

Indus School

SPIRIT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

INDUS SCHOOL 2013-2014

As with any year, there will be a few changes at Indus School next year. For the first time in eight years, our population stands to shrink slightly as we say goodbye to 33 Grade 9 students and only receive 21 new students into Kindergarten. This will take us just over the budgetary brink, resulting in the need to reduce one classroom. We are currently looking at all possibilities and will let you know once decisions are finalized.

There is often concern regarding 'split' classes. The move we have been making toward Universal Learning Environments and differentiated instruction should help to belay those fears; our goal is to address each student's needs at a level appropriate to that child. The students in Grades 7, 8 & 9 will be rotating between specialized teach-

ers throughout the day:
Mathematics & Science – Mr. Green
English Language Arts – Mrs. Hart
Social Studies, Phys. Ed. & Health – Mr. Winters

Time is allocated during English Language Arts for students who wish to take French to do so online through the Rocky View Learning Connection. Students who do not take French at that time will be working on further English assignments.

Mrs. Jamie Stevens has accepted a teaching position in Airdrie for next year. Mrs. Stevens has been with us for eight years and we will miss her immensely. Mr. Kim will no longer be with us. In his place, we will have Mrs. Istchenko, who

will be teaching Band and Music. Additionally, Mr. Klassen will be moving on. Learning Support will be provided by a new staff member who will also serve as our new Assistant Principal (hiring for this position is not yet finalized). We wish all staff who are not returning to Indus, the very best in their future endeavours.

Mrs. Wood will be increasing the amount of time she spends as our Child Development Advisor (and less as a Resource Assistant) but the rest of our support staff members should be staying the same.

Of course, if we experience a significant increase or decrease in student numbers, all of this may change...

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Student Count 233

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OUR MISSION

**THE PURPOSE
OF INDUS
SCHOOL IS TO
BUILD IN STUDENTS A MULTIFACETED PERSONAL FOUNDATION TO CARRY THEM SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH LIFE.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE

Jun 2 Ultimate Tournament	Jun 18 PAT Math 6	Jun 25 PAT Math 9
Jun 4 Hot Lunch Salads	Head Smashed-in Buffalo	Music Concert 1:00 pm
Jun 7 Gr. 9 Barbecue	Jump and Frank Slide Grs.	Jun 26 PAT ELA 9B
Jun 11 PAT—ELA 3B	4/5 field trip	Fun Day
Hot Lunch Chicken Wrap	Jun 19 PAT Science 6	Last day for K-8 students
Jun 13 PAT—Math 3	Jun 20 PAT Social Studies 6	Jun 27 PAT Social Studies 9
Used Book Sale	K-3 to Calaway Park	Jun 28 Last day for staff
Jun 17 PAT ELA 6B	Jun 24 PAT Science 9	

TIMES ARE CHANGING IN GRADE 3!

As the tadpoles turn into frogs in our classroom, the Grade 3 Smarties are turning into mature Grade 4 students. What a journey we have been on these past 10 months! From writing sentences to creating stories, from adding and subtracting to multiplying and dividing, and from learning about ourselves to learning about how we can help others. We have had many exciting experiences to the Leighton Centre, the Glenbow Museum, and just recently decorating Ukrainian eggs. A big thank you goes out to all my families who have made all these things possible. Your time, kind words and support have made my long

winter drives well worth it! I will look back at my years at Indus School with fond memories and happy tears.

Wishing you a relaxing and restful summer,

Mrs. Jamie Stevens



GRADE 5 – TEACHERS AND LEARNERS

In the months of April and May, the Grade 5 students had a great time helping the Grade 1 students to learn their spelling rules. The Grade 5s created their own activities to teach the Grade 1 students how to read and write words with and without the silent e. It was wonderful watching the kids work in small groups to mentor these younger spellers. Both groups of kids seemed to enjoy teaching

and learning together.

On June 18, the Grade 4 and 5 students will be heading on an overnight field trip to Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump and Frank Slide. They will be returning the following day. This is an enjoyable trip where the kids get to learn more about the First Nations people of the past and our present outside of the traditional textbook.

Look forward to checking out our weather videos online during the summer months. We just started working on them, but in a short time, the kids will be filming their information about a variety of weather phenomenon. They are doing all of their own research, creating scripts and will be presenting them to the class while being filmed.

GRADE 9 ORIENTATION AT CHS

Grade 9 students entering Chestermere High School next year, are invited to attend an orientation on **Thursday, August 29th** from 1:00–2:30 p.m. at the

school. The agenda will include a tour of the school, locker assignment and lock hand out as well as a timetable.

Parents are also reminder to regis-

ter for bussing through Rocky View School should your student require transportation—www.rockyview.ab.ca

LIBRARY NEWS

I have a story to share with you: A parent got in touch with me to say that her child told her there aren't any "good" books in our school library. She told me some of his interests, and I showed the student where those books are in the library. Well, talk about a turnaround! This student has now checked out and read, and done AR quizzes on three times more books in May than he had in the entire previous year and a

half! The key? Communication! Tell me what your child is interested in, I am sure we have books (or can get some) that will interest him/her.

A membership at Chestermere Public Library is just \$25 for a family for a year, and you can also use other Marigold libraries (Airdrie, Strathmore, etc.) as well as Calgary Public Library (some

restrictions there). Keep your kids reading all summer long!

Please note: All books that belong to the Library must be returned by **Tuesday, June 18**. If you want to know if your child still has library books checked out, you can log in to Koha and check your child's record. If you are unsure how to do this, please email me at lpotter@rockyview.ab.ca.

USED BOOK SALE

The *Indus School Annual Used Book Sale* will be held on **Thursday, June 13th** in the Gym from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. All students will have an opportunity to visit the Book Sale throughout the afternoon. **BOOKS SELL FOR 25 CENTS EACH.** Please remind your child to bring some money

to school that day if they wish to purchase books.

If you have books that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the school. We will accept everything from toddler books to adult books (no encyclopedias, please)..

Parents are also invited to attend and stock up on their reading materials for the summer.



STUDENT REGISTRATION OVER THE SUMMER

If you or someone you know wants to register a child for school over the summer, Rocky View Schools has developed a centralized registration process for when schools are closed. To register during the summer, please contact Todd Howery at

1.403.945.4125 or email: thowery@rockyview.ab.ca. Registration packages are also available on the Indus School website: <http://indus.rockyview.ab.ca>.

The Indus School office will re-

open on Monday, August 19th from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday to Friday.

SMALL, CRAWLING AND FLYING ANIMALS

The Grade 2 students have been very excited about 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. Al-

though these particular ants were not as active as last year, students observed that 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 average size human lifting a car! Students will continue to observe the Painted Lady But-

terflies throughout the month of June, as well as Earthworms. They will also be completing individual research projects on a small, crawling or flying animal of their choice.

Thank you to all Moms and Grandmas who came to celebrate Mother's Day with us. We had a really nice morning making Ukrainian Pysanky and your company in the classroom made all the difference.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank all parents for their continued support. I have had a wonderful year working with your child and will look back on this year with very fond memories.

FINAL CONCERT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Please come out and support the Indus musicians during our final concert on June 25th at 1:00 pm in the school gym. The Bands will be performing many new selections along with several

singing performances, so we hope you will be able to join us in supporting the Indus Spirit.

On a final note, please come and bid farewell to our Music

Teacher, Mr. Kim. He will be leaving for another assignment, but his spirit will always remain with Indus School.

ONE AMAZING YEAR IN GRADE 6!

Thank-you to the Grade 6 parents and students for making this year one of the greatest! We have had an amazing year together. We have learned a lot – not just from books and lessons, but also from each other.

I think most will agree with me that *Outdoor School* was one of the major highlights of our year. Although we did see some snow and felt the cold, the fun that we had, things that we learned, and

the memories that we made will be with us forever.

We are focused on a strong finish to Grade 6. Right now our classroom-reading contest is in full swing. We are also knee-deep into a student skills agenda contest. PATs are approaching quickly. In Math, we will be reviewing shortly. Our 'Trees and Forests' unit is in full swing and in Social Studies, we will be tak-

ing a closer look at the Federal Government structure. Language Arts will see us digging more deeply into Reading.

Once again, thank-you parents and Grade 6 students. I am very proud of my students for all of their personal and academic accomplishments.

Please enjoy your summer. Be safe and take pleasure in your many adventures to come!

GIVING BACK TO OUR MOMS FOR ALL THAT THEY DO

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

Five and six year olds are typically developmentally egocentric 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 sings and dances; she takes me for walks; 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, chocolate, wine, flowers, parties, and make-up! 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 coconut squares, 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 the little ones learned the joy of giving.

The Kindergarten ducklings have hatched and we are looking forward to the fun and ex-

citement they bring to the classroom!



Caine greets his mom!

GRADE 4 CLASS GETS INSPIRED AND EXCITED

While reading the class novel, *The Breadwinner*, and other articles about people who have made a difference, the Grade 4 class was inspired to get involved with the charity, *Because I Am A Girl*. The excitement began to build as everyone thought of how she/he could contribute to girls and women less fortunate in developing countries. It was decided that we would turn our classroom into a store for one day. Hand-

made crafts, baking, gently used books and toys would be for sale. All proceeds will go to this charity on behalf of Indus School.

Another part of the excitement building is our overnight field trip with Grade 5 to Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump and Frank Slide.

Once again the support by the parents and the School Council has been amazing. For this trip to even be a possibility we also need parents to volunteer their vehicles to carry the sleeping

bags and other supplies. Once again, we know the Indus community will step up.

At the end of the year, when the students want to be outside, this is the perfect time to have some outdoor schooling. I have no doubt that it will be a trip that we all will remember in the years to come.

GRADE 7S AT THE MILITARY MUSEUM

In May, The Grade 7s had an opportunity to take a field trip to The Military Museums in Calgary. It fit in with our Social Studies curriculum, which is based on Canadian History. The field trip

was centered on the theme of *The War of 1812*, and it included engaging activities and presentations. The Grade 7s were strong participants and represented our

school well. We had a fantastic day!

Thank you to our Indus School Council for helping to make this trip possible.

THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES

The last day of classes for K through Grade 8 students is June 26th. Students will be dismissed at the regular time.

Grade 9 students must attend on June 27th at 9:00 a.m. to write the final Provincial Achievement

Test in Social Studies. Information regarding bussing that day for Grade 9s will be sent home as soon as it is available.

Please watch for details regarding "Fun Day" on June 26th.

Students will receive their report cards at the end of the day on June 26th.

Have a safe and fun summer!

GRADE 1 CARES!

These last two months have been, and will continue to be, exciting ones for the Grade 1 class at Indus School. We are in the thick of our *Care of Living Things* unit. This has been a wonderful opportunity to explore and see first-hand how various living things function and live. It all started with an interesting addition to our class in the form of a Hermit Crab cleverly named *Pincher*. Appropriate crab names were discussed and then voted on. *Pincher* it was!

Students have learned through Internet research what Hermit Crabs need for survival and how to provide daily care for *Pincher*. We are also providing care for houseplants and bean plants. Perhaps our most exciting experience is watching the butterfly life cycle as it progresses. This has just begun and we are already delighted to see our caterpillars getting fatter as they prepare to enter their next phase of life. Students are also keeping scientific journals on the bean

plants and the butterflies.

As we enter our last month of Grade 1, it is great to reflect and see all of the positive growth that has occurred throughout the school year. We have truly enjoyed our year of learning with your children.

We wish you a safe and happy summer!

Mrs. Stanger and Mrs. Kaminsky

GRADE 8 VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

For the past two months we have had five Grade 8 students going to the PEAK room and Grade 3 room everyday to help out the teachers. In the Grade 3 room Ethan and Josiah have been helping Mrs. Stevens by hanging assignments on the bulletin boards, helping the students with their flash cards, hanging a 1-1000 number line around the classroom, and putting A.R. levels on books and other odds and ends for when Mrs. Stevens leaves next year.

In the PEAK room Ethan, Calvin, Brittany and Tyler have been reading stories with the PEAK

students. When they first started to go to the PEAK room they would teach them about their five senses (Hearing, Seeing, Listening, Tasting and Smelling) by reading them books about the senses. Now the Grade 8 students help them with telling the time on a clock, reading them stories, going over science flash cards, social skills, and every Friday they go down to the gym and help them with their reflex skills by playing pass with a ball and other activities.

This has been a very good experience for the students in-

volved. It is a very important thing for students to have this chance. They have learned a lot and have definitely changed their views on many aspects of life and how to work with all kinds of people. All five students were really lucky to participate in such a fun experience. They hope that they have made a big difference in both helping the teachers and helping the kids. They are hoping that they will be able to be a part of this great idea again next year.

Written by Grade 8 students.

PEAK HIGHLIGHTS

Wrapping up the year, we continue with the Junior High Art class and Band class. The PEAK students have also worked on Social Studies and Science, developing vocabulary relevant to both subjects. We are looking

forward to a relaxing summer.

It is with great regret that I must be moving on. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Indus School. It is heartwarming to work in schools where I get a chance to

help students with issues beyond the academics. I have enjoyed the team and family environment at Indus School. I will miss you all.

Gordon Klassen
Learning Support Teacher

GRADE 9 NEWS

We are busy in Grade 9 as the end of year is upon us. While our classes are focused on electricity, circle geometry and Shakespeare, we have the end of year exams in sight. These final exams, in the four core subjects, are being held on the last 4 days of school, June 24th to the 27th.

Our Shakespearian play this

year is *Romeo and Juliet*. We are doing a full script reading of the play in its original language. Additionally, we are paralleling the acts and scenes read in class with two movie adaptations, Zeffirelli's 1968 historical piece and Luhrmann's 1996 modern adaptation.

The Grade 9 students decided to have a solemn goodbye to Indus

this year. Typical to this group of students, they wanted to spend the time together, so, on June 7th they will have a barbecue lunch to celebrate their time here at Indus and embrace the change as they move on to high school.

Best of luck in your future, Grade 9 class of 2013.

COUNCIL CORNER

Parent Council would like to extend a very sincere *thank you* to the individuals who volunteered at our Casino earlier this month. As the largest fundraiser for our school, the success of this event

is highly dependent upon our volunteers, and your time commitment is greatly appreciated. The exact amount we will receive is not known at this time as funds are pooled and distributed

quarterly, however, it is estimated at \$40,000. Our next casino has already been scheduled for the first quarter of 2016.

A huge *thank you* to everyone who contributed items to the local Food Bank this past month. Your donations are very much appreciated!