

# Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today  
Parent Newsletter

October 2009

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## Our Mission

**The purpose of Indus School is to build in students a multifaceted foundation to carry them successfully through life.**

## EDUCATIONAL CONCEPTS, BY CHAEL WYPER

Leonardo Da Vinci; Florence Nightingale; Henry Ford. All famous for their innovation, creative problem solving, and refusal to accept that things were good enough the way they were. Despite living between 60 and 500 years ago, these people were all archetypes of the skilled 21<sup>st</sup> century citizen.

The cornerstones of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are:

**Inventive thinking** ~ In a fast changing world, adaptability, self-direction, curiosity, creativity, analytical thinking, risk-taking, and the ability to manage complexity are crucial;

**Effective communication** ~ networks, teams and global connectivity require top rate interpersonal skills, teamwork, collaborating, and personal, along with social and civic, responsibility;

**Digital-age literacy** ~ beyond having strong basics in reading and writing, digital litera-

cies include visual, scientific, mathematical, multicultural, technological and economic literacy, being able to reason and discern the quality of information in all of these fields;

**High productivity** ~ increasing global competition requires people who can prioritize, plan, manage for results, and use cutting edge tools to produce relevant, high-quality products.

To teach these skills, we must redefine essential education. The Three R's become the Five R's: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Reasoning and Relationships. Engagement is no longer a result of intolerable alternatives, but a by-product of active interest in authentic assignments. The skills of learning to discover (and determine the value of) information becomes more important than the information itself, and above all,

every child must be grounded in basic skills, making the very most of their individual potential.

The transformation of our current schools to the schools of the future is an exciting, at times frustrating, occasionally scary, journey into uncharted territory. Much has been written about the ideals of new schools; few schools have achieved those ideals. Yet. Fortunately, Rocky View Schools has embraced the future and, through partnerships with world renowned groups such as Franklin Covey and the Metiri Group, is supporting our schools in the quest to raise a generation of children that, though they may not invent the assembly line, modernize the field of medicine, or invent everything from helicopters to unbreachable doorways, would make Ford, Nightingale, and even Da Vinci, proud.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

We have lots happening in the library this fall. Thanks to our school adding grade 7 (and eventually 8 and 9) we have received \$10,000 worth of new books for the library!! If you can spare an hour or two to help me

get these shelf-ready, I would really appreciate it! Call me!

It's Book Fair time! Our *Galaxy of Books* will take place October 19-22, including the evenings of Tuesday October 20 and Wednesday, October 21. Watch

for detailed info coming home with your child.

Parents and preschoolers in our community are welcome to borrow books from our library. Just pop in and see me!

## GRADE 2 NEWS

The Grade 2's have been busy learning about Fall and apples! We had taste-tests to determine what our favourite kind of apple is—most of us love the Granny Smiths. Yummy!

In Math, we have been learning

about patterns and how to make them and find them in the world around us.

We have also been busy learning what an acrostic poem is, and we each wrote our own poem using the word *AUTUMN* as our topic.

They are posted in our hallway so come by and check out what the Fall season means to us!

## POWERFUL ELECTRICAL DEVICES?

If you are looking for the newest and most efficient electrical devices, then take a close look in Mrs. Pedersen's Grade 5 classroom. Our students have been applying their considerable knowledge of electrical circuits and magnetism to bring you the devices that you might need.

Closed circuits, open circuits, powerful magnets! If you need it, they've designed it, just for you! So check out our advertisements, or look for our billboards, which are posted around the classroom, for our available products. You can

shop with confidence, knowing you are in good hands. Please don't forget to ask our science experts for other ways you can save electricity and money using our special devices.



## YOU CAN'T CATCH ME I'M THE GINGERBREAD MAN!

September is such a busy month in the Kindergarten!! It is a major adjustment for many of the little ones as even a tour of the school becomes a rousing adventure in finding the Gingerbread Man. Mrs. McKearney kindly assisted us, and interrupted our story to exclaim that



she saw the Gingerbread Man racing toward the gym! The children were eager to pursue him and earnestly tried to decipher the clues left behind by this illusive story character. Their quest led them to all

areas of the school and they met Indus students and staff members along the way. What excitement when we found the Gingerbread Man in the library! When we brought him back to the Kindergarten room he had 13 friends waiting for him, ready to be decorated. We eventually finished our story and then re-told it many times using our felt board during literacy centers and of course ate our gingerbread cookies!

## GRADE 7 NEWS

During this first month of school, students in the Grade 7 classroom have enjoyed exploring "Lisa," a novel in the *Philosophy for Children* series. This program helps our students develop logical reasoning and ethical decision making skills. They have developed difficult questions to answer. Students spend time discussing these questions and then writing about them in journal entries at the end of a week. This program will con-

tinue throughout the year.

In October, we will be spending our time in English Language Arts studying and writing "Spooky Stories". Students have begun practicing their descriptive language and are currently writing paragraphs which focus on a character from each story studied. In Social Studies, we are doing an inquiry project which involves creating a two minute informative presentation on one of three First Peoples Nations.

In our Math 7 class, we are currently finishing our first unit on developing number sense. In October, we will be moving into working with the addition and subtraction of fractions. Students will be encouraged to develop mathematical rules for fraction operations through experimentation and exploration which helps them better internalize their learning.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS—OCTOBER 15

Today your child will bring home a flyer from Lifetouch. Parents are asked to choose the pose and background colour for

the pictures. **Students then bring the form back to school on picture day and hand it to the cameraman.**

Pictures will be taken on October 15th. Retakes are scheduled for November 17th.



## GRADE 1 NEWS

The Grade 1 students have been hard at work this new school year learning letter sounds and blends. In Math they have explored various ways to create patterns by using shapes, colours, numbers and stickers, as well as sorting objects by colour, shape, size and texture.

Recently, we have begun to work on various ways to add to numbers 1-20. In learning this we hope to begin to start putting numbers into number sen-

tences or simple math equations. The grade 1s have also enjoyed various art activities this school year, their favourite being the autumn trees



that they created using their arms and fingers!

## MEDICALERT

The MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at our school. The program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is

required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical

condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the school office for a brochure, or visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca).

If your child is already part of the No Child Without program, and

## FROM THE HALLS OF PARLIAMENT

Students in Mr. Pedersen's Grade 4 classroom took time out of their busy days to practice a skill that many of our politicians can't seem to master, the art of a skillful debate. Recognizing the difference between a debate and arguing is difficult to understand, but Grade 4 students did an admirable job when they debated whether fossils should be kept by the finder or turned in to a museum. Thinking through their point of view on the subject and formulating a logical and persuasive argument al-

lowed students to engage in an informed and civil debate. Watch out Ottawa!



## GRADE 3 NEWS

The Grade 3s are having a blast in our current Language Arts and Science units. Retelling stories and sharing them with the class has allowed them to gain confidence in their writing abilities. By recording keywords in a new brainstorming format, students are able to record the basic elements of a familiar story, and then they begin to embellish their ideas to make the stories their own. These young authors are encouraged to be creative and to use descriptive language. They are using their knowledge of the five senses to engage their readers in the

story. They are also using adjectives to ensure that people who read their stories can create visuals of the story characters and to envision their story's setting. As individuals, they have each written their own version of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and each story demonstrates unique and creative ideas. We will be publishing a copy of these stories in our school library shortly!

In our current science unit, *Building with a Variety of Materials*, we have been experimenting with an assortment of recycled materials to make various

household items. So far, students have built a vase that is stable enough to hold five paper flowers. Videos of the students explaining their designs will be available for viewing on the school webpage soon.

Our next few projects will require the students to expand their building skills and further develop their knowledge of proper building techniques. As you can see, students are learning to work together and how important it is to have a strong foundation when you are building!

## TERRY FOX RUN

Another successful Terry Fox Run was held on Friday, September 25th, with all students, many staff members, parents and preschoolers taking part.

***Congratulations*** Indus students! You raised a grand total of \$3,108.00. This is approximately \$500.00 more than you raised last year!



## ROCKY VIEW TRACK AND FIELD MEET

Congratulations to the Grade 7 students who attended the Divisional Track Meet in Airdrie on

October 1st. It was our first official sporting event as a middle school, and we did very well.

A HUGE thank-you to the athletes for representing Indus School in a respectful and courteous manner. We are proud of you!

## WELCOME TO THE GRADE 6 FISH BOWL!

We have finally settled into our temporary digs! Affectionately known as "Critter Town", the computer room will serve as our classroom until we move into our portable. September has come and gone in a whirlwind with timetables and teacher changes. As of October, Mr. Wyper will be teaching

Grade 6 Math and all day Fridays.

Students have been using their observation skills to explore the world of evidence and investigations in Science. It may be necessary to put their skills to the test, as a possible plot to steal Ms. Hart's chocolate has been uncovered. Although Ms.

Hart is confident her chocolate is safe, she knows her students have the ability to solve the crime, if and when needed.

Stay tuned for the conclusion of Ms. Hart's chocolate dilemma, as well as exciting developments in our new Social Studies unit of democracy and where it all began!

## MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL NURSE—FLU AND H1N1 VACCINES

The following is a Government of Alberta News Release dated October 1, 2009:

### **Alberta to start regular flu vaccine program in October**

#### ***H1N1 vaccine to follow mid-November***

*Edmonton...* On October 13, the province will begin a two-part process to immunize Albertans against influenza through immunization clinics across the province.

The immunization program will begin with seasonal influenza immunization aimed at high-risk groups, and shift to universal Pandemic H1N1 influenza immunization as soon as that vaccine is available, likely in mid-November.

"Immunization against influenza will be our best defense this fall," said Minister of Health and Wellness Ron Liepert. "The province, Alberta Health Services and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada are working closely together to protect Albertans against regular flu, and H1N1 flu. I'll be getting immunized against H1N1 and I encourage all Albertans to do

the same to protect themselves, their families and friends."

Alberta Health Services will be delivering the seasonal vaccine to seniors and others living in continuing care and designated assisted living settings. All other seniors can attend clinics across the province to receive their immunization. Pregnant women, children six months to 23 months old, and adults and older children at high risk of developing more severe illness can also receive the seasonal influenza vaccine through these clinics.

Seasonal influenza immunization will stop as soon as the Pandemic H1N1 vaccine becomes available in November. Clinics will then begin immunizing all Albertans over six months of age against H1N1. High-risk groups are encouraged to get their immunization early.

"As H1N1 is expected to be the most prevalent strain of the influenza virus this year, we will be focusing our efforts on providing that vaccine to as many Albertans as possible, as soon

as it is available," said Dr. André Corriveau, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. "We will target high-risk groups who can be more susceptible to serious complications related to flu with both the seasonal influenza and Pandemic H1N1 vaccines."

"To make the best use of public health resources, and immunize as many people as quickly as possible, we will be delivering both vaccines in mass immunization clinics," said Dr. Gerry Predy, Senior Medical Officer of Health for Alberta Health Services. "This will be a change from previous years for some individuals. We are asking everyone to check the Alberta Health Services website, or call Health Link Alberta for information on clinics in their community."

For detailed information on locations and times of influenza immunization clinics near you, or to find out more information about high-risk groups that will receive priority immunization, visit [www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca) or [www.healthlinkalberta.ca](http://www.healthlinkalberta.ca), or call Health Link Alberta in Edmonton at 780-408-5465, in Calgary at 403-943-5465, or toll free at 1-866-408-5465.



## NUT FREE SCHOOL

Just a reminder that it is a goal of Indus School to be *Nut-Free* and we need your help. We would appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that no

food products containing nuts or nut derivatives come to school, especially in light of the Hallowe'en treats that will soon be available.

## SAVE YOUR PUMPKINS

Once again, Indus School will be holding its *Annual Pumpkin Fling* on November 2nd, so

please save your jack-o'-lanterns and pumpkins.

## PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and on

Wednesday, October 21st, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Interviews will last for 15 minutes unless prior

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 8 Kindergarten field trip to Butterfield Acres
- Oct. 9 NO SCHOOL—PL Day
- Oct. 12 HOLIDAY
- Oct. 13 to 14 Tyrell Museum Gr. 4 & 5
- Oct. 14 Hep. B & HPD Shots Gr. 5
- Oct. 15 School Photos
- Oct. 19 to 22 Book Fair
- Oct. 20 Hot Lunch
- Oct. 20 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Oct. 21 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Oct. 26 NO SCHOOL—PL Day
- Oct. 30 Hallowe'en Costume Parade

arrangements are made. If you would like to make an appointment with your child's teacher,

## PARENT CURRICULUM HANDBOOKS

The 2009/2010 Curriculum Handbooks for Parents, Curriculum Summaries and the Curriculum Express for Parents, Kindergarten to Grade 3 are now available in both digital and print format on Alberta Education's website.

Updated on an annual basis, the Curriculum Handbooks for Parents offer in-depth information about what students are expected to learn at each grade level of the curriculum; the Curriculum Summaries provide concise grade-at-a-glance information; and the Curriculum Express

for Parents gives a short explanation of the curriculum for parents who are English language learners.

*These resources are available in English and French on the Education website at [www.education.alberta.ca/parent](http://www.education.alberta.ca/parent)*

## BOW VALLEY (INDUS) JUNIOR CURLING LEAGUE

Attention boys and girls, ages 8 to 18. Registration and first night is November 4th from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the Bow Valley (Indus) Curling Rink. Come and try Canada's other great national sport!

- Wednesday nights 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.
- Registration fee is \$50.00
- Kids come dressed for the ice?
- We provide shoes, you supply the

- broom.
  - Curling clinic November 14th.
- For more information, contact Laurie Jamieson at 403-936-5867 or Sue Lefebvre at 403-936-5994.