

Indus School

SPIRIT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1

Student Count 229

SKATING

The Grades K to 6 students will be skating at the Indus Recreation Centre according to the following schedule:

Morning skating will be from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. and afternoon skating will be from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. each day.

January 28 to 31:

A.M. Grades 3 and 4
P.M. Grades K, 1, and 2

February 4 to 7:

A.M. Grades 5 and 6
P.M. Grades K, 1 and 2

Kindergarten students will only attend on the days they have school.

For further details, please refer to the memo that was sent home on January 7th. (Be sure to return the consent form attached to this memo by January 11th.)

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IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

Jan. 7 to 11 - Grs. 1 - 5
Swimming

Jan. 28 to Feb. 7 -
Skating

Jan. 29 - Hot Lunch

Jan. 15 - Hot Lunch

Jan. 28 - Council General Meeting at 6:30 pm

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

We are very happy to announce that we raised a total of \$1,291.00 from raffle sales and the Gingerbread House and Art silent auctions held during

the Christmas Concert. This money will go a long way towards enhancing student programs at all levels.

Thank you to everyone for supporting these fundraising activities.

Our Mission

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

7 Indus Court, Indus, AB T1X 0H7

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

GLOW - A POWERFUL PROGRAM FOR GIRLS 9 - 14

Glow is a powerful 8 week program designed specifically for girls 9—14 with ADHD and/or LD. The program is led under the supervision of a psychologist.

Where: Meadowbrook Middle School, 1796 Meadowbrook Dr.

SE, Airdrie, AB

When: Saturdays 9:30—11:30 a.m. from January 19 to March 16 (no class on Feb. 16th).

Fee: \$525 + GST for eight week program, includes snack and manual.

(Can be claimed as a psychological health service and funded by FSCD).

To Register: Call 403.921.1212 or email glowprogram@shaw.ca

HOT AND COLD TEMPERATURES IN GRADE 2

The Grade 2 students spent the month of December learning about hot and cold temperatures in Science. Students have been learning about thermometers and measured the temperature of different areas of the school, then reasoned why the temperature varied in each area. Students measured their own body temperature and studied the temperatures of freezing and boiling water. Every day the

students have been looking at the temperature of the three Canadian communities we are studying; Iqaluit, Meteghan and Saskatoon. Students then took a tour of the school basement and furnace rooms with Mrs. Preete in order to learn about methods that are used to control temperature in buildings and how insulation is used to keep things hot or cold. In class, students will now be designing and constructing a

device to keep an ice cube frozen for up to 45 minutes. Please send in materials that could act as insulators (Styrofoam, egg cartons, small boxes, bubble wrap, fabric, straw, cardboard, plastic, tinfoil, or straws) for our classroom to use.

Thank you to all parents who supported the Gingerbread House fundraiser and made it out to the Christmas Concert. All the best in the New Year!

COUNCIL CORNER

Next Meeting:

The next General Meeting of Parent Council will be held on **January 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the school.**

Highlights will include:

Discussion of our spring fundraisers;

Upcoming casino dates;

Need for a casino coordinator to take over for next school year; and Staff Appreciation Week

which is coming up.

Recycling:

Just a reminder that you can take your recycling to the Langdon Bottle Depot and request them to put all or a portion of the proceeds on the Indus School Account. This is a great way to contribute to our field trips.

The following is a summary of the money raised from our various fundraisers:

Poinsettias/Wreaths: \$475.00

Epicure: \$1,230.00

Ten Thousand Villages: \$213.00

Thank you for your continued support. The money raised will go towards field trips for all students.

WE CREATED CHANGE

Indus students, parents and staff should be very proud of their efforts

towards the penny drive that took place in December.

Our school has donated 44 bags of pennies, which is \$1100.00, to support clean water projects in Kenya through the *Free the Children* Initiative. *We Day* students had a blast organizing both classroom and staff competitions



in order to raise money for this great cause. The Grade 1 Students celebrated bringing in the most pennies with an ice cream party. *We Day* students then decided to host a staff competition,

where the staff was encouraged to bring in their own pennies or encourage students to fill their bottle with their name on it in the hallway. The staff member with the least amount of pennies after one week had to be punished by

wearing a clown costume to school. A big shout out to Mr. Winters for being such a great sport and supporter of this fundraiser!

WAY TO GO IN-DUS SCHOOL! Thank you for 'being the change'!

Written by Miss Mikkelsen



GRADE 7S TO THE MOON

The Grade 7s have finished their Moon-Colony assignments, where they imagined that they had the responsibility of setting

up the social structure for an emerging colony. They were very creative, demonstrating knowledge of the motivation, prob-

lems, and values associated with colonization.

GRADE 1 NEWS

The last part of December was a flurry of activity for the Grade 1 class. The students loved preparing their songs to sing on the night of the Christmas Concert. They delighted in learning the children's popular favourite, *All I Want For Christmas is My Two Front Teeth*. This was a very fitting song considering that many of the Grade 1s have lost their teeth lately. Many had big toothless grins for the audience.

It was a fun week back after Christmas holidays. We took swimming lessons in Calgary every morning for the entire week. The students met this exciting challenge with enthusiasm and perseverance. Excellent job Grade 1!

The Grade 1 class also welcomed back Mrs. Kaminsky who is returning to Indus School following a maternity leave. Mrs.

Kaminsky and Mrs. Stanger will be sharing the Grade 1 teaching duties, with Mrs. Kaminsky teaching Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and Mrs. Stanger teaching Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

GRADE 5 WINNINGS AND GENEROSITIES

Even though December is a short month, the Grade 5 class sure had a great end to the 2012 year! Our month started out with collecting toys for girls and boys for the Concert raffle baskets. Someone from our class was super excited to win one of those four bins! Some students from our class went door-to-door to the other classrooms to encourage students to bring in items for *Warm Feet for the Street*. We managed to donate a huge pile of backpacks, socks, a lot of outerwear, a ton of goodies and personal hygiene products. Thank you to all of the parents who sent in donations and to Jennifer Allard for making sure these donations got to the Mustard Seed. I'm sure we warmed the feet and hearts of many needy individuals during their Christmas holiday!

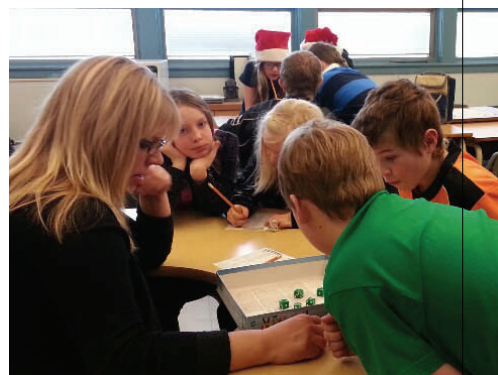


was celebrating special wins together. Coach Preete gave the Grades 1-6 students a chance to participate in a door-decorating contest. My students had an awesome time planning a theme and did a beautiful job working together to create the winning door! Congratulations again to my students for their hard work and winning themselves a piñata party with Coach Preete. Thank you also to Coach Preete for creating such a fun challenge!

On the last day before the holidays, my students spent the entire day challenging mothers, fathers, and grandparents to play against them using their ELA and Math skills. Some parents came in to play Uno or *Yahtzee*, and other parents came in and helped their child play Boggle or Scrabble. Everyone brought in treats to share, and we learned just how well our skills in class can be used to make fun decimal Uno games

and how to use prefixes and suffixes to score big at Boggle.

Thank you so much to all the parents who came in that day. It was great having you in! Some of us may need a rematch at the end of the year.



The best part about December

TALISMAN ENERGY DONATION

Talisman Energy developed the *Investing in our Communities* program to recognize Talisman employees actively volunteering with organizations in the communities where they live and

work. We wish to thank Elisa Hides for her initiative in successfully applying for a \$500 donation for Indus School through this program. This money will be

used to subsidize the cost of providing First Aid Training to our Grade 9 students. We wish to express our gratitude for the generosity of Talisman Energy.

MASSIVE CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Like most people, I get a lot of unsolicited email (spam). I somehow manage to get my email on lists that make the rounds, resulting in a wide range of interesting mail regarding everything from homebuilt 3D printers, to stock tips and, recently, mail order brides from Russia. I have also been asked to help numerous Nigerian princes to help them get their millions out of banks that seem to prefer to deal with foreign strangers rather than actual account holders. I also get a lot of email about issues in education, almost all of which talk about the massive changes in the direction of public education. Some are worthwhile, while others just serve to muddy the waters. So here it is, in a nutshell: how education is changing.

Let me begin by saying that the overall function of public education continues to be preparing students to be productive members of society. Instruction in basic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics, along with social skills and emotional resilience continue to be top priorities.

What has changed, however, is the focus on accumulating knowledge. When I went to school (more than 10 years ago now), teachers imparted great quantities of information upon us, which we memorized to greater or lesser degrees, then attempted to regurgitate on our tests.

Knowing 'stuff' is never a bad thing, particularly if you are playing trivial pursuit. If, however, it

continued to be the main priority in education, our entire school system could be replaced with a 0.18-second search on Google. Our focus, therefore, has become learning to gather, organize, analyze, assess the quality of, and communicate ideas. Although we still 'cover' topics, these are used as vehicles to, essentially, learn how to learn and to apply what is learned to all aspects of our lives. By being selective, sophisticated consumers of information, our children will be able to survive the complexities of the world we are creating. Let's just hope they are able to discern the value of most spam, and have a good understanding of the location of the 'delete' key.

Written by Chael Wyper

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The month of December was full of excitement in Kindergarten with the students working as industriously as little elves! Our literacy centres were abuzz with the children designing greeting cards for their loved ones and using their knowledge of patterns to create chains and wreath ornaments. Our crafts included stained glass bells, toy

nutcrackers, angels, reindeer and our Christmas carollers. The Christmas colours were used to decorate trees and produce unique pictures using seasonal stamps, but our most challenging endeavour was preparing for the Christmas concert. The kindergarten students sang Raffi's, Up On The House Top in counterpoint. Using this style of musical com-

position, the students sang two simultaneous but independent melodies and we added jingle bells to complete the effect. It required intense concentration by the singers and a lot of practice, but we all worked very hard toward a common goal and walked off the stage with great pride in our hearts!

BAND NEWS

A Christmas Concert Filled with fantasy and fulfillment!

The Christmas concert was indeed a full concert. We had the Bands accompanying choirs, xylophones and bongos accompa-

nying movement songs, and triangles and bells accompanying band sections. There was so much variety that just organizing the staging was quite a task, taking three full rehearsals.

Plans are in the works for an-

other concert in the spring. The Indus musicians are looking forward to presenting another fantastic show for their appreciative audience.

Written by Mr. Kim

GRADE 6 WHITE CHRISTMAS

Grade 6 students made their big debut at the Christmas concert on December 19th. They donned their sunglasses and their Christmas couture to sing a rock-style version of *White Christmas*. Spirit was delivered and fun was had by all. We hope

our audience appreciated our class!

It is difficult to believe that we are almost at the half-way point of this school year! We are finishing up units for Social Studies and Science right now and will be on to new topics for all sub-

jects. During the month of February, we will start our first reading contest. Watch for details towards the end of January!

We hope your Christmas was warm and wonderful, filled with family and friends.

A CREATIVE WAY TO END THE DAY IN GRADE 3!

At the end of the day, the Grade 3 Smarties chant different ways to say good-bye. The students have come up with many different ways. We have over 40 chants! Wow! When I think there could be no more, someone comes up with another

chant. You may have heard us say these at the Christmas concert. If not, here are a couple we have invented:

You're Next, T-Rex! Ride Your Quad, Stinky Wart Hog! Time to Sail, Blue Whale! Stay Funky,

Little Monkey! Gotta Roll, Squirmy Mole! Get in the Car, Mars Bar! Gotta Scat, Kitty Cat! Bundle up, Buttercup!

Happy New Year!

The Grade 3 Smarties