

SPiRiT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

Volume 12, Issue 4

Student Count 241

ON-LINE PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

In September, parents will have the option of paying school fees

online, including option fees and field trip fees. Please watch for

further details in September regarding registration.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees for 2012-2013 will be as follows:

K - \$25.00

Grs. 1-8 - \$95.00

Gr. 9 - \$135.00

The above fees reflect an increase from this year's fees, and therefore, **all students will be provided with school supplies next year.**

In addition, agendas will be provided for the K-4 students.

Transportation fees will remain the same for next year at \$115 per child to a maximum of \$230 per family. Once again, there will be no transportation fees for Kindergarten children. Transportation fees

have not increased since 2008-2009.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID SCHOOL FEES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT 403.936.5855.

Inside this issue:

Grade 5	2
Grade 1	3
Grade 4	4
Grade 3	4
Kindergarten	4
Grade 2	5
Grade 7	5

Our Mission

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2012-2013

Just a reminder that if you have a child or know of a child who will be attending Kindergarten this coming September,

you should contact the school office prior to the end of June. We will require a copy of

the child's birth certificate and a \$25 non-refundable registration fee.

7 Indus Court, Indus, AB T1X 0H7

www.rockyview.ab.ca 403-936-5855 <http://indus.rockyview.ab.ca>

REAL-LIFE, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL STUDIES GR. 5

As another year comes to a close, the Grade 4 and 5 students are just about to head out on their biggest adventure yet: They will be heading to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park in mid-June. Students will be sleeping in teepees, making dream catchers, hearing about

traditional story telling, learning how to make drums from animal skins, learning and participating in Native American dance, eating Native American food, and going on hikes to learn about the site and how the Native Americans used plants and berries in their everyday life. It's sure to be an

active two-day program that will reinforce much of what they've been learning about the Native Americans of Canada in our Grade 5 Social Studies Program. Please keep an eye on the Grade 5 webpage in late June for pictures and videos of this amazing adventure.

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 14**, 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. We will accept everything from toddler books to adult books (no encyclopedias, please) and parents are invited to come shopping also! Sale 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 bedtime 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 14**. If you want to know if your child still has library books checked out, please email me at lpotter@rockyview.ab.ca.

MS Read-a-thon prizes will be handed out as soon as we receive them at the school.

USED BOOK SALE—JUNE 14

Please refer to the Library article above for details about our annual June Used Book Sale. Parents, members of the commu-

nity and family members are all welcome to attend.



GRADE 1 NEWS

I can't believe the year is coming to a close already. It seems like just yesterday that I took over in January from Mrs. Kaminsky. It has been a pleasure to be with the Grade 1 students during this time and we have had a blast getting to know one another.

This past May the class had such a fun time putting on the Mother's Day tea celebration. A big thanks goes out to all the moms, grandmas and aunties who attended. The Grade 1s greatly enjoyed mak-

ing the treats for you and serving you. I have to send a special thank you to Grandma Linda and

all of the other staff who helped the Grade 1s going to and from the kitchen.

Next month, we have lots of summer activities coming up including building bird-houses.

Please remember to bring all Library books back before the end of the year and keep practising your AR and Lollipop words so that you are ready for Grade 2 in September!



PEAK IS SOARING THROUGH THE MONTH!

For the remaining month of school, PEAK is determined to have a great time with learning! Each week entails a new theme. Last week, for example, was a bird theme. We learned about some different types of birds and for our finale of the week, we made angry bird pizzas!! What a

tasty treat!

The end of June will bring a new beginning for our Resource Students. I am stepping down as Resource Teacher and I will be teaching Grade 6 next year. It will be a sad good-bye to many students for me. I have watched

so many students grow in so many ways. Thank-you to the parents, staff, and students that I have worked so closely with during the past two years. You make an amazing team!

Mrs. E. Sefton

PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The following is the schedule for the Provincial Achievement Tests to be written in June:

Jun 12 - Gr. 3 English Language Arts, Part B

Jun 14— Gr. 3 Math

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

Jun 18—Gr. 6 Math

Jun 19—Gr. 6 Science

Jun 22—Gr. 9 Science

Jun 25—Gr. 9 Math

Jun 26—English Language Arts, Part B

Jun 27—Gr. 9 Social Studies

MUSIC IN MAY - GRADE 4

Where is all that noise coming from? I mean where is all that music coming from? Yes, in May, the Grade 4 students each received a musical instrument. Whether it was a recorder, flute, saxophone, trumpet, or any other sound-making item, the students were ready to perform to anyone willing, or even at times unwilling, to listen. No

doubt many families have also been welcomed by this new music.

Mr. Kim increased their music time as well as each student's individual practise time. Even though the practise times are during lunch or recess, no one complains. Instead it is obvious that it is something they are thrilled about. At times, some

have been pulled to fill in during music options for an absent older band student. When this occurs, it is considered a great honour.

Our overnight trip in June will involve some traditional native music, including drumming and dancing. I expect great participation from our class.

SUPER STORIES! - GRADE 3

The Grade 3 Smarties have been very busy creating stories. We planned our stories and then carefully constructed them. We created a hamburger for each part. Some students had double meat, double cheese or cheese and lettuce to add details. These stories were then published, illustrated and presented. This prac-

tice helped us prepare for the provincial exam. Knowing how to plan and execute a story enabled all the students to write a great story. Well done!

On another note, I would like to thank all the wonderful Grade 3 parents for their help making this year successful. Thank you for

the endless hours cutting, gluing, typing, reading and signing agendas. I will truly miss everyone.

Make sure you come back to see me. I am only down the hall!

Mrs. Jamie Stevens
Grade 3

GIVING BACK TO OUR MOMS FOR ALL THAT THEY DO - KG TN.

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.

Five and six year olds are typically developmentally ego centric but they also have a special bond with their mom and are very aware of their mother's encompassing love. When asked why they love their mom, they were able to express: she hugs and kisses me; she reads stories to me; she tucks me in at bedtime; she drives me to hockey and takes care of me when I'm sick. We brainstormed what mom enjoys and what makes her happy. It was no surprise that moms like coffee, tea, flow-

ers, parties and diamonds! So we prepared a special invitation inviting all the kindergarten moms to our Mothers' Day Tea! The enthusiastic preparation was truly an act of love. The students took pride in baking brownies and banana bread, decorating the room and setting the tables. Every child role-played, greeting mom at the door, presenting her with a corsage and serving her favourite beverage and treat. When the big day arrived, I believe every mother felt special and their little ones learned the joy of giving.



Anna serves her Mom at the Mother's Day Tea

SMALL, CRAWLING AND FLYING ANIMALS - GRADE 2

The Grade 2 students have been very excited about some of the animals in our classroom the past month! Students spent the month of May observing our live ant farm in which they closely studied harvester ants in their colony and learned many interesting ant facts. The ant farm started with three small tunnels in the sand before the 45 ants were put into the farm.

In just one day, the ants filled the tunnels that we made for them and began to design their own farm. Students watched how each ant contributed to the colony. There were builder, feeder, guard and nurse

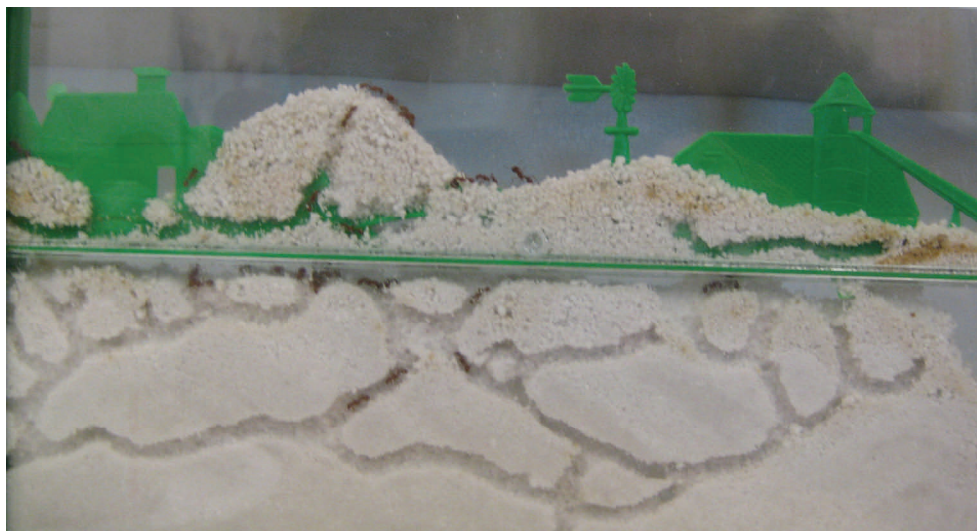
ants. Did you know that an ant can carry a load that weighs twenty times more than its body weight? This would be like an

built their very own graveyard. Students will continue observing our Earthworms and Painted Lady butterflies throughout the

month of June. They will also be completing individual research projects on a small, crawling or flying animal of their choice.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank all parents for their con-

tinued support. I have had a wonderful year working with your child, and will look back on this year with very fond memories.



average size human lifting a car! Students noticed that ants communicate, sleep, drink, take baths, have meetings and most importantly, are good citizens to their community. The ants even

OPINIONATED GRADE 7S

In May, the Grade 7s worked on writing persuasive essays. For many of them it was their first experience with this, and they did a great job. We discussed

controversial issues as a class, and then students picked a topic of their choice. They then picked a position and used their essay to argue for it. The class learned a

lot about the format of a persuasive essay, including the importance of a thesis statement, and how it is revisited throughout an essay. Well done 7s!

KINDERGARTEN DUCKLINGS

The ducklings have provided us with many hours of entertainment over the past few weeks in the Kindergarten classroom. They will soon be

going to their new home.

Right: The ducklings enjoy a swim at the water centre.



CLEANEST CLASSROOM PARTIES

Every month, Mrs Preete uses recycling money to host a *cleanest classroom party*. This month, the Grade 2 class had a *special ant party* for the cleanest classroom all year long. (The Grade 2s are currently studying ants, thus the ant theme.) They invited their friends in Grades 1 and 3 and the PEAK Room to join them in the gym on June 1st

for hotdogs, popcorn, watermelon, potato chips and *ant cake*.

A special thank you to Char Gosling for building the ant cakes and to Linda Silvester, Wanda Hiebert and Dana Kasha for their help setting up for the party.

On behalf of all students, a big

thank you to Mrs.

Preete for holding these parties every month.



REFLECTIONS AND PROJECTIONS: SEVEN YEARS AT INDUS

It is June already, the seventh June since I started at Indus School. As I reflect on these fast-flying years, I am astounded by the amount of change that has taken place in our small corner of the world: some by choice, and some by necessity. The most obvious change has been to our school configuration. In 2005 Indus Elementary added Grade 6 and became Indus School. We stayed like that for four years, then started adding a grade each year, bringing us to our current status as a K-9 school (with no plans to add any more grades). The older students brought the need for more diverse programming which has resulted in a wide range of student interest classes, a robust senior Art program, and even opportunities to participate in Band. Owing in no small part to the additional grades, our population has exploded from below 100 in June of 2005 to over 240 today. Accommodation of those new grades and students came in the form of four modular classrooms added to the north end of the school in January of 2010.

Further changes may have been less obvious. As a whole, the staff of Indus School has been trying to change what we do to keep the critical elements of traditional edu-

cation (reading, writing, 'rithmetic), while preparing students for a future about which we are still uncertain. Understanding how the global economy, shifting dependencies on primary resources, and changing demographics will impact the workplace of the future is extremely difficult, meaning we need to teach students to be able to adjust to change, to solve problems, and to build strong relationships with others for support in facing challenges. This has meant a move from teaching being about helping students acquire information about various topics, to teaching ways to discover, organize, and use information. Gone are the days of memorizing tons of information – easy access to information on any topic has changed the academic playing field.

More grades and students, and a different focus on lessons, have also led to other changes at Indus School. Technology is playing a greater role in education, just as it is in everyday life. While we did have a computer lab back in 2005 (the same year facebook.com started), we did not have much of the technology we see in the school today: Interactive whiteboards in every classroom, 1:1

computing in our upper grades, wireless connectivity throughout the school, our own internet domain, and even current, local, weather updates on our website. These tools have helped us move forward as an organization focused on learning and understanding.

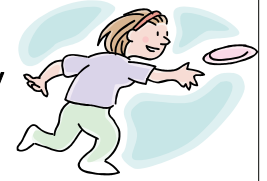
This September we will continue to work toward improving the service we provide for students. We will be engaging in a three-prong approach to school improvement: continuing to emphasize ROARS, our social responsibility and behavior framework, expanding on the idea of 21st century teaching and learning, and on combining both to create Universal Learning Environments where the needs of all students are met via instruction that centers around differentiation to address the unique learning styles and abilities of students.

It promises to be an exciting journey, with many challenges, both the foreseen and the unanticipated, lying in wait for us. The payoff at the end, however, will be children who grow up knowing how to cope with the myriad of changes they will face, not just over seven years, but over their entire lives.

Chael Wyper
Principal

ULTIMATE FRISBEE CITY CHAMPIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to our Ultimate Frisbee team, the new City of Calgary Champions!



This is the first year that Indus School has had an Ultimate Frisbee team, so to become the City of Calgary Champions, is quite a feat. The team won all five of their games on Sunday at the City Tournament. To celebrate their win, the team went to Boston Pizza for supper. Thank you to Mr. Green, Grade 8/9 teacher, for coaching and introducing this team sport to our students.

GRADE 9 FAREWELL

The Grade 9 Farewell will be held at the school on June 19th, beginning with a presentation for students from 2:30 to 3:30

p.m. in the gym. At 6:00 p.m. parents are invited to a repeat of the presentation, followed by a game of dodge ball between the

parents and students. The evening will be wrapped up with a Hot Dog barbecue.

DEMOCRATIC YEAR FOR THE GRADE 6 CLASS

The Grade 6 class has had a wonderful year. Not only have they learned about the mechanic workings of fighter planes, but they've learned to appreciate democracy and the ideas behind Canadian democracy. "At the beginning of the school year, I couldn't understand why we were learning about war, tanks, and fighter planes," said one student in Mr. Kim's class. "But now I see that democracy is a privilege, not a

right, and that we have to fight for this privilege and never take it for granted."

The Grade 6s have had first-hand experience at leading a "democratic" class. Many volunteered to be *Class President* for a day. If they did a good job, they had the opportunity of being re-elected for a second term. If they showed poor leadership, they were ousted with a "vote of no confidence." Most did well,

but all had to follow the rules of the "class constitution." (A few faced impeachment from the judiciary.)

The Grade 6 Government was a fun experience, and many gained insight into the workings of a democracy. If you would like to know about the workings of a democratic government, just talk to one of the Grade 6 students about their spot in the limelight. Many will tell you that it was one of the

DATES TO REMEMBER

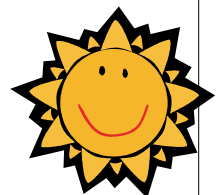
Jun 4	Council General Meeting at 6:30 pm	Jun 14	Used Book Sale
Jun 6	Gr. 7 Trip to Science Centre		All Library Books due
	Grs. 7-9 Dance — 6:00-9:00 pm	Jun 15	K-3 to Camp Chestermere
Jun 11	Council & Ecstasy Presentation—6:00 pm	Jun 19	Gr. 9 Farewell
Jun 12	Hot Lunch—Corn Dogs	Jun 20	Indus Music Concert
Jun 13-14	Gr. 4/5 Field Trip to Blackfoot Crossing	Jun 26	Hot Lunch—Chicken Strips
Jun 13-15	Gr. Outdoor Ed Trip to Lost Lake	Jun 27	Last Day of Classes

LAST DAY OF CLASSES

The last day of classes for Indus School students is Wednesday, June 27th. Once again, we will be holding a *Fun Day* for the students and will provide you

with details closer to the date. Students will also receive their report cards on the 27th. The first day of classes in the fall is September 4th.

The staff of Indus School would like to wish all of you a very happy and safe summer. See you in September.



Love your teeth!

Brush and floss every day to make your teeth feel loved.

Brush with a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste twice a day for two to three minutes each time.

Be sure to brush:

- Along the gums - where teeth and gums meet.
- The outsides and insides of the teeth.
- The chewing surfaces.
- The tongue gently.

Also remember to floss once each day with waxed or unwaxed floss. Ask your dental hygienist about proper brushing and flossing.



When brushing, be sure to catch all the areas of your mouth — along the gums, inside and outside each tooth, and the tongue.

Bite into the Internet!

You can find good information on a variety of dental topics for parents and kids on the web:

- www.umanitoba.ca/outreach/
- www.healthyteeth.org

Dining out?

Here's some tips on keeping it healthy

If you are grabbing breakfast in a rush, forgot your lunch at home, or are going out for supper, here are some things you can do to make sure you and your family have a healthier meal:

• **Share with someone or take half of your meal home.** A few children can share an adult sized meal.

• **Ask for changes to your meal such as:**

- "Hold the cheese, mayo and bacon, please."
- "Do you have whole wheat?"
- "Can I have a side salad instead?"

• **Have an entrée salad with dressing on the side.** Or ask for a low-fat dressing option.

• **Choose water with lemon.** It's a refreshing drink!

• **Ask the restaurant for nutrition information.** Or look it up on the Internet before dining out.

• **Choose a different method of preparation.** Consider foods that have been steamed, poached, grilled, roasted, barbecued, baked, stir-fried or broiled.

• **Avoid these methods:** Foods that are described as deep-fried, crispy or battered.



Water with lemon is an excellent alternative to soft drinks.

You're it! ...Three versions of tag to try

Playing outdoor games is a great way to have fun while you are exercising your heart and lungs. Here are some games to try—can you come up with your own version?

• **Vegetable/Fruit Tag:** When a tagger approaches a child in this game, he or she must squat down and say the name of a vegetable or fruit for protection. If the tagger gets you first, you also become "it."

• **Tunnel Tag:** A variation on frozen tag. In frozen tag, kids "freeze" in the position they're in when tagged. In tunnel tag, someone has to crawl through a child's feet to "unfreeze" him or her so they can rejoin the game.

• **Two Times Tag:** Start with one person who is IT. IT chases others and when he or she catches someone else these two people now hold hands and then try to catch a

new person. When they tag a third person, the three of them run around trying to tag another person. When this is accomplished the four break into two and the two sets of pairs run around trying to build their pairs into fours which then breaks up into pairs again—lots of fun—best for kids over the age of eight.