

Indus School

SPIRIT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 4

Student Count 228

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
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| Dec. 3 | No School - Professional Learning Day |
| Dec. 4 | Pick-up Epicure Orders
Poinsettia orders due back to school (Deadline extended to 4th) |
| Dec. 5 | Report Cards Home |
| Dec. 7 | Pick-up Poinsettia orders |
| Dec. 14 - | Deadline for Socks and Backpacks (Christmas at the Mustard Seed—see article) |
| Dec. 18 | Dress Rehearsal - 1:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 19 | Christmas Concert - 7:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 | Last Day of Classes |
| Dec. 21 | No School - PL Day |
| Jan. 7 | First day of classes following the Christmas Break. |

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY EVERYONE!

DISTRIBUTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER

In addition to sending a paper copy of this newsletter home to each family, we are emailing a copy to all parents who have given us their email addresses. The newsletter will be attached as a PDF document to make it easier to open. This is an attempt to ensure better communication between home and school. If you **do not** want to receive a paper copy of future newsletters, please call the school office at 403.936.5855.

POINSETTIA, WREATH AND BOUGH FUNDRAISER

Just a reminder that the orders for the Poinsettias, wreaths and boughs are due back to

the school on **Tuesday, December 4th** (extended deadline. All orders will be ready for

pick up at the school on Friday, Dec. 7th during school hours.

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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.

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GRADE 6 NEWS

It may be getting cold outside, but things are heating up in Grade 6! We have been busy studying figurative language terms and have begun incorporating them to add wonderful, descriptive passages, enhancing our own writing. Soon, students will be studying the lyrics of their favourite song to understand

figurative language and how music artists use it to enhance their writing.

In Science we will be looking to the sky. Students will be making regular observations of the night sky. Please watch for your 'young star' to deliver the Night Watch Folder to your home

soon. Also, we will be starting an inquiry based research project about a part of the Night Sky that interests us.

Until then, keep warm and we'll see you at our Christmas performance on December 19th!

ONCE UPON A TIME...

This month our Kindergarten has come alive with the enactments of fairytales. The students have enjoyed the marvelous adventures of folkloric characters such as princes, wicked stepmothers, elves, trolls, beasts, fairy godmothers, and talking animals. They are quick to recognize a fairytale by the traditional beginning of Once upon a time...and are thrilled to discover the common characteristics along with the

popular theme of good versus evil. Little ones love the enchant-

ment, magic, and happy endings of this genre. They are delighted

when humble heroes confront their adversaries in a sequence of events leading to the succession of kingdoms where they live happily ever after. Felt boards, puppet plays and dramatizations have been used to retell our favourite tales this month with many academy performances.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT DECEMBER 19

The Christmas Concert will take place on **December 19th, at 7pm at the Indus Recreation Centre**. If you are unable to attend the concert, you are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal on Tuesday, December 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Both the Senior and Junior Bands will play and accompany songs performed by various Indus singers. The Kindergarten to

Grade 6 classes will also be performing for you.

Parent Council has arranged for a number of raffles to be held during the evening of the concert, so come out and show your *Indus Spirit* by supporting the students and your school.

Please remember to bring a donation for the local Food Bank.



GRADE 4 LOVES TO READ EVERYTHING!!!

Nothing excites a teacher more than when students want to read. What makes a teacher even more thrilled is when children want to read a wide variety of materials. Yes, even our Social Studies textbook is considered such interesting reading that some have requested to take the book home. When given an opportunity to free read any choice of material, some will choose the SRA cards. What is also awe-

some is the way students share the way they love certain genres which encourages many to try something new.

After hearing some Greek myths, students are in the process of writing their own myths. Given the popularity of graphic novels, we of course had to include a detailed drawing of a mythical creature created by each student for his/her story.

November was also an exciting month because of the new school MAC Cart. I am certain you have all heard about these wonderful laptop computers. There are some very motivating teaching sites that encourage students with learning. It will be exciting for students to use their keyboarding skills in their writing. Also there are ways that computers enable story writing to become more appealing to even the reluctant writer.

PEN PALS! GRADE 3



The Grade 3 Smarties have pen pals! We have been writing let-

ters to students in Langdon. Our pen pals are in a Grade 3/4 class at Langdon School. We sent them letters two weeks ago and are now eagerly awaiting replies. We have been working hard on our letter writing skills to ensure that our pen pals are impressed with our writing abilities. We also sent them special puzzles. Some

of the students already knew their pen pals. Many play on the same hockey and ringette teams. We hope that we will have lots of communication with our new Langdon friends.

Please ask your child about their new pen pal in Langdon.

LIVING IN A LONGHOUSE BY GRADE 5

In the month of November, the Grade 5 students studied the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands Region. During their studies, each student was asked to construct a model of the longhouse in which the Haudenosaunee and the Ouendat tribes lived. To understand how to make a longhouse, everyone needed to learn how they made them and why they were important.

What did we learn about longhouses and the people who

lived in them? The oldest woman of the Haudenosaunee tribe was called the clan mother. She was responsible for the welfare of the entire clan and their daily life. Families that are run by their mothers are matriarchal societies. Several families of the same tribe lived in one longhouse at a time. Longhouses

were always built close to their crops. Their beds were platforms along the side of the longhouse.



Under the beds they used that space for storage. Several fires went down the middle of the longhouse. They were used to dry the hides and fish that were hung in the longhouse. That is how the Ouendat and

Haudenosaunee tribes lived in the longhouses.

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 while 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 a class, we put the strategies up on the menu board. Throughout the year, students will be individually working on each strategy to meet

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. Grade 2 students also had the chance to dive in to 21st Century Learning by using Indus School's new MacBook Air cart! In the classroom, students have been exploring the basic components of our new laptops. In December,

students will start to work on their keyboarding skills.



Alice, Will, Grace and Cole using the new MacBooks

CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSTARD SEED

Further to the notice that was sent home a couple of weeks ago, this is to remind you that we will once again be supporting the Christmas at the Mustard Seed program. Students wishing to participate, are asked to bring a pair of warm socks or a backpack and/or items to fill the socks or backpacks. Items can include, toothbrushes, tooth-

paste, combs or brushes, bus tickets, gloves, movie passes, sewing kit, pen and pad, calendar, nail clippers, band-aids, Kleenex, etc. Students will help fill the socks and backpacks prior to December 21st. Please send your items to school by December 14th. Thank you for your support.



GRADE 7 NEWS

In November 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. Students the had an opportunity to re-create one of these "ancient artifacts" 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!

IT'S ALL IN THE APPLICATION

Although most of us look forward to our annual Science Fair on the morning of February 7, 2013 with great excitement, there are inevitably those who ask, "What good is the scientific method? I'm not going to be a scientist."

While it is true that most students will not end up as 'scientists,' almost all will be in situations where an orderly way of thinking such as the scientific method is required. Consider the following application in the popular game, Angry Birds:

Question: *How can I catapult various types of birds in such a way as to eliminate all the pigs and get a high score?*

Hypothesis: *If I send the black bird in a high arch, it will fall*

into the gap between the stone block towers and force them outward when it explodes, leveling the buildings and eliminating the pigs. That will leave two yellow birds unused, for an additional bonus of 20,000 point.

Method: *Try various angles (independent variable) to determine the correct arch to drop the bird into the gap between the buildings. Adjust based on landing locations (dependent variable) until ideal placement is achieved.*

Materials: *a virtual the slingshot and the black bird*

Results: *Numerous attempts and minor adjustments to find the correct arch to lob the black bird failed, resulting in surface explosions that caused minimal*

damage. Eventually, I found the right angle and dropped the bird as desired. It exploded, knocking down all the blocks and eliminating all the pigs. Score: 46,200 + 20,000 bonus = 66,200. Three stars awarded.

Conclusion: *An angle where the leading edge of the black bird is just touching the trailing edge of the slingshot results in the correct arch to place the bird directly between the two towers, resulting the maximum damage and points from one bird.*

Is the scientific method useful outside of laboratories? Three stars in every level says, "Yes!"

Written by Mr. Wyper

LIBRARY NEWS

A huge thank you to all our 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, such as Pop Star, 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 2013 is loved by all ages and is available at Costco and Wal-mart for about \$15. We have 5 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!

Regardless of the NHL lockout, kids are still reading hockey books from our library, and there are some good ones in stores this year too. Let's replace HNIC with Reading Night in Canada!

Go through your bookshelves at home and pull out all those children's Christmas stories and make them part of your Christmas décor in a pretty basket by the fireplace.

Children young and old enjoy having Christmas stories read to them, so cuddle up some evening for story time. They never get too old for hot chocolate and a Christmas story read aloud!

GRADE 1 NEWS

It is unbelievable to me that November has come and gone. It has been fun learning and discovering with the Grade 1 class. In the beginning of November the Grade 1s were introduced to a fantastic author and illustrator! His name is Mo Willems. We have been reading and learning all about Mo's characters in his books. There are so many! Through Mr. Willems' books, the class learned about characters and their personalities. The chil-

dren were delighted when one classmate practiced the book, *There is a Bird on Your Head*, and read it to us at story time. She read with great expression in her voice. We will continue this study for two more weeks as we are introduced to even more characters by Mo Willems.

The last part of November has also been spent learning about addition and subtraction. The Grade 1s are having fun explor-



ing these concepts through games, problem solving and story telling.

EPICURE ORDERS HAVE ARRIVED!

The Epicure orders are here! If you placed an order, please pick it up at the school as soon as possible. They are on a table across from the office.

Congratulations to the following top sellers:

Third went to Jalee MacKay; second went to Quinten and Grace

Silvester and first went to Amy Saretsky.

A special thank you to Char Gosling for organizing this fundraiser, and to Janet Antonishyn, our Epicure Rep., for providing the prizes for top sellers, a pizza party for the Grade 2 class for top sales, as well as two baskets

for our Raffle at the Christmas Concert.



WE CREATE CHANGE

Millions of people around the world go without clean water every day. 'We

Day' students will be taking part in various projects this year in order to make our world a better place. Students at Indus School have decided to help with the health of people in

Kenya this year. Our first global project has started and is called 'We Create Change'. This is an initiative of *Free the Children* to

support clean water projects around the world. Since the



penny is going out of circulation, students are encouraged to bring their pennies to school in order to support Canada's

largest penny drive! We will be collecting pennies until December 4th. Each bag holds \$25 in pennies, which is enough to supply a lifetime of water to one person in Kenya. Please have your child bring their pennies to their classroom, as each classroom is competing for a prize. Thank you for 'being the change'!

A big thank you to all students, staff and parents that donated items to our 'We Scare Hunger' campaign! We were able to donate 250lbs of food to the Hamper for S.E. Rocky View Food Bank.

Written by Miss Mikkelsen

INDUS SCHOOL HITS THE SLOPES!

For the very first time, Indus School took part in an action-packed, school-wide, ski and snowboard trip to Canada Olympic Park! To introduce more youth to the sport, the *WinSport's Skiing and Snowboarding Program* allowed students to take part in a day of lessons in order to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the 88 *Winter Olympic Games*. Staff and students had an absolutely amazing day on the slopes, learning about safety on the hill, and most of all, becoming active. Hopefully students get the chance to go out again with their families again this season. A big thank you to all our parent volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you!

Written by Miss Mikkelsen



Will, Miss Mikkelsen, Ms Broxham and Mckinley



JC and Jarred



Ms Allard and Ms Hart



Tiffany, Zoey, Kiersten and Taylor