

Indus School

SPiRiT



Some Pertinent Information Regarding Indus Today Parent Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 2

Student Count 225

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 7	Winter Fun Day	Feb. 14	PL Day—NO SCHOOL
Feb. 8	Girls Come Try Lacrosse	Feb. 17-21	NO SCHOOL
Feb. 10	100th Day of School	Feb. 26	Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 11	Science Fair 9:00 am		

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GRADE 6 NEWS

Check our School Website daily for a set of class news stories on Olympic events from Feb.10 through Feb 13 and again when we return from

Break on Feb 24. Please encourage your children to watch Olympic events over the course of the February break.

WINTER FUN DAY—FEBRUARY 7

On Friday, February 7th, starting at 9:00 a.m., all students will participate in *Winter Fun Day* to kick-off the *Winter Olympics*. (It sounds like the weather may cooperate.) Students will be outdoors for the entire morning, so please ensure your children are dressed appropriately.

We will begin the morning with an assembly in the gym. Students will be randomly placed on teams and will be given a country to represent for the

day.

All teams will rotate through all stations outside. Stations will include activities such as curling, obstacle courses, races, etc.

We will require volunteers to help run the stations, so if you are able to help us out, please call the school at 403.936.5855.

Our Mission

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

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NOTE TAKING AND STUDY TIPS FROM ELA 7/8/9

It is important for students to develop an individual style or process for taking notes. Although these tips are not new to the students this year, it is important that they continue to review and practice.

This year we will be looking at two specific strategies, the Cornell Method and SQ3R. The Cornell Method involves visually dividing your page into **key words**, **note** and **summary** sections. Students read their information and take short **notes** on the main ideas and concepts. Once finished the notes, students classify the information using **key words**. The **summary** consists of one or two sentences to provide an overview.

The SQ3R (SQ4R) is a method of studying, not reading. It is a lit-

tle more complicated than the Cornell Method but once perfected, it can be more effective for study and review. The letters in the title represent the steps. I have listed them below.

S – Survey: Look over the titles, headings, pictures/diagrams, vocabulary and try to get an overview of what lies ahead.

Q – Question: Asking yourself, “What do I already know about this subject” and read the questions throughout the chapter. It is important to write these down.

R – Read: You should read one section at a time. Consider the information, does it answer any of your questions? After each section you should **recite** and take notes.

R – Recite: After you have read a

section you should summarize the information in your head. In **your own words** take notes of the important things.

R – Relate: It is a proven fact that relating/connecting new information to things you already know helps things stick. Try to do this when you are taking notes.

Note taking and study skills are important to practice. The above-mentioned methods are just two ways of doing it. It is just as important for students to find methods and strategies that work for them. Development and practice of these skills will help ensure students maximize their success in school here and beyond.

All “learning strategies” that we explore will be posted on Hart’s Happenings under the same title.

MUSIC NOTES

January was an exciting month in the music room. Students couldn’t believe all the deliveries we received of brand new instruments for the band program. The boxes were piled high and stacked all over the room; it was like Christmas a month late! We feel fortunate and thankful to the folks at RVS Head Office for supporting our musical endeavours by providing the Indus Band with all this valuable and necessary equipment. (A note to band students – the instruments are shiny and pretty but they won’t play themselves ... a little

practice will make them sound even better, nudge, nudge.)



Also in January, five of our talented band students participated in the Rocky View Junior Honour Band. Honour Band is

an annual event and this year involved 60 students from 10 Rocky View schools. Students meet with their guest conductor and clinicians Friday evening, and after more than seven hours of rehearsals over two days, they are ready to perform a concert Saturday afternoon! Congratulations to Samson Guigue (percussion), Miranda Wideen (flute), Jocelyn Baxter (flute), Amy Saretsky (bari sax), and Lauren Saretsky (clarinet) on your hard work, for rising to the challenge, and on a wonderful concert.

REMEMBERING THE PAST WITH GRADE 5

It is important to know about our ancestors, but it is also important to know about others from the past. For the last few months, we have been learning about the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Lowlands Region and the First Nations Groups that lived there. Two of the important groups in this region were the Haudenosaunee (Also known as the Iroquois Confederacy) and the Ouendat. (Also known as the Huron).

Our class worked very hard on making projects that represented how the Haudenosaunee and the Ouendat people lived. Some students made long houses, others made canoes or other scenes that represent their way of life. If you would like to have a closer look and learn more information about these

groups, our projects are on display outside of the Grade 5 room.

Written by Claire and Jeannie.



ALBERTA EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY SURVEY

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be

conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2014, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

READING AND WRITING MACHINES!

The Grade 2 students have gotten back into the full swing of things after Christmas. Even though January was a busy month with swimming and skating, students have continued to work hard on their reading and writing skills. Due to students reading each night and completing AR quizzes daily, our classroom Bookworm made its way to the third corner of the classroom. Students celebrated the growth of the Bookworm by having an 'Electronic Day' at school. They were so excited to bring in electronic devices and play games with their friends in the classroom.



After learning how to write 'star sentences' through the JoAnne Moore writing program, the Grade 2 students are now taking

their writing skills further and writing 'paragraphs with punch'. As they develop their writing skills, students will begin writing sequence stories in February and will eventually write and publish their own stories toward the end of the year. We are

also very excited to start reading with the Indus Preschool kids in February. Please ask your child about their reading buddy.

GRADE 1 NEWS

January was a busy month for Grade 1 students! We went swimming to start the month off and had a blast since it was our first time swimming at school. I know that the students are looking forward to many more years of swimming lessons here at In-

dus School! We also went skating to end the month of January. A lot of kids who needed the "pushers" at the beginning were skating independently near the end! Great job! A huge thank you to all of our parent volunteers who helped make both

events run so smoothly.

In between all of this physical activity, we have been learning how to add and subtract numbers, reading more books and words, and adding some detail to our writing activities.

PLAYGROUND-PALOOZA!

Have you ever wondered what your child really wanted for a playground at Indus School? Well, Grade 3 students have been busy putting their creative ideas to work during Science class. Some ideas include, but are not limited to, a swimming pool, an outdoor hockey rink...

etc! Students had to create a blueprint for their building project prior to receiving their construction license. They are also naming their playground and explaining each part. Students will also self-evaluate their projects based on class chosen Science curriculum outcomes.

Grade 3 will put their exciting 3 dimensional playgrounds on display at next week's Science Fair. All Indus students and parents may vote for their favourite playground idea. We hope to see you there!

DIV 3 SCIENCE

In our science classes we are using the material of unit 2 in Grade 7 and 8 to create presentations. The grade 7 class has created posters specific to a given plant species of their choice. These posters are then put up in class. This is the second round of poster projects for that class and the quality of their work has improved greatly. The Grade 8 class is creating edible cells and presenting them to the class. Once their presentations are over we all try out the cells

and see how tasty they really are. Lastly, our Science explorations option is preparing for Science fair. We are currently designing our tri-folds for the presentation of our projects.



BUILDING WITH 3D OBJECTS IN KINDERGARTEN

Anticipation escalated throughout the day and the Kindergarten students eagerly headed outside to begin building their ice castle. The preparation had

been done with each child bringing in an ice block and our wonderful volunteers ensuring our blocks were

ready for construction. As with any piece of work, a good plan is essential so a conventional rectangular design was decided upon. It was discovered that the

“box shaped” ice blocks were preferable for the base and towers could



agreed to try using packed snow and water to adhere the ice blocks. Every child contributed to the construction process through actively transporting



be created at the corners using the “can shaped” blocks. It became apparent that an adhesive material was needed to bond the blocks together and after some creative brainstorming, we

snow and ice, positioning and assembling the ice blocks and ensuring all cracks were filled. The children were delighted with their accomplishment and all the colours of a rainbow were depicted in their ice castle!

Be sure to visit our Science Fair where more of our 3D structures will be displayed.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for to making this project possible!

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES FOR GRADE 4

January was bursting with activity. To get back into shape after the holidays, swimming lessons got every part of students' bodies moving again. Ending the month with

skating used different muscles with a huge focus on balance. As usual, the Grade 4 class proved how quickly they pick up

new skills compared to their much older teacher. This year the Grades 3 and 4 classes really got into the music on the ice.



Both classes enthusiastically demonstrated their dancing moves on the ice. Academically, The Flames *Reading Give-it-a Shot* Program inspired

everyone to increase daily reading. Keeping track of minutes read also helped students develop personal re-

sponsibility. Of course the month of January is also always about preparing for Science Fair. In Grade 4, it is also the



first time that students do their own project. This experience again presents many new challenges. With the Science Fair on February 11, everyone is focused on completing a fabulous project. Hopefully, some of you will be able to join us for this exciting day.

SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

Indus School Merchandise for sale:

Indus School toques (\$10.00 now) as well as t-shirts and hoodies, are all in stock.

Fundraising: Indus School Council engages in fundraising to lower direct costs of field trips for families, among other things. In any given year, this may include activities such as the Accelerated Reader program, swimming lessons, Outdoor Education, Sandy Cross, Netbooks, Heritage Park, Science Centre, Calaway Park, Music, yearend BBQ, and Staff Appreciation Week. Fundraising is voluntary. Monies go directly to school activities that benefit

our students. Coco Brooks fundraising will takeplace February 13 to March 7, with pick-up on March 21st.

We are happy to announce that we have once again be approved for a Westjet raffle that will take place the end of March or early April with a draw date just before Easter.

Staff Appreciation Week is March 24-28. Details will follow.

Next General Meeting is on March 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the school. The AGM will be on May 12th at 6:30 p.m. Childcare must be pre-booked for these evenings. Please let us know if

you require childcare so we can have someone available that evening.

Council has approved the purchase of an AED (Defibrillator)) for the school. We are looking for corporate donations to help fund this \$2300 purchase, either in whole or in part. If you know of potential sponsors, please make the necessary inquiries. This donation qualifies for a charitable donation receipt from RVS. A letter for potential sponsors is available at the school or by calling Michelle Alm at 403.936.5340.

Fun idea: Ask your older students if they know the 2013 Webster dictionary word of the year...

HIGH-CONFLICT PARENTING DISPUTES

The Community Education Service is pleased to present the following session taking place on **Tuesday March 11, 2014**:

High Conflict Custody & Access/Parenting Disputes & their Potential impact on Children from the Perspective of Child's Counsel

This session will present observations about causes of High-Conflict Parenting disputes, the nature of the individuals involved, why they are difficult to resolve, how different professional groups perceive the disputes and the potential impact of these disputes on children.

This session IS NOT available via **Video Con-**

ference/Audioline

To register, to attend in person, or to create a new account, go to:

http://fcrc.albertahealthservices.ca/course_registration/public_course_list.php
(click here) February 2014 Newsletter

LIBRARY NEWS

Looking for something to read? February themes include Groundhog Day (Feb. 2), 100th Day of School (Feb. 10), Valentine's Day (Feb. 14), National Flag of Canada Day (Feb. 15), Family Day (Feb. 17), Winter Olympics (Feb 7-23) and Black History Month. Our library has books about all of these subjects, and many more!

Reading – Give it a Shot! is a literacy program offered to Grades 4, 5, and 6 students. It runs from January 13 to March 31, 2014. Students record their reading

time - whether it is books, newspapers, magazines, computer programs, or the Internet - on a tracking sheet. The student's parents, guardians or teachers can sign-off on the student's reading. After every 100 minutes read, students are rewarded with a **Calgary Flames** bookmark. Counting minutes rather than books allow all students, regardless of their reading ability, to participate. A total of 24 bookmarks are available for the students to earn. The object for the students is to collect the entire Calgary Flames

Set. We have a set for each student in Grades 4, 5, and 6, and many have already been awarded!

For the first time, students in Grades K-3 may also participate in the Calgary Flames Reading program. Their Harvey the Hound bookmarks are very popular and students earn them for reading in class and at home, as well as doing AR quizzes and remembering their books on Library day.