

Indus School

SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

May 2010

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Student Count 170

2010- 2011 WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

About this time each year, people begin to wonder about the upcoming school year. While many things will remain the same regardless of the details, there are always small changes taking place in schools. These primarily relate to grade configurations, teachers, and optional classes for older students. Unfortunately, we do not know very much about these changes just yet. We do know which days will be in session and which won't; a complete calendar can be downloaded from the Rocky View Schools website at [http://](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/jurisdiction/schoolcalendars)

www.rockyview.ab.ca/jurisdiction/schoolcalendars. We also know that our school will be reconfigured to serve students from Kindergarten through Grade 8 (our current Grade 7 students will be the oldest students in the school for the third year running). Additionally, while we are not certain about all staffing, we do know that Mrs. Pedersen will be leaving us and that Adam Winters, currently teaching at Chertmire Middle School, will be joining our staff.

There are obviously still many unanswered questions about Indus School for next year. As more information becomes available (many decisions related to class configurations and staffing are dependent on the divisional budget, which has not yet been finalized) it will be passed on to all of our school stakeholders. Regardless of the details, Indus School will continue to strive to provide the best possible education in a caring, exciting, and vibrant learning community.

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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.

COUNCIL CORNER

For all those Parents who can not make it to an evening meeting, we are holding a "Council Chat" on Thursday, May 6th, at 10:30 a.m. at the school. Come and see where the

casino money goes, tour the portables, enjoy a "Smart Board" demonstration, and maybe sneak a peek in a few classrooms! There will be coffee and snacks,

and Council Executive will be on hand to answer questions. This is a great way to find out more about Parent Council and what we do!

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HEALTH FAIR MAY 27TH

Indus School will be having another Health Fair on Thursday, May 27th. We are excited that our students are able to take part in this fun-filled day of learning. This year, we will be learning about dental health, circuit

training and exercise, healthy eating and nutrition, and we are hoping to bring in Internet safety as well. These sessions will be held in the morning. In the afternoon, each of the Phys Ed classes will be taught by a certi-

fied yoga instructor. We will also have the Cooking/Foods class prepare a healthy treat for students to enjoy at lunch time.

Parents are welcome to attend the morning sessions which will run from 8:50 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

EMS – WHERE WE TURN WHEN WE NEED HELP

The month of April has been very busy for the Grade 4 students, particularly in Math. We have been working hard on the concept that so many students find tricky - DIVISION! We explored what division actually is, and came to the realization that division is both repeatedly subtracting and breaking into groups. As well, we practiced our basic division facts. But



the really interesting part came when we started looking at dividing bigger numbers by a single digit number, in other words, what old school students know as long division. The

concept inspired fear in us, but then we figured out whom to call, and it was EMS to the rescue. The students started calling it Emergency Math Services, but what it really stands for is "Estimate, Multiply, and Subtract," and by using this strategy, the Grade 4 Math students are experiencing ever-increasing success with dividing bigger numbers.

THE FISHBOWL INHABITANTS HEAD WEST!

On Tuesday, April 20, the Grade 6 class went to Kamp Kiwanis in Bragg Creek. About 40 students from Mount View joined our school. It was an amazing adventure. After a chaotic start to the morning and a short hour on the bus, Indus arrived! The bus was quickly unloaded and students headed to their respective cabins to lay out their belongings on the "comfy" beds. Supper that evening was meatballs and rice. There seemed to be a comical story involving these sweet and sour morsels, according to many of our boys. The food for the rest of the week was super, although many of us may have an aversion to watermelon for a while. Shortly after dinner we headed

to campfire, ironically without the fire due to a fire ban. We listened to songs and stories and had a chance to do the entertaining on Wednesday. *Baby Shark* was definitely the hit of the week. Our adventure was filled with many activities, such as the Animal Game, a game of predator versus prey. Magic spot was a unanimous favorite for both schools. Quiet time with a sketch book in an amazing setting was a time for reflection and appreciation.

On Wednesday, there was a half day hike. Students had to decide what kind of challenge they wanted: easy to difficult. All students were active by day and very tired by bedtime, although

Ms. Hart and Mrs. Cori had to be the hammer for a few students who seemed to get a second wind after 9pm. Some had more wind than others!

The end of the week came quickly. When it was time to leave, students were filled with mixed feelings. We had met many new friends, had lots of great food, experienced new challenges, but yet were excited to go home to our families. Outdoor School has created lots of great memories for everyone.

Thank you to all those who contributed in any way, big or small. Without your support we would not have made it to Kamp Kiwanis!

GRADE 5 - THE AMAZING AND GROSS WORLD OF SCIENCE

This month the Grade 5 students began to explore organic changes. They are looking at states of matter and changes that occur due to chemical reactions. They have enjoyed looking at how liquids and solids interact with one another, like when you put tea leaves in hot

water, and what happens when matter changes state. However, their favourite part of the unit so far involves what organic changes take place when food is left exposed to air. The resulting molds have been an undeniable attraction in our room, as everyday they get a little bit more dis-

gusting to look at, and yet that much more compelling. The students are starting to get an idea about what happens when they leave their lunches in their lunch kits for a little too long.

LIBRARY NEWS

Used Book Sale

It's that time of year again, for our annual used book sale! It will take place on the **afternoon of Thursday, June 17**. If you are spring cleaning and have books your family no longer uses, please send them to school for

our sale. The books will be set-up in the Gym. All students will have the opportunity to purchase books that day for the bargain price of just .25¢ each!

There will also be an adult fiction section, so parents are invited to shop as well.

This is a great way for everyone to get something to read for the summer.

All proceeds will be donated to a charity (TBA).

PHILOSOPHER IN RESIDENCE

During the week of May 17th, we will have a *Philosopher in Residence*. The program is brand-new and we will be the first school to participate. John Simpson, along with a grad student, will be our philosopher for

the week. As it stands, John will visit each classroom four times (about 45 minutes each) over the course of the week. While in the class, he will work with the students using books from the *Philosophy for Children* series. For

the first lesson or two, he will provide instruction. Following that, the idea is for the teacher and the philosopher to co-facilitate.

Global Television's, Gil Tucker, may be coming out to film parts of the program.

GRADE 1 - IN THE MONEY

The grade 1s have now completed their geometry and measurement units. All students were very successful and have become experts in measuring and finding 3D shapes within the classroom.

Our next unit will be on money. Our focus will be what each coin is worth as well as adding

money together to find totals. We have started this unit with a few interesting questions and comments about money, including:

- "Why does money have animals on it?"

- "Why are things so expensive?"

- "The Queen of England is on our

money!"

We are looking forward to opening up a classroom store and learning how to pay for items using various combinations of change.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AND UPCOMING IN GRADE 3?

The Grade 3 class is finishing up a unit on Animal Life Cycles in Science and a unit in Measurement in Mathematics. During the science unit, students learned about animal classification. They learned a lot of interesting facts about a variety of animals. After learning how to take notes, they created interesting sentences about each animal's appearance, eating habits, life cycle, and their animal classification. We will be moving on to a new unit on Rocks and Minerals.

Learning about measurement has also been an exciting unit for us. Students had the opportunity to see how they measure up in height in relation to the rest of their classmates. They used a variety of strategies to prove that shapes, although they may be different, can still have the same perimeter as one another. We

have now started two new units: Fractions and Multiplication/Division. Students are taking home four fact cards a day

and are finding a variety of ways to multiply and divide those fact families. It's amazing how many strategies they come up with to

come to the same answer!

A note from Clarissa: "We are learning that multiplication is just groups of different numbers added up together to get an answer."

A note from Marla: "We learned that you can use your arm span to measure a metre."



BUSSING FOR 2010—2011 SCHOOL YEAR

Just a reminder that students who did not ride the bus during this current school year, must register for school bus transportation (including new Kindergarten

students). Applications will be available on the Rocky View Schools website (www.rockyview.ab.ca) after June 1st, 2010.

Please see Page 8 of this newsletter for more details about bus registration, and the *First Ride Program*.

PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Rocky View Schools second annual Parent Satisfaction Survey is now available for completion through Rocky View's public website (www.rockyview.ab.ca) under "Our Jurisdiction/Satisfaction Survey).

Parents have until May 31, 2010, to help Rocky View and its 34

schools shape their future by providing feedback into the jurisdiction's progress towards achieving the goals and outcomes outlined in its 2009-2012 Three Year Plan.

The survey contains 21 questions and will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

Results of the survey will be published in our School Annual Report in November 2010, and be used to shape our decisions around the delivery of services to your child.

Please help us pave the way to meeting your child's educational needs.

GRADE 7 — HISTORY IN 90 SECONDS

Grade 7 students have begun learning how to tell the history of Canada in 90 seconds. Through having the hand actions and main events summarized in this manner, they are creating an understanding of our unique history that they will remember for a long time. Parents are encouraged to bug the students daily to show their building history lesson. The more it is reviewed, the more it becomes second nature! After

the next pillar of our history entitled, *Confrontations*, we will be returning to Science to study *Heat and Temperature*.

Have you ever been amazed at how few young adults know what the Holocaust is? Well, here at Indus School, Grade 7 students know because they have been reading a novel entitled, *Daniel's Story*. This amazing novel describes the journey of one young Jewish boy who is

watching the Holocaust unfold before him. He remembers each step of his journey through pictures, both actual photographs and those within his mind. Students have begun to integrate this story with *Philosophy for Children* discussions as they discuss how we know when an act is right or wrong. It is not always as simple as following rules.

GRADE 2 - BOATS AND BUOYANCY

This month we have been very busy in Grade 2! We are studying Boats and Buoyancy in Science, and we are conducting different experiments to enhance our learning. We are constructing our own boats using a variety of materials, and we are learning what makes things sink and float.

In writing, we are beginning to write outlines of fictional stories, and the creativity in Grade 2 is amazing! We are also using many of these same writing strategies to increase our reading comprehension in many fictional books that we read.

In Math, the students have worked very hard at applying the different methods learned to adding and subtracting double-digit numbers. They are developing the ability to do more mental math and think critically about the problems that they are given.



FUNDRAISING FOR AIRDRIE FIRE VICTIMS

A reminder that students will be able to wear their hats throughout the school days on April 30, May 7 and May 14, 2010, provided they make a \$2.00 dona-

tion per hat-wearing day. These funds will be given to three Rocky View Schools families who recently lost their homes in the April 20, 2010 fire. All other do-

nations may be forwarded straight to the office. These efforts will take place until May 19, 2010. We thank all those who can help!

LITERACY AND NUMERACY CENTRES IN KINDERGARTEN

Literacy centres make words, letters, numbers, sounds, writing, and reading fun! In Kindergarten, centres are used to actively engage children in literacy and numeracy. Through self-directed activities students develop a sense of autonomy and are highly motivated through their own curiosity to observe, explore, discover, create, investigate and experiment with math and language. Centres give children a chance to reinforce their learning while practicing intellectual skills from all levels of Bloom's

Taxonomy. They love to sort, match, order, classify and construct using magnetic letters and numbers, wooden shapes and blocks, playdough and play dough. Students enjoy dressing up as a word detective with clip boards, hats and pointers on a quest for

words to read or write. They compose, create, and design a card for Mommy or a friend. They apply their learning through card games such as *Alphabet Go Fish*, *Memory* or

and reading using the computer, or *Leap Frog*. Some students prefer hands on activities such as making patterned necklaces, which improves fine motor development. Centres reach the different learning

styles in the classroom with our *Hop Scotch* appealing to the kinesthetic learner, while the interpersonal learner is drawn to surveying classmates and then graphing the results. Oral language expression is developed as the children tell stories and sing nursery rhymes using felt board characters and puppets. Centres challenge students at varying academic levels, interests and learning styles and

provide the opportunity to try something

new. For some students, the best part is having the chance to make their own choices and then sharing what they have learned with the rest of the group.



Rebecca and Claire @ our "Write Around the Room" centre.

Rhyme Time and exercise visual discrimination while manipulating puzzles or reading *Where's Waldo?* Centres may be high tech, utilizing headphones to quietly listen to a story or reinforce letter sounds

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Junior B Basketball

Our first season of Basketball wrapped up on Friday, April 16th. We are proud of both of our teams for the effort that they



put into their games. What a challenging and interesting experience it was to participate in three tournaments against large, experienced middle schools.

We will have a pizza party wind-up lunch next week.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Our Grades 3 and 6 students will be writing Provincial Achievement Tests beginning in May. All tests will be written from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. The schedule is as follows:

May 11 - Gr. 3 Eng. Language Arts A
May 12 - Gr. 6 Eng. Language Arts A

June 15 - Gr. 3 Eng. Language Arts B
- Gr. 6 Social Studies
June 16 - Gr. 6 Eng. Language Arts B
June 17 - Gr. 3 Math B
- Gr. 6 Math B
June 18 - Gr. 6 Science

INDUS SCHOOL PUBLIC CALENDAR ON THE WEB SITE

You can now view an up-to-date Indus School calendar at <http://plone.rockyview.ab.ca/indus>. You will find the calendar on the Home page. For further details on a particular entry,

please click on it. All day events, such as holidays, Philosopher in Residence, etc. will appear at the top of that day. We hope this will help to keep parents more informed of daily activities at the

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 11 Gr. 3 ELA Provincial Achievement Test (PAT)
Hot Lunch—Salads
May 12 Gr. 6 ELA PAT
May 17- Philosopher in Residence
21 Education Week
May 18 Kindergarten Parent Orientation Meeting (for 2010-11 year)
May 21 **NO SCHOOL**—PL Day
May 24 **HOLIDAY**—Victoria Day
May 25 Hot Lunch—Subs
May 26 Council Executive Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Council General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
May 27 Health Fair All Day

school. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 403-936-5855.

THE BACKPACK DILEMMA: FUNCTION VS. FASHION

The following excerpts are taken from *Dynamic Chiropractic*—September 1, 2005, Vol. 23, Issue 18

Chiropractors, pediatricians and orthopedic surgeons alike agree that backpacks are a problem for a child's spine. While a backpack alone may not cause major problems, overloading and improper carrying of a backpack can lead to headaches, neck, shoulder, and lower back pain.

How heavy is too heavy? Do your parent patients know that their 60 pound child should be limited to carrying no more than 9 pounds; the 80 pound child, 12 pounds; and the 100 pound pre-adolescent, no more than 15 pounds?

How can parents lighten the load?

It is important to have parents weigh their child's backpack at least once a week. If it exceeds the "15 percent" rule of their child's weight, the parents should be encouraged to work with their child to evaluate his or her backpack and determine how to "lighten the load."

Proper loading and carrying. The heaviest items should rest against the back, which means loading them first and attempting to distribute the weight evenly. The only proper way to carry a backpack is with both straps over the shoulders and the backpack resting against the lower back.

Function vs Fashion. Encourage parents to meet a few criteria when choosing a better functional backpack: First, that the backpack fit

properly (not too long or too short); and second, that it have wide, padded, adjustable straps (for proper positioning on the back). A third option is to look for a backpack with a hip strap or lumbar pillow. When shopping, parents should consider that the more support features on the backpack they buy, the less spinal stress their child will carry.

Are roller bags the solution? Although one might think that the roller bag would be the answer to the problem...it should be noted that an empty roller bag may weight up to 80 percent more than an empty backpack. Furthermore, these bags run larger, inviting the owner to overload the extra space as much as 50 pounds.

*** IMPORTANT ***
SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION FOR
2010 – 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

All Urban students residing in the City of Airdrie, Town of Chestermere or Town of Cochrane are required to purchase bus passes annually. Bus pass applications will be available on our website after June 15, 2010. To ensure bus service in September, bus passes must be purchased prior to **July 31, 2010**. Children must have a bus pass to ride an urban bus either to or from school.

New Rural students, who are students that do not reside in the Towns of Cochrane, and Chestermere or The City of Airdrie, and did not ride during the 2009-10 school year, must register for school bus transportation. Applications will be available on our website 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.**

We encourage you to register for your annual **Urban bus pass or your new Rural** student online via the Transportation website at www.rockyview.ab.ca.

***If you are unable to register via the internet, you may use one of the following two options:**

- Picked up at any school prior to their summer closing and submitted to the Rocky View School Division Transportation Department by mail or fax.
- Picked up directly at the Rocky View Schools, Education Centre. We accept cash, cheques, VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Debit.
- **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED BUS SERVICE FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF SCHOOL OR UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO PROCESS THE APPLICATION.**
- **Students attending AM or PM kindergarten will be transported one way only.**
- **FEES WILL NOT BE PRO-RATED FOR USING THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE OCCASIONALLY OR FOR PART OF THE YEAR.**

****Rocky View Schools offer a free “FIRST RIDE PROGRAM” for first time bus riders and their parents. Information on this fun program is available on our website @ www.rockyview.ab.ca**

If you have any transportation questions please call:

Carla @ 1-403-945-4104 for **Rural** busing in Chestermere, Indus, Langdon, Cochrane, Bearspaw and Westbrook Schools

Todd @ 1-403-945-4102 for **Special Needs Transportation** for all areas.

If your child requires one of the following **transportation** services listed below in place of Urban or Rural busing, contact the appropriate person for your area prior to July 31 to avoid delays in busing.

Duplicate Busing

- For students accessing a school bus from more than one location to accommodate shared custody. Both parents will be invoiced for busing from each parent's location. Families must re-apply each year.

Alternate Busing

- For students who require transportation from a location in place of their home. Families must re-apply each year.

Out of Area/Non-Resident

- For students who reside outside of the school division or for **Busing** students attending outside of the attendance area in which they reside. **If space is available**, students must access an existing stop and reapply each year with payment.