

Indus School SPIRIT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Parent Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 11

Student Count 238

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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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Concert:

The Christmas Concert will be held at the Indus Recreation Centre on **Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.** Students are expected to be there at 6:45 p.m. The Kindergarten to Grade 6 students only will be performing at the concert this year. The older students will take part in a musical later in the school year.

Dress Rehearsal:

The dress rehearsal will take place that afternoon

at 1:00 p.m. If you or family members are unable to attend the evening concert, you are more than welcome to attend the afternoon dress rehearsal.

Food Bank:

As in the past, we invite you to bring an item(s) for the local Food Bank. The Food Bank bin will be located in the front entry-way.

Silent Auction

The Grades 1,2,3 stu-

dents will be hosting a silent auction at the concert from 6:00—7:00 p.m. All money raised will be donated to a charity of the students' choice.

Volunteers Needed:

If you are able to assist with setting up for the concert on December 19th, and/or dismantling on December 22, please call the school office at 403.936.5855. Your help will be appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 2	Report cards home	Dec 22	Dismantle stage
Dec 6	Hot Lunch		Last day of classes
Dec 19	Concert Set-up		until January 9th
Dec 20	Hot Lunch	Dec 23	P L Day for staff
Dec 21	Dress rehearsal at 1:00 pm	Jan. 9	Classes resume (Swimming
	Christmas Concert at 7:00pm		for Grs. 1-5 begins January 9th)

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A GRADE 3, *WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD!*

In honor of Remembrance Day the Grade 3s had discussions, 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 a role in our freedoms today. We

talked about *In Flanders Fields*, by John McCrae, and created postcards for veterans. The Grade 3 students brainstormed ways we could create a *wonderful world*. We learned the song, *What a Wonderful World*, by Louis Armstrong, in sign lan-

guage. The students also illustrated their own book, and the illustrations and sign language were presented at our Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th. Great Job Smarties!

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT INDUS SCHOOL

We received some very positive feedback from parents and members of the community who attended our Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th. Thank you to the students and Mr. Paul Walsh who participated in the Col-

our Guard, the Grades Kindergarten to Grade 6 students for their performances, and to Mr. Kim and his band students, String Ensemble and Pop Band. A special thanks to Mrs. Terri Burris and Mrs. Cori Saretsky and



all those who helped coordinate this special event.

Once again, we requested students to bring pictures and other memorabilia of family members who have been or are members of the armed forces, military, etc.,

and we ended up with quite a collection including, among other things, shells, photographs, berets, flags, dogtags, and medals. Thank you for sharing your personal treasures with us.

Because there was a lot of interest in our display, we plan to do it up bigger and better next year. We will be sure to send a notice home in plenty of time to give you a chance to put together your display items.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES SILENT AUCTION

The Grades 1, 2 and 3 students will be building gingerbread houses during the month of December. The students will be hosting a silent auction of their houses at the Christmas Concert on December 21st. Everyone

will have an opportunity to bid on them, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. before the Concert begins.

Parents of Grades 1, 2 and 3 students, please watch for more information coming home.



LIBRARY NEWS

A huge thank you to all our Indus families who purchased books and other items at the Book Fair in November. 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!

Graphic novels are available for all ages and continue to be popular.

The Guinness World Records 2012 is loved by all ages and is available at Costco for about \$16. We have 3 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!

What is your child bringing home from the library these days? Ask them!! If they are into military machines or fairy books, there's a great gift idea!

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 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!

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Parent Council is pleased to announce that the annual Poinsettia Fundraiser was very successful, raising \$982.30 for the school.

Congratulations to our top sellers, Kierra Wilson in Grade 8,

Dallas Brocklesby in Grade 9 and Joshua Cooper in Kindergarten. Each of them received gift cards from Toys R Us, iTunes and Walmart respectively.

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser.



SUTP COUPON BOOKS FUNDRAISER

We still have a few Students' Union Ticket Pack coupon books for sale at \$20 each. You will save much more than that by

redeeming just a couple of coupons, and half the purchase price goes back to our school. Great stocking stuffer for that

"impossible-to-buy-for" relative! The books will be available for purchase at the Christmas Concert.

SCHOOL FEES REMINDER

This is just a reminder that if you haven't already paid your child's school fees for the year, we would appreciate receiving payment as soon as conveniently

possible.

If you receive the GST rebate you automatically qualify to have, not only your school fees waived, but also the transportation fees.

If you would like to make alternate arrangements for payment of fees, or if you require further information, please call Myrna at the school office (403.936.5855).

ONCE UPON A TIME...IN KINDERGARTEN

Once again the kindergarten comes alive with the enactments of fairytales! The students take great pleasure in the adventures of the folkloric characters, princes, wicked stepmothers, elves, trolls, beasts, and talking animals. They are quick to recognize a fairytale by the traditional beginning of *Once upon a time...* and are delighted when

humble heroes triumph over evil and live happily ever after.

Felt boards, puppet plays and dramatizations are used to retell our favourite tales with many academy performances.



Wyatt, Sadia and Foster in *The Three Bears*.

REPORT CARDS

Students will be bringing home their report cards on Friday, December 2nd. If you have any concerns regarding your child's

report, please contact the teacher. If you notice a discrepancy in the attendance figures on the report, please don't panic, as it is

a glitch in the new system. We are working at generating a report that will give us accurate attendance figures.

SWIMMING JANUARY 9TH

Students in Grades 1 to 5 will begin swimming lessons on **Monday, January 9th**, the first

day back after the Christmas Break. Swimming will last for the entire week of January 9th.

Please watch for further information coming home in December.

PEAK BUSINESS IS HEATING UP!!

It's been a busy month in PEAK! Our PEAK food business is progressing very well. PEAK put on another yummy fundraiser: Nachos and Cheese!!! On November 23rd and 24th students at Indus School were able to purchase

Nachos and Cheese for \$2.00. The funds raised from our food business are used to support the Resource Program with books and other classroom supplies. These benefit all students involved in Resource pro-

gramming. Thank-you for your support of our programming and students!

We have begun our practice for the Christmas concert. We look forward to seeing you there!

GRADE 1 READING COMPREHENSION

November was a busy month in Grade 1! We started learning about the plot of a story and the students are beginning to identify the characters, setting, problem and solution on their own now. Many of the stories we

read and discussed dealt with *Friendship* and what it means to be a good friend to others. We will continue to learn more reading comprehension strategies in the coming weeks, as well. It is important to practice

all of your *Lollipop Words* every day and remember to read your AR and Library books to improve reading skills even more! Great work by all the Grade 1s!

GRADES 4 AND 5 TRAVELLED BACK IN TIME

The Grades 4 and 5 classes travelled back in time when they went to Heritage Park in November. Spending a half-day in the classroom of a school from one hundred years ago made the students appreciate how fortunate they are today. Although most wanted to feel what it was like to be strapped, I suspect it

was only because it was a novelty. Most who tried to bring an authentic lunch realized that their ancestors were natural recyclers. Everything was reused. The other part of the day gave each child a feeling of the hardships pioneers had to endure. The trains set the stage for the journey out west. An actual sod

house was visited as well as a pioneer home filled with the modern conveniences of the time. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us who attended.

CHEERS TO THE CAFE IN GRADE 2!

The Grade 2 students kick-started our CAFE menu system as part two of *The Daily 5* program in November. The CAFE menu board is now set up in our classroom and students enjoyed hot chocolate and reading a variety of story books to kick-off the program. CAFE is an acronym for Comprehension (I understand what I read), Accuracy (I can read the words), Fluency (I can read smoothly with few errors and I understand what I read) and Expand vocabulary (I know, find and use interesting words). As the Grade 2 students learn new strategies, they will then rename the strategy so it is meaningful to them. Individual students then put the strategies

up on the menu board and eventually they will decide which strategy they are working on based on their reading needs. Students will have individual and small group conferences with Miss Mikkelsen in order to set reading goals for themselves and follow-up on their progress. Don't forget to read with your child and check in on their progress and the strategies they are focusing on.



Brynn and Navtej kicking off the CAFE program with hot chocolate.

JUST MONKEYING AROUND

The Grade 7s went on a field trip to the Calgary Zoo in November, to learn about interactions and ecosystems from our Science curriculum. We saw many ani-

mals, and had an interactive presentation on primates. In the presentation the Grade 7s learned about primate adaptations, interactions, and the im-

pacts humans have had and can have in the future on primates. We had a fantastic time!

ARROWS FOR ALL - GRADE 6 ARCHERS!

The Grade 6 class is learning the sport of archery from the King of Archers, Mr. Kim. Mr. Kim has taken down bull elephants in India, tigers in Korea, and rhinos in Africa - all in his imagination, of course. His class has been studying the shooting tech-

niques of Howard Hill, the legend who starred in a Hollywood film called "Tembo, the Killer Elephant," and Mr. Kim hopes that one day, his class will be able to make their own bows and arrows so that they may enjoy the ways of their an-

cient ancestors. If you have any knowledge of bows and arrows and would like to contribute your time to the class, please contact Mr. Kim at pkim@rockyview.ab.ca. It will be a shoot!

21ST CENTURY LEARNERS: INNOVATIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS

The world is changing; today's learners must be prepared for a complex society of which we do not yet have a clear vision. One of the key elements of the 21st-century education is to develop students who will be innovative problem solvers. The word *problem* has many definitions and education, from mathematical word problems, to social conflicts that arise when working together in a group, to determining the most effective way to communicate information about the economic impact of the Black Death on medieval Europe.

Teaching students to solve these problems effectively requires

teaching numerous strategies. Basic comprehension is required to understand the problem, while analysis skills are needed for a deep understanding of the issue. Lateral thinking, determining many ways of addressing the issue, must also be taught. Combining elements from various ideas is another skill that is part of our modern classrooms, as is evaluating the potential effectiveness of the solutions and determining a final course of action. Once a plan for solving is developed, it must be implemented and then evaluated.

Innovation and problem solving

skills are embedded into most student assignments. From finding effective ways to communicate ideas on a variety of topics, to working together with other students, to employing technology efficiently, to looking at things from a different perspective, fosters innovation and gives students the means by which they can solve problems.

While most adults today have developed the skills over time, our students will need to have them in place as soon as they leave school. From that foundation they will need to develop more sophisticated problem-solving skills over time as our world continues to become

***THE STAFF AT INDUS SCHOOL WISH ALL OF YOU A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!***





The Calgary Flames Salute Alberta Rural Schools

The Calgary Flames are pleased to provide schools the opportunity to allow students, faculty, parents and friends with the chance to attend an NHL game and give back to school at the same time.

Using the password and link below, purchase tickets to the January 7th Flames vs. Wild game, and \$5 from every ticket sold goes directly to **Indus School**.

www.ticketmaster.ca/ruralschools

Your Unique (case sensitive) Password is:

Bourque

Press Level Ticket with a Hot Dog & Pop

\$35

plus Convenience Charges
(Over \$60 value)

Offer only available on select games
and ticket availability is limited

For more information please contact Lorie Potter at lpotter@rockyview.ab.ca or at
Indus School 403-936-5855

