

# Indus School

# SPiRiT



## Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 5

Student Count 241

Kindergarten .....	4
Grade 1 .....	3
Grade 2 .....	4
Grade 3 .....	2
Grade 4 .....	5
Grade 5 .....	2
Grade 6 .....	3
Grade 7 .....	5
Grade 8/9 .....	6

### **SLEEP AWARENESS**

Sleep is a vital function for life. Without adequate sleep, children learn less, are more accident prone, and more irritable. Inadequate sleep is linked with lower immune functioning, and higher rates of illness. Many school problems are related to inadequate amounts of high-quality sleep.

Sleep is when learning is consolidated into long-term memory, so with-

out adequate sleep, learning is compromised. Sleep also has restorative and repairing functions for your body. Some other ways children benefit from sleep include:

- Improved sports performance
- Improved academic performance
- Reduced anxiety and depression
- Improved concentration

- Reduced chance of developing diabetes and other illnesses.

Children generally get less sleep than is recommended, despite the clear benefits of ensuring adequate sleep. For more information about sleep, a good place to start is the Rocky View School Psychology Blog.

### **HATS ON FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

Wear a special hat to school on May 9, 2012 to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health. Visit [canwetalk.ca](http://canwetalk.ca) for details.

This event is sponsored

by the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Canadian Mental Health Association.

To gain even greater benefit from this day



### **Our Mission**

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

## ***TONS OF FUN WITH TADPOLES!***

For our life cycles unit the Grade 3s are watching a frog life cycle develop before their eyes. Xenopus tadpoles were shipped to us from Ontario. Unfortunately, our first batch didn't make it due to cold weather. The next batch came lively, healthy and ready to play! The

Grade 3s have been learning how to care for the tadpoles daily and researching ways to ensure they have a healthy habitat. We have also created non-fiction and fiction books. On one side, we document observations and on the other, we create diary entries. The students have come

up with some great diary entries for their tadpoles. Its hard to believe that some of them have turned into frogs already! We were very excited to learn that this species lives its entire life underwater. Very cool!

The Grade 3 Smarties

## ***GRADE 5 EXPLORERS***

It's been a busy month for the Grade 5 students. This month was full of deep exploration into Canadian History, the thrills of Electricity in Science and learning games in Math to further explore our understanding of fractions and decimals. Since we've been spending all these months learning about Canada's Regions, our class decided to create dioramas, maps, posters and a variety of other ideas to illustrate the current and past wonders of our wonderful Canadian land. These projects will be finished soon and up on display in the next few weeks for everyone else to learn more about our amazing country. In Math, they used a variety of card games to explore equivalencies of fractions and decimals. Every-

one had a blast trying out the homemade electrical maze (made by one of our students) to explore their skills as they learned about open and closed circuits in the Electricity Unit and who had the most skilled hands

at making their way through this tricky maze. Only 2 months are left of the year, but our class is focused on diving deeper into our next Units of Division, Probability, Weather and more about our Canadian History.



## **PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS SCHEDULE**

The following is the schedule for students writing Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in Grades 3, 6 and 9:

May 14 - Gr. 9 English Language Arts, Part A

May 15 - Gr. 3 English Language Arts, Part A

May 16 - Gr. 6 English Language Arts, Part A

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

Jun 14 - Gr. 3 Math  
- Gr. 6 Social Studies

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 - Gr. 9 English Language Arts, Part B

Jun 27 - Gr. 9 Social Studies

## ***OUTDOOR FUN AT KAMP KIWANIS***

The Grade 6s had a fantastic time at Kamp Kiwanis. Not only were they able to try out their new sport, archery, but they made countless friends with students from Mount View School. Wilderness adventures and drawings of wildlife were all part of the exciting schedule.

Most of the kids were nervous before the trip, but once they got there, they were greeted by a host of fun-filled staff. Coming home from the Kamp, not many of the students were able to speak - not from any illnesses, but from all the laughing and shouting they had been doing. If you ever have any hesitation

about going on an outdoor trip at Indus School, talk to any student in Mr. Kim's class, and they

will tell you that it was one of the most memorable and exciting events in their lives!



## ***WE DAY - HIGH PROFILE GLOBAL EDUCATION***

Indus School is registered! Free the Children, the world's largest network of children helping children through education, is hosting a concert/presentation called *We Day 2012*. To be held at the Saddledome in Calgary, We Day

2012 invites youth in Grades 6 - 12 to join together and celebrate the positive actions they are taking to make a difference in their communities and around the world! You will be hearing more about our efforts in this area in

the months to come. Check out Free the Children at [www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com) or We Day at [www.weday.com](http://www.weday.com).

## ***GRADE 1 NEWS***

We had a fantastic time learning all about spring changes and the needs of plants in Science. We have been growing bean seeds without soil and growing our own flowers in the classroom. The students are responsible for watering their plants in the morning and taking care of them. One child suggested that we should talk to our plants.

They will find out whose plants grow the best!

Next month, we will be learning about the needs of animals. Be prepared to take care of some interesting critters in the classroom. Some of them will change right before our eyes.

We will be having a Mother's Day tea in the classroom for all those

mothers who can attend at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 11th. The students want to serve you a cup of tea and sing songs. We hope to see you there!



## KINDERGARTEN LITERACY & NUMERACY CENTRES

Literacy centres make words, letters, numbers, sounds, writing, and reading fun! In Kindergarten, centres are used to actively engage children in literacy and numeracy. Through self-directed activities students develop a sense of autonomy and are highly motivated through their own curiosity to observe, explore, discover, create, investigate and experiment with math and language. Students enjoy dressing up as a word detective with clipboards and hats on a quest for words to read or write. They compose, create, and design a card for Mommy or a friend. They apply their learning through card games such as *Alphabet Go Fish*, *Memory* or

*Rhyme Time* and exercise visual discrimination while manipulating puzzles or reading *Where's Waldo?* Centres may be high tech, utilizing the interactive SMARTboard or *Leap Frog* or some students prefer hands on activities such as making patterned necklaces, which improves fine motor development. Centres reach the different learning styles in the classroom. Oral language expression is developed as the children tell stories and sing nursery rhymes using felt board characters and puppets. Centres challenge students at varying academic levels, interests and learning styles and provide the opportunity to try something new. For some stu-

dents, the best part is sharing what they have learned with the rest of the group.



## CALGARY YOUTH SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

*Congratulations to Eric Zambory in Grade 5!* Eric won Bronze for his project, *"How does Basil Grow?"* at the Calgary Youth Science Fair April 20 and 21, 2012.

Other entrants included Conor

Cameron and Braden Tanner, *Putting skate blade additives to the test*, and Josiah Guigue, *Danger Flammable*.

Other entrants included Brian Hamel and Jocelyn Baxter but they were unable to attend due

to Outdoor School being held at the same time.

Great job by all of our students who participated in the Science Fair this year.

## ***SINK OR SAIL?***

The Grade 2 students have been hard at work the last month exploring boats and buoyancy. Students investigated water-proof objects and things that float. They then put their knowledge to the test and independently designed their own boat, which had to pass three different tests in the classroom. Through building and testing a variety of floating objects, stu-

dents learned the importance of selecting appropriate materials and the importance of workmanship in shaping, fitting and waterproofing their constructions, so they would float, hold a load and move through the water. The Grade 2 students did a wonderful job and should be very proud of their efforts!



## HOT DOG!!! WHAT A GREAT YEAR WE'VE HAD IN PEAK!

Our last food sale of the year had a successful finale! Thank-you so much to Indus parents and students for your support over the past two years. This work program has taught our students important skills and steps towards job seeking later on in life. In addition, we have been able to incorporate math, social skills and cooking skills into our business plan. With the profits from our cook-



ing program we have purchased a giant carpet for our classroom, resources for Modified Language Arts, Early Literacy and Math Strategies, and several items for the Sensory room.

*Congratulations to Cole for his fantastic showing at the Dragster races!*

Cole and *'The Orange Bullet'* made it to the finals! Great job, Cole!



## GRADE 4 APRIL ART

Grade 4 students really demonstrated their artistic ability when tackling cartooning this month. Many were surprised at their

ability with this type of drawing. Creating humorous-looking characters fits with the personalities in our class. Everyone enjoys laughter in the classroom.



To build on the theme of our science unit about

light and shadows, the students also learned the technique of shading in art. Everyone could see that by watching how a light hits a simple shape, shadows are cast. These shapes could then be represented on paper by various degrees of shading. Another challenging activity undertaken was when students attempted making sculptures, then used a flashlight to reflect art shadows on the classroom wall.

## THE GRADE 7S BIO OF MUSIC

This month the Grade 7s have been presenting biographies on musicians of their choice, as part of our *Poetry and Music Unit*. It was a good opportunity for stu-

dents to practice researching for specific content.

Students then presented their biographies individually in front of the class, which provided valu-

able experience in public speaking. We even had two students sing a song that went with the presentation!

Way to go Grade 7s.

## **GRADE 9** BY MEG U.

In Grade 9, we have been enjoying the use of advanced technology during our electricity unit in Science, taking advantage of the several smart-touch computer screens in our room. We use a PhET simulator to create working – or not – circuits for several different activities. Our most recent project was to create a working circuit that could be put in a child's toy, making it dance and have light-up eyes. As it turns out, this particular venture proved hazardous to children everywhere, several of us ending up with circuits that caught on fire. Thank goodness for simulators.

### **The Game of Ultimate**

A new sport has been introduced to Indus School – the

game of Ultimate. Typically known as Ultimate Frisbee, this is the game taking Indus by storm. A team, coached by Mr. Green, trains every Monday and Thursday in preparation for their first game on May 8, 2012. This is an exciting addition to the school, being a unique sport with different rules and guidelines, it is a great way to stay fit and have fun while being part of a team.

Ultimate Frisbee is played on a 120 x 40 meter field with two end zones and lots of space to run. The goal is to pass the Frisbee from player to player, traveling down the field until it can be caught in the opposite team's end zone, scoring a point. You can't run with the

Frisbee – once you catch it, you must stop where you are and look for an open man to throw to. Like basketball or ringette, you have a limited amount of time with the disc before you're called for stalling, and it is turned over to the other team.

The most intriguing part of this particular sport is the lack of a hired referee. You are expected to play with honesty and integrity, calling yourself for broken rules. This is called spirit of the game, the regulation that separates Ultimate from your average team sport. The Indus Ultimate Frisbee team plays in their first official game next Tuesday, May 8, at the Samuel W. Shaw School in Calgary. Wish us luck!

## **PARENT APPRECIATION TEA**

All parents are invited to attend a *Parent Appreciation Tea* on **May 24th at 2:30 p.m.** in the school gym.

This is an opportunity for us to say 'thank you' to all of our parents for the many things you do for Indus School students and staff throughout the year.

Please watch for your invitation to come home in the next couple of weeks. We hope you will be able to join us!

## **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 14**. If you are spring cleaning and have books your family no longer uses, please send them to school (**beginning June 1**) for our sale. We will accept everything from toddler books to adult books (no encyclopedias, please) and parents are invited to come shopping also! All stu-

dents will have the opportunity to purchase books that day for the bargain price of just .25¢ each! All proceeds will be donated to a charity (TBA). This is a great way for everyone to get something "new" to read for the summer. Due to limited storage space at the school, please hang on to your donations until at least June 1.

### **Overdue Library Books**

With spring in the air and all the busyness of families, it is

easy to forget some details, such as reminding your child to return their Library books! Your child has had Library class on the same day of the week all school year and all Library books are loaned for a period of one week. If a student needs longer to finish the book, they may renew it at the Library. Please help me save some time and resources spent on chasing down overdue books by reminding your child to return their books on time.

## MS READ-A-THON

Students will be reading for the MS Read-a-thon from April 23rd to May 11th. Information packages were distributed to all students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 the week of April 23rd. (Grs. 6-9 students were given the option to take pledge sheets.) All classes were given a brief pres-

entation by Mrs. Potter during their library time. All money raised by students is due to the school office by **May 17th**.

Thank you for encouraging your children to read and gather donations for this very important cause.

## 2<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNERS:

Critical thinking is considered one of the pillars of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education. Although it is not a new term, there is still considerable confusion about what is meant by the term.

Critical thinking is, perhaps, better called deep thinking. It involves not only the acquisition of knowledge, but also such interpretive skills as assessing the validity of evidence, evaluating motivation and action, interpreting symbolism, and recognizing contradictions. It also calls upon the thinker to create and test theories, and judge ideas or actions against criteria.

From simple exercises like spotting similarities and differences, to determining the best course of action for a voyager with a canoe full of beaver pelts, students are called upon every day to practice and develop their critical thinking skills. Many of our classes also employ the texts and teaching techniques associated with the *Philosophy for Children* series. This is a series of books and activities designed to get students asking questions and thinking critically. It is one of the ways Indus School is helping prepare your children for the future they will inhabit.



## DRAGSTER DOUBLE DELIGHT

On Friday, April 27, there were two big winners in our CO2 powered dragster competition. It all came down to Cory's Black Speed and Oliver's #13. They raced, and #13 came out ahead. We had a winner! But wait... there was a problem. The rules for the competition stated that cars must have a minimum weight of 55 grams, and #13 felt very light. We weighed it and discovered it only weighed 46 grams – too light!

So the final verdict was that Cory won first place in the annual dragster competition, but Oliver won a new category of race - the unrestricted class. Both boys should be congratulated on their great work and sportsmanship.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Apr 30-May 4 Food Bank Drive—see Article
- May 1 Hot lunch: Tacos
- May 9 Hats on for Mental Health
- May 11 Gr. 1 Mother's Day Tea
- May 14 Gr. 9 ELA Provincial Achievement Test (PAT)
- May 15 Gr. 3 ELA PAT  
Hot Lunch: Pizza Day
- May 16 Gr. 6 ELA PAT
- May 17 MS Read-a-thon money due to office—see article
- May 18 PL Day—**NO SCHOOL**
- May 21 Victoria Day—**NO SCHOOL**
- May 23 2012-13 Kgtm Orientation Meeting—6:30 p.m.
- May 24 Parent Appreciation Tea—see article
- May 29 Hot Lunch: Sub Day