

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

April 2011

Volume 11, Issue 4

Student Count 205

Inside this issue:

Grade 1	2
Grade 7	2
Grade 4	2
Grade 5	3
Grade 6	3
Grade 2	4
Kindergarten	5
Grade 3	5
Grade 8	6

Our Mission

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

MENO'S PARADOX

There are times when the world doesn't seem to make sense, and inquiring into matters, in an attempt to figure things out, can make them even more confusing. This was as true in the days of the ancient Greeks as it is today. In one recorded conversation from 2500 years ago, a gentleman named Meno, in conversation with the great philosopher Socrates, presented the following paradox regarding the value of inquiry.

1. *If you know what you're looking for, inquiry is unnecessary.*

2. *If you don't know what you're looking for, inquiry is impossible.*

*Therefore, inquiry is either unnecessary or impossible.*¹

Of course, the flaw in Meno's logic is easy to see: one seldom knows everything, or nothing, about a topic, proving inquiry is both necessary and possible (especially now with

the internet). It is possible, however, to extend Meno's paradox a bit, and use it as an argument in favour of building a broad base of knowledge in our students. Simply put, if you don't have a certain amount of knowledge on a subject, it is impossible to *appreciate* new knowledge on that topic. For instance, reading about the experiment at the LBN Laboratory that resulted in the creation of two element-114 atoms means nothing to most of us. One has to understand what elements are, the fact that they are not normally created, and that this was the result of decades of work to fully appreciate the magnitude of the discovery. Without that prior knowledge, it probably won't be something we care much about. Thus without a certain amount of knowledge on a topic, we can't appreciate new

information, and without an appreciation for information on a topic, we are unlikely to pursue it long enough to learn about it. The dilemma continues. Faced with this struggle, educators attempt to build on existing student knowledge and curriculums follow a 'spiral' pattern. Topics are taught year after year, or every few years, with greater breadth and depth each time. Often, students will complain, "We learned this last year," when a topic is first broached. While it may seem like they are being set up for boredom, it is actually an intentional strategy to help build greater understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

¹ <http://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/menopar.htm>

BUILDING IN GRADE 1

The Grade 1 class has been working on our *Building Things* unit in Science. We have had a lot of fun constructing different things out of a variety of materials. The students are learning how to make structures stand

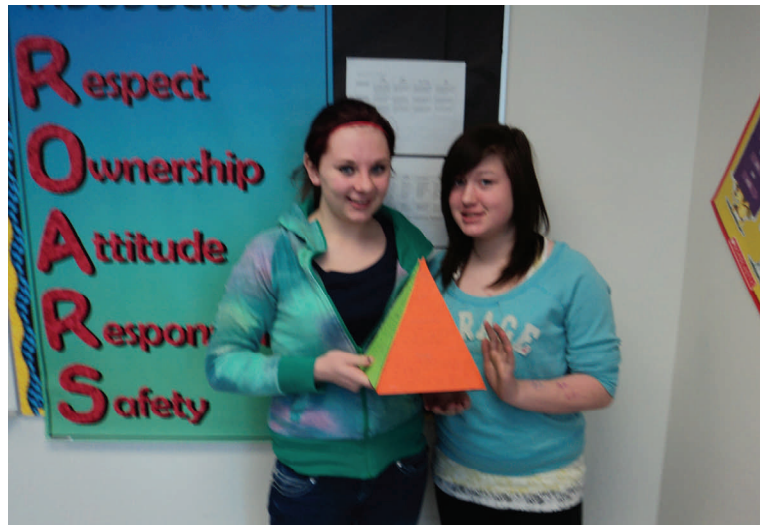
on their own and they are experimenting on the various materials that help make their creations sturdy and strong. We have been working in groups using things like magnets, decks of cards, and connectors to build

things. The students' creativity and knowledge has really shined through during this unit and I think we may have some future architects in our class!

HIERARCHIES AND WRESTLING IN GRADE 7

The Grade 7s have finished their hierarchy assignments, where they imagined that they had the responsibility of setting up the social structure for an emerging colony. They were very creative, and demonstrated the titles and responsibilities for the different classes of people.

The Grade 7s have also been progressing through a wrestling unit in P.E. Some highlights from this unit have included leg wrestling, wrist control, and sumo-style wrestling. The students are having a great time with it!



MAD SCIENCE VISITS GRADE 4

On March 22, a special visitor from *Mad Science* joined our Grade 4 classroom. Palaeontology was his speciality. To the delight of all, he brought fossils which the students could examine closely. Then he challenged the students to act as archaeologists on a dig. Groups of students imitated how careful palaeontologists must be on an actual dig. With small instruments, they delicately brushed

away sand to discover various bones of a dinosaur. The challenge then became to try to put the bones in their proper place in order to form a skeleton of a specific dinosaur. After this, each student was given the opportunity to paint a model of a T-Rex tooth. As a memory of this wonderful experience, students were able to each take this tooth home. Carefully, each student wrapped his/her tooth in tissue

protecting this prized delicate fossil. Throughout the presentation, students impressed our guest with their background knowledge of dinosaurs. Perhaps we have a few future palaeontologists within this class. They certainly live in the right province to pursue this dream.

ELECTRICIANS IN GRADE 5

How does electricity work? The Grade 5 students have been exploring electric currents by constructing series and parallel circuits during our *Electricity and Magnetism* unit in Science. They have learned about the flow of electrons and have been working in groups to figure out how to make light bulbs light using an energy source, wires and switches. They have applied what they are learning about electricity to explore electrical safety as well as circuits in their own homes. The Grade 5 students will continue to learn more about conductors and insulators as well as making electromagnets. We use electricity every day. Be sure to keep up with electricity by visiting the

interactive websites found on Miss Mikkelsen's website!



NEWS FROM P.E.A.K.

March really came in like a lion! PEAK has seen a flurry of activity with the construction that has been taking place in our room over the past month! A new room has been partitioned off of

our room. This addition will be used for small group work and instruction, individual activities, and sensory techniques for children with autism. The construction is complete, and therefore,

March has gone out as a lamb. Our world is, once again, in order! Please drop in to say hello and check out the new room!

MUNCHKINS MOTOR THROUGH MARCH INTO APRIL

April brings a whirlwind of things to the Grade 6s. We will be putting the final details in place for Outdoor School, including an evening parent meeting and a classroom visit from *Kamp* staff. Permission forms and finalized details were sent home Monday. Please return required items to school ASAP.

April is also the month of formalized practice for our Provincial Achievement Tests. We will be looking at released test items from past years, story and newspaper writing formats, and online practice tests. Please see the schedule below for the tests scheduled in May and June.

Wednesday, May 18: Language Arts Part A (writing)
 Tuesday, June 14: Social Studies
 Wednesday, June 15: Language Arts Part B (reading)
 Thursday, June 16: Math
 Friday, June 17: Science

MAD SCIENTIST IN GRADE 2

On March 21st a *Mad Scientist* visited our class. Currently in Science, we are learning about hot and cold temperatures. With this in mind, the Mad Scientist showed us how atoms move in the different phases of matter. The children were atoms in a solid and were packed really close together. He added heat and they start to vibrate. Then they



loosened and moved apart. Next they turned into a liquid. With more heat, they moved around even more and become a gas. His next demonstration was with dry ice. We learned that dry ice is the solid form of carbon dioxide. When it is added to soapy water, it will make soap bubbles. He ended his demonstration by making fog by dumping dry ice into a bucket of warm water. The children were able to feel how cold the fog was and how quickly

temperature changed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BADMINTON

Badminton season is nearing and we are currently looking for a coach for the Grade 7&8 team. There will be one divisional tour-

namment, held on Saturday, May 14th. Practices will take place mid April until May 14th. Anyone interested in coaching, please con-

tact Mrs. Goll at pgoll@rockyview.ab.ca

JR. B BOYS BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the Jr. B Boys Basketball team for their exemplary play, teamwork and im-

proved skills on the court. Although we got off to a slow start, the parents commented

that their final game was as exciting as any final could be. We look forward to next year's season.

JR. B GIRLS BASKETBALL

A HUGE congratulations to our Jr. B Girls basketball team. They finished their season, undefeated, on Friday at Prince of Peace School.



We are extremely proud of the way the girls represented Indus School.



Thank you to all the parents and staff members who came out to cheer us on.

Way to go girls!

FUN WITH PATTERNS IN KINDERGARTEN

Our world is full of patterns and the kindergarten students have been on a quest to find, copy, extend and create their own patterns. Studying patterns helps us solve problems and can be found in nature or in manmade designs. Five year olds love to transpose visual patterns into movement and sound and use different colours, sizes, shapes, letters, numbers, play dough, stencils, beads, instruments, toy animals and dinosaurs to create their own patterns! Watch for our patterned necklaces coming home soon.



MAD SCIENCE MADNESS IN GRADE 3!

For our new *Rocks and Minerals* unit, the Grade 3s had a special visitor, Lunar Lauren, from the Mad Science Organization who came to talk to the students about rocks, minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. The students created their own volcanoes out of vinegar, dish detergent and baking soda. They identified different rocks and minerals and were even given their own samples to take home.

They also got to pretend to be archeologists which was a lot of fun. Some even found shark teeth! What a great experience we had in Grade 3!



CALGARY YOUTH SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to Camila and Lauren in Grade 6! Their science project, *Bottle Jazz*, won them a silver medal overall, as well as the *Terry Allen Special Merit*

Award for an outstanding elementary project not receiving another major award.

We are very proud of you, Camila and Lauren. In addition to the

medals and trophy, the girls also received sizeable cash prizes.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair I am typing this as we are about to begin our Spring Book Fair – Grow with a Great Book!! By the time you read this, I am sure we will have another hugely successful book fair in the record books! Once again, thank you to our amazing Indus families for the support of literacy.

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! Congratulations to the Grade 4, 5 and 6 students who have done so well in their *Reading – Give it a Shot!* program and earned Calgary Flames bookmarks. I have extended the finish date until April 21 for students to finish earning their bookmarks, so keep reading!

The next Book Event will be our annual Used Book Sale in June. If you are spring cleaning and have books in good shape with

which you are finished, 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!

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.

THE SPOKEN WORD - GRADE 8

“Poetry? I hate writing poetry!”

This is what we often hear from students in middle school when the subject of poetry is brought up. Sure, there are a few who love it, but usually, students shy away from writing poetry. We have started discussing the idea of *Spoken Word Poetry*, however, and some students are coming around to the thought.

During the month of April, students in Grade 8 ELA will be learning a different kind of poetry called *Spoken Word Poetry*.

This type of poetry allows adolescents to delve into who they are and how they relate to the world. For some, the idea of standing up and delivering oral poetry is a huge battle, but as a class we will be working on both creating this type of poetry and working through the roadblocks that presenting can cause. Hopefully, if all goes well, the Grade 8 students will be willing to do a presentation evening where parents will be invited.

Should you wish to examine an example and explanation of *Spoken Word Poetry* please visit the following links:

http://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_kay_if_i_should_have_a_daughter.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYQtXpluR6U>

Please ask your child about their ELA classes in April and join us on our *Spoken Word* journey.

PITCH-IN WEEK—APRIL 18-21

The first annual *Operation Pitch-In Week* will be happening at Indus School **April 18th through 21st**. This fun-filled week will focus on understanding that we all play an important role in protecting and conserving our environment. Each day will begin with an interesting fact over the morning announcements. The

school will also take part in creating a *recycled art project* and the winning teams will earn a fabulous prize for their masterpiece! We will end our week by practicing our citizenship skills with a school-wide trash pick-up campaign at **2:30 p.m. on Thursday April 21st**. A tasty treat will follow.

For more information on this event, you can contact Erin Sefton at Indus School at 403-936-5855 or via email at esefton@rockyview.ab.ca.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The first annual Community Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the United Way Chestermere, will be held on **Saturday, April 23rd, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Chestermere Recreation Centre.** Free Tim Horton's coffee, hot chocolate and Tim Bits will be available—bring your own go-cup.

Activities include *Wacky Easter Bonnet Contest* with celebrity judges and *Guess the Egg* con-

test.

To register, please email: united-way@chestermere.ca with names and ages of all children you are registering.

The cost is \$5.00 per basket and you get to take your basket home!!

Payment will be taken at the registration table at the event.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr. 1	Gr. 8 Bake Sale
Apr. 4	No School—PL Day
Apr. 5	Hot Lunch—Subs
April 14	Gr. 5 Vaccinations
April 15	Assembly—11:30 a.m. Respect—Gr. 7
	Gr. 5-8 Pizza and Dance 6:30—9:00 p.m.
Apr. 19	Hot Lunch—Pizza
Apr. 18–21	Pitch-In Week
Apr. 21	School wide trash Pick-up
April 19	Gr. 2-3 Science Centre
April 22-29	Spring Break
May 2	Students return to school

CHESTERMERE HIGH SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 2010-2011 school year marks the 50th year of education at Chestermere High School. Throughout the year we will be celebrating this theme at school events. This will culminate on the weekend of May 27th and 28th, 2011, with an open house, social, activities and a Hall of Fame induction banquet on Saturday night.

We are presently organizing a committee to spearhead events over the year and on this weekend, and could use your help. Fundraising is a major undertak-

ing for the Alumni Association. Many alumni have provided financial support for school teams, projects and awards over the year. Our bank account, unfortunately, dwindles a little more every year. We are able to provide tax receipts for donations over \$20.00, and these can be directed to any school project.

Please plan on coming back to visit. Feel free to contribute your time and thought. Some areas in which we are looking for ideas include:

-Memorabilia/souvenir items

-Pictures and anecdotes of school

-Hall of Fame nominations

-Funding and donations

-Student and staff contacts

-Committee work

For more information and contributions, contact:

Don Deeter

Email: ddeeter@rockyview.ab.ca

or

Chestermere High School Alumni Association

RR #7

Calgary, AB T2P 2G7