

Indus School

SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Parent Newsletter

March 2010

Volume 10, Issue 5

Student Count 170

REPORT CARDS- MARCH 19

With report cards coming home in just a couple of weeks (March 19), it is a good time to reflect on what letter grades mean.

School is not a game; we do not keep score. The marks that students receive on their report cards are neither punishments nor rewards. They are a summary of how well the student has mastered the outcomes covered in class.

The manner in which those marks are generated has changed significantly over the years. When I went to school, every quiz, homework assignment, and paper was marked and averaged to produce a letter grade.

Many of those practices

do not accurately reflect how well a student has achieved the outcomes in class. Today, quizzes and assignments are still evaluated but now the results are used by the teacher to help the students learn and meet the class objectives. These are called *formative assessments* and are much like the diagnostic tests performed by a physician.

The other category of assessment, *summative assessments*, those in which the student is able to demonstrate their mastery of the unit objectives, are used to generate the class mark. Provided those objectives are met by the conclusion of the unit of study,

early difficulties should not be reflected in the achievement mark.

Late assignments are not a reflection of the child's knowledge of subject matter, but if work habits and effort, for which there is a separate, *Effort*, letter grade.

As with all summaries, letter grades and report card comments can be a source of confusion. If you have any questions or concerns about the comment or mark on your child's report please do not hesitate to set up an appointment to meet with his or her teacher.

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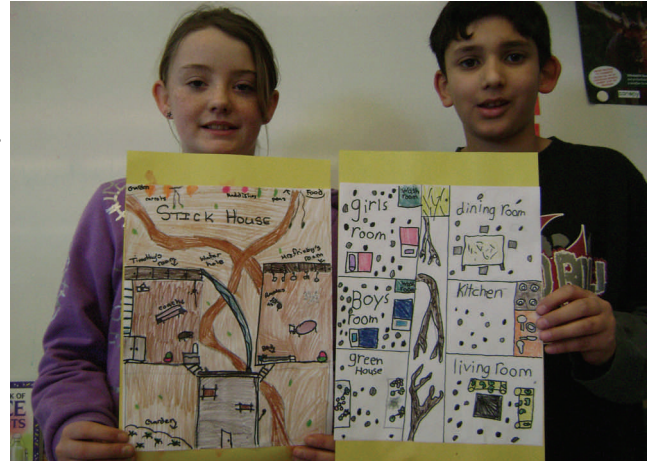
Raison d'etre

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

DESIGNING HOUSES IN GRADE 5

Mrs. Pedersen's Grade 5 students have really been enjoying their novel study on *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. One part of this project was to design a new house for Mrs. Frisby, as her home is going to be demolished by the farmer in whose field she lives. What fantastic sketches they have created so far. They are including elements from both the story and real life to create their housing designs, with some truly interesting layouts. Cardboard,

twigs, grass, rocks and branches, as well as other natural materials will be incorporated into their final designs when they create their finished models. Great job so far and keep up the great work 5Ps.



DINO-MITE

The Grade 2s are learning about Dinosaurs! The students are writing their own imaginative sentences about their favourite beasts and they are also learning the different components that make up a story, such as characters, setting and plot. The students are im-

mersed in reading all about the different kinds of dinosaurs and we have used *venn diagrams* to compare and contrast some of their characteristics. So far, the *Tyrannosaurus Rex* seems to be one of the favourites of most of the students in Grade 2! We are

all very excited to continue our study of these amazing creatures, and make sure you watch for some creative artwork posted outside the Grade 2 room! It is sure to be Dino-mite!!

FROM KEY WORDS TO INTERESTING SENTENCES

The Grade 3 students have started a new unit in Science: Animal Life Cycles. Our class is learning how to write jot notes about a variety of animals. Students are learning how to take key words about animals and then transform them into interesting sentences. They are learning that there are many

ways to form a sentence. They are learning how to write a research outline and will use that information to write a report of their own at the end of the unit.

In this unit, students will gain a strong understanding of animal classification. We are learning about mammals, reptiles, am-

phibians, birds, fish, and insects. They will be comparing different animals to note similarities and differences within each group. By the end of the unit, students will have a good understanding of the changes that each one goes through as they mature.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair

Join us as we travel the world during "Destination Book Fair"! You can purchase the world's hottest books at our Scholastic Book Fair from March 23 - 25. 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!

We will be open late on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings for your shopping convenience.

We always have a great selection of affordable books for every age group, from preschool through mature teen, as well as adult. More information will be sent

home shortly.

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! We will wrap this program up just before Easter. Keep reading!

SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

The results of the Indus School Science Fair held on February 4th were as follows:

Best in the School: "Red Eye" - Camila Schreiber and Carmen Saunders, Grade 5

Grade 4:

1st Place: "Crazy Crystals" - Emma Gingras and Kylie Solway-Calfe

2nd Place: "Asian & African Elephant" - Nicholas Cooke

3rd Place: "Does the Price of Golf Balls Affect Distance?" - Austin Tober and Kale Clouston

Grade 5:

1st Place: "Red Eye" - Camila Schreiber and Carmen Saunders

2nd Place: "Creating CO₂" - Josiah Guigue and Ryan Korobko

3rd Place: "Yellowstone" - Ryan McHarg

Grade 6:

1st Place: "Sound vs. Concentration" - Jeff Rodehustkors and Tyler McMurray

2nd Place: "Human Body & Exercising" - Paige Verardi

3rd Place: "Bubblicious" - Tiffany

Kuryk and Jordan Wiebe

The following students will go to the Calgary Youth Science Fair, March 17th -19th:

Camila Schreiber & Carmen Saunders

Jeff Rodehustkors & Tyler McMurray

Paige Verardi

Tiffany Kuryk & Jordan Wiebe

Congratulations to all of our students, and good luck to those attending the Calgary Youth Science Fair later this month.

HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI

A very big *Thank you* to everyone who donated baking to the Helping Hands for Haiti Bake Sale. We raised \$547.45 over the 3 days. In addition to the bake sale, we raised \$925.05 from the Hot Dog Lunch on February 9th, and

from the sale of Gogglz Books for Haiti, we raised \$456.25. The total amount raised for the people of Haiti was \$1,928.75.

These activities not only raised a significant amount of money, which was forwarded to the Red Cross, but also created an aware-

ness among students of the value of helping those in need.

Congratulations to everyone involved.

CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE EVERYWHERE

... and way too much to eat!

The Grade 4 students are wrapping up their *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* novel study, and as one of their final activities, had a chocolate party. Students, with help from their parents, made recipes containing



chocolate and brought enough of them for all 26 members of our classroom. Desks were piled high with chocolate in all shapes, forms, and even col-

ours. Students enjoyed sampling

the treats that their classmates brought, and while it was tempting to eat all 26 pieces as they watched the latest movie version of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, most of the students restrained themselves, saving many of the treats (not to mention their bellies) for later consumption. In addition, each student will get a copy of all the recipes. It was a wonderful way to finish up the unit.

NEWS FROM THE “FISHBOWL – LUXURY EDITION” (GRADE 6)

Finally, we have settled into our new room, with a little space to spare!

The last semester of the year is going to be a busy one; fundraising, *Outdoor School*, basketball and lots of other things.

Amongst all of this there will be a continued push for students to be the best they can be. “Quality” will continue to be a big focus for the class as a whole, in the work that they do and decisions they make.

Many of our students have made significant gains in reading and writing just by making a few “tweaks.” These students might

be reading a bit more at home, taking the time to plan a little more before they write, using writing resources available to them or just taking a little more time to think about what they are being asked to do. These students have figured out what they need to do to make improvements and they feel great about it! Less floundering in the Fishbowl is a great reason to celebrate.

Although students are encouraged to be more independent in tracking homework, test dates and other important events, these items are written on the board and tracked on a calendar

at the front of the room. Students and parents who are looking for regular homework may choose from activities such as, reading, reviewing work done in class, write a summary of a newspaper article, write a story, practice basic math facts or ask Ms Hart for something specific. Any of these activities would be a great choice.

Remember, anyone who would like to volunteer in the classroom for writing feedback for students, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00, let me know. Would love to see you here!

That’s all from the “Fishbowl”!

OUTDOOR SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

Fundraising continues for the Grade 6s for our Outdoor School adventure in April. Thanks to the volunteers who helped or donated to the bottle drive. We raised approximately \$600. Please watch for Grade 6s and their green pledge sheets for the *Skate-*

athon happening on March 10th. There will also be a craft and bake sale held at recesses March 29th through April 1st. Grade 6 students are encouraged to bring craft/bake items for this event. The main event, the raffle, will be held on March 31st. Students will

be getting their tickets the first week of March. If you have items that you would like to donate to the raffle, big or small, please drop them off at the school at your convenience.

EXPLORING SHAPES IN GRADE 1

This month the Grade 1s have begun to explore 2D and 3D shapes. Within this topic we are studying the number of sides, edges and numbers of vertices on each 3D shape that we have explored. Our next steps will be to explore symmetry as well as perimeter, which will then lead into our next topic of measurement. Look forward to seeing symmetry art and shape art work in the upcoming weeks!

Keep up the great work Grade 1s!

Here are our students' interpretations of a cube:



LOVE IS ...

For Valentine's Day the Kindergarten class created a 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.* But when does one feel love? Who do you love? Is it something one can give and receive? How does it feel? What does love look like? Five year olds are so precious and innocent and for them love is so simple.

In the hearts of children,

Love is...

when my dad makes a skating rink and snow hills for me.

when my mom cooks cookies with me and Dad makes chocolate chip bars.

when my dad helps me make an igloo.



Love is... a cuddle with mom and Ethan.

when daddy plays Jungle Bears with me.

when my brother helps me make a snowman.

when my dad gives me horsie rides.

when my mom helps me turn on the TV and we snuggle under the blanket.

when mommy gives me hugs and kisses.

when my mom helps me read a book.

when mommy gives me hugs.

when Jesus is in my heart.

when mom hugs and kisses me.

when my dad makes pancakes with me.

INDUS MINOR SOCCER REGISTRATION

We will be accepting Indus Minor Soccer Registration forms for the 2010 Spring session until March 8th.

If you have any questions, please call Brenda Kuryk at 403-279-3588

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on **Tuesday, March 23rd** from 4:00—7:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten Classroom. Parent-Teacher interviews for all other grades will be held from 4:00—7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 25th**.

If you would like to schedule an interview with your child's teacher, please call the school office at 403-936-5855. All interviews will be for 15 minutes, unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher.

GRADE 7 NEWS

During the month of February, Grade 7 students at Indus School have completed their adventures through decimal numbers and will be moving into the study of percents. We have also finished our study of early explorers through a stamp project. Stamp designs were original and eye-catching. This month we return to our study of science in our *Plants for Food and Fiber* unit.

In ELA, students are working on two new projects. The first is the continuance of our *Expository* writing unit in which students are learning to analyze and develop writing which is outside of the fictional realm. Here, they are beginning to develop the skills necessary for writing throughout the disciplines.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 9	Hot Lunch
Mar. 10-11	Gr. 6 Skate-a-thon
Mar. 17-19	Calgary Youth Science Fair
Mar. 19	Report Cards Home
Mar. 22	NO SCHOOL—PL Day
Mar. 23	Kgtn Parent-Teacher Interviews
Mar. 23—25	Book Fair
Mar. 24	Parent Council General Meeting
Mar. 25	Parent-Teacher Interviews 4:00-7:00 pm
Mar. 29-1st	Craft/Bake Sale
Mar. 31	Raffle (Gr. 6)

Parents are asked to help students along with their writing skills through editing their work as they write. Expository writing is needed in academics throughout their school experience. Our second project is a novel study on *Freak the Mighty* which is a book that explores the special bond between two outcast youth. Students are VERY excited about this book!

INDUS ATHLETICS

New Sports Uniforms

Thanks to Ensign-Opsco Energy Industries and John Brown & Associates, Indus School now has professionally designed jerseys for both our boys and girls sports teams. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Kim Brocklesby and John and Leann McHarg who were responsible for making this a reality.

Jr B Basketball

Grades 6 and 7 students have begun their basketball season! The teams will be playing in three tournaments - March 19th, March 26th, and April 16th. Good luck and go Indus go!

Curling

We are fortunate to have the

opportunity for the Grade 6 & 7 students to learn how to curl. Each class will have two, one-hour sessions in March to learn basic skills such as sweeping, sliding, game rules, and etiquette.

Thank-you to Pam Tanner for organizing our time at the rink.