

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

June 2011

Volume 11, Issue 6

Student Count 201

2011-2012

It is that time of year again when our plans for the next school year start to solidify. Things are not *written in stone*, but our plans at this time are:

We will have one class at each grade level (no split classes at this time);

We will have two Kindergarten classes – one Monday, Wednesdays, and alternate Fridays, the other Tuesdays, Thursdays, and alternate Fridays (each class gets 475 hours of instruction);

Ms Manning is taking a year's leave;

Ms Hart will be moving to teach Grade 8;

We have hired a new teacher, Mr. Kim (see article) to teach Grade 6 and Band;

We are adding Grade 9

to our school – our configuration will remain K-9;

Mr. Wyper will teach Grade 9 in the mornings; the afternoon teacher remains to be hired;

We will only have one Learning Support (Resource) teacher: Mrs. Sefton – we are losing Mrs. Bowes to Chestermere Lake Middle School;

Ms Broxham will be returning from maternity leave to teach Grade 5;

The Grade 1 classroom will move to what is now Mrs. Bowes' room;

Grade 6 will be in the room currently occupied by Mrs. Kaminsky and the Grade 1s;

The Band Room will be

used for resource *pull out* groups when it is not being used for Band;

Ms Hart will stay where she is, but her class will house Grade 8;

The current Grade 8 class will become the new Grade 9 class.

Our current behaviour and social responsibility ROARS (see article) will continue to be a major focus of the school, as will our ongoing attempts to create a learning experience that will leave our students well prepared for whatever their future holds.

Regardless of the details, students can look forward to an exciting year of exploration, discovery, fun, and friendship.

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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.

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TIMES ARE CHANGING! GRADE 3

As the chrysalises in our classroom turn into beautiful butterflies, the Grade 3 Smarties are turning into mature Grade 4 students. What a journey we have been on for these past 10 months! From writing sentences to creating stories, from adding and subtracting to multiplying and dividing, and from learning about ourselves to learning about how we can help others.

We have had many exciting experiences to the Wild Flower Art Center, the Titanic Exhibit, and just recently to the zoo. We have helped support families in our communities, animals in shelters, and women living in poverty through many generous donations! We have helped support and raise awareness of the Japan crisis through hot dog and bake sales and the environment by

turning used T-shirts into personal bags. Wow! A big thank you goes out to all my families who have made all these things possible. Your time, kind words, and support have made my long winter drives well worth it! I will look back on this year with fond memories and happy tears.

Wishing you a relaxing and restful summer.

SCHOOL GYM NOT IN USE

As you may have heard, we are not able to use our school gym as the floor is being replaced due to water damage. Therefore, our Phys. Ed. classes are being held at the Indus Recreation Centre on days that we are not able to be outside due to the weather. We

are very grateful to the staff of the Indus Recreation Centre for making the hall available to us, not only for our Phys. Ed. classes, but for other activities as well. Those other activities include:

June 1—Talent Show at 2:25 p.m.

June 16—Band Performance

June 21—Dragster Heats

June 23—Dragster Finals

At this time, we don't know when the gym repairs will be completed.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL JUNE 28

Report Cards will be sent home with students on June 28th.

We will start the morning with a Pancake Breakfast at the Indus Arena from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. Thank you, once again, to Lisa Brister and her crew for hosting our breakfast. Following the breakfast there will be a brief as-

sembly at the arena. Students will then return to the school and begin Fun Day activities at approximately 10:15 a.m. This year, Mr. Winters' Grade 7 class will be organizing all Fun Day activities. Thank you to our Parent Council for providing a hot dog lunch and snacks for all students.

Please ensure that your children are dressed for the weather and provide sunscreen and bug repellent as all of the activities will take place outdoors.

Parents are welcome to join us for the Fun Day activities. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the school office.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS FOR 2011-2012

If you have registered your child for Kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year, but have not provided a copy of your child's birth certificate, or the \$25.00

registration fee, we would appreciate receiving same at your earliest convenience. Notices have been sent home.

Parents will be contacted the first

week of June regarding the placement of students in the two kindergarten classes that will run next school year.

GRADE 5 NEWS

Nearing the end of the school year, the Grade 5 students are very excited to be wrapping everything up and getting ready for the summer. We will continue to work on story writing and including the Six Traits of Writing. Please ask students to share their pieces of writing with you. In science, the chemistry unit will bring us exciting mixtures and

reactions. Students will learn to make crystals as well as explore chemical reactions such as producing carbon dioxide.

We will also be packing our bags for an overnight field trip filled with lots of adventure. At the *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump*, students will learn how First Nations people lived in harmony

with nature. They will explore trails atop thousands of years of buffalo bones. Students will also enjoy hiking on the *Frank Slide Trail* and developing skills necessary for surviving a rockslide. They will also learn what it takes to be a coal miner and tour the *Bellevue Underground Mine*.

TRANSPORTATION FEES FOR 2011-2012

Transportation fees for the 2011-2012 school year will remain unchanged. There have been no increases in these fees since the 2008-09 school year. In addition, no student transportation fees are applicable to Kindergarten children.

Students, Grades 1 to 12 are \$115.00, to a maximum per fam-



ily, per annum, of \$230.00. Those student who only utilize the service after February 1st shall pay one-half of the applicable rate.

No Student Transportation Fees are applicable for students who only utilize the Board's Transportation Services during the months of September, October, May or June.

The fees for Rural Resident

SCHOOL FEES FOR 2011—2012 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Trustees approved the 2011-2012 Instructional Supplies or Materials Fees at its May 19, 2011 Board Meeting. See details below. Please note there is no change from the current school year in these fees.

The major change is that **parents are now responsible for Kindergarten field trip costs and K-4 student supplies.** Parents have been responsible for purchasing Grades 5-9 supplies for the past two years, and **supply lists for**

Grades 5-9 students will be sent home with report cards.

We had already ordered school supplies for our K-4 students when we received this notification from Rocky View Schools. Therefore we will determine cost, in consultation with Parent Council, and forward an invoice to you in September, should you choose to purchase the supplies through us at a reduced rate. **Please watch for a letter coming home in June with further details.**

In future years, parents will be responsible for purchasing all student supplies.

Fees for 2011-12 are as follows:

Kindergarten	\$ 25.00
Grades 1 - 4	\$ 73.00
Grades 5 - 8	\$ 88.00
Grades 9—12	\$128.00

PEAK

PEAK is jumping right into June! We are really taking off with our cooking program. So far, we have had two very successful sales: Muffin Monday and Hot Dogs Thursday! Students are

looking forward to making and selling mini pizzas on Friday, June 10th and nachos on Thursday June 23rd! All proceeds will be going to the development of our breakout room in PEAK and

other classroom resources chosen by the students. Thank-you to all the fantastic parents who came in during *Showcase* to check out our new room and hear about our program!

GRADE 7 NEWS

One highlight from May for the Grade 7s was a visit from a Holocaust Survivor. Oscar (the survivor) shared experiences from his life in Poland and in various concentration camps during World War II. He had some incredible stories and answered questions from the classes (grades 6-8).

The students were very well behaved and asked insightful questions.

Something to look forward to in June will be a field trip to *Calaway Park*. It will be a great way to wrap up the



year. We would like to extend a big thank you to *Parent Council* for providing bus-sing for this excursion. It will be a blast!

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER TEA

Due to the unavailability of the school gym, we are sad to announce that we are cancelling the *Volunteer Tea* this year.

We do want to say that we



are very grateful to each and every one of you who dedicate your time,

effort, ideas, and experience to the students and staff of Indus School.

We look forward to working with you again next year.

We do appreciate you!

NEW DUCKLINGS IN KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten has been vibrating with the excitement of our new ducklings! Our anticipation began when we knew the eggs were arriving over the May long weekend. The first duckling, named Rose, hatched Tuesday, May 24th during the night, followed by Molly and Sprite, who hatched later that morning. The children have enjoyed car-

ing for the ducklings and have been keeping a journal tracking their growth and activities. Soon



Kendra-Ann with Sprite

the ducklings will show off their exceptional swimming skills to the class!

GREAT 4 HIT THE ROAD IN JUNE

After a day visit to the Glenbow Museum on May 31st, the Grade 4 class explores outdoor museums at both *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump* and the *Frank Slide*. The excitement has been building throughout the month of May. It's all about the adventure of an overnight trip with a large group of children. With the Grade 5 class

accompanying us, to the kids, it is like one giant sleepover!

Once again, the support by the parents and parent council has been amazing. Planning such a trip takes many hours, but with one hundred percent participation, not to mention the many parent volunteers, it is time well invested. For this trip to even be a possibility we also needed par-

ents to volunteer their vehicles to carry the sleeping bags and other supplies. Once again the Indus community stepped up.

At the end of the year when the students want to be outside, this is the perfect time to have some outdoor schooling. I have no doubt that it will be a trip that we all will remember in the years to come.

GRADE 2 NEWS

In early May many butterfly larvae arrived in our classroom. We have made daily observations, watching them grow from only small, black, 1cm long larvae to big, plump caterpillars with spikey hairs and a greenish-grey colour. They then formed their next stage in the life cycle, the pupa, otherwise known as a chrysalis. Recently, as of May

30th, the Painted Lady butterflies have been emerging into adulthood, flapping their orange and black wings, ready to take flight.

On May 27th the Grade 2 class headed off to the zoo. It was a wet day but dashing from building to building, and umbrellas held overhead; we managed to remain relatively dry. The highlight was the butterfly room at

the *Enmax Conservatory*. We saw chrysalises of many sizes and colours, an Atlas moth, which was the size of a tea plate and many *Blue Morphos* dining on fruit.

In June we will continue to explore the small crawling, flying creatures that make Indus their home.

GRADE 1 NEWS

In May, the Grade 1s had fun celebrating and thanking all the moms in our class for everything they do for us! We invited all the moms in for our *First Annual Mother's Day Garden Party*. The students and moms had fun painting their very own flower pots and then planting a flower

in it! We ended our morning with a delicious lunch buffet where everyone brought yummy treats for all of us! This event was a tremendous success and we would like to thank all the moms for participating with us!

On June 16, our class will be honouring our dads with our *First*

Annual Father's Day Breakfast! We are very excited to have pancakes with our dads and then we finished, we will be decorating kites with them. Afterwards, we will take the kites outside and see just how high we can fly them! We are looking forward to this fun-filled day with Dad!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We are so fortunate to have the Indus rink as our "gym" until the end of June. During rainy, windy, or mosquito-laden days,

we will continue to use the rink for PE classes. A HUGE thank-you to Sherry Klimow and Cindy Clayton at the arena for being so

accommodating!

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Grades 3 and 6 students are in the midst of writing the Provincial Achievement Tests. The following is the schedule for the month of June:

June 14: Gr. 6 Social Studies
 June 14: Gr. 3 ELA Part B
 June 15: Gr. 6 ELA Part B
 June 16: Gr. 3 Math

June 16: Gr. 6 Math
 June 17: Gr. 6 Science

INDUS LINK

Indus School is constructing a new website. While it is not officially active yet, you are welcome to take a look. It can be found at

<http://schools.rockyview.ab.ca/>

[indus](#)

Smartphone users with QR code readers can scan the image here for an instant connection.



OUT TO KIWANIS

The Grade 6 students from Indus make their way to Outdoor School.

Kamp Kiwanis is located about 10 minutes northwest of Bragg Creek. Once they stepped off the bus, a new adventure for the Grade 6 started. Out in the wilderness of Kananaskis, there was no technology for the students to use. When the students arrived, they unloaded the luggage and then sat down for a camp meeting. The staff introduced themselves, told the group basic rules, and then put them in their dorms.

Then the fun started! We got to learn lots of new games and activities, while learning at the same time. Our first activity was Magic Spot. We found a solitary spot and just had some alone time. Some students took this time to read draw or just reflect on their day. We had a chance

to play a few games before supper. For supper that night, we had perogies and corn. After that, we had a few more activities, campfire, and then bed. The next couple of days were filled with similar types of adventures. We played a few more games, and hiked a little too.

The most fun started right when we played the "Animal Game." There were Lower Herbivores, Lower Carnivores, Higher Herbivores, and Higher Carnivores. Then there was the Element, who could kill anyone with just one touch. At the end of the game, there were the Hunters, who could kill you just by seeing you, and then the game would be over for you. It was mostly a big war between different animals and the elements of earth. Then, after supper we played "Capture The

Flag." It was played in the same forest, and we were separated into two groups. There was a huge battle to try getting the other teams flag. This wasn't the best thing, but it was one of them.

On the last day, we went for a 2-3 hour hike to end the week of. We went down to the river, in the riverbed, and many other places. Along the way, we played a few games, like camouflage. Once we got back from the hike, we ate our sandwiches that we'd made, before getting together one last time in a large group. We took pictures and said goodbye to our new friends! We loaded the bus, leaving the camp in the dust.

Kamp Kiwanis was one of the best places to go! If you get a chance you should check it out!

By Evan and Calvin
 Grade 6

NEW TEACHER!

Mr. Kim will be joining the Indus School community next year as our Grade 6 and Band teacher. He grew up in Toronto and has taught music all over the world. In addition to playing several instruments, his hobbies include martial arts and designing tooth brushes. His latest



achievement was to design and build a model airplane launcher. Unfortunately it still has one little glitch: it takes the whole underside of the plane apart in the process of launching it. A little too much power, perhaps?

We welcome Mr. Kim and look forward to the excitement and experience he will be bringing to the school.

LIBRARY NEWS

Have you planned your family's summer holiday? Now is also the time to plan your child's summer reading. You can plan your escape to anywhere in the world through a good book!

Statistics have shown that if students do not read over the summer, their reading level either stays the same or in some cases even drops. Summer reading should be an informal, yet still regular part of your child's routine. Private schools assign a specific summer reading list for all grades. I won't go as far as giving your child a mandatory list, but I do have some ideas!

Some suggestions: Start by reading the first chapter or two of a new book to your child. If it is at a level they can read independently, they will be more inclined to continue reading on their own once you have "jump-started" the story. Encourage your younger child to re-read some favourite story books, and wouldn't it be a treat to make a trip to a flea market, garage sale, or book store for some "new" reading material? A gift card to a book

store makes a terrific "end of school year" gift for your child.

If you find your tweens and teens resisting reading a book, have them pick out a magazine or comic book at the supermarket. Hey, it's still reading, even if it's about dirt bikes, Justin Bieber or Archie and Betty!

Our annual **used book sale** at Indus will be held on **Thursday, June 16**, and you can send in books with which your household is finished, and everyone can shop for just 25 cents each for books. Funds raised are donated to charity, and this year we have chosen the **Red Cross Slave Lake Relief Fund**. We will accept everything from toddler books to adult books (no encyclopedias, please) and parents are invited to come shopping also! Sales goes from 12 – 3 p.m.

Finally, are you modelling good reading habits? Do you read the newspaper? Magazines? Are you taking a good book to the beach this summer? Do you ever turn the TV off for the evening and curl up with a good book? Put flashlights and some scary stories in the tent for a fun campout in the back yard! Your kids are never too old for you to read them a bed-

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jun 1 Talent Show at 2:15 at Arena
- Jun 2 & 7 Presentations from Paul
- Jun 7-9 Gr. 8 to Camp Gardner
- Jun 14-15 Gr. 4 & 5 Frank Slide Trip
- Jun 14 PAT - Gr. 6 Social Studies
- Gr. 3 ELA Part B
- Jun 15 PAT - Gr. 6 ELA Part B
- Jun 16 Gr. 1 Fathers & Special Friends
Breakfast
PAT - Gr. 3 Math
- Gr. 6 Math
Used Book Sale— 12:00—3:00
Everyone is welcome
Band Performance 7:00 pm (at
the arena)
- Jun 17 All library books are due
PAT - Gr. 6 Science
K-3 Camp Chestermere
- Jun 20 Outdoor Ed Class to COP
- Jun 21 Dragster Heats (Arena—during
P.E. classes)
- Jun 23 Hot Lunch—Tacos
Gr. 7 Calaway Park Trip
Nacho Thursday (PEAK)
Dragster Finals 1:30 at Arena
- Jun 28 Pancake Breakfast
Assembly
Fun Day Activities
Report Cards Home

time story! Put a stack of books in the car for short or long road trips, and change them regularly. So pack something good to read along with the sunscreen and make summer reading fun!

Please note: All books that belong to the Library must be returned by **Thursday, June 16**. Students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 will continue with the AR (Accelerated Reader) program until June 22, with all **AR books being due on Thursday, June 23**. Overdue notices will be sent home the following week. If you want to know if your child still has library books checked out, please email me at lpotter@rockyview.ab.ca.

The staff at Indus School wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

ROARS

ONLINE

Respect

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

We will:

- use appropriate and respectful language on-line;
- post appropriate items on sites;
- respect site rules.

Ownership

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

We will:

- use school computers for school related research only;
- refrain from plagiarizing;
- report internet bullying and other unsafe internet activities.

Attitude

We are courteous and committed to doing our best.

We will:

- sign off our server accounts and sign off for those who have forgotten to do so;
- remember that the internet is a public forum and that what we do and say creates a permanent record;
- use Facebook/MSN and other sites only at home and as a forum for positive interactions.

Responsibility

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

We will:

- abstain from internet bullying and encourage others to do the same;
- take responsibility for what we do and say on-line, and be mindful of others' feelings
- balance time spent on the computer with other activities, making sure that it does not interfere with our success.

Safety

We ensure the health and well-being of all.

We will:

- Keep personal information to ourselves and use safety settings;
- Be cautious of downloads;
- Only communicate with people we know when using email or social networking sites such as Facebook;
- Keep food and drink away from computers.