

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today
Parent Newsletter

May 2011

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Inside this issue:

Grades 2 & 3	2
Grade 1	2
Kindergarten	2
Grade 5	3
Grade 8	4
Grade 7	4
Grade 4	5

Our Mission

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

HOW PEOPLE LEARN

In 1999 *The Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education* published their research findings in the aptly named book, *How People Learn: Bridging Research and Practice*. Through an examination of over 700 scholarly articles, they were able to identify three universally agreed on principles regarding the conditions in which learning can take place.

It is critical to address the preconceptions with which students come to the classroom. People start making sense of the world at a very young age. Often, we will come to incorrect conclusions and carry them with us until they are corrected.

In order to be competent in any particular field, learners must have a large body of related factual knowledge, understand how those facts fit together in the context of that field, and organize that information in such a way it can be used and re-

called. Once a person is competent in a field, he or she will start to see possibilities and make connections that are hidden for novices. For a person to be a competent reader, for instance, one must know all the sounds represented by the letters and letter combinations, the meaning of words, the structure of sentences, the implications of punctuation, and the overall context of the printed word (reading from left to right, etc.). It is only with all of this information ingrained to the level of automacy, that one is able to read and make meaning. The same is true of any field, from calculus to carpentry. Once skills, knowledge, and competence are developed, an expert in the field is able to build on that knowledge and create new, original, work.

Learners must have a clear goal of what they want to learn, why they want to

know it, and how well they are progressing in their quest for that knowledge. These skills are referred to as *metacognitive* (thinking about one's thinking) *skills*, and create the critical environment for learning to take place.

The implications of these truisms for education are obvious. Teachers must discover and correct students' pre-existing ideas before introducing new concepts. They must teach some topics in great depth in order for competence to be built and for students to be able to operate as experts surrounding those topics. Finally, students must be taught to set clear goals, both long and short term, and must learn to monitor their understanding and progress toward those goals. With these conditions met, meaningful learning can, and indeed will, take place.

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TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME ON THE TITANIC

On April 15, 1912, *Titanic*, the world's largest ship, sank after colliding with an iceberg, claiming more than 1,500 lives. To incorporate Science through story telling, the Grades 2 and 3 students went to the Telus World of Science to experience the Titanic through artifacts. Upon arrival, the students were given boarding passes with the names of factual passengers that

were aboard the Titanic. Students were then led through a museum of incredible artifacts painstakingly retrieved from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. At the end of the exhibition students could then find out if the person on their boarding pass survived or perished the day the Titanic sank. Students were very moved by the fate of these peo-

ple. It was also interesting to learn that if someone was to board this exquisite ship today, it would cost roughly \$40,000 for a first class passenger ticket. Wow!

Thanks again to parent council for funding this wonderful experience!

Mrs. J. Stevens and Mrs. J. Hamel

PEAK ROOM FUNDRAISING IN MAY AND JUNE

The PEAK Room is holding the following fundraising activities to help expand their cooking program: May 9th is *Muffin Monday*

for \$1.00 each; May 26 is *Hot Dog Thursday* for \$1.50 each; June 10 is *Mini Pizza Friday* for \$2.00 each and June 23 is *Na-*

cho Thursday for \$1.00 per serving. If you wish your child to participate, please mark these dates on your calendar

ROBO-TOOTH VISITS GRADE 1

The Grade 1 class has been busy learning about positive dental health this month. We have learned how to take care of our teeth by brushing and flossing every day. *Robo-Tooth* has taught us the proper technique to use to make sure that our teeth and gums are healthy and strong! Thank you, *Robo-Tooth*!

Our class has also learned how to make positive choices when choosing what snacks to eat because sticky and sugary foods are not good for our teeth. Here are some things that our *kiddos* have learned about good dental health:

Rebecca: "I learned that I should brush my teeth in circles."

Aidan: "Toothpaste helps our teeth get strong and brushing them helps clean them."

Cadence: "I learned that toothpaste has fluoride in it."

Carter: "You only need to use one drop (the size of a pea) of toothpaste on your toothbrush."

Happy Brushing and Flossing!

JUICEBOX SALLY IN KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten students recognized Earth Day and gained a greater appreciation for the environment after reading the *The Wump World*. The author, Bill Peet, sends a strong message about abusing the environment in this wonderful children's book, in which the timid *Wumps*

are invaded by the *Pollutians*. The naïve *Wumps* gaze with trepidation as their serene meadows disappear under a clamorous concrete jungle. The Kindergarten students were quick to make parallels to our own world and were proud to recount their own contributions to saving the

earth through the recycling principle: reduce, reuse and recycle. The excitement mounted as the students crafted *Juice Box Sally* entirely from recycled classroom items, right down to her foam necklace!

LIBRARY NEWS

Used Book Sale It's almost that time of year again - for our annual used book sale! It will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday, June 16**. If you are spring cleaning and have books your family no longer uses, please send them to school for our sale. All students will have the opportunity to purchase books that day for the bargain price of just 25¢ each! There will also be an adult fiction section, so parents are invited to shop as well. All proceeds will be donated to a charity (TBA). This is a great way for everyone to get something to read for the summer.

Reading – Give it a Shot! Con-

gratulations 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. One student from our school, Christian Challice, from Grade 4, was chosen by the *Reading – Give it a Shot!* program



to attend a Flames game!! He received an autographed Flames jersey, met one of the players, and came home with a few souvenirs. Congratulations for working so hard on your reading, Christian!

JAPAN TSUNAMI FUNDRAISER

Congratulations Indus School! We raised a total of \$1,490.22 from the Bake Sale and Hot Dog lunch the week of April 11th. Thank you to the Grades 1, 2

and 3 students and staff for organizing and running the bake sale, and to the Resource students and staff for cooking the hot dogs.

A special thank you to all of you

who contributed baking and purchased the hot dogs and baked goods.

WRITING WITH THE WRITE TRAITS IN GRADE 5

The Grade 5 students have been exploring the *Six Traits of Writing* by reading stories and writing pieces each week to focus on one of the write traits. Through the month of April we have been focusing on ideas, organization and voice. The Grade 5 students began to think about ideas in our writing by observing an Indus School staff member during class time. They then organized their ideas into a

paragraph titled, *Getting to Know _____ at Indus School*. Students were excited to give staff members a superpower of their choice and draw the cartoons to go along with their writing. Please come in and check them out at the Open House. To work on organization in their writing, students wrote about an inspirational figure in their life. Throughout May, we will continue to work on word choice,

sentence fluency and conventions. The Grade 5 students will then be focusing on including all the Writing Traits by writing short stories to end the unit. For more information please check out the write traits link on Miss Mikkelsen's website at mmikkelsen.weebly.com

FUNDRAISER SUCCESS IN GRADE 8

Throughout the year, students in Grade 8 have worked very hard to reduce the individual student cost of participating in the *Outdoor Skills Camp* offered by *Scouts and Schools*. This camp is taking place from June 7 – 9 at *Camp Gardner*. Students will have a great experience and it also seems that they will have

a chance to practice their mentorship skills as a small class of Grade 5 and 6 students from another school is joining them.

At the beginning of this venture, it cost \$149.00/student + bus fair to attend the camp. Between the funds the Grade 8 students have raised through

bake sales, *Duct Tape the Teacher*, and the *Welcome to Spring Dinner and Dance* and the \$500.00 donated by Parent Council, the cost has been reduced to only \$70.00/student (including bussing).

A great job was done by all!

GRADE 7 MUSIC CRITICS

In our *Music and Poetry* unit, the Grade 7s have been looking at poetic devices found in music. It has been really neat for the class

to experience different styles of music, from rap, to country, and even an instrumental. We have examined things like rhythm,

rhyme, and figurative language found in these different genres of music.

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (PAT)

The following is the schedule for the Provincial Achievement Tests to be administered to Grades 3 and 6 students:

May 17—Gr. 3 English Language Arts, Part A

May 18—Gr. 6 English Language

Arts, Part A

Jun 14—Gr. 6 Social Studies

Jun 14—Gr. 3 English Language Arts, Part B

Jun 15—Gr. 6 English Language Arts, Part B

Jun 16—Gr. 3 Math

Jun 16—Gr. 6 Math

Jun 17—Gr. 6 Science

All tests will be written first thing in the morning.

ALL FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

PEAK exercised their teamwork skills to help Grades 1, 2 and 3 to fundraise money for Japan. Students worked together to put

their Math and Language Arts skills to work to fill all the orders for the students at Indus School on Thursday April 14th. All stu-

dents learned just how important it is to include everyone in such a great cause!!

MS READ-A-THON RESULTS

The students at Indus School read an amazing 12,980 minutes and raised \$3,495.00 and are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Top Reader was Oliver Hammond in Grade 4 and Top Fundraiser was Carley Loucks in Grade 4.

The *MS Read-A-Thon* has raised

over \$40 million for the MS Society of Canada and has educated over 5 million school children about multiple sclerosis in the 34 years it has been running.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY VEGETABLES?

Grade 4 students were fortunate enough to spend some quality time in April with the planting of vegetables. While the weather outside in April was certainly anything but spring like, it was the ideal weather in a mobile greenhouse, for starting to grow some vegetables. Each student welcomed the opportunity to put their hands into the soil instead of the snow. The warm moist air within the greenhouse also reminded them all that

spring would eventually arrive. Before spring break, each student had the chance to check on the progress of their previously planted vegetables. Unfortunately, despite the perfect weather within, the students were to discover that not all plant seeds are equal. Like all gardeners, they realized that either some had better quality seeds or perhaps some children already seem to have a green thumb. Since they each planted

a number of different kinds of vegetables they were also shocked and excited to see how quickly some seeds grew. The first week back the students will be tending their plants once again. Then there will be one more final day. In total each student will have had four opportunities within the greenhouse. After that, all of the plants will be given to the students so they can replant and tend at home.

OPEN HOUSE—MAY 17

Parents and guardians are invited to come to the *Indus School Open House* on Tuesday, May

17th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please feel free to visit all of the classrooms when you are here to

see what everyone has been up to.

TALENT SHOW

Grades 4 to 8 students will be able to audition for the *Indus School Talent Show* on May 3, 4

and 5 during first recess, in the band room. The Talent Show will

be held on June 1st . Please watch for further details.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 2-5 Outdoor School, Gr. 6

May 3 Hot Lunch—Chicken

May 3-5 Talent Show Auditions

May 5 Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea

May 6 Gr. 1 Mother's Day Garden Party

May 9-12 Dragster Races. Finals on

the 12th

May 10 Kindergarten Orientation Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

May 13 Assembly at 11:30 a.m.—*Caring*, presented by Kindergarten

May 17 Gr. 3 ELA, Part A Provincial Achievement Test (PAT)
Hot Lunch—Hot Dogs

May 17 School Open House

May 18 Gr. 6 ELA, Part A, PAT

May 20 NO SCHOOL (PL Day)

May 23 HOLIDAY (Victoria Day)

May 31 Hot Lunch— BP Day

ROARS

OFF-SITE

Respect

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

We will:

- stay off of our neighbours' property;
- keep areas we visit clean;
- behave in the manner expected at the site being visited.

Ownership

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

We will:

- behave in other locations the way we are expected to behave at Indus;
- apply the ROARS philosophy in all aspects of our lives;
- conduct ourselves with dignity and integrity.

Attitude

We are courteous and committed to doing our best.

We will:

- be gracious, courteous and friendly with volunteers, staff members, and other people at any site we visit;
- keep our voices at appropriate levels.

Responsibility

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

We will:

- be good citizens: positive ambassadors of Indus;
- report vandalism;
- clean up after ourselves, leaving places better than we found them;
- report bullying and unsafe behaviour.

Safety

We ensure the health and well-being of all.

We will:

- use the buddy system;
- be safe emotionally and physically.