

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

December 2010

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Student Count 202

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Our Mission

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

READING: IT'S MORE THAN JUST DECODING

When we talk of reading, many people think about the process of looking at letters and saying, aloud or to one's self, the sounds they represent. While that process, decoding, is a critical part of reading, it is not the whole thing. Reading for meaning involves not only being able to tell what the words are, but also being able to tell what they mean.

In the passage below (written by Dr. Margot Guillet), we can tell from certain 'clue' words that something is going on, and even answer some questions. But do we really know what it means?

On December 10, 2009, Oogly Pident plumped the frisple over the stu-

mor ightly because he was utomized to the pupplet. Tuckily, Oogly's muket got wackeled in the bozol on Tuesday, just two days before the pomple. How kumple Oogly will be when he fopples the frisple again! Good for Oogly.

When did Oogly plump the frisple?

Why did he plump the frisple?

Where did it get wackeled?

Will Oogly be happy when he fopples the frisple?

Although *Oogly* and *frisple* are easy enough to 'sound out,' the passage has no meaning.

This is the experience many students face as they read through new materials for the first time. Helping children to expand their vocabularies is something we work on at school, and something that you can work on at home. Using new or unfamiliar words often enough for your child to become comfortable with them will be very helpful when he or she is reading for meaning. Don't worry if the words seem too complex for your child; they all seem to know tyrannosaurus Rex.

KINDERGARTEN

This month our kindergarten has come alive with the enactments of fairytales. The students have enjoyed the marvelous adventures of folkloric characters such as princes, wicked stepmothers, elves, trolls, beasts, fairy godmothers, and talking animals. They are quick to recognize a fairytale by the traditional



beginning of Once upon a time...and are thrilled to discover the common characteristics along with the popular theme of good versus evil. Little ones love the enchantment, magic, and happy end-

ings of this genre. They are delighted when humble heroes confront their adversaries in a sequence of events leading to the succession of kingdoms where they live happily ever after. Felt boards, puppet plays and dramatizations have been used to retell our favourite tales with many academy performances.

NEW RESOURCE PROGRAM - PEAK

We are proud to share that the new PEAK program will be starting at Indus School on January 3rd! This resource rich classroom will provide a highly structured setting in which integration, socialization, functional Math and Language Arts Skills as well as Life Skills will be the fo-

cus. This new program will also include a business that is created and administered by students, with the help of Resource staff. PEAK will take place during weekday mornings and will include a Resource teacher, two assistants, as well as a behavioural specialist from Cowtown

Childrens' Services. This is a fantastic opportunity to provide a learning community that meets all children's needs, in a small, safe classroom setting.

WHAT IS AISI?

You may have seen or heard of AISI. It stands for Alberta Initiative for School Improvement. It is a government funded research action project. The purpose of the project is to improve student learning through teacher education and parent support. Our school has actively become in-

involved in Balanced Assessment. We are learning ways to implement common assessment tools across the grades. Programs like Power of 10, Joanne Moore's writing resources and 6+1 Traits of Writing are also ways we are improving common vocabulary and consistency across the

grades.

If you want to know more you can visit www.education.alberta.ca.

Mrs. Stevens and Ms.Hart

A GRADE 3 HAND FOR PEACE!

In honor of Remembrance Day the Grade 3s discussed, wrote letters and made poppies. In class we talked about the importance of Remembrance day and the people both past and present who have

played in role in our freedoms today. We talked about *Flanders Field* by John McCrae and sent off postcards to veterans. The



Grade 3 students brainstormed ways they can create peace in their lives and wrote these messages on their hands. These powerful messages

were put together in a slide show and presented at our Remembrance Day assembly.

Some of the messages the Grade 3s came up with were *Include Others, Respect Others and Be free!* What would your message be?

Mrs. Stevens and the Grade 3 Smarties



WHAT A COLOURFUL WORLD IN GRADE 1

The Grade 1s have been busy learning about Colour. We now know how to read and write all of our colour words and we are using them in the sentences we write each week. In partners, the children have sorted and classified objects that are the

same colour and we have discussed the terms "lighter than" and "darker than." The students have learned what the primary colours are and what happens when they are mixed together. We've done a variety of science experiments to see what happens

when we add black and white to various colours. The Grade 1 class has learned what a *COLOURFUL* world we live in!

SCHOOL BUSES AND PARKING LOT REMINDER

From **8:20 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** and again from **3:00 – 3:45 p.m.**, please adhere to the following rules regarding the parking lot and buses.:

The bus lane in our parking lot is strictly for school buses. Absolutely no stopping or parking in the bus lane is permitted during these times.

Parents who drop off or pick up

students during these times, must not stop in the middle of the parking lot. There are many reasons for this rule – the buses need to be able to evacuate the area quickly if an emergency should arise, and even though you are stopping "just for a minute", you would be blocking the safe escape of all those students. It is also not safe for your own children to be pedestrians in this

area.

Parents dropping off children must park facing the school building North of the main doors. This is the designated visitor parking area and school staff do not park there.

Please help us keep all our students safe!

GRADE 4 DISPLAY MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

November brought a variety of opportunities for our class to demonstrate the multiple intelligences that exist with our group. Though all eight are evident, I will highlight just a few.

Performances like the Remembrance Day Assembly, not only brought out the musically talented, but also the cooperation skills necessary to collaborate. The majority of this grade 4 group have shown that interpersonal intelligence is a strength. The technical glitch that occurred when they were about to perform also indicated that they

possess the discipline and patience necessary to accept the unexpected as a part of being an artist. Bravo!

Linguistic intelligence was again apparent during daily AR, and creative writing. Given a picture, most were able to write story beginnings that would draw any reader into their story. Developing variety in sentence starters, also revealed talents.

From the start of the year spatial abilities were obvious in art. However, this skill showed itself

again in our science unit when students were required to build a variety of levers. Also, building levers in groups again employed interpersonal skills and for those especially talented it presented the opportunity to tutor the less able, like myself, in construction.

In December, our Christmas performance, which was inspired by a Reader's Theatre performance in class, will present an opportunity for everyone to shine.

JR. B VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Indus Girls:

Nov. 26: Chestermere Lake Middle, 128 W. Lakeview Drive, Chestermere
Dec. 3: Ralph McCall School, 1505-1 Ave. NW, Airdrie
Dec. 10: Meadowbrook School, 1796 Meadowbrook Dr., Airdrie

Indus Boys:

Nov. 26: Langdon School
Dec. 3: Langdon School
Dec. 10: Muriel Clayton School, 305 Acacia Dr., Airdrie.

NOTE: All tournaments begin at 3:00 p.m., and students should arrive at least 20 minutes before

3:00 p.m. Parents are responsible for getting their children to and from the tournaments. All players have received training on how to access the tournament schedule on the RVS website. We recommend that it be checked frequently as it has a tendency to change.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Concert will be held at the **Indus Recreation Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 16th**. For those who can't attend on Thursday evening, there will be a dress rehearsal at 1:00 p.m. that afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Volunteers

Once again, we are asking for parent volunteers to assist with

setting up and decorating for the concert on **Monday, December 13th at 9:15 a.m.** We will also need assistance with the clean-up on the morning of the 17th. If you are able to help us out, please call the school at 403-936-5855.

We will **not** be having a Raffle during the concert this year. We would, however, ask that you bring a donation to the

Food Bank the evening/afternoon of the Concert.

Please refer to the article on Page 5 of this newsletter for a preview of the various fundraising activities the students have undertaken during the month of December.

LIBRARY NEWS

A huge thank you to all our Indus families who purchased books and other items at the Book Fair in October. The figures are in and this was our biggest sales ever!!! Your purchases mean that the library receives free books, and all our students are excited about that! Many of these books have already been processed, and students are enjoying reading some brand new literature!

With the Christmas season upon us, here are some ideas for under the tree, or suggestions for Santa:

Chapters/Indigo gift card

Magazines (teen mags for the older kids, a Nascar, Corvette or hunting

magazine for teen boys, and Chickadee or Ladybug for younger kids.)

Comic books are a special treat – it's still reading!

The Guinness World Records 2011 is loved by all ages and is available at Costco for about \$16. We have 5 copies in the library, and they are always checked out! Your kids will pore over it for hours, and go back to it again and again! I guarantee it!

Children young and old enjoy having Christmas stories read to them, so dust off those long-forgotten books on your bookshelf, and cuddle up some evening for story time. They never

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 3 Report cards home
Volleyball Tournaments
- Dec. 7 Hot Lunch (Tacos)
- Dec. 9 CanSpell Finals
- Dec. 10 Assembly - at 11:30 (Gr. 3 presenting on "Generosity")
Volleyball Tournaments
- Dec. 13 Concert set-up
- Dec. 16 Christmas Concert
- Dec. 17 Strike Stage & clean-up.
Last day of classes until January 3rd.

get too old for hot chocolate and a Christmas story read aloud!

Merry Christmas to everyone, and don't forget to read over the holidays!

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

Grades 1-3 students are involved in various volunteering and humanitarian opportunities through HIP (Humanity in Practice." Each month Grades 1-3 parents will receive a letter informing them of the monthly project and ways to help. Students will be working on this in class and promoting these projects around the school as well. December is "Santa Paws" month and we are helping out the animals at AARCS with awareness and donations by collecting 6' leashes, various size

collars, new or gently used dog toys and blankets, un-opened bags of puppy food, dog sweaters, etc. We request that any donations be sent to school by December 13th.

Grades 4-8 students will be participating in the Mustard Seed's Warm Feet for the Street program. (A letter was sent home on November 25th outlining details.)

Grades 4-8 students are asked to bring a pair of socks and/or

things to include in the socks, e.g. bus tickets, small sizes of shampoo, etc., Kleenex, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, lip balm, movie passes or gift certificates, disposable razors, shaving cream, sewing kit, address book, pen and pad, calendar. Please do not include anything that contains an alcohol base, such as aftershave, mouthwash, hand sanitizer or perfume.

Although the fundraisers are grade specific, please feel free to donate to either of these very worthwhile projects.

MONTHLY ASSEMBLIES - CHANGE IN TIME

The schedule of monthly assemblies was included in the November newsletter. **Please note that**

all assemblies will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the school gym, and not 12:45 as originally

scheduled. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

MAKING NUMBERS FUN

Since the first day of school, Grade 2s have been finding ways to make mathematics equations equal to the number of days we have been at school. For example, on the first day of school, the equations would have been: $1+0=1$ and $2-1=1$.

We would like to share with you some of our equations for day 50.

Kobe: $\frac{1}{2}$ of 100 = 50,
 $(1000/1000)-101+100+1-1+$
 $(3/3)-1+(10 \times 5)=50$

Chaseton: $(400/4) -50-50-$
 $50+110-10=50$

Hailey: $40+(10 \times 1)=50$

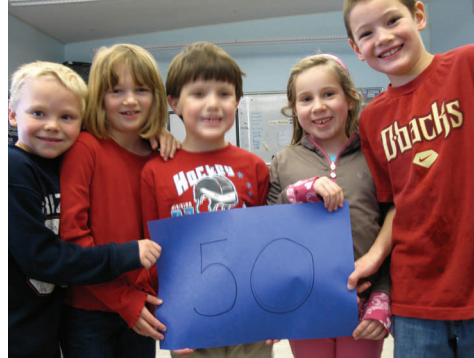
Anthony: $10+10+10+10+10 =$
 $50, 10 \times 5=50, \$1.00-$.50=$.50$

Riley: $(10 \times 100\ 000) - 999\ 950$
 $= 50$

The equations involve more operations, more terms, and more complexity. They are created mentally; we do not have

calculators in Grade 2, except of course for the ones in our heads!

Mrs. Hamel and the Starbrights



HOW TO BE UNDERSTANDING BY GRADE 5

During the month of November, the Grade 5 students worked diligently to create a performance, which demon-



strates the virtue of understanding. We thought about songs, which relate to the virtue, and the students came up with ideas of what un-

derstanding means to them. The students decided that understanding means learning and gaining knowledge about a topic, and it also means showing empathy and compassion towards others.

