



APRIL

- April 2: Indus Idol @ 12:45
- April 3: Good Friday
(No School)
- April 6-10: Easter Vacation
(No School)
- April 13: Classes Resume
- April 14: Term 2 Awards
Assembly @ 3:00pm
- April 15-17: Band Camp
- April 17: CYSF Judging
- April 18: CYSF Public Viewing
- April 20: Gr. 5&9 Vaccinations
- April 28-May 1: Gr. 6 Outdoor
School
- April 29: Math Fair
- April 30-May 2: Ultimate Frisbee
Tournament in Kelowna

MISSION STATEMENT:

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Library & Div 3	Pg 2
Grade 3 & Music Notes	Pg 3
Grade 2	Pg 4
Grade 4/5 & Think Tank	Pg 5
Kindergarten	Pg 6
Dueling Pianos Event	Pg 7
Grade 2/3 & Busing Info	Pg 8
Busing Code of Conduct	Pg 9
Volunteer Regulations	Pg 10
Homework Commentary	Pg 11
Preschool Program	Pg 12

SPRIT

SOME PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING INDUS TODAY



Thank You!

The Indus School staff wish to offer our heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who made the staff appreciation week such a wonderful experience. Daily sweets and treats were enjoyed by all for the entire week. Our luncheon on Thursday was an incredible feast! We feel truly appreciated by our students and parent families. THANK YOU!!

Library News

Book Fair Thank you to our Indus families for supporting yet another successful book fair! Our school library benefits with many new books that the students are already reading!

Did you know that a Family Membership at the Chestermere Public Library is only \$25 per year? Your membership gives you access to millions of items! Check them out!

Talk to your child about what they are reading, and tell them what YOU are reading! Don't forget to read with and to your kids over the Easter break.

Conflict and the Grade 9s

The Grade 9s recently completed an inquiry project on the reasons why conflict happens. Projects ranged from human rights, to environmentalism, to cyber attacks. The students demonstrated deep questioning and critical thinking skills. Way to go Grade 9s!

DIV 3 Math

All grades in Division 3 Math are heading into the most important time in math. During Term 3, we start wrapping up the strands in Math, and that means the strand exams. Each of the four strand exams is worth 10% of the year mark and the final exam is worth 20%. By this time students have learned most, if not all, the core skills and are in the process of practicing them in the various units. This is the time of the year for students to stay on top of regular daily practice.



Grade 3 March Happenings



This month we have some very special guests coming into our classroom to help our Social Studies learning come alive! Currently we are studying the Ukraine. We will be making some yummy authentic Ukranian perogies and, in preparation for our fast-approaching Easter, Ukranian Easter eggs!

We made perogies during the afternoon of March 23rd. Students will measure the ingredients and will help to roll out, stuff, and pinch the perogies. We will also get to taste some! Students should wear clothes that they do not mind getting a little (or a lot!) messy. On March 30th, students began working on designing, drawing, and dyeing their eggs. On March 31st, they helped with draining the eggs. On these days, students should wear clothes that they are prepared to get dirty or stained. They will also require an old rag that you don't want back and a small box that will keep their egg safe for the journey home.

Music Notes

Indus Idol Fever is back! We had over 70 auditions for the big event, and 35 Gold Tickets awarded. Students have been very brave in sharing their talents, which have included singing, many types of dancing, playing musical instruments, gymnastics, telling jokes, drawing, rifle tossing, magic, and martial arts. Our outstanding 35 Gold Ticket winners auditioned a second time to determine the top 15 acts who will perform in front of the whole school on April 2nd at our Indus Idol show. Student Council was very helpful to the teachers in choosing the top performers. Thanks to all the students who auditioned this year. There is a lot of talent at Indus School!

Congratulations to Jocelyn Baxter, one of the only Grade 9 students in RVSD to participate in the Rocky View Senior Honour Band, which is comprised mostly of Grade 11 and 12 band students. Jocelyn worked hard to prepare for the event and the band performed very well.

The band's performance is on YouTube: http://youtu.be/lry75r_Hlb8.

Interviews and a summary can be found here: http://youtu.be/EUGGnBX_vrU.

Mrs. Istchenko continues to be available on Thursdays at lunchtime and lunch recess to help any band students who are struggling or who have questions.



Grade Two Mushers Race Their Way to Nome!

The excitement was on high speed this month as the Grade 2 students closely followed the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race of 2015. Students cheered on their favourite musher on the 970 mile trail from Fairbanks to Nome, Alaska. Students learned about the sport, the history of the race and the dogs by completing research projects, reading musher blogs and watching insider videos that were uploaded daily from the trail. First place winner of the race went to Dallas Seavey, which was Ms. Allard's musher! Second place went to Mrs. McKenzie's musher, Mitch Seavey and third place was Tori's Musher, Aliy Zirkle.

Please stay tuned in April for our upcoming Boats and Buoyancy unit in Science. Students will be designing, testing and making modifications to their own boats. Materials will be due after the Easter break.

Thank you to all parents for your cooperation and help during skating. All students thoroughly enjoyed being out on the ice and really improved their skating skills.



How Brains Are Built: The Core Story of Brain Development

The Alberta Family Wellness Initiative is pleased to announce the launch of their first animated video, which presents the core story of brain development in an accessible and visually engaging format for public audiences. The AFWI developed this video with considerable input from partners at the Harvard Center on the Developing Child and the FrameWorks Institute. Using metaphors developed by FrameWorks and tested with audiences both in the US and in Alberta, "How Brains are Built" infuses core story concepts with energy, accessibility, and high fidelity to the science.

Please download the video at this link. (Right click and choose "save as" to download)
<http://www.albertafamilywellness.org/resources/video/how-brains-are-built-core-story-brain-development>



March Madness in Grade 4/5

March had students involved with a variety of activities. After Science Fair in February, it was time to turn their attention to Inquiry Projects in Social Studies. The students were to investigate something in Canadian history. Some preferred to demonstrate their learning through models, while many chose Power Point presentations. Many challenged their technical skills to create high interest slide shows. Speaking of high interest, many students tried out for Indus Idol. The Grade 4/5 class has a number of students who made the cuts and will be on stage Thursday, April 2nd. A week of skating with the 5/6 class was also very enjoyable. It was impressive to see how many students could skate so well and equally amazing to see how quickly new skaters gained skills. It was great to see how proficient skaters encouraged and tutored new skaters. The rink was filled with smiles. Thanks to the parents who were able to volunteer to tie skates.



Numbers and Words

Over the last 6 weeks we have been practicing our number skills in the Think Tank. Some of the students have been working with word problems. They are looking for Key Words, embedded in the word problem, to help them figure out which operation to use. Words like “how much”, “in total” and “altogether” give us the hint that we need to use addition to find the solution. Meanwhile, words such as “fewer”, “difference” and “remain” suggest we need to use subtraction. What words might we look for in a word problem that requires the use of multiplication or division? Take a look at our Key Word poster below to find out.

<p>Addition (+)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sum • plus • altogether • perimeter • increased by • together • total • in all • and 	<p>Subtraction (-)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difference • less than • take away • left over • are not • how many more • minus • fewer • exceed • remain
<p>Multiplication (x)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • times • in all • product • area • multiple • multiplied by • each • twice • factor 	<p>Division (÷)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half • quotient • equal group • divided by • shared equally • distribute • same • divisor • separate • dividend • cut up



Everyday Heroes: Kindergarten



*Abby and
Kaden try on
the fire
fighters'
gear*



In September, we learned about Terry Fox, the young hero who left behind a huge legacy! This month we learned that there are many heroes that live among us! As we discover our own unique identity, our special talents and interests, we recognize how we interact with others with whom we have connections and how we fit into the world. Our family is our first and key support system when we are young, but gradually we develop new connections and feel a sense of belonging with other groups such as the Indus Kindergarten and school, sports teams and the community!

Who are the special helpers that keep us safe in our community? This month after role-playing in our classroom fire station, we had the opportunity to meet some of these heroes in person! We visited the McKenzie Towne Fire Station and the fire fighters allowed us to explore and experience not only their trucks and ambulances, but they demonstrated how their specially designed equipment assists them in rescuing people. The thermal imaging camera is used to locate individuals in a fire where one is unable to see due to the thick smoke and the "Jaws of Life" are used to free people trapped in a vehicle after a crash. We tried out the fire fighters' heavy gear and learned that seconds can save lives so firemen prepare for a quick exit including using the fire pole to reach the fire trucks. A special thanks goes out to the wonderful volunteers who made this field trip possible!

We look forward to visits from other community helpers later this year.



Live from Las Vegas... Dueling Pianos FUNdraising Event

Spread the WORD <https://www.facebook.com/events/1625082401060558/>

A Fundraising Event for our school will be held on **May 2nd** at the Bill Herron Arena. Ticket presale date is **Wednesday, April 1st 7-8:30pm** at the arena lobby.

***** We require assistance with Event Day Duties. This is an incredible fundraising opportunity for our school and the more volunteers we have the more successful we will be. Volunteer sign up will be out soon for various positions throughout the day and evening.**

To contribute to the success of the event, we are continuing to seek sponsorship from local and nearby businesses by way of sponsorship, donation or just simply attending. If anyone knows of any potential sponsors, please contact us.

Andrea Desjardins andrea_d@telus.net or **Michelle Alm** malm@platinum.ca

About the Act

The Dueling Pianos is the number one show seen in Las Vegas. Playing on the strip for 20 years now, this show combines comedy, improv and musical requests in a fun environment that lends to raising funds. We have been able to secure the original Dueling Pianos act that opened New York, New York and still headlines the Las Vegas strip today.

Our entertainers will be flying in from Las Vegas and have the authentic equipment needed to produce the same show you would see at New York, New York, Harrah's, or any other high quality Las Vegas room. With over 5000 songs known off by heart, this form of entertainment is completely audience controlled.

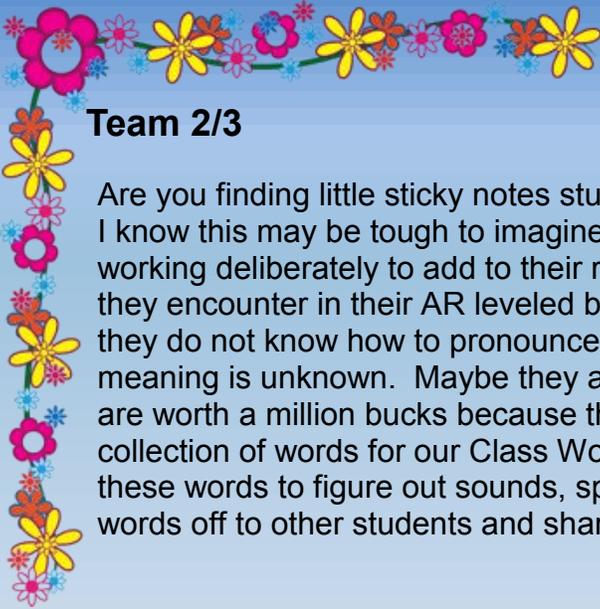
Bring your \$\$. **SONG requests all night long, along with cash bar. All monies made, all tips brought in, go directly to OUR school.**

Spread the WORD <https://www.facebook.com/events/1625082401060558/>

As well, we will be once again selling tickets on a **Gift of Flight** for one return trip for two anywhere WestJet flies. Did you know WestJet now flies to Dublin and Glasgow, as well as various destinations in Canada, the U.S. and the Caribbean? Tickets will be going on sale soon with a draw deadline in early May.

Indus School Annual general meeting will be held on May 25, 2015 at 6:30pm.

Board positions will be available. Please consider joining the parent council board of executives for the 2015-2016 school year.



Team 2/3

Are you finding little sticky notes stuck to the carpet or scattered in your playroom? I know this may be tough to imagine, but these are learning tools. Students are working deliberately to add to their reading and writing vocabulary. These are words they encounter in their AR leveled books. Maybe they are words that are new and they do not know how to pronounce. Maybe they are words they can say but the meaning is unknown. Maybe they are just great words that sound cool. Maybe they are worth a million bucks because they are precise and very specific. We build a collection of words for our Class Word Wall and Student Word Collection. We use these words to figure out sounds, spelling, writing. AND just for fun, we auction words off to other students and share the excitement and potential of words.

Student Council

Student reps have been very busy being judges for the Indus Idol first rounds. Being judges made them feel quite special. Most of the Council participated in a flash mob bunny-hop around classes to get students excited to wear their St. Patrick's green. The 5/6 class was the "greenest of them all".

First Student Busing: Permissible & Non-Permissible Items to Transport

Permissible:

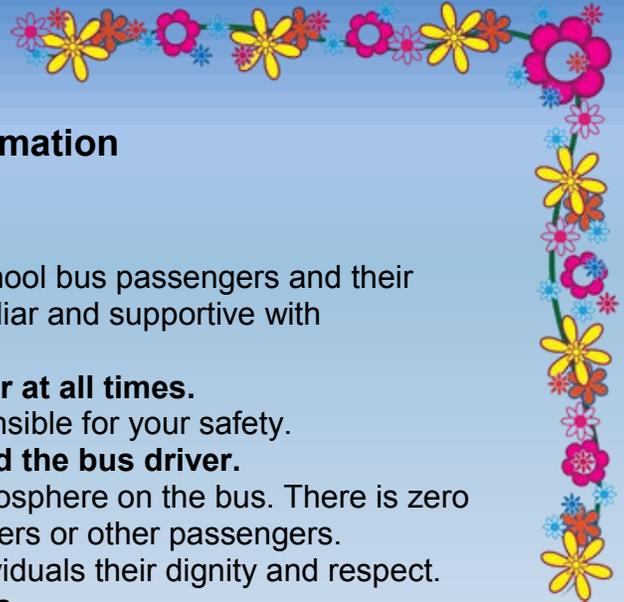
Band Equipment 1) Must be in a case which can be held on the student's lap, or fit under the seat of the school bus.
 2) Case dimensions **cannot exceed** the following;
 32" or 81cm long / 14" or 35cm wide / 11.5" or 29cm tall
 (Tubas, Sousaphones, Bass Saxophones, Tympanis, Trombones, and Drums are non-permissible instruments as they cannot be carried in a case.)

Ice Skates, Roller Skates, Volleyballs, Soccer Balls, and Basketballs must be in a canvas zippered sports bag. Plastic, paper, or cloth grocery bags are unacceptable for the transport of the above items.

Non-Permissible:

Skate Boards, Hockey/Ringette Sticks, Golf Clubs, Skis, Ski Poles, Snowboards, Lacrosse Sticks, Laser Pens, Oversized Band Instruments, Large Homework Projects, and Large Shop Projects are all not permitted on the school bus.

If you have any questions regarding items allowed and not allowed on the school bus, please contact **First Student Transportation at 403-948-1180**.



Rocky View School Division Busing Information

Student Code of Conduct

Bus safety is the responsibility of the bus driver, school bus passengers and their parents. Parents and students are asked to be familiar and supportive with Rocky View's Student Code of Conduct by:

- 1) Following the instructions of the bus driver at all times.**
He/she is in full charge of the bus and responsible for your safety.
- 2) Being considerate of other passengers and the bus driver.**
Mutual consideration creates a pleasant atmosphere on the bus. There is zero tolerance of personal harassment of bus drivers or other passengers.
Harassment is any behavior that denies individuals their dignity and respect.
- 3) Having respect for the bus and its contents.**
Parents/students will be expected to pay for damage caused by the student.
- 4) Sitting squarely in the seat, facing forward. Keep head, limbs and objects inside the bus and out of the bus aisle.**
This is the safest way to travel on a school bus and may prevent serious injury.
- 5) Keeping noise on the bus to a minimum.**
Loud noises or shouting are dangerously distracting to the driver.
- 6) Arriving at the bus stop prior to the scheduled pick up time.**
If passengers are punctual the bus driver is able to maintain a schedule and students will arrive at school on time.

While being transported on a school bus, *students are prohibited from carrying laser pens, matches or lighters, drugs, alcohol, weapons of any kind, fuel or any other items that may pose a threat to the passengers on the bus*

The bus driver or Rocky View's Transportation Department will contact parents if a problem arises with a child. If the problem is not resolved and the inappropriate behavior continues Misconduct Reports will be filed with the school administrator. This process may be by-passed when a serious problem occurs requiring immediate attention. In such a situation, the school administrator will notify parents. In a case when a student's bus privileges have been suspended, parents become responsible for the transportation of the suspended student to and from school. Please take a moment to check the *Parent Information* page on Rocky View's website at <http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/transportation/parentinformation>.

Check This Out:

Teacher to Parents: About THAT kid (the one who hits, disrupts and influences YOUR kid). Visit the following link to read this fascinating editorial from the Washington Post:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/11/14/teacher-to-parents-about-that-kid-the-one-who-hits-disrupts-and-influences-your-kid/>



School Volunteers

Volunteers can make a significant difference in children's educations. In addition to facilitating activities that would otherwise not be possible or practical, their presence in the school shows children that they value education and are working to help make it as enriching as possible. Indus School places an extremely high value on volunteers, and encourages it wherever and whenever possible. That being said, there are several rules and regulations that pertain to volunteers.

Role: Volunteer – a volunteer supports a classroom or school-wide program under the direct supervision and responsibility of a staff member and the ultimate responsibility and supervision of the principal.

As per Rocky View Schools Policy GBCD-Mandatory Record Checks, all volunteers will complete and submit a *Criminal Record Check* and a *Vulnerable Sector Check*, the results of which are deemed acceptable to the principal, prior to working with students. These checks are valid for one year, but may be extended by one year, to up to five years, by signing a declaration form at the beginning of each school year.

If driving is involved, the volunteer must also submit a Driver's Abstract (available at Registry offices) and proof of \$2,000,000 liability insurance.

Expectations for Volunteers: It is important to remember that the purpose of volunteers is to support the teacher as he or she conducts regular or special programming, or to support the coordinator of another programming that may involve more than one class. It is vital to recognize that the volunteer is, unless directed otherwise by the teacher or coordinator, working with multiple students, not just his or her child. The activities for which volunteers are sought are *school* activities; we ask that those wishing to experience these trips as a *family* to please do so at another time.

Specific to this, unless directed otherwise by the teacher:

- A) Volunteers should model positive behavior by adhering to the same behavior expectations as students (e.g. not standing on busses, not using vending machines if vending machines are not to be used by students, following safety procedures, etc.)
- B) Volunteers must treat all students equally and respectfully. Volunteers must avoid providing or soliciting special treatment for one student or a small group of students.
- C) Volunteers must support positive behavior without taking on a disciplinary role. While reminding excited students about expectations is an important part of a volunteer's job, any significant behavior issues should be brought to the attention of the teacher or supervising staff member, who will address them.

Volunteers are asked not to bring younger siblings when volunteering. One of the goals of special activities is to improve relationships between students within a class. Adding new children to the mix not only reduces the volunteer's effectiveness as a supervisor, but also changes the inter-student dynamics, making the aforementioned relationship solidification more difficult. Further, most venues for field trips require a specific adult:child ratio; extra children change the ratio, thus requiring more supervisors. During some events (particularly those held at the school), babysitters may be provided by the school. Please check with the activity organizer as this is done on an event-by-event basis.

There has been discussion regarding a babysitting coop; please contact Michelle Alm, Chair of the Indus School Council, if you might be interested in such a venture.

We hope this clarifies expectations for volunteers, and hope to see you soon!

But I Don't Have Any Homework.....

by Kim Hart

How many times have you been met with this answer? Surely your child must have work they need to do, at least a couple of times a week? Nope... they insist they have nothing. Although they might be right about not having specific "homework," there is always review and study to be done.

Review is "the process of going over a subject again in study or recitation in order to fix it in the memory or summarize the facts." Unfortunately, many students find the idea of reviewing as onerous and too time consuming. Without consistent support and reinforcement, many students will not see the importance of this building these skills. There are many strategies used to help students develop these competencies. Studying and review are skills, and as with any skill, they will only develop with individual buy-in and practice.

Below are the important concepts we are exploring in Division 3:

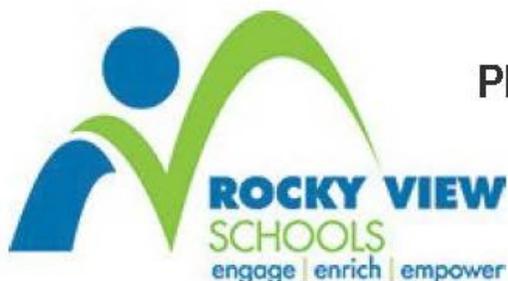
Individual learning styles – Students must understand who they are as a learner. Knowing this will help them determine how they best learn and what styles of activities best fit for studying. They may find themselves to be more of a visual, auditory or kinesthetic learner, or a combination of all three. Using graphic organizers, note taking formats and partner study strategies are often practiced to help students build skills that fit with their learning styles. Many other strategies are explored throughout the middle school years. Below is a link for a short inventory if you are interested in doing your own quiz. <http://www.howtolearn.com/learning-styles-quiz/>

Time management – Effective study skills are more than the things students learned at school. It is necessary to look at all aspects of a student's life, even time outside of school. Many students are involved in a number of different activities. It is important for middle school students to build balance into their lives. Using organizing tools such as calendars or phone apps are sometimes useful. Similar to adults, organized lives help maintain balance. Balance allows review time to be more easily built into a student's schedule. Below is a link to explore study skills and how one might build them into a busy life. <http://www.studyqs.net/attmot4.htm>

Student responsibility and buy in – Teachers and parents work very hard to emphasize the importance of regular review and study. We often use analogies of riding a bike or throwing a healing rope, trying to "hook" our kids into being studiers. We have the advantage of hindsight and experience. Many of us wish we had done more review or could manage our time more effectively. Many students are caught up in the idea of instant gratification and struggle to see long-term goals and the benefits of consistent study and review. Without student buy-in, it is difficult to build and use study skills effectively. Many students will not see the importance until they reach high school, or often beyond.

As a middle school teacher, I will continue to work with students to explore and build positive habits around review and study. Some students will get it; others will continue to respond to our questions with, "No, I don't have any homework." Eventually, most will discover that to be the best you can at anything, review and practice is necessary. Hopefully, they will recognize how it all ties into success in the "real" world.

So, the next time your middle or high school child says, "I have no homework," ask them if they have some review they can do.



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS PRESCHOOL INTERVENTION PROGRAM (PIP)

INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, April 20, 2015
12:30 – 2:30 pm

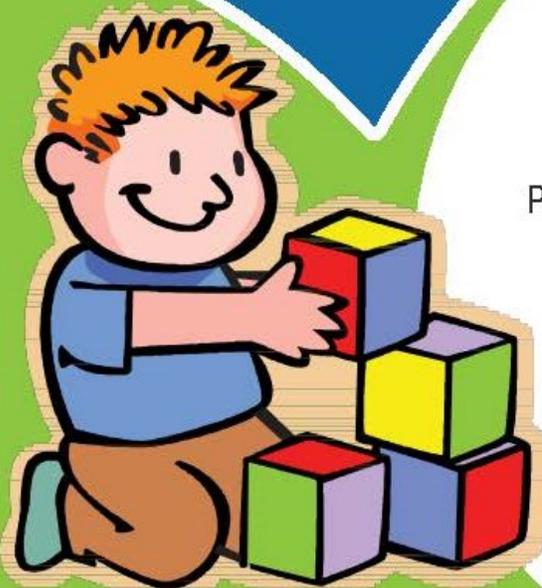
Prairie Waters Elementary, Chestemere

Tuesday, April 21, 2015
1:00 – 2:30 pm

W.H. Croxford High School

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
1:00 – 2:30 pm

Glenbow Elementary
School



PIP is a play-based, developmentally appropriate preschool environment that will support young children 3 to 5 years of age with mild, moderate, or severe special needs.

*Program Unit Funding (PUF) and Mild/Moderate funding is accessed from Alberta Education for those children who fit the funding criteria.

*Small class sizes with low child/adult ratios.

*Certificated Early Childhood Teacher/Special Education Teacher.

*Consistent therapeutic support in the area of occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, physical therapy and psychology are provided as required.

Come to our information session to meet our staff, see our facility and learn more about how we can help your child meet their potential.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

For more information please contact:
Early Intervention @

403-945-4026 or 403-945-4027
www.rockyview.ab.ca