

Indus School

SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Parent Newsletter

June 2010

Volume 10, Issue 7

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.

JUNE IS UPON US!

With summer holidays looming on the horizon, and many exciting events such as field trips, the Parent Appreciation Tea, a talent show, and Fun Day, it is sometimes easy to forget that the month of June makes up 10% of the school year. Given that the students are nine months further along in their education than they were in September, this last month should be one of great productivity. Continuing with home reading and

discussing with your children what they've done each day is a great way to keep them focused for this critical time.

After these next 20 school days, I wish everyone a fabulous, refreshing and invigorating summer.

Teachers for Next Year:

Although there may still be some changes, and we have not yet finalized who will be teaching Resource, the

teaching assignments for next year are:

- Kindergarten – Mrs. Burris
- Grade 1 – Mrs. Kaminsky
- Grade 2 – Mrs. Hamel
- Grade 3 – Mrs. Stevens
- Grade 4 – Mr. Pedersen
- Grade 5 – Ms Broxham
- Grade 6 – Ms Hart
- Grade 7 – Mr. Winters
- Grade 8 – Ms Manning
- PE (etc.) – Mrs. Goll

BAND CONCERT

To celebrate the achievement of Indus Band over the last year, we have scheduled a final concert to take place on June 24, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Indus Recreation

Centre. Band students have a small program set-up that includes popular music as well as traditional band music. We also have one or two small ensemble

groups dedicating extra practice time to preparing a piece or two for your listening enjoyment.

We hope to see you there.

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INDUS SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Our Health Fair on May 27 was a big success! The morning was spent rotating through four different presenters. Public Health



Nurse, Lisa Chau, covered topics ranging from germs and proper



hand-washing to tattoos and piercing for the older grades. Angela Welsh, a personal trainer

from Langdon, ran an exercise class in the Gym focusing on the components of fitness, heart rate, and the importance of warm-ups and cool-downs. Dr.

Lorne Wasylucha and Meghan Tudor

came out from their dental practice, Family and Friends Dental, to talk about oral health, the anatomy of the tooth, and protecting teeth in sports. Constable Wendy Parker, from the Calgary Police Service, covered internet safety with the Grade 4–7s and Tyler Rabel, a Calgary fireman, talked to the Kindergarten – Grade 3s about fire safety. At

lunch Mrs. Hamel's Food class delivered delicious, homemade cookies to the entire school. Thank you to the students who baked them! Heather High, a certified yoga instructor, spent the afternoon in the Gym in-



structing yoga classes to each grade. It was the perfect way to end a busy day. We are very appreciative to all the presenters for their generous donation of time. Thank you from Indus School!

LAST WORDS FROM THE FISHBOWL

It's hard to believe that time has flown by this quickly in the Fishbowl. The "Little Critters" from September are fading and more mature "Critters" are emerging (apparent when you scan the fall class picture). June will pass by just as quickly. Keeping students and teachers alike on track and focused may be a challenge. Nightly review of daily material and work will help keep everyone on top of things. No, contrary to student belief, review is not considered homework, but rather an important skill and habit to develop.

Weekly quizzes will let teacher and student know how things are going. We will use a week in June to review for the Provincial Achievement Tests. Keeping our heads in the game until the end will be a difficult task, but we can do it. Although some may be kicking and screaming, just a little.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the many people who helped out with our class this year. Whether you were helping with our writing, organizing fundraising

events, coaching basketball, donating items, making phone calls, sharing your knowledge of science topics, providing chocolate or just words of encouragement, *YOU WERE APPRECIATED!* Your help, big or small, ensured a better learning place for all students, in and out of the classroom. I look forward to seeing more of you next year!

As for my Critters, one month to go in the Fishbowl and lots of work left. Keep focused and don't let the review get ahead of you!

A FRACTION OF AN ART PIECE

The Grade 3 class just wrapped up a math unit on fractions. We have also been working on some pointillism pieces as a science and art integrated unit. You may ask yourself, how do these concepts relate to one another? Well, in art class, we discussed how a pointillism piece uses a lot of negative space. This means that only a fraction of the art piece is



covered with positive space or colour. An animal's fur or feathers only cover a fraction of its body. If you have a chance to stop by our classroom bulletin

board, you will see our beautiful science pointillism pieces.

Some students would like you to know that:

1. "On a parrot its coloured feathers cover a fraction of its body." Miranda W.
2. "On my hamster 2/3 of its body is black as 1/3 of its body is white." Jaden H.
3. "My neighbours paint horse is mainly white but a fraction of its fur is brown." Derek M.
4. "On an ocelot 1/4 of its spots are black and the other 3/4 of its body is yellow or white." Faith

BUGS AND SMALL CRAWLING AND FLYING ANIMALS

The last month of the year is a busy one in Grade 2! We are well into our last thematic unit, and we are learning about *Bugs and Small Crawling and Flying Animals*. Recently, we went into our schoolyard and explored the

different kinds of species that live in our Indus community. We found bees, beetles, ants, mosquitos and spiders, and examined them in their natural habitat. In Reading, we are studying *Charlotte's Web*, and we are learning

important lessons about friendship, spiders and life on a farm.

We have had a fantastic year in Grade 2, and we cannot believe that summer is just around the corner!

NEWS FROM OUR CDA

We recently had the pleasure of having Paul Thomas come out to our school from the Community Crisis Society in Strathmore. Students were engaged in classroom presentations that were selected by



"Self-esteem is important so you can feel good about yourself and be proud of what you do!"

their teachers. Paul added in a magic component to his presentations, which was very exciting for the students! Topics included the following:

- Kindergarten – Hands are not for Hitting
- Gr. 1 & Gr. 2 - Accepting Differences
- Gr. 3 - Self-Esteem
- Gr. 4 - Peer Pressure
- Gr. 5 - Self-Esteem
- Gr. 6 - Peer Pressure
- Gr. 7 - Anger Management

GRADE 1 STORIES

This month, the Grade 1s have been learning about parts of a story. As a class, we have decided that there are four parts to a story which are: Setting, Characters, Problem and Solution. We first began by reading many

different types of stories, including many by Robert Munsch. We would then identify the Setting, Characters, Problem and Solution in our own words. Once we understood how to identify parts of a story in books, we began to

create our own stories complete with painted illustrations. I look forward to having the students read their stories to each other and their families.

POETRY FROM THE GRADE 5 ROOM

Haiku, Free Verse, Light Verse, Limerick and Acrostic poems were what the students from Mrs. Pedersen's class were working on in the Language Arts unit, *Poetry*. They had many excellent ideas that they shared during our presentations, demonstrating just how much they enjoyed this poetry unit and how they are well on their way to becoming excellent poets.

Here are a few examples of their amazing work:

What is normal?
No one is normal
For nothing is
Not one person is alike
So, what is normal?
Is normal real?
I think not.
(By Ryan K.)

My Crazy Hike
Let's go on a hike,
And I can bring my bike,
Then I will bail,
Off of the trail,

And land on somebody's trike.
(By Evan)

Moonlight
Dancing in the moonlight
There is not a single fright
Nature's music is nice and slow
But you know I won't let go
Today, tomorrow and tonight ...
(by Camilla)

RESOURCE ROOM

The Resource Students have been learning about seeds and plants. They planted different flowers earlier this Spring and have been watching them grow. Now that we have had some

rain, we hope to get some warm weather so that our flowers will bloom before we leave school at the end of



June. The garden is located in the planter in front of the school, so please have a look when you are here.

FOODS PROGRAM

The Foods 6/7 class has been cooking a variety of delicious, healthy and quick to prepare snacks. We started with pancakes and moved on to muffins, soft pretzels



and then cookies. On May 27th we made Spicy Oatmeal Crunch cookies for the Health Fair. They

were enjoyed by all of Indus. You can find the recipe for these delicious cookies at the Healthy U recipe section (www.healthyalberta.com) in the category of Fruit and Snacks. Enjoy!

GRADE 7 NEWS

All Grade 7 students have gained a better understanding of the Holocaust through completing *Daniel's Story*. Every student handed in a project that demonstrated a great depth of comprehension and empathy. In Social Studies they have got-

ten half way through their *History in 90 Seconds* presentations.

In our final month, the class will be building bridges to learn about structures and the forces that act on them, expressing their thoughts through poetry,

and becoming burgeoning mathematicians through their study of algebra.

It has been an excellent year and everyone is ready to attack the last month of school with a willingness to learn!

COUNCIL CORNER

Please mark the following dates on your fall calendar:

The Parent Council Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, **September 22nd** at 7:00 p.m. in the School Gym.

The Casino on **October 4 and 5**.

We will send home further details in September regarding both of these events.

Parent Council will be hosting the Hot Dog Lunch on **June 25th**, as

well as the last day of school events on **June 28th**, and we will be looking for volunteers to help with these activities. Please watch for more information coming home in the near future.

KINDERGARTEN NEWCOMERS

The Kindergarten has been vibrating with the excitement of our new ducklings! Our anticipation began when we first listened to the peeping and pecking originating from inside our eggs.

The first duckling, named "Cowboy," hatched Thursday, May 20th at 1:30 p.m., followed by our sec-



The new arrivals to the Kindergarten, Cowboy and DJ3K

ond duckling, "DJ3K," who hatched four hours later. Our third duckling, unfortunately, did not survive the hatching process. The children have enjoyed caring for the ducklings and have been keeping a journal tracking their growth. Soon the ducklings will show off their exceptional swimming skills to the class!



Navtej holds DJ3K

SCHOOL NURSE - LYME DISEASE INFORMATION

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health is advising Albertans to take precautions against Lyme disease as ticks carrying the disease have been identified in three areas of the province. The ticks were found on dogs in Calgary, High River and Ardrossan

areas. Lyme disease can be a serious condition if it's not detected early and left untreated. To avoid being bitten by ticks, use insect repellents and cover up when walking in tall grass, woods or brush. For more information visit <http://www.health.alberta.ca/hea>

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/lyme-disease.html>, or <http://srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship/WildlifeDiseases/documents/WDLymedisease.pdf>.

Anyone who suspects they have Lyme disease should contact HealthLink Alberta at 403-943-5465.

PARENT APPRECIATION TEA

All Indus School parents are invited to attend the Parent Appreciation Tea on June 10th, at 2:30 p.m. in the School Gym. Students will be providing a



brief program for your enjoyment, and the Grades 6 and 7 students who are registered in the Foods Program will be preparing a delicious dessert that will be served by the Grade 5 students.

Your personal invitation will be coming home in the next day or two. In the meantime, please mark this special occasion on your calendar and plan to join us if at all possible.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP

From June 7 through 9, 2010, our Outdoor Education students will be going to *Lost Lake Scout Camp*. Many fun and challenging activities have been planned that increase students understanding of teamwork, respect

for themselves and the environment, and understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things. It has been a great course and all are looking forward to the trip.

Please note that parent volun-

teers are still needed. If you are able to volunteer for the Camp, please call Ms. Manning at the school as soon as possible (403-936-5855).

LIBRARY NEWS

Have you planned your family's summer holiday? Now is also the time to plan your child's summer reading. You can plan your escape to anywhere in the world through a good book!

Statistics have shown that if students do not read over the summer, their reading level either stays the same or in some cases even drops. Summer reading should be an informal, yet still regular part of your child's routine. Private schools assign a specific summer reading list for all grades. I won't go as far as giving your child a mandatory list, but I do have some ideas!

Some suggestions: Start by reading the first chapter or two of a new book to your child. If it is at a level they can read independently, they will be more inclined to continue reading on their own once you have "jump-started" the story. Encourage your younger child to re-read

some favourite story books, and wouldn't it be a treat to make a trip to a flea market, garage sale, or book store for some "new" reading material? A gift card to a book store makes a terrific "end of school year" gift for your child.

If you find your 'tweens' and teens resisting reading a book, have them pick out a magazine or comic book at the supermarket. Hey, it's still reading, even if it's about dirt bikes, Justin Bieber or Archie and Betty!

Our annual **used book sale** at Indus will be held on **June 17**, and you can send in books with which your household is finished, and everyone can shop for just 25 cents each for books. Funds raised are donated to charity. Look for further details in this newsletter or call me for more information.

Finally, are you modeling good

reading habits? Do you read the newspaper? Magazines? Are you taking a good book to the beach this summer? Do you ever turn the TV off for the evening and curl up with a good book? Put flashlights and some scary stories in the tent for a fun camp-out in the back yard! Your kids are never too old for you to read them a bedtime story! Put a stack of books in the car for short or long road trips, and change them regularly. So pack something good to read along with the sunscreen and make summer reading fun!

Please note: All books that belong to the Library must be returned by **Thursday, June 10**. Overdue notices will be sent home the following week. If you want to know if your child still has library books checked out, please email me at:

lpotter@rockyview.ab.ca.

TALENT SHOW

Indus students in Grades 4 - 7 were given the opportunity to audition for the Indus School

Talent Show to be held at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4th. Parents are welcome to attend.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 4 Talent Show
- June 7-9 Outdoor Education Camp
- June 8 Hot Lunch (Tacos)
- June 10 Parent Appreciation Tea
- June 15 Gr. 3 ELA Provincial Achievement Test (PTA)
Gr. 6 Social Studies PTA
- June 16 Gr. 6 ELA PAT
- June 17 Gr. 6 Math PAT
Gr. 3 Math PAT
Used Book Sale
- June 18 Gr. 6 Science PAT
- June 24 K-3 Zoo Trip
Band Performance
- June 25 Hot Dog Lunch
- June 28 Last day of classes
Report Cards Home
Pancake breakfast
Assembly
Fun Day

USED BOOK SALE!!

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010

12:30 – 3:00 P.M.

Please bring your gently used books (for donation) to school as soon as possible.

All books will be sold for just 25 cents each.

Get some wonderful summer reading CHEAP!!

(There will be an adults-only table – all parents welcome!)