August confirming bus transportation for each child.

If you are unable to access the internet, bussing forms will be available at the school office after June 1st.

Rocky View Schools offer a free "First Ride Program" for first-time bus riders and their parents. In-

formation on this fun program is available on the Rocky View Schools website.

If you have any transportation questions, please call Carla at 1-403-945-4104.



FIRST RIDE PROGRAM

The dates of all First Ride Programs are on the Rocky View Schools website at www.rockyview.ab.ca. (Click on *Transportation* and then *First Ride*).

Parents can register for a date at a different school if they can not make their designated area program.

We have also attached a copy of

all of the information on the website, for your convenience.

MANY FORMS OF ART—GRADE 3

The Grade 3 students have been dedicating a lot of hard work and concentration to their recent art pieces. They have learned that it is easier to study pictures of animals and to note their forms before they draw them rather than drawing images from their minds. In the last week, we have started learning about pointillism and a

few of the famous painters who mastered this art technique. The Grade 3 students will be using this technique to create a piece of art that represents their favourite amphibian. Although most pointillist artists only use primary colours to create illusions of colour mixing, the Grade 3 students will simply focus on creating art with col-

oured dots rather than the complexity that pointillism requires.

We hope that you have an opportunity to stop by our classroom to view our mammal and reptile pieces which are now on display. We look forward to displaying our pointillism pieces in the next few weeks.

CELL PHONES AT SCHOOL

We continue to have issues with students using their personal cell phones during the school day, including during class time. Our Student Handbook clearly states on page 10:

"Students' cell phones are not to be used during the school day and must be turned off and kept in backpacks at all times. Office and classroom phones are available for student use in

the event of an emergency."

In the meantime, we would appreciate parents' assistance and support in reinforcing the policy as outlined in our Student Handbook.

FOOD BANK DRIVE

Indus School will be holding a Food Bank Drive the week of

April 19th. Please watch for further details to come home fol-

lowing Spring Break, on April 12th.

EASTER EGG HUNT

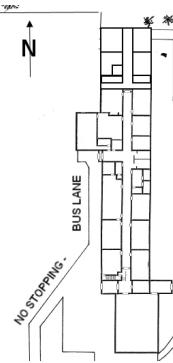
An Easter Egg Hunt will take place in Langdon Park on Saturday, April 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All ages are welcome.

Activities include coloring contest, prizes and hot chocolate. Sponsored by Rocky View Community Ministries.

PARKING AT THE SCHOOL

We would like to remind anyone who is dropping off or picking up students that the bus lane is a *No Stopping* lane and extends from the main doors all the way to Indus Court (see map). The parking lot has been extended to the north, creating

ample space that does not interfere with the busses. Thank you for your cooperation.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr. 2-9	Easter Vacation
Apr 12	Students return to School
Apr 13	Hot Lunch (Spaghetti)
Apr 15	Hot Dog Lunch—Gr. 6 Fundraiser
Apr 20-23	Outdoor School Gr. 6
Apr 19-23	Food Bank Drive
Apr 26	NO SCHOOL—PL Day
Apr 27	Hot Lunch (Chicken) Gr. 5 Hep B Shots
Apr 28	Parent Council Executive Meeting—6:30 pm

FIRST RIDE PROGRAM - INFO FROM RVS WEBSITE

First Ride Program - A program for first time bus riders

Rocky View Schools is pleased to welcome your child to the experience of riding on the school bus. As we want this to be a happy and rewarding time for both you and your child, we invite you to take part in the informative "First Ride Program", a school bus safety program for first time bus riders.

This FREE program for students is provided by the Rocky View Schools in partnership with our bus contractors, to educate parents and children on how to ride the school bus safely. This program will start at 6:30 pm and run approximately one hour. Parents and students from ANY school may attend ANY of desinated sessions:

What Can You Expect

The following format for the "First Ride Program" will be as followed:

1. Program starts promptly at 6:30 pm.
2. Topics covered in the presentation include:

- Bus Driver responsibility
- Parent responsibility
- Student responsibility
- School Board responsibility
- School bus facts and information
- Safety rules on and around the bus

3. View a Winnie the Pooh school bus safety video.

4. Go for a short bus ride to review safe loading, unloading and bus riding procedures.

"First Ride" is a positive learning experience for you and your child. This program gives parents and students a basic understanding of safety, rules, and procedures on the school bus. We hope you will be able to take part in the "First Ride Program".

First Ride Dates: Start Time for all programs is 6:30pm.

- – Bearspaw Area - Tue May 4th, 2010 - Location: Bearspaw School
- – Westbrook Area - Wed May 5th, 2010 - Location: Westbrook School
- - Springbank Area - Mon May 10th, 2010 - Location: Elbow Valley School
- - Chestermere Urban/Rural Area - Tue May 11th, 2010 - Location: Prairie Waters School
- - Airdrie Urban Area - Wed May 12th, 2010 - Location: Rocky View Schools Office in Airdrie
- - Airdrie Rural Area - Thur May 13th, 2010 - Location: Rocky View Schools Office in Airdrie
- - Cochrane Urban Area - Tue May 18th, 2010 - Location: Elizabeth Barrett School
- - Cochrane Rural Areas - Wed May 19th, 2010 -Location: Holy Spirit School
- – All Rockyview Urban Students - Wed Aug 18th, 2010 - Location: Rocky View Schools Office in Airdrie
- – **All Rockyview Rural Students - Thur Aug 19th, 2010 -Location: Rocky View Schools Office in Airdrie**

To Register

Please email firstride@rockyview.ab.ca with the child's name, number of adults attending, program date, location & contact phone number. A confirmation email will follow.

***Last day to register for the First Ride Programs will be one week prior to each session.

If any sessions are not full, you may be asked to attend a different session.***