

# Indus School

# SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

## Parent Newsletter

January 2011

Volume 11, Issue 1

Student Count 207

### Inside this issue:

Grade 3	2
Kindergarten	3
Grade 1	3
Grade 6	4
Grade 5	4
Grades 2	5
Grade 7	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.**

## DENSITY OF LEARNING

I remember, as a child, being assigned to write (what I believed to be worthless) reports on various subjects. It always struck me as odd that I had to put the information in my own words; the books already said it so well! At the time, I believed that writing a report on the *Battle of Marathon*, *Samuel de Champlain* or *The Economy of the USSR*, was to show my teacher that I knew about that topic. I could never understand why I had to write it all out, complete with graphs and pictures, when I could have just told the teacher that I had read the information (or even answered questions to prove my knowledge). I just couldn't understand why I should

bother taking all that time to write it out.

What I didn't understand was the multiple lessons I was learning in writing that report (especially putting into my own words), something I now like to refer to as *density of learning*. When writing those reports, I did learn about the topic of the paper, but I also practiced reading for information, identifying key points, organizing information, composing sentences, building paragraphs, deciding which concepts were better explained with a picture, and, of course, the patience to complete the assignment.

Every class, every lesson, and every assign-

ment exhibits density of learning. From the simple, yet essential, skills like arriving on time, getting along with others, and taking turns, to the critical thinking that takes place when determining which character is in the right in a novel study, everything that happens at school teaches more than meets the eye. It is the density of learning taking place in every classroom that makes our 950 hours of instruction each year so valuable and assignments (even the frustrating reports in one's own words) so worthwhile.

7 Indus Court, Indus, AB T1X 0H7

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

## GENEROUS GRADE THREES

The month of December was truly full of giving. The Grade 3s demonstrated this in a variety of ways. We kicked off Santa Paws month with the Grade 1s and 2s. Students generously donated many new and used toys and other needed supplies to the animal rescue crew. Demonstrating community spirit the students made gingerbread houses that were auctioned off for local families in need. We raised over \$700.



Wow! The grade 3s have also been sharing their time with lo-

cal seniors. Every Friday students have been reading, playing

cards and sharing stories with the Livewires group. Lastly, the Grade 3 students performed Michael Jackson's song *The Man in the Mirror* at the generosity assembly earlier in December.

Well done Smarties! It is truly amazing to witness what Grade 3 students can do.

## 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/publications/assets\\_publications/](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/publications/assets_publications/))

[ontracknewsletter/Advanced\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/publications/assets_publications/)) 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 list-

ing 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>

## INDUS R.O.A.R.S.

The morning of Monday, January 10, will see a new package on some old ideas at Indus School. We will be starting a personal and social responsibility program that goes by the acronym R.O.A.R.S. It means:

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

**Ownership:** We are accountable and take pride in positive behaviour and actions.

**Attitude:** We are courteous and

committed to doing our best.

**Responsibility:** We know and meet personal, classroom, school, and community expectations.

**Safety:** We ensure the health and well-being of all.

## KINDERGARTEN

In December, the atmosphere in the kindergarten was one of mounting excitement and growing anticipation as Christmas and our concert performance grew closer. It was a month of creativity as students eagerly designed and bejeweled beautiful trees and bells, transformed old jewelry into ornaments, wooden clothes pegs into nutcrackers, and fashioned meters of patterned paper chains. Our

creativity was extended to experimenting with instruments and our sweet singing voices. For young children, practicing songs over and over is repetitious and mundane, so when at times, the task seemed overwhelmingly frustrating, we turned our attention toward the people we love most. Our performance would be our special gift to our parents, one that could not be bought in a store. Through perseverance

and working together toward a common goal, I believe each child experienced not only the tremendous thrill of performing but also the gift of giving and the rewarding feeling that only comes from hard work and the knowledge that a job is well done. Parents, I hope you enjoyed our gift to you and that your holiday season was filled with love and many special moments with family and friends.

## POWER IN GRADE 1

The Grade 1s have been working on developing number sense and understanding place value in math. Every day we are using our Power of 10 cards and manipulatives to help us make numbers and equations. Many

of our amazing students are becoming very proficient at making number sentences and everyone's math knowledge is growing each day! We are playing various math card games with our Power of 10 cards to help

reinforce the skills taught in class. We have learned that there truly is "power" in the Power of 10!

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Thank you to the students, staff and parent volunteers who worked so hard to make our Christmas Concert a success. In addition, we thank you for your contribution to the Food Bank that evening.*



Grade 1s performing "Must be Santa."

## NEW YEAR IN MUNCHKIN MANOR – AKA GRADE 6

Ms. Hart and her students are “biting” into the New Year with a renewed focus on self-reflection and being the best you can be. We are starting off the year as most people do, setting realistic goals, many specific to reading and writing. Students will be looking for support and input from home and school to help them reach their maximum potential! Look for reading logs, weekly home assignments and writing assignments to start coming home the second week in January.

Parents/guardians and other fam-

ily members will play an impor-



tant part of our class activities over the next few months. Please watch for notices specific to fund-

raising volunteers for Outdoor School (May 2-5), volunteers for our writing program, Science volunteers and other exciting things.

Be sure to check out the plone site for subject information, assignment details and a daily updated agenda calendar!

Happy New Year from the Munchkins and Queen!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GRADE 4

December flew by with the excitement of the magical Christmas season. Even with all of the anticipation, the students managed to focus on fine-tuning their concert performance. The results were amazing and I am sure family and friends were proud. Perhaps more impor-

tantly, each child was filled with a sense of pride. Experiences such as this remind us all of the importance of community. Once again, Indus seemed like one large family, wrapping each of our young people with love.

The holidays seemed to rejuvenate us all. Swimming lessons this week have proven to be an excellent way to begin a healthy new year.

## GRADE 5 BUILDERS

In the month of December, the Grade 5 students had a blast building native projects for Social Studies class. Students chose between making a wigwam or a birch bark canoe. Everyone was very unique in how they constructed their pieces. Their projects were very well designed, and it allowed them an opportunity to consider how much work

the Native Americans put into everyday life.



## JANUARY 2011 GENEROSITY AT CHRISTMAS

Generosity was the theme for December in Grade 2. We are participating in HIP Kids Projects. Each month there is a different agency that is supported. In December we helped out *Santa Paws* with donations for rescued dogs and cats. We also spent a day with Grades 1 and 3, making gingerbread houses for *Christmas with Dignity* in Chestermere. We made 15 gingerbread houses and won first and third



place prizes in our age category. This allowed us to have a pizza lunch on the last day of school

before Christmas break. This treat was also well-deserved for all their hard work on both the gingerbread houses and their performance of *Rocks for Christmas* at the Christmas Concert.

We are now busy swimming and preparing for our January HIP Kids Project. The Grade 2s are presenting *Kindness* at the Virtues assembly on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Please join us.

## ALL ABOARD!

The Polar Express visited Indus Resource on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Students dressed in their comfiest PJs and were treated with some yummy hot chocolate, popcorn, fruit and other deli-

cious treats. The movie was fantastic and the Christmas lunch was pretty great too! It was wonderful to celebrate the Christmas season together and spend the last hours before holidays laugh-

ing and having fun! We hope you and yours had a wonderful holiday. All the best in the New Year!

## 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](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca)

## BOOK CLUB IN GRADE 7

The grade 7s are engaged in different book clubs for their language arts novels: *Freak the Mighty* and *Daniel's Story*. They

are working independently on the story, and then getting together in groups (once every week or two) to discuss interest-

ing parts of the book. So far there have been some very interesting perspectives shared. Way to go 7s!

## GRADE 8 NEWS

So far this year, Grade 8 students have been very successful in raising funds for their Leadership Camping Trip in June and have been able to give proceeds to the Grade 6 Outdoor School as well. Through this initiative, Grade 8 students have also begun to develop planning, organization, and teamwork skills. Their efforts here are to be commended. Events thus far have included monthly Bake Sales, the

Candygram Campaign, and the Christmas Dance. Upcoming events will include continuation of the Bake Sale, Tape Up the Teacher, and the Valentines Day Dance.

In the academic realm, Grade 8 students will be spending time this month learning how to write magnificent expository paragraphs and essays. Expository writing is writing done from the position of an expert

in order to explain things to an audience. It is non-fiction writing that is useful in all levels of schooling and in the workforce. Please ask your child about their expository writing over the course of the month and become active in proofreading and editing his or her work. The more we all work together on the reading and writing skills of our youth, the more they will improve!

## LIBRARY NEWS – JANUARY 2011

Reading – Give it a Shot! is a literacy program offered to Grades 4, 5, and 6 students. This special program shows what can be done when the community works together with our schools to inspire the joy of reading! *Reading... Give it a Shot!* runs from January 12 to March 14, 2011. Students record their reading time - whether it is books, newspapers, magazines, computer programs, or the Internet - on a **STUDENT TRACKING SHEET**. The student's parents, guardians or teachers can sign-off on the student's reading. After every 100 minutes read, students are rewarded with a **Calgary Flames** bookmark. Counting minutes rather than books allows all students, regardless of their reading ability, to participate. This year, a total of 24 bookmarks are available for the students to earn. The object for the students is to collect the entire Calgary Flames Set. I have ordered a set for each student in Grades 4, 5, and 6, ready to be

awarded!

Family Literacy Day across Canada is January 27, which is a Thursday this year. For more information go [www.abclifeliteracy.ca](http://www.abclifeliteracy.ca). The theme this year is "Play for Literacy". Why not dust off a board game at your house and have a family game night?

### Make Reading a Habit at Home

Research shows that children who read books for just 20 minutes a day perform better in school. Here are some great ways to get your child reading!

1. Set aside a reading time that is good for everyone.
2. Pick a comfortable reading place in your home.
3. Read together either by taking turns or having one person read.
4. Involve listeners by asking them questions about the story or what they think will happen

next. Engage them with varied and exciting voices.

5. Fill your home with reading materials such as magazines, newspapers, cookbooks and books.

6. Get caught reading yourself and your child will be inspired to read as well.

7. Have older siblings read to younger siblings to gain confidence.

8. Start seasonal traditions. Read a favourite book every year at holidays and when they go back to school.

9. Keep favourite books around. New readers will build confidence and fluency when re-reading a treasured book.

"Introduce your children to magic - read to them every day!"

Robert Munsch - Honorary Chair, Family Literacy Day

Next Book Fair is March 21-24, 2011.

## 2011 APEGGA TEACHER AWARDS

Nominate an Outstanding Math or Science Teacher Who Makes School Cool!

Help to recognize a science or math teacher whose superior teaching skills have made math or science fun and inspired you to succeed academically. Your teacher could receive an award and recognition, and your school could receive \$2,000 to further science and math education. A total of 20 teachers in Alberta will be selected as

award recipients.

Judges are looking for a variety of nominators with each nomination, including students, parents, school staff, other teachers and principals. Send letters telling us why your teacher deserves this award or nominate your teacher on the following website link <http://www.apegga.org/members/Awards/taward.html>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 14 "Kindness" assembly at 11:30—Grade 2s
- Jan. 25 Hot Lunch—Pizza
- Jan. 26 Parent Council Meeting, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 27 Family Literacy Day
- Jan. 31 No School—Professional Learning Day