

Indus School SPIRIT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

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Student Count 237

THE 21ST CENTURY CITIZEN – GLOBALLY AWARE

Four years ago, Rocky View Schools set course to become a world leader in contemporary education. Since that time, we have heard a lot about 21st Century Learning: what it is, how we pursue it, and how it changes our conception of what a school is. The destination of our educational journey is to help students develop into the informed citizens who will move our society forward. In each edition of the SPIRIT Newsletter this year, I will highlight one of the attributes of the 21st Century Citizen, and by extension, the 21st Century Learner.

The 21st Century Citizen will need to be globally aware. Global awareness has two distinct elements, both of which are of increasing importance. The

first of these is awareness of what is happening on our planet. With increased connections around the world, concerns over climate change, pollution, economic instability, terrorism, or just about anything else, are no longer isolated to one region. To be effective, our children will need to have a much more thorough grasp of the world's affairs than we do today. To this end, we at Indus are embarking on a programme to ensure that students know the locations of nations and major geographic features of the world. This will give them a framework on which such studies as current events can be fastened.

The other element of global awareness is the ability to examine ideas from a global perspective. This requires one to look at things from all sides, and to understand that other people may not agree, but that does not necessarily make them wrong. Seeing that most disagreements reflect different hierarchies of values will allow our children to be more accepting of differences, and to consider more than their own needs when making decisions.

Global awareness is just one of the many attributes future citizens will require. Next month, we will take a look at the increased need of self-direction, both as citizens and as learners.

Inside this issue:

Kindergarten	2
Grades 7, 1 & 6	3
Grade 1	3
Grades 2, 4 & PEAK	4
Grade 5	5
Grades 9, 8 & 3	6

Our Mission:

To build in students a multifaceted personal foundation to carry them successfully through life.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT BY MRS. T. BURRIS

Language is the foundation for reading and writing and is vital for success in school. In the first month of Kindergarten, the teacher is actively assessing students' expressive and receptive language along with their social skills to determine if they require support in this area. A typical five year old will be able to use the S, Z, and L sounds correctly and should be easy to understand. TH and R sounds are more difficult but 95 percent of six year olds are using these

sounds correctly. At five years of age, a child should be speaking in sentences that are five to six words long, using present, future and past tenses and be able to use pronouns (he, she) correctly. The teacher will also be assessing each child's voice, fluency, grammar (she is, we are), his or her ability to follow 3 step directions and understand basic concepts such as colours and location words (on top, beside). It is important that a Kindergarten child be able to sit quietly and listen to

the teacher, ask questions and wait for his or her turn during activities. We are very fortunate to have access to an excellent team of specialists, including a speech/language pathologist to provide support at this vulnerable age wherever necessary to ensure every child's school experience is successful. Watch for our handout, *A Parent's Guide to Creating Language-rich Environments*.

*Terris Burris
Kindergarten Teacher*

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

September is such a busy month in the kindergarten!! It is a major adjustment for many of the little ones but it is such a precious age in which children still possess an innocent belief in magic. Mrs. Saretsky led us into that magical world when she interrupted our story and exclaimed that she saw a gingerbread man racing toward the gym! Our school tour began as the children eagerly pursued this fictitious character and earnestly tried to decipher the clues he

had left behind. Their quest led them to all areas of the school as they excitedly asked Indus students and staff members if they had seen a gingerbread man. The gingerbread man was finally discovered in Mrs. Wood's



Wyatt with his decorated Gingerbread Man

office! When we brought him back to the kindergarten, he had lots of friends waiting for him, ready to be decorated. We eventually finished our story and then retold it many times using our felt board during literacy centers and of course ate our gingerbread cookies!

UPDATE ON THE GYM

Our gym is almost finished! We anticipate it will be finished by mid October. We look to be blessed with at least one more week of great weather, so outdoor PE shouldn't be an issue. Unfortunately, completion won't come soon enough for Indus to field extra-curricular

volleyball teams this year.

For those new to our school, our gym floor was damaged by moisture last spring when a drainage pipe directly underneath it broke. Not only has the floor been replaced but, in a move to reduce the impact of high water levels in

the future, the in-floor ducting has been sealed off and a rooftop heating / ventilating system installed. We are looking forward to many years of fun and excitement in our new and improved gymnasium!

GRADE 7 ARTISANS

In September, the Grade 7s learned about three First Nations cultures (The Mi'kmaq, Anishinabe, and Haudenosaunee) as part of Canadian history. After

researching these groups, we spent time looking at the tools and equipment they used. Then students had an opportunity to re- create one of these "ancient arti-

facts", to go along with a write-up for his/her particular group. The Grade 7s were both creative and enthusiastic about the project. Well done 7s!

HAPPY FALL FROM GRADE 1 CLASS

The Grade 1 class will be busy learning about all things "Fall" this month! We are excited to start our study of nocturnal animals over the next few days. We are going to learn all about how owls and bats and other night creatures live in our world and we will be reporting our findings in our first *Animal Report* of the year.

We will also be discussing and working with pumpkins when we get closer to Halloween, and we will be doing some estimating and measuring in Math, as well as some culminating reading and writing activities. We are also looking forward to doing some fun Fall activities with our Grade 5 Buddies!

It is a pleasure to welcome Ms

Suzie Etsell to the Grade 1 classroom. Ms Etsell is a student teacher who will be with us until the end of October completing her practicum. In November she will be working in the Grade 5 classroom with Ms Broxham.

Happy Fall from all the Grade 1s!

AUDITIONS FOR INDUS STRING ORCHESTRA AND INDUS ROCK BAND

The school music director, Mr. Kim, is pleased to announce that he will be holding auditions for violin, viola, and cello for the String Orchestra on Mondays in October, and for vocalists, guitarists, bass guitarists, and drum-

mers for the school Rock Band on Tuesdays in October. Please be advised that only serious applicants will be considered. Once the musicians are selected, rehearsals will take place after school. As this is an extra-

curricular program, minimum instruction will be provided by Mr. Kim. It is expected that applicants have previous knowledge of their instruments.

CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GOODLINESS FOR GRADE 6

According to the HBO, Judy Preete, this year's Grade 6 class is in the running for the cleanest class of the month prize. Should this class win, it will be the first time that this group of students will have received such an honour. The students are eagerly

waiting for the results of her decision as they are well aware that this honour not only symbolizes improvement in cleanliness, but in their overall maturity as well. Their teacher, Mr. Kim, is overjoyed that his students have been nominated; he knows that his

students are striving hard to improve their character. He also knows that there are more than a few well-wishers who are anticipating further surprises from this class and that they will not be disappointed.

STUDENTS IN GRADE 2 TAKE A STAND AGAINST CANCER

Indus School's participation in the Terry Fox Run brought about awareness school-wide. Students in Grade 2 focused on learning more about cancer and how they can help people that are fighting this horrible disease. Many students know someone who has either had cancer, is fighting it today, or has passed away from cancer. Students wrote names of people they know impacted by this disease on pink ribbons to display in the hallway. Students became aware of Terry Fox's dream and how he inspired a world of hope. As a class, we read his journal and mapped his journey across Eastern Canada. Students

learned how young the heroic Canadian was and the impact of the legacy he started on many cancer patients today. While learning about cancer and raising money for cancer, students thought about someone close to home. Students wrote letters to Mrs. Hamel and are excited for them to be delivered to her in hope that they may bring a smile to her face. Students were eager to continue Terry Fox's dream and participated in the run of 4.2 km to raise money for cancer re-



search.

The Grade 2 students are off to a great start this year. Thank you to all parents for your support to date. I am looking forward to an exciting year!

WE'RE FALLING INTO THE NEW ROUTINE IN PEAK!

We have had a fantastic start to our year! Last Friday was absolutely delicious!! It was all about apples! We read *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein and dis-

cussed the relationship between the boy and his friend. We filled out some 'good apples' notes for our friends to say how they make us feel. We completed

some crisp apple activities and even did some baking! Mmmmm...the best part was eating the yummy apple pie!!

WELCOME TO GRADE 4

We have had an exciting first month. September of any grade carries with it many changes, but moving to Grade 4 also brings with it a shift to Division II. It seems most were excited to become part of this older group. The physical shift in classroom location to a new part of the building, plus a new door to enter was a welcome transition. Grade 4 also brought with it the opportunity to work with special-

ist teachers in both French and Music. Both quickly became subject favourites. Although the gym was not ready for use, splendid weather gave all of us an opportunity to take advantage of the extended summer. We also were fortunate to have a new student join the group. Brooklin was welcomed by all, but especially the girls. After only a month, I can see that this is a group of students

who demonstrate respect towards one another. Disputes are discussed openly, with others giving suggestions for resolutions. Positive attitudes towards new learning have been obvious. Furthermore, it is a pleasure to see the healthy food that each child brings to school. Brain food really does make a difference. I look forward to working with these enthusiastic children.

LIBRARY NEWS

Your family is back into the fall routine – hockey, music lessons, harvest, ringette, football, homework, chores, lunches, etc. It's not easy to find time to read with your child! But this doesn't have to be extra time you find, reading can be integrated into all your daily activities. See the daily literacy activities in this newsletter from www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca for great reading tips.

Please help your child remember to bring his/her library books on the day he/she comes to Library: Tuesday - Grades 2, 5, Resource and T/T Kindergarten. Wednes-

day - Grades 1, 4, 6, 7, and M/W Kindergarten. Thursday - Grades 3, 8, and 8/9. If you aren't finished reading your book, it can be renewed, as long as no one else is waiting for it (the book must be brought in to renew).

Thanksgiving books are being "gobbled up" from the display, as are the fall and pumpkin books, and I'm getting my Halloween display ready. Before we know it, it will be Book Fair time (November 7-10). More details will be sent home after Thanksgiving.

The Accelerated Reader (AR) pro-

gram is underway, and at the time of this writing, students have already read and quizzed on over 300 books in just 3 weeks! Thank you to our Parent Council, who pays for our online subscription to this very valuable reading tool.

Remember, parents and preschoolers in our community are welcome to borrow books from our library.

Remember that children need to read independently, be read to, and read with. So go share a book with your children!

GRADE 5 STUDENTS ARE BIG BUDDIES!

The Grade 5 students worked hard this month creating mini books for their Grade 1 buddies. Everyone worked creativity to come up with fantastic nursery rhyme scenes, chil-



dren's songs and short stories.

Students used fabric and various craft materials to create the illustrations for their books. At the end of September, the Grade 5s brought their beau-

tiful work to their reading buddies so they could share them enthusiastically and give them as a special gift to their younger friends. The books were well received, and both classes are eager to continue sharing and working together over the school year. Both classes will be working on various reading and writing projects together to encourage oral reading and improving their writing skills.

PICTURE DAY

Lifetouch will be taking school photos at the school on **Tuesday, October 18th** starting at 9:00 a.m. Retakes will be on

Monday, November 22 in order to accommodate the Monday/Wednesday kindergarten class.

Thank you, once again, to Sue Wood for volunteering to coordinate this special event.

GRADE 8/9 NEWS

What a wonderful time of year to be settling back into the routine of school. As the warmth of the sun fades to a cool breeze and the leaves colour and fall, the grade nines are falling into new routines and new leadership roles here at Indus School. A role that is very fitting both individually and in the context of their personal understanding. For the past few weeks, students have been asked to develop an understanding of their own

point of view and how differing opinions incite questions, debates and reasoning. The grade nines have looked at Leadership, as a unit of study in ELA 9, to elicit their understanding of point of view. They have questioned and defined leadership, characteristics, skills, leadership styles and have started to identify leaders and/or *Great Leaders* that have impacted society, taught us about the world, ourselves and our neighbours. Stu-

dents are currently working on their own leadership project whereby they have selected a leader that has shaped the world, in their own opinion, positively or negatively. In written word and visual representation, I'm excited to see the culmination of this unit and how each student will continue to develop their point of view within any area of study and how, through this knowledge of leadership, they'll truly begin to develop into leaders themselves.

SEPTEMBER'S FLYING BY IN GRADE 8!

It's been an exciting start up month in Grade 8! Several students have moved to Ms. Simpson's classroom, leaving us with 27 students. The curriculum is new for both teacher and students. There are many interesting topics including *Cells and Systems* in Science and *The Re-*

naissance Period in Social Studies. Feel free to look over the curriculum; volunteers and ideas for field trips are always welcome! In the coming weeks, microscopes will be dusted off for an up close and person comparison of both animal and plant cells. Any expertise from

outside sources in this area would be greatly appreciated. I'm very excited to be working with new curriculum and learning right along with the students!

Please feel free to browse my *plone* folder for a snap shot of what is happening in our room!

BOW VALLEY JUNIOR CURLING—AGES 8—18

A mini-clinic for first-time curlers will be held on October 19, 5:30—6:45 p.m at the Arena.

Registration is October 26, 5:30—6:45 with on-ice practices starting November 1 or 2, 5:30—

6:45. For more information, please call Sue at 403.936.5994.

GRADE 3 SMARTIES LOVE READING!

It has been a busy first month of school in Grade 3. I have enjoyed getting to know each student and I look forward to the year ahead. The past few weeks' focus has been on getting back into reading habits. We have embraced *The Daily 5* program. Using this program the children

are learning how to pick books that fit, use reading strategies to build fluency and increase stamina. Each child has a box of books with a variety of tools to use when reading alone or with someone. The children are learning to be independent and enjoy reading. The inval-

able time to enjoy a book helps me target learners and provide one on one feedback. With the support of the Accelerated Reading program each student is reading books that will support literacy development. It is going to be a wonderful year!

Happy Reading!

INDUS PARENT COUNCIL

The following Parent Council Executive positions were filled at the AGM:

Chair: Michelle Alm

Vice-Chair: Brenda Kuryk

Past Chair: Sue Wood

Secretary: Susan Bedard

Community Liaison: Herman Kranendonk

Special Events/Fundraising Coordinator: Charlene Gosling

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Jodi Gingras

The position of **Treasurer** is still open.

If you are interested in this position or if you would like information regarding your Parent Council, please call Sue Wood at 403.936.7858 or Michelle Alm at 403.936.5340.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 4 Track & Field Meet - all day
Pop Band - 3:30 - 4:30
- Oct. 7 PL Day - NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 10 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Oct. 11 Grs. 5 & 9 Vaccinations
Pop Band 3:30 - 4:30
- Oct. 18 School Photos
Pop Band 3:30 - 4:30
- Oct. 25 Pop Band 3:30 - 4:30
Hot Lunch
- Oct. 27 PEAK Hot Dog Sale (noon)
- Oct. 31 Haunted Gym 1:00 - 3:30

ART CLASSES FOR KIDS

Art classes will be held in Langdon at the Langdon Community Church for children ages 6 to 12 on Thursdays, September 29 to December 1, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. This session includes portraiture, still life, animals and landscape in various mediums,

including pencil, pencil crayon, charcoal and chalk pastels, oil pastels, watercolour/tempera paints, black ink and felt pens. The fee is \$20 per class or \$200 for the 10 weeks, and includes art supplies. Fees can be paid in one, two or three post-dated cheques

payable to: LBM Services, 13 Riverside Circle S.E., Calgary, AB T2C 3X9.

To register, please contact Lillian Tkach Matisons at lilart@telus.net, or by phoning 403.236.9819. The website is www.originalpaint.ca.

MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The *No Child Without* program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency,

MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to a your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca.

To register your child you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the *No Child Without* program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.

Daily literacy activities

Learning happens in many ways, especially in our day-to-day activities. Tasks such as cooking, doing laundry, running errands and surfing the Internet all provide learning opportunities that your family can embrace.

Here are 10 fun and easy ways to make literacy part of your family's daily life.

1. When making your grocery list, have your child write out the items you need to buy.
2. At the store, ask your child to count out the money to make the purchase.
3. Make it a habit to always read a story together at bedtime.
4. When cooking dinner, involve your children in measuring the ingredients. This helps them understand fractions and measurements.
5. Driving is the perfect opportunity to practice literacy. Read signs, billboards and licence plates together, and show your children the proper way to read a map.
6. While on the Internet, make time to research something new that your family is interested in. Researching skills are important and help with reading and comprehension.
7. In the car, sing along to songs on the radio. Singing encourages learning patterns of words, rhymes and rhythms, and is strongly connected to language skills.
8. When playing a board game, read the instructions aloud to each other or count how many spaces to travel around the board.
9. Involve your kids when you pay bills. This will teach them strong financial skills early on in life.
10. Children follow by example, so ensure reading is part of your daily life too!



For more family literacy tips, activity ideas and Family Literacy Day® information, please visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca