

# Indus School

# SPiRiT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

## Parent Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 3

Student Count 241

### ARTWORK BY GRADES 7,8,9 STUDENTS



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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.**

The next time you are in the school, please take the time to walk our halls and view the many displays of fine artwork.

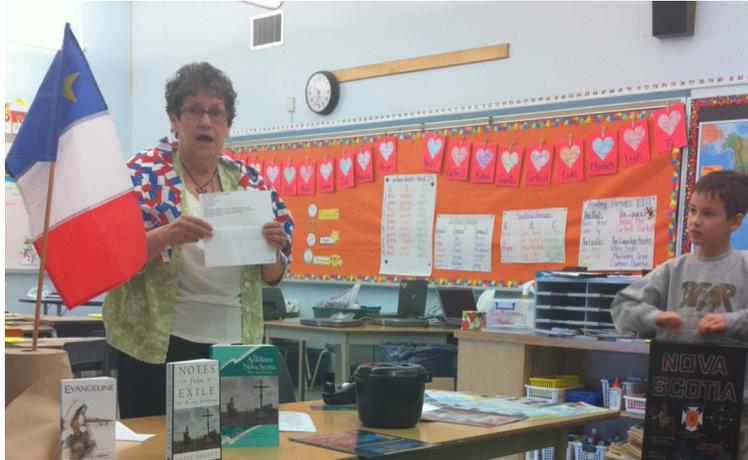
7 Indus Court, Indus, AB T1X 0H7

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

## ***A TRUE ACADIAN SHARES HER CULTURE WITH THE GRADE 2S!***

Wow! The Grade 2 students had an incredibly busy February. The Grade 2 students stayed active through our skating program and also celebrated Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, and the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! The Grade 2 and 3 students also kicked off reading with the Indus Livewires. Students made the Indus seniors Valentine's Day cards and crafts and were happy to meet their new friends.

The Grade 2 students have been focusing on the culture, traditions and festivals our three Canadian communities: Iqaluit, Meteghan and Saskatoon. We were lucky enough to have a



special Acadian visitor share her culture with our class. Aidan's Grandma, Carol Viher, came in to

present the Acadian culture with the Grade 2 class. She shared some of her family traditions, pictures, and food with the students. She brought in the Acadian flag

and was kind enough to share some of her special recipes so students can try cooking the

Acadian foods at home.

Please stay posted during the month of March as our class will be closely following the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race beginning on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students will be cheering on their favourite musher and learning about the sport, history of

the race, and the dogs next month. Please allow your child to show you the website and follow the mushers at [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).

## ***GRADE 6 NEWS WRITTEN BY AMY S.***

March is a busy month for the the Grade Six class. We have recently finished our math posters which visually display the process of long division, multiplications, and fractions; now we are working on mapping. Do you have a place you would like to visit but do not have the directions? If it is anywhere within Asia, Africa, Europe, or North America, come to our map wall and it will show

you the way.

March is also the month for the Sixers to prepare for their annual Kamp Kiwanis outdoor camp, which will take place in April. This is a four-day camp trip which consists of hiking, woods exploration, and other outdoor activities. The event ties in with the Grade Six Science Curriculum which consists of Trees and Forest and Sky Science, among

other things.

If you would like to add anything to our curriculum, why don't you visit our class? Our teacher, Mr. Kim, already has two parents coming in this month to demonstrate their knowledge and skill to the lessons at hand. Enthusiastic volunteers are always welcome.

## ***GRADE 3 SMARTIES***

For the annual Indus Science fair the Grade 3s incorporated our building unit and marbles. Each student was given the task to design a marble maze that met certain qualifications. Students needed to use five materials,

make two traps, have a clear start and finish, be sturdy, neat, unique and creative. The students planned their design carefully and executed those plans through many hours of hard work.

I was very impressed with the work the Grade 3 Smarties created. They were well thought out and lots of fun to play!

## GRADE 7 NEWS

Start The Press!

This last month, the Grade 7s have completed an imaginary

newspaper article about a significant event (of their choice) from our novel, *Daniel's Story*. They were asked to write objectively

and include quotes and details. The class was thoughtful and creative while undertaking this assignment. Good work 7s!

## GRADE 4 SCIENCE PROJECTS WERE AMAZING!

Although February was a short month it was not short on excitement. The month began with skating and concluded with the Grade 4 class entering the Science Fair for the first time.



Skating with our class was a humbling experience for me. Many students were already proficient skaters and those who were not, quickly gained new skills each day. I, on the other hand, seemed to improve only slightly. This experience reminded me of how much natural balance children have at this age and how bal-

ance declines with age.

We no sooner finished this when it was time to get serious with putting the Science Fair projects together. I was very impressed with a lot of the students' project ideas. Every one was unique, just like the child behind the scenes of the creation.

Each part of this project, required hours of work. Setting up the necessary scientific information on a huge tri-fold was challenging, but I sensed the pride that each student felt standing by their project the day of the fair. I believe it gave each of them a sense of how doing your best work is worth it.

Grade 4 is young to be able to do this level of work, but it will give each student a huge advantage when they are able to compete next year. The students even prepared how to speak to the judges. Unfortunately, the Grade 4 class was not able to be judged this year, but in my mind each was a winner.

Skating and Science Fair Projects required much parent support. I greatly appreciate your assistance, but even more importantly, the active interest you are taking in your child's school life.



## GRADE 1 NEWS

We've had a busy month in Grade One this past month with skating at Indus arena, 100s day and Valentines. We also got to see the results of our egg drop experiments in the classroom. There were a number of very unique designs submitted, and I was impressed by the ingenuity of our Grade One minds. We had everything from

parachutes and pillow cases to inclined planes and Jello to protect our precious eggs from being unceremoniously smashed on the floor. (We made sure to clean up when one did, so that Mrs. Preete would be happy with us!)

In March we have St. Patrick's Day to look forward to and I

hear that there are leprechauns around these parts. The Grade Ones will be writing to one in particular in the hopes that he comes to visit. Plans are already being made to spring a trap for that devious wee fellow. Perhaps he will grant us a wish or maybe leave us some gold coins!

## LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair This spring we recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragedy of the Titanic as we "SINK into a great book" at Book Fair! Our Scholastic Book Fair will take place from March 26 - 29. March is report card time, and a new book from the Book Fair is a great reward for a job well done. I've also heard that the Easter Bunny likes to shop at Book Fair! We will be open late on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings for your shopping convenience. We always have a great selection of affordable

books for every age group, from preschool through mature teen, as well as adult. Every purchase you make earns our library some free books! More information will be sent home shortly.

Reading – Give it a Shot! We are more than halfway through this literacy program for grades 4, 5, and 6 students. How exciting it is to earn those Calgary Flames bookmarks! We will wrap up this program on March

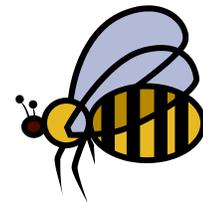
16. Keep reading!

March Themes at the library include the Iditarod sled dog race (we have books about Huskies, dog sledding, life in the north, etc.), as well as Lions and Lambs (by the time you read this, we'll know if March came in like a lion or a lamb!) I am also featuring our Titanic collection of fiction and non-fiction, to go along with our Book Fair theme.

## ***SPELLING BEE MARCH 14***

The Spelling Bee will be held on March 14th at 12:35 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend. Prizes will be awarded to divi-

sional champs and to the Grand Champion. This spelling bee is organized by Indus School staff. Please ask your child about it!



## ***KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS 2012-2013***

We are now taking Kindergarten registrations for the 2012-2013 school year. Children

must be five years of age prior to February 29, 2013 in order to register. An Orientation

Meeting for parents of new Kindergarten students will be held on May 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the school.

## ***SCHOOL COUNCIL PL PLAN RELEASED***

RVS' 2011 – 2012 School Council Professional Learning Plan has just been released!

School council members can access the learning plan through the Professional Learning portal on RVS' website:

<[http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/professional-learning/rvs\\_pl/school\\_council\\_pl](http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/professional-learning/rvs_pl/school_council_pl)>.

Schools are encouraged to help promote the upcoming Mar. 21 – 22, 2012,

community-based Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) workshop. Posters promoting the workshop will be distributed to schools via blue-box; and staff are asked to put a copy on the parent bulletin board. As the continued sponsorship and jurisdictional organization of any future ASCA workshop depends on the successful delivery and attendance of the workshops noted above, any

additional marketing efforts undertaken by your school and school council would be most appreciated.

*For more information on the 2011 – 2012 School Council Professional Learning Plan, please contact Director of Communications, Angela Spanier, at 403.945.4012, or email at [aspanier@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:aspanier@rockyview.ab.ca).*

## KINDERGARTEN

In the hearts of children,

**Love is...**

when Mom or Dad tucks me into bed;  
when Mommy hugs me at bed-time;  
when Dad plays Super Mario with me and when Mommy lets me help her;  
when Mommy snuggles me and tucks me in;  
when Mommy teaches me to ski.  
when Mommy kisses and hugs me when I go to bed;  
when daddy hugs me;  
Christmas morning when Mommy and Daddy give me presents;  
when Luke hugs me;  
Valentine's morning and Mom and Dad give me hugs;  
when Mommy watches me play games and Dad lets me stay up late and when my brother plays X box with me;  
when Samantha shares her Easter chocolates with me;  
when I play Super Heroes with my

friends;  
when mommy makes me break-fast;  
when Mom and Dad give me kisses;



*Love is when Samantha shares her Easter chocolates with me.*

when my family chases me and puts their lips on my back. It makes a sound that makes me laugh;  
when my Dad and I play Lego together;  
when I bake with my Mom in my

Easy Bake Oven;  
when I get a kiss on the cheek, I feel lovey;  
when my brother plays Sky Landers with me;  
when my Mom and I read books together;  
when I make cake with my Daddy;  
when I make Lego racecars with my Mom;  
when my Dad plays hotrod Lego with me;  
when Daddy plays cars with me;  
when my brother plays with me;  
when mom plays cars with me;  
when I make crafts with Mommy.

## CRYSTAL GROWING IN GRADE 5

As a closure to our Chemistry Unit, the Grade 5 students experimented with a variety of regular kitchen ingredients to create their very own crystals. Each student had a choice between coarse salt, table salt or sugar. After mixing their chosen ingredient with water, they attached a string to a popsicle stick, let it dangle in the water and waited to see who could grow the biggest crystals.

Students discovered that the best substance for growing crystals was the coarse salt. Interestingly, the jars that were in the sunlight

or had a lid turned upside down at the top grew the



best crystals.

As you can see in the picture, the crystals created some interesting patterns and shapes.

This was an excellent end to the well-loved Chemistry Unit.

## ***21ST CENTURY SKILLS: INFORMATION AND MEDIA LITERACY***

Until very recently, the term literacy referred to one's ability to read and write. As a reflection of our current reality, that definition has expanded to include any means of gathering or communicating information. Information literacy can include audio podcasts, graphs, maps, tables, video presentations, print media, or just about anything that has the ability to convey information.

At one time it was important to know a great deal of information because information was not readily available. Today it is possible to find information about almost any topic in a few minutes. Teaching students to craft Internet and database searches to return the information they're looking for is one of the key ele-

ments of information literacy.

Another key element is the ability to accurately interpret information that may be stored in a wide variety of formats. A literate person today needs to be able to understand information written with standard text, in an audio recording, in a video recording, or in any one of dozens of other formats. Obviously, this element of information media literacy presents most people with significant challenges. Unfortunately, this is not the greatest challenge to the media and information literate.

The greatest challenge faced by today's learners, the citizens of tomorrow, is the ability to determine the veracity of the information they gather. The Inter-

net has been the greatest democratization of information ever. Virtually anyone can find out information on virtually any topic. Virtually anyone can post information on virtually any topic. Therein lies the challenge: where publishers once checked that information was correct before it was sent out to the world in the form of a book, anyone can sit down and send out information that may be biased, incomplete, or just plain wrong. Teaching students to verify information from multiple sources, and to way the reputation of each source, is one of the critical challenges we are undertaking today as we prepare learners for tomorrow.

Chael Wyper, Principal

## ***SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS***

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen to represent Indus School at the Calgary Youth Science Fair in April:

Grade 5: Conor Cameron and Braden Tanner, "Putting skate blade additives to the test"; Eric Zambory, "How does basil grow?";

Grade 6: Jocelyn Baxter, "Whale migration";

Brian Hamel, "Electrical energy consumption";

Grade 7: Josiah Guigue, "Danger flammable".

We wish all of our students good luck at the CYSF.

We also wish to acknowledge the efforts of all participants in this year's Science Fair.

A special thank you to our judges, Ron Botting, Jonas Alm, Sue Lefebvre, Steve Cooke and Sarah Percy.

## ***RACING THROUGH TO SPRING IN PEAK!***

Where did February go? In spite of the Groundhog's prediction of 6 more weeks of winter, things were really heating up in PEAK. We were running around skating, celebrating Valentine's Day and, you guessed it - celebrating

Groundhog's Day. We held the second annual Groundhog Races! All students held on to their winning titles, of course!

During the month of March we will be focusing a lot on healthy

minds and healthy bodies. Also, please watch for our **muffin sale fundraiser on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>!** Muffins will be sold for \$1.00 each.



## QUALITY IS A STATE OF BEING - GRADE 8

What does quality mean to you? For me, quality is much more a state of mind than anything else. It is not about doing a good job or being the best at something; it is about striving to be the best that you can be. Quality isn't about aiming to better others, but to produce the best piece of work you can do. Our Grade 8 class has been working on persuasive paragraphs for the last month. They have greatly improved in all aspects of their writing. The main focus of these paragraphs has been quality, and the students have done a fantastic job of composing them, both interestingly and persuasively. Quality can be associated outside of school as well. It can be a changing factor in anyone's life and it creates a superior state of mind. This state of mind can greatly improve overall success in life.

Please take a moment to admire "quality" around our school!

Peer-edited persuasive paragraph examples by Taylor and Mark (edited by Ms. Hart)

### Get Your Butt to School

Grow up! People who think the school year is too long are absolutely kidding themselves. First of all, knowledge is more important in order to be successful

than it has ever been. The average computer today has more technology than the computers used in Apollo 11... and people think that we don't need as much schooling as there is today? Where is the logic in that? If the school day was shorter, we would not have the time to build on important skills and would not actually be grasping the concept of the project or idea. Also, given the size of the school curriculum, we need all of the schooling we can get. In order to be successful, a person must fully understand and master many aspects of life that can only be achieved by approximately 180 days per school year. I also think that many kids need to realize the advantages of schooling, and how they will not only become smarter but also be better people. Furthermore, kids are always complaining about how they want lots of money. How are you supposed to earn money if you do not have a good education? The extra schooling is not going to hurt us in any way and will only prepare us better for the long run. In conclusion, the people that think that the school year is too long are just whiny babies, and the school year has been created the way it is for many reasons, so we just have to deal with it.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mar. 13 Hot Lunch
- Mar. 13 CHS Orientation at 7:00 pm
- Mar. 14 Spelling Bee at 12:35 pm
- Mar. 22 PEAK Muffin Sale  
Farm Safety K-6 at 9:00 am
- Mar. 23 Report Cards Home
- Mar 26-29 Book Fair
- Mar. 28 & 29 Parent-Teacher Interviews

### Allowance...

Giving children an allowance is an extremely popular method of helping young people learn about budgeting and saving money. However, allowance is money that is given, not always earned. If you teach this to a child at a young age they might be less likely to strive for things they want or need in the future. They might be more likely to do the minimum and just go through the motions of getting things. Once grown up this may encourage these adults to be more dependent on others. I have earned my money by working and doing my chores. I have never gotten an allowance, but have learned to handle my money wisely. Giving kids money is not needed to teach them to save money. Allowance teaches kids that there is an easier way to get what you want. Popular or not... giving allowance does not guarantee learning how to budget, spend or save money.

## CHESTERMERE HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION

This is a reminder that an orientation meeting for students and parents of those students who

will be attending Chestermere High School next year has been scheduled for **Tuesday, March 13**

at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

**Rocky View Schools Community Learning** is a Community Adult Learning Council funded by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology.

Some upcoming course offerings include:

### **Airdrie**

**English Learning Language** – ongoing until April 19

**Spanish – Beginner/Intermediate** - March

**NCCP Coaching Part B** - March

**Creative Writing** - April

**Drawing** - April

**Website Building and Using Social Media for Business** - April

**Learn to Skype** - May

### **Chestermere**

**English Learning Language** – ongoing until April 19

**Line Dancing** – March

**Silk Screening Art – Andy Warhol Style** – March

**Microsoft PowerPoint** – March

**Computer Basics** - March

**Website Building and Using Social Media for Business** – May

### **Cochrane**

**English Learning Language** – ongoing until April 19

**Basic Adult Literacy (reading and writing)** – on-going until June

**Self-Defense for Women** (Bragg Creek) – March

**Line Dancing** – (Bragg Creek) - March

**Microsoft PowerPoint** – March

**iPhone iPad, iTouch for Beginners** - March

**Spanish – Beginner/Intermediate** – March

**Website Building and Using Social Media for Business** - May

### **Rural Rocky View**

**Drawing** (Beiseker) - April

**De-Bug it, Optimize your Computer** (Langdon)- April

**Learn to Skype** (Beiseker) - May

**Learn to Skype** (Crossfield) - May

**For more information, go to: [www.communitylearning.rockyview.ab.ca](http://www.communitylearning.rockyview.ab.ca) or call 403-945-4114.**