

# Indus School

# SPiRiT

Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today

## Parent Newsletter



Volume 12, Issue 10

Student Count 233

### VISUAL ART IS ALIVE AT INDUS

The Fine Arts option program is growing every year, with approximately 60 students enrolled this year in grades 7 through 9. The students are divided into 3 groups,

each group spending a term with a different teacher. Mr. Green's focus is with tech arts and Mr. Winters and Ms. Hart with media arts. The creativity and enthusiasm of our students is apparent in the quality of their finished projects.

Please watch the school web site for an upcoming showcase of student projects. Christmas will be an exciting time, as

students will be donating some of their projects for a silent auction organized by Parent Council. See other pictures on page 3.

#### Black Construction Batik:

Andrew Gr. 9



Amanda Gr9



Morgan Gr8

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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.**

### WELCOME ROB HANSEN

We would like to welcome Rob Hansen to the Indus School staff. Rob is

our new Computer Technologist and he will be working four

days a week (every day but Thursdays).

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## FLU SEASON

*Flu season is upon us. If your child is sick, please, please keep him/her at home so others don't become infected.*

When you make influenza immunization an annual event,

you protect yourself, your family, and our communities from infection & illness.

Starting October 15th, influenza immunization will be available, **free of charge, to all Albertans** six months of age and older, through local immunization clinics.

ics.

Find complete schedules (<http://www4.albertahealthservices.ca/immunization/>) for all influenza immunization clinics in Alberta

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/influenza.asp>

## THE DAILY FIVE AND CELEBRATIONS IN GRADE 2!

The Grade 2 students have spent the last two months developing daily habits of reading, writing and working with peers as we embrace *The Daily 5* program. The program allows students to

learn literacy independence as they choose tasks (reading to self, reading to someone, writing, working with words and listening to reading) to complete daily, while Miss Mikkelsen meets with small groups or conferences with individuals about their

reading and writing goals. These skills will hopefully lead to a life-

time of independent literacy skills and a love for reading and writing.

October was a month to remember! For completing AR quizzes

all the way around our classroom. Last week, our bookworm made it to the first corner and students voted to celebrate with a pajama day. Students are motivated to make it all the way around the

classroom in hopes of having an ice cream party near the end of the year. Students also earned all the stars needed to fill the whiteboard and an award for having one of cleanest classrooms in the whole school! Thank you to Mrs. Preete and Char Gosling for the amazing lunch and treats to celebrate. Students

should be very proud of all their hard work and effort this month.



students are growing one long bookworm in hopes of making it

## PHOTO RETAKE DAY NOV. 19

Below are a few pieces of information to keep in mind for a successful retake day:

1. Please have your child take their proof envelope from original photo day to the photogra-

pher on retake day.

2. If you have lost the proof envelope, please send a handwritten note to request a retake including your choice of background color (blue, grey, purple,

green or copper).

If your child was absent from school on original photo day or is new to the school, please tell your child to have their photograph taken on retake day.

# ...MORE VISUAL ARTS GRS. 7,8, AND 9

## Duct Tape Creations



Chelsey, Gr 9

## Wire Work



Aurora, Gr9



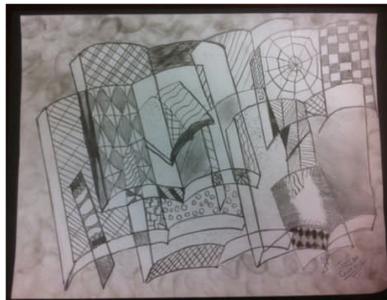
Jewel , Gr. 7



Karlee, Gr. 9

## Cubism Style

Josiah, Gr. 8



These are a few samples of some of the Grades 7, 8 and 9 art works that may be available for silent auction at the Christmas Concert. (Provided students are willing to part with them!)

Thank you, Kim Hart, for giving our students the opportunities to create these wonderful works of art.

## REMINDER THAT WE STRIVE TO BE NUT-FREE

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is important, amid the fun and excitement of Hallowe'en, to remember that Indus School strives to be nut free. It is only with everyone's help and cooperation that we can create a place that is safe for all students.

Please check any candy or treats coming to school to ensure it does not contain nuts. Some products, like those delicious chocolates wrapped in tinfoil, only have the ingredients marked on the



bag or box. If you are unsure about the contents of a product, please err on the side of caution and keep it at home (there is usually someone around the house who won't mind helping take care of those items).

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT DECEMBER 19TH

Yes, it is time to start thinking about the Christmas Concert! Parent Council is organizing three raffle tables for the evening of the Concert (December 19th at 7:00 p.m.). One table will consist of art projects completed

by the Grades 7, 8 and 9 students. (We have some very talented artists at Indus School as indicated in the pictures above.) Another table will have raffle baskets donated by the Kindergarten, Grades 4, 5, 6 and PEAK students, and the

third table will display the gingerbread houses created by the Grades 1, 2 and 3 students.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the door the evening of the Concert.

## ***WE DO, DO YOU?***

Representing Indus School, 22 students attended and participated in Alberta's first *WE DAY*. *WE DAY* was more than a one day event; it launched a year-long series of actions to better our global community. *WE DAY* is an initiative of *Free the Children*, an international charity started by Craig and Marc Kielburger. The two brothers started this youth movement in the hope that the world could be a

better place. Students were educated and will now develop leadership skills through campaigning and engaging with the world in new ways. They will drive action for global and local change within the Indus community. It is a movement for this generation, a movement of their time. That is the power of WE!

Alberta's *WE DAY* highlights included performances by Hedley, Lights, and Mirianas Trench, as

well as inspirational speeches from Larry King, Liz Murray, Spencer West, Martin Sheen, Molly Burke and Ashley Callingbull. Please visit [www.freethechildren.com](http://www.freethechildren.com) to find out how you can help, and stay tuned to hear how Indus School is getting involved as students demonstrate leadership from *ME to WE*.

Written by Miss Mikkelsen

## ***BEING CREATIVE IN GRADE 5***

In the months of September and October, I quickly learned about how creative my students are. Creating circuits, through experimentation, is what they demonstrated in September, and in October, my students showed me how out of the box they think when they created an amazing array of art pieces to represent their favourite scenes in literature. Each student was assigned the task of creating an *Artistic Adventurer* piece for a chapter in our novel study *Owls in the Family*. This job assignment is to demonstrate how we comprehend and express our personal

responses to literature. They didn't just draw pictures, they also made mobiles, wrote songs and poems, created *Wordles*, made and presented plays, created PowerPoint presentations and also used crafty skills to cross stitch owls. We will soon be displaying this wonderful array of artistic creations on our class bulletin board.



## ***INDUS STUDENT CHOSEN AS RGIS POSTER BOY***

The following is an excerpt from the Rocky View Schools Weekly newsletter, *Replay*:

Alexander Nunn, Grade 5 student from Indus School has been chosen to appear on the official 2013 *Reading...Give It A Shot!* poster! A joint initiative between the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation

and the Calgary Flames, *Reading...Give It A Shot!* encourages students in Grades 4-6 to read by rewarding students with player bookmarks celebrating the Flames hockey season. Students count minutes rather than books and receive one bookmark for every one hundred minutes of reading. In his con-

test entry, Alexander said that *Reading...Give It A Shot!* has helped him work harder and think more positively about reading. He also really enjoyed the challenge which helped him complete his reading more quickly. The photo shoot took place on October 26, 2012.

## MYSTERY IN THE GRADE 6 CLASSROOM!

Grade 6 students have been busy mystery crime authors during the month of October. We have written some fantastic mystery stories and are currently working on our final draft deadline. This has been a valuable

review of the writing process as well as our *Evidence and Investigation* Science unit. Our proof-reading skills have been put to great practice. We are also working on recreating a particular scene from our stories in 3D! All

students are loving tapping into their creative side! Please drop into our classroom to check out our excellent work during Parent-Teacher Interviews. I look forward to seeing you there!

## LE FRANÇAIS À L'ÉCOLE

Des choses excitantes se passent dans la classe de français 7<sup>e</sup>! On se servira d'une approche axée sur les projets pour plusieurs de nos travaux, que l'on partagera ensuite avec les élèves plus jeunes. Les élèves apprendront de nouveaux concepts et explorent de nouvelles idées qu'ils/elles mettront en pratique de manières variées. Il est important

que les élèves aient des occasions de s'engager et de se motiver dans leur apprentissage du français. Les élèves sont en train de créer un album-photos de prépositions basé sur le thème de l'automne/l'halloween. Ce livre est au stage de la création. Il sera édité, organisé et relié le

mois prochain. Demandez à un élève de 7<sup>e</sup> pour en savoir plus!



*A wolf under the leaves... Un loup sous les feuilles*

## THE GRADE 7S USE THEIR VOICE

In October the Grade 7s were given a chance to share the writing trait of "voice" through producing a *Hallmark-style* card. This writing trait is about sharing

emotion and personality, so it lent itself well to the assignment. Students produced various imaginary cards, including ones for: Halloween, Birthdays, Bereavement, and

even April Fools Day. They demonstrated creativity and enthusiasm. Well done Grade 7s!

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle's classic book, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* has been a hit with children for many generations and in Kindergarten we used this well-loved story to focus our early reading and writing. Using the same predictable structure and repetitive language, we wrote our first class book titled: *Children, Children, Who Do You See?* The students discovered the names of their classmates and enjoyed seeing their own picture and

printing while reading this book. Most pattern books work like lists rather than stories so children easily learn to read from left to right following the pattern. As a class, we also enjoyed Bill Martin's books, *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?* and *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?* Students learned to focus all the pages of

one piece of writing on a single topic and then created their own individual books matching the words to the pictures. The Kindergarten children were very engaged and motivated to read their Halloween literary work: *Black Cat, Black Cat, What Do You See?*



## ***PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS***

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held at the school on **Wednesday, November 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Thursday, November 8th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

The first report cards will not be sent home until December 5th.

We encourage **all** parents to meet with their child's teacher at this time. All interviews will be scheduled at 15 minute intervals . If you require longer

than that, please make special arrangements with the appropriate teacher(s).

To schedule an interview, please call the school at 403.936.5855. The slots fill up fast, so please call as soon as possible.

## ***IMPULSIVITY, EGOCENTRICISM, AND THE OTHER ROLE OF SCHOOLS***

When one thinks of schools, it is usually about the academic side of the institution. It is always our primary goal to help students develop the broad range of skills covered by the curriculum: literacy; numeracy; scientific, historical, and geographic thinking. We even focus on learning a second language, getting exercise, learning about health issues, and developing means of artistic expression. There is also, however, another essential element to schooling that is often seen as somehow 'separate' from the skills and concepts listed above: socialization.

All children are born being entirely egocentric (seeing the world from only his or her perspective). They want what they want, when they want it, and immediately let the world know

it. As they grow, parents teach those children to calm their impulses. They learn to ask politely, to delay their need to get what they want immediately, and to place value on the needs of others.

As children enter school, they must take a giant leap forward in controlling their impulses to get what they want, when they want it. Teachers work with students to understand cooperation with large groups of their peers (many more than they needed to get along with even in the largest families) and the school community at large. Because these lessons evolve into expectations (just like the academic skills), some children forget that they are not only learning how to behave in society as a whole, they are also practicing

valuable workplace skills. Those who have not learned to put aside their egocentric impulses for the benefit of the community at large, or even themselves later in life, may balk at the rules, but through continued reinforcement, they usually learn to be productive members of society.

Thus it is this 'other' element in schools, the one that is infused in every aspect of every day, the one that is not directly reported on report cards, and the one that is seen by many as simple inconvenience, that is (perhaps) the most valuable thing we do. Rules don't just restrict what students can do, they get students ready for the world ahead.

## ***SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER***

### **FUNDRAISING**

Our last casino funds have been depleted entirely, all fundraising profits are necessary to offset the costs of field trips, class projects/units and much more!

Indus School Parent Council is undertaking a number of fundraising activities this fall.

Please watch for a **detailed package** coming home in the next day or so outlining how you can help. Activities include Poinsettias, boughs and wreath sales, Thousand Villages evening, Epicure sales, and silent auction and raffle tables at the Christmas Concert.

**The next General Council Meeting** is on November 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the school. Everyone welcome!

If you have any questions regarding School Council, please contact the Chair, Michelle Alm, at 403.936.5340 or email Michelle at [malm@platinum.ca](mailto:malm@platinum.ca).

## ***GRADE 4 STUDENTS ENJOY CHALLENGES***

This class seems to be excited by all types of challenges. Whether academic, artistic, or physical, this group puts forth their best effort. Problem solving in Math seems to be a favourite with quite a few. Often this is an area where I see children want to give up, but this group would rather persevere than to have me give them the answer. For those who find some questions too challenging, they show superior patience in allowing and praising those who can succeed. In Art, there are

some who, perhaps, have more natural drawing ability, but everyone still tries to do his or her best. Walking around, students are quick to point out others' amazing work and to encourage others who feel their sketches are not that good. In Writing, this month, we have been focusing on different sentence openers. Once again this group seems to delight in watching their writing ability improve. Our first unit in Science has been about waste in our

world and this group seems like they are natural environmentalists transferring their knowledge into a new constant awareness of our actions in the classroom. We now have a Reuse Bin as well as a Recycle Bin. In Gym, everyone is continually attempting to jump higher than before in high jump. Raising the bar in every area of their lives seems to be what this remarkable group is about.

## ***LIBRARY NEWS***

It's Book Fair time! The "All-Star Book Fair" will run from November 5-8 and all customers are welcome to shop ANYTIME during

the daytime and the evenings that we are open late (Wednesday and Thursday). Please invite your friends and neighbours! More

details will be sent home the week of November 1.

## ***GRADE 7 & 8 TRACK & FIELD***

We took 18 athletes to the Rocky View meet on October 4<sup>th</sup> in Calgary and our team and individual efforts were commendable. Not only did we have several personal best performances, but all students made Indus proud in their behaviour and sportsmanship that day. Congratulations to Kale Clouston for 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes in both Grade 7 boys' 100 and 200m races (he was less than a

second behind the winner in 100m) and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in long jump. Kale placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in individual rankings – an amazing feat amongst hundreds of athletes from 17 different schools! Our Grade 7 boys' 4x100 relay team (Kale Clouston, Nathan Ingram, Caleb McKenzie, Tristen Wallace) ran to an impressive top 10 finish. Other notable performances: Kiersten Beck -

Grade 7 girls' shot put - 4<sup>th</sup>; Amy Saretsky - Grade 7 girls' hurdles – 7<sup>th</sup> (this is a very tough event – try it sometime!); Nathan Ingram – Grade 7 boys' shot put – 8<sup>th</sup>; Taylor Bowden – Grade 7 girls' long jump – 9<sup>th</sup>. We witnessed some inspiring and courageous performances – way to go Indus athletes!

## ***INDUS MUSIC PROGRAM***

The Indus Music program is wrapping up rehearsals for the Remembrance Day ceremony. The Senior Band will be playing a selection of songs including

various anthems and Remembrance Day standards such as *Scotland the Brave*. The Junior Band will accompany various vocalists to the playing of Bee-

thovan's *Ode to Joy*. Trumpets, xylophones, bongos and more will be playing to commemorate those who fought to protect our freedom.

## ***“ROAR”- WE ARE CLEAN IN GRADE 3!***

The Grade 3 Smarties take ROARS seriously. They understand that we need to be *Responsible* for our classroom and keep it neat and tidy. Students know that by taking *Ownership* over their items will help them learn and be more organized. Students show a positive *Attitude* by helping Ms. Preete



Ms. Preete was very impressed and held a special lunch for Grades 1, 2 and 3. Ms. Char created spooky monster cupcakes that were enjoyed by all! Thank you to Ms. Preete and Ms. Char for all they do to make our school a great place to be!

Mrs. Stevens and the Grade 3 Smarties.

whenever they can. They show *Respect* by keeping their desks tidy and putting items back in the appropriate places. Lastly, students are demonstrating *Safety* by cleaning out items and ensuring desks and floors are clean so that accidents don't happen.

## ***A BUSY MONTH IN GRADE 1***

October was a very hard working month for the Grade 1 students. We are really getting into the swing of things! We enjoyed our Art activities that focused around the special days in October. Our witches and turkeys were super cute and we also tried our hand at pastel crayons. The pastel coloured pumpkins we made were a sight to behold! Good job Grade 1s!

We have been having lots of fun with our pursuits in reading. October saw us start our Lollipop

Sight Word program. The students have become very excited about this program, especially in the last couple of weeks. Building a sight word vocabulary is very important in learning to read. Please ensure that your child is practicing these words frequently so that they can progress through their lists. Our helpful parent volunteers started in late October and the children love practicing their sight words with the parents. Thanks a million! We were also introduced to the RAZ Kids leveled reading program on

the computer. Some students have already started reading from this program at home. November will see us starting Raz Kids at school as well.

The end of October sees us part-way through our study on *colours*. We delighted in our first experiment as we predicted, observed, and recorded what happens when primary colours are mixed together. We are eagerly anticipating November as we continue this fun study!

## ***SUTP COUPON BOOKS***

We have sold most of our coupon books, but you can still get yours! For only \$20 you receive tons of coupons for things you

shop for every day. If you don't have an order form, just send your money with a note and you will receive your coupon

book the same day. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser.

## ***ANNUAL PUMPKIN FLING***

Students are reminded to bring their jack-o-lanterns to school on November 1st for the Annual Pumpkin Fling. Please note the pumpkins can be no larger than 8 inches in diameter.

Parents are invited to attend this special event. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call the school office at 403.936.5855 before November 1st.

## ***REMEMBRANCE DAY***

### **POPPIES**

We have poppies available at the office for students who wish to make a donation to the Royal Canadian Legion.

### **CEREMONY**

Parents are invited to attend our Remembrance Day Ceremony on **Friday, November 9th at 10:45 a.m.** in the school gym.



If you are a veteran or are a member of the Legion and would like to be part of the Colour Guard on November 9th, please call the school.

### **DISPLAY**

Once again, we will be creating a

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

- Nov. 1 Annual Pumpkin Fling
- Nov. 5-8 Book Fair
- Nov. 7 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Nov. 8 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Nov. 9 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Nov. 12 NO SCHOOL—PL Day
- Nov. 13 Hot Lunch—Taco
- Nov. 19 Photo Retakes
- Nov. 27 Hot Lunch—Chicken Strips
- Nov. 29 Ten Thousand Villages

display of Veterans' memorabilia, including pictures, berets, medals, newspaper clippings or whatever other articles you may have. Please send your items to school after November 1st. Be sure to clearly label your items so they can be returned to you.

## ***CHESTERMERE GO GIRL—NOVEMBER 17TH***

...an action-packed one day event for girls ages 10–16 on Saturday, Nov. 17, 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Chestermere Recreation Centre Hall. A fee of \$10.00 covers lunch and a t-shirt. Activities include volleyball,

Tae Kwon Do and self defense, Yoga, Soccer, Zumba, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Capoeira Dance, Walk or Run for the Health of It and more.

You can register at the Chestermere Rec Centre Office or email

[recreation@chestermererca.com](mailto:recreation@chestermererca.com).

Volunteers/sponsors and door prizes are still needed for this event. If you are able to help, please email as above or phone 403.934.7574.

## ***JUST LIKE RIDING A BIKE IN GRADE 8!***

Do you remember when you were learning to ride your bike? Improved skills and confidence meant practice, uninterrupted regular practice. A part of our Language Arts writing program is framed this way in Grade 8.

We have built in blocks of time for sustained practice. Students are expected to hand write in their journals for periods of 15-20 minutes on a teacher-given topic or idea. Mini lessons for specific strategies will be integrated

weekly. Throughout the year we will assess and reflect on individual progress. It is exciting to see many students enthusiastic about writing. We will see if writing confidence and improved skills are as easy as riding a bike.

## GRADE 9 NEWS

In Grade 9 this year, we are taking our one-to-one classroom a step further. Our Science class is now completely online. This is a first attempt at this type of learning environment. *Moodle*, the online program, allows students to work at their own pace on their own time. It automatically

grades quizzes so students know their grade immediately and can retake the quiz to get the grade they want.

In addition to *Moodle*, we are using our computers to investigate science. In studying biodiversity, we used a computer simulator to

explore species variation and natural selection in rabbits. Many students worked really hard to create a stable population of rabbits. In absence of a lab, we will utilize simulators and videos to highlight scientific principles.

## FALL ULTIMATE

Indus School's Ultimate team

went up to Edmonton on October 13 and 14 for the *Spirit of the North Ultimate Tournament*. Participating in the tournament were



six teams - three high school teams, of which one was the national team, and three junior teams, including Indus A and Indus B. The first game, for Indus A, on Saturday, was against one of the High School teams, the "Narwhals." Our team played very well and won the game 13

- 2, setting the tone for a string of victories for the rest of day one. On day two, the A

team made it to the finals. Despite playing a great game, they lost to the Calgary National High School team, which included



some former Indus players.

Our B team put in a great effort as well, playing very close within their age category. Austen Evans, who did not compete due to an injury, coached the junior squad. While having won only one game, the squad received many accolades from the other teams present.

## GLOBAL SHOPPING EVENING

Get into the Christmas Spirit with an evening of global shopping right here at home! Indus School and Ten Thousand Villages store are partnering for an evening of fair trade shopping. The store will be decked out in Christmas cheer, with plenty of fair trade items (home décor, jewellery, clothing and specialty food items) for purchase, as well as food and drink samples. It will be like Christmas shopping around the globe, all in

one night! Fifteen (15%) percent of all proceeds from the evening will go to Indus School Council, so come out and support your school while picking up some Christmas gifts.

Please mark this special night on your calendar: Thursday, Nov. 29 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages Heritage location—8318 Fairmount Drive S.E., Calgary.

Look for posters, coupons and further details coming home soon.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Julie Meier at 403-279-8297 or email her at [jmeier@platinum.ca](mailto:jmeier@platinum.ca).

