

Indus School

SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Parent Newsletter

I'M BORED! (REPRINTED FROM APRIL 2008 SPIRIT NEWSLETTER)

"I'm bored!" We've all heard children say this, but what are they really telling us?

When students say they are bored, they mean they are not actively engaged in the activity at hand. While we tend to think this disengagement is due to the work being too easy, it can be due to one or more of numerous reasons:

1. *The work really is too easy.* This happens some times and can be frustrating for children and adults alike.
2. *The work is inherently boring.* While some tasks, particularly repetitive ones such as committing basic math facts to memory, learning lines for a play, or proofreading written work can be made more interesting through games and creative drills, they are simply not as engaging as more creative activities.
3. *The work is outside of the child's interests.* This is particularly true for students who are extremely interested in one topic; learning about anything else just doesn't seem

worthwhile.

4. *The work is too hard.* Just as most people would quickly lose interest in a book written in a language he or she doesn't read, students will disengage from material for which they do not have adequate background information or skills. This scenario also elicits another common comment (particularly during the teen years), "This is stupid."
5. *The work is not too hard, but does require effort.* In the fast-paced world of 2008 most students (indeed most people in general) are not willing to ruminate on a problem for more than a few minutes. Without immediate success comes disengagement.
6. *The work is appropriate, but the student is missing the point.* One of the key elements of brain-based learning is that the learner must see some value in the material being learned. If the student misses the point, this fundamental is missing which results in disengagement.

7. *The student is unable to judge appropriate quality.* Students who are unable to discern the difference between their current level of achievement and the criteria set for an assignment will believe the goal has been reached and not be interested in any further improvement.

8. *The student does not have clear goals.* Much like number 7, above, but here the student is able to evaluate his or her achievement, but has not been given clear goals for which to aim. Not knowing where to go, the student becomes frustrated and goes nowhere.

Thus boredom, a word with fairly specific meaning for adults, can reveal a broad range of issues when spoken of by students. If your child is feeling "bored" by his or her work, please contact the teacher immediately. Regardless of why a student feels bored, one thing is true: bored students are not engaging in their work and therefore not learning the class material.

February 2011

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Student Count 205

Inside this issue:

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

Our Mission

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

7 Indus Court, Indus, AB T1X 0H7

www.rockyview.ab.ca 403-936-5855 plone.rockyview.ab.ca/indus

GRADE 1S HAVE COME TO THEIR SENSES!

The Grade 1s are learning about the *five senses* this month. We are conducting various experiments about how each sense functions and how they help keep us safe in every day situations. It is interesting



Luc and Claire experimenting with their sense of taste.

to watch the students rely on all of their other senses when they lose one of them! Some of the Grade 1s are learning to take risks and to trust

each one of their sensory organs to give them information to help them make decisions about what is going on in the world around them. Some of our experiments and discoveries will be displayed at the Science Fair next week.

Mrs. Kaminsky and the Grade 1 students

EXPLORING SEA CREATURES AND DA VINCI!

Students in the Grade 8 class have begun to work on an interdisciplinary assignment that covers both Science and English Language Arts. They have been practicing their expository writing skills in ELA and learning about the ocean in Science. Now it's time to combine the knowledge and have them create an essay in which they become experts on one specific sea creature. Encourage your child to talk to you about their work on this piece of writing as adult

input and editing is very valuable!

In Math, students in Math B have recently completed a project in which they compared both themselves and an adult male to Da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man*. This project was done to help students use mathematical skills in an interesting and unique manner and to better instill the concept of ratio.

Finally, our fund-raising for the Leadership Camp continues! So

far, these great kids have earned more than \$500.00 in funds. In the month of February, we are looking at another bake sale at the end of the month, a dance prior to the break, and "Duct Tape the Teacher to the Wall" which has been tentatively scheduled for February 8, 2011.

Ms Manning and the Grade 8 students

SCHOOL FEES DUE

A third reminder has been sent home recently regarding outstanding school fees for the 2010-11 school year. If you have not paid your child's fees, including options fees, please make

arrangements to do so as soon as possible. In March 2011, we will be required to send a list of students with outstanding fees to Rocky View Schools at which time, they will begin the process

for referral for collection.

Alternate arrangements can be made for payment of fees by calling the school office at 403-936-5855.

CELEBRATING WINTER!

It turned out to be the perfect winter day for building an ice castle! There had been concerns that the Chinook winds would bring warmer temperatures that would not be conducive to our endeavours, however, the preparation had been done with each child bringing in an ice block and our wonderful volunteers ensuring our blocks were ready for construction. Anticipation escalated throughout the day and the Kindergarten students eagerly headed outside to begin build-



The Kindergarten's Ice Castle

ing their ice castle. As with any piece of work, a good plan is essential so we brainstormed what we envisioned for the finished product. An original proposal of a circular castle was unfortu-

nately turned down for a more conventional, rectangular design and the corner blocks were established. It was suggested that tape or glue could be used as an

adhesive but it was soon realized that the slushy snow was a perfect medium for bonding the ice blocks. Every child was engaged and contributed to the construction process through actively transporting snow and ice, positioning and assembling the ice blocks and ensuring all cracks were filled. The level of cooperation was inspiring and all the children were delighted with their accomplishment- all the colours of a rainbow depicted in their ice castle!

Thank you to Linda and Bill Silvester, Rachele Goraya, Candice Szautner and Olga Neufeld for volunteering their time to make this project possible!

Mrs. Burris and the Kindergarten students

TRANSPORTATION FOR 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

All rural students currently riding rural buses will receive a letter in June 2011 to confirm bus service in September. All **new** students will need to register to

ride the bus, including students that are entering kindergarten, and new students that have registered at the school and require transportation. All applications

for new students must be received by the Transportation Department prior to **July 31, 2011**. **For more info visit www.rockyview.ab.ca**

REGISTER FROM JANUARY 4, 2011, ONWARD!

Pre-register your child from January 4, 2011 onward.

Although registration is ongoing up to the first day of school, pre-registration helps parents and children make an informed choice. RVS' January 2011 edition of Ontrack (<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/p>

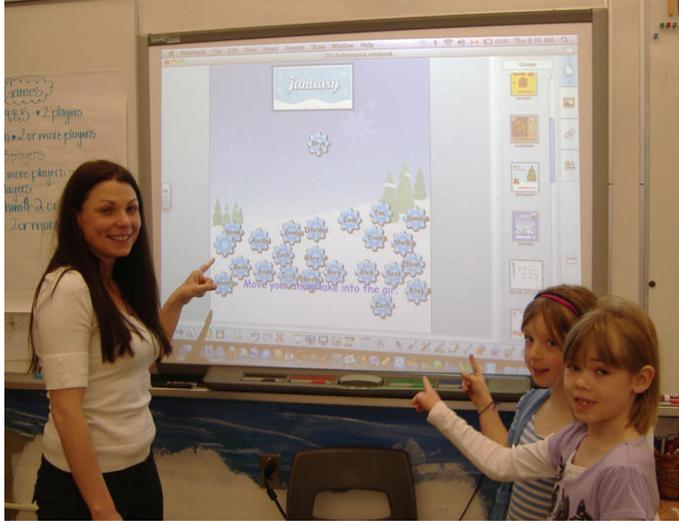
[ublications/assets_publications/ontracknewsletter/Advanced_Registration.pdf](#)) is dedicated to providing information about the jurisdiction: our vision, our progress in building 21st Century learning environments, and the multitude of services and programs we provide students and families.

Also provided is a complete listing of school orientation sessions, and other special events planned to welcome new and returning students!

Check it out at: <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/ontrack-advance-registration-edition>

MRS. STEVENS GOES TO SMARTBOARD SCHOOL

As part of my professional learning I went to *Smartboard School* earlier this month. Wow, did I learn a lot! The Smartboard is an interactive whiteboard. Students can manipulate objects, play games, write and so much more. There are thousands of different lessons available to engage learners.



Our amazing Smartboard!

We have been looking at Google Earth to locate cities and

even have been able to locate some students homes. We are creating sentences and answering multiple choice quizzes. The students know this board is meant for them and the more use we get out of it the better. We are so fortunate to have this type of technology in the classroom. Please ask your child how we used the Smartboard. We are using it all the time!

On another note, thank you to everyone who made our Baby Month so successful. It amazes me what we can do to help others even in Grades 1, 2 and 3.

Mrs. Stevens and the Grade 3 Smarties

SCIENCE FAIR IS HERE

Grade 4 is brimming with excitement over their first time in the Indus School Science Fair. Parents have really assisted their children with their projects. Your children truly appreciate your involvement and guidance. I

wish to also extend my thanks. Although many were initially interested in experiments which involved some type of explosion, many later opted for a different experiment wanting to do something unique. Adding to this

creativity is the display of their data on a trifold. This has resulted in an array of projects certain to delight all viewers.

Mrs. Marshall and the Grade 4 students

RVS 2011-12 SCHOOL CALENDAR—SURVEY

RVS' Calendar Development Committee is seeking community input into the development of school calendars for the upcoming school year(s).

In anticipation of developing the calendar, two surveys have been created in the hopes of compiling feedback from RVS' educational community.

All staff, students, parents, and community members are encouraged to take a moment and complete the following survey accessible at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BRMT3ZA9U>. The survey will close on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011. Your participation is much

appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the Calendar survey, please do not hesitate to contact Associate Superintendent of Schools Murray Besenski at: rvsfeedback@rockyview.ab.ca.

GRADE 5 NEWS

During the month of January, the Grade 5 students have been working really hard on various projects. They have adjusted well to new teachers and have been demonstrating respectful and positive attitudes. They have put a great deal of effort towards preparing for the science fair. Students have researched and experimented many interesting topics and are eager to share them at the Indus School science fair February 3rd. During

the "Weather Watch" unit in science, the Grade 5 students made weather vanes in order to help them determine wind direction. They determined the wind direction in many different areas outside the school. They will finish the unit by researching the weather in their dream place to live. The Grade 5 students have enjoyed reading classic fairytales this month. They have explored different ways to plan and re-write fairytales using descriptive

writing. They have retold the fairytales including the same setting, characters and problem but adding in creative twists to the stories. In February, we will be studying the novel "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen. Be sure to keep up with what is happening in Grade 5 by visiting Miss Mikkelsen's website at www.mmikkelsen.weebly.com.

Ms. Mikkelsen and the Grade 5 students

LIBRARY NEWS - FEBRUARY 2010

Looking for something to read? February themes include Groundhog Day (Feb.2), Chinese New Year (Feb. 3), 100th Day of School (Feb. 10), Valentine's Day (Feb. 14), National Flag of Canada Day (Feb. 15), Family Day (Feb. 21), and the month is Black History Month. It has been one year since the 2010 Olympics. Our library has books about all of these subjects, and many more!

When is Book Fair? You will sprout new ideas and cultivate reading with our "Grow with Great Books" Book Fair. Come plant a book seed from March 21-24!

Overdue Library Books! It's getting worse!!! The most unpleasant task in a librarian's job is reminding, then reminding again about overdue books. I want our students to enjoy many books, and be able to exchange them on

a regular basis. Please make sure your child returns his/her library books each and every week. If a longer book takes more than a week to read, it can be renewed by bringing the book to the library. We have way too many students right now with overdue books from BEFORE CHRISTMAS! If there was a note in your child's agenda, or a note sent home, please respond. Further overdue notices will be sent home by February 4.

PINK SHIRT DAY IS FEBRUARY 14

Just over three years ago, in a high school in Nova Scotia, two grade 12 students stood up against bullies in their school, by supporting a grade 9 student who had worn a pink shirt to school. They campaigned to get everyone else in their school to wear pink shirts to show support for the grade 9 student who had been harassed. The story has become a national movement,

with Pink Shirt Day designated as February 23 in Canada. As our students at Indus will not be at school that day, we have chosen Valentine's Day to support this worthy cause. Students are usually encouraged to wear red and pink on Valentine's Day at Indus, and that remains unchanged, but, especially for our older students, wearing pink will symbolize our acceptance and tolerance

of others, regardless of differences. This also ties in with our ROARS initiative here at Indus (Respect, Ownership, Attitude, Responsibility, and Safety). So although we are hopefully kind to others every day of the year, **WEAR PINK on February 14** to show your support for Pink Shirt Day!

NEWS FROM THE MUNCHKINS – GRADE 6

Brrr, we are finally out of our negative cold cycle and have entered a warmer, positive cycle! We will continue to work on individual responsibility and ownership throughout the month. Ask your child about ROARS and how this tool is helping us have a clear picture on what is expected of us! It is a program that is being worked with in all grades.

January is the month that student expectations are picked up a notch. Students will be given clear criteria for in-class assignments, but many students may need to do more work at home.

We will be using agenda calendars to make note of due dates and timelines. Students will be encouraged to use this calendar to look at events happening in and out of school and plot their work timelines. Development of these independent work habits will be an important focus for the rest of the year.

We need parents, older siblings, and grand parents to help with editing and revising student writing in our class. Any Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:20 – 11:50 a.m., you are invited to drop-in and lend a hand. No

experience necessary! Any levels of competence and confidence are welcome! It is important for students to get a chance to read to and hear feedback from other people to improve their writing. If necessary, the teacher will bribe with treats and student entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Exciting things happening with Air and Flight and a Mysterious Project!

Ms. Hart and the Grade 6 students

ATTRACT OR REPEL

Starbrights are developing magnetic personalities as they explore magnets. They have learned that magnets come in various shapes, sizes and strengths. Their task for the Science Fair is to develop a new toy using magnets that demonstrate one of the following magnetic properties:



Come and see us at the Science Fair with our magnets!

-magnets attract materials

with iron or steel,

-magnets have poles that attract or repel each other,

-magnetic fields pass through some materials.

They all stepped up to the challenge and made fishing games, racecars and tracks, puppet theatres and other exciting games. Make sure you join us next Thursday morning to see what the young inventors have come up with.

Mrs. Hamel and the Grade 2 Starbrights

GRADE 7 POST CARDS

The Grade 7s have been working on imaginary post cards or stamps this month. They imagined that they were a European explorer coming over to Canada

during the age of exploration. Then they constructed a post card or series of stamps based on their experiences in the

“New World.” They turned out great! Well done Grade 7s!

Mr. Winters and the Grade 7 students

SCIENCE FAIR—FEBRUARY 3

All parents and guardians are invited to the Indus School Science Fair on February 3rd, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. We are still looking

for people with a science background to evaluate the science projects. If you are interested, please call the school at 403-936-5855.

NO SCHOOL FEBRUARY 21-25

Just a reminder that there is no school the week of February 21st. Monday, February 21 is Family Day, February 22 and 23

are days in lieu for staff, and Teacher's Convention is February 24 and 25.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 1-4	K-3 Skating
Feb. 3	Science Fair
Feb. 7-10	Grs. 4-5 Skating
Feb. 11	Assembly at 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 14	Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 14-17	Grs. 6-8 Skating
Feb. 15	Flag Day Kgtn Field Trip Fire Station
Feb. 18	NO SCHOOL - PL Day
Feb. 21-25	NO SCHOOL ALL WEEK

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 undertaking 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

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEY

As part of the [Accountability Pillar](#), Alberta Education conducts surveys of teachers, students and their parents to gather information on the quality of education provided by Alberta school authorities and their schools. The teacher and

student surveys are conducted online and parents are surveyed by mail. The results are provided to each school jurisdiction to use in updating their three-year education plans and to report in their annual education results reports,

and are used to evaluate [school authority performance](#) on Accountability Pillar survey measures. If you receive a survey in the mail, we would encourage you to participate.

ROARS

ROARS is our new way of behaving at Indus. We are in the implementation phase right now, working to ensure that every student understands what is expected of the members of our school community. Over the next few months, we will include information about ROARS in the SPIRIT Newsletter. Below is the first instalment: a description of expectations for all times and all settings.

Respect

We care for self, each other, and our local & global communities.

We will:

- Respect cultural, religious and individual differences;
- Communicate with others in a positive and supportive way; excluding putdowns and language of a racist, ethnic, sexist or homophobic nature;
- Reduce, Re-Use and Re-Cycle.

Ownership

We are accountable and take pride in positive behaviour and actions.

We will:

- Remove hats;
- Turn off and store cell phones, pagers and MP3 devices upon entering the school grounds;
- Take ownership of our behaviour and accept the consequences of our actions;
- Make amends for mistakes through restitution when possible
- Report any unsafe, dangerous, or destructive behaviour;
- Offer help to those in need
- Ask others to honour our expectations.

Attitude

We are courteous and committed to doing our best.

We will:

- Be well mannered, compassionate and helpful;
- Be inclusive of existing community members as well as visitors and newcomers;
- Promote a positive attitude towards life and remind ourselves that a change in perspective can make a difference.

Responsibility

We know and meet personal, classroom, school, and community expectations.

We will:

- Return what we borrow and treat others' belongings as if they were our own;
- Honour our commitments and manage our time wisely
- Use the student agenda to keep track of our commitments.

Safety

We ensure the health and well-being of all.

We will:

- Follow directions from all staff members;
- We will communicate with the adults in our lives when we encounter difficult situations and/or problems;
- Acknowledge that emotional safety is just as important as physical safety.