

February 2017

From the Principal's Desk

To double your mastery, triple your aspiration and clarity in personal development which is your springboard to excellence.

Dear Parents,

February marched in with accolades when we literally swept the South Zonal Education awards instituted by NDTV. We were adjudged the best school in Academics, Pedagogy, Faculty Training, Inclusive Education, Instructional Leadership and in the Teacher Category. Two of our teachers, Aditi Pant and Neelu Saini also won in the best teacher category. Aditi Pant was also bestowed the National level award for English.

PYP: As always it has been an enjoyable learning experience through field trips in the PYP. On 17th February, our young explorers from Prep 2 went on their third field trip to Sahaja Farm, to explore the first line of inquiry where food comes from. Children got a first-hand experience and understanding of how vegetables and fruits are grown through different stages before it reaches the super market. Children witnessed a cow being milked manually as well as with the help of a machine. They also enjoyed petting and playing with new born rabbits. The trip made effective connections with the concepts covered in the class.

The students of Grade 1 recently went on an excursion to Banerghatta National Park, on 10th February in connection with their unit of inquiry, 'Web of life'. In this unit, students learned about how the survival of animals depend on their habitats. It was an exciting experience as the students were able to actively observe the habitats of different animals and contrast them with their natural and man-made homes.

Grade 1 students are learning about communities under the trans-disciplinary theme "How we organize ourselves." They inquired into the needs of a community along with the roles and responsibilities of different members. To facilitate their learning Grade 1 went on a field trip to a nearby village, Handennahalli on 16th February and to Prestige Ozone on 17th February, to observe the differences and similarities between communities and also to understand the different roles and responsibilities within a community.

Grade 2 students explored the world of matter under the trans-disciplinary theme 'How the World Works." They showcased their understanding through demonstrations related to physical and chemical changes in the properties of the states of matter and performed a rap on matter in their end of unit celebration.

Ms. Navita conducted a workshop for the students of Grade 5 to give them a glimpse of the journey students would have to take to successfully complete the PYP Exhibition. It was an interactive session since it was a trigger point for the students to follow the path of an in-depth inquiry, use the design thinking process to identify an issue and arrive at plausible solutions.

During the unit on business, Grade 5 received an overwhelming response from parents who wished to share their knowledge and experience with the students. We wish to thank the parents namely Mr. Agarwal, Mr. Mehul, Ms. Ami Doshi and Mr. David, who made time to share their knowledge and corporate experience with our students and thereby giving them a peek into the real world of business.

Students conducted a successful Annual Business Fete on 23rd February. By applying their learning from their inquiry into how businesses reflect and shape societies, children created business plans, conducted market research and implemented well thought out pricing strategies to sell a variety of products and services to the school community.

The ACER ISA test in Mathematical Literacy and English (Reading and writing tasks) were conducted for Grades 3 to 8 on 28th February and 1st March.

MSP & IGCSE: As we have initiated the MYP in Grades 6 and 7, the reports of the Reporting Cycle B were published in the MYP format for the first time, reporting achievement level and grades. The parents of Grades 6 and 7 were invited for an orientation session to explain the format of the report card and gain information on how achievement levels and grades are calculated. The session was led by the Coordinator and questions were handled jointly by the Head of School and Coordinator.

The Grade 7 students and the first group of Grade 8 students had an enjoyable experience at the Leadership camp at Yellagiri. The five days spent on adventure activities, aimed at building confidence and team work.

The teachers took another step forward in our preparation to start MYP as selected teachers actively participated and successfully completed an online MYP workshop while a few attended workshops in Mumbai pertaining to their respective subject group. These workshops will serve to equip teachers with necessary strategies required to ensure effective implementation of the MYP and the IBDP.

We congratulate Khanak Joshi for having received a special award "Mumtaz Shereen Award" from Mehfil e Nisa for her Sufiana singing performance on 9th February. She went on to sing at Asia's biggest Sufiana festival "Jashn E Rekhta" in Delhi on 18th February.

In my meetings with Grade 10 students, I briefed the students about the IB Diploma Programme at Indus and the way ahead.

Selected students of Grade 10 interacted with a few universities from the UK on 2nd February. The universities included the Royal Holloway, University of London, the University of Nottingham, the University of Reading, the University of Surrey and the University of Sussex.

The Set 1 IGCSE exams commenced on 20th February. Students have been working hard and have utilized their time judiciously, on past papers and a one-on-one interaction with their respective subject teachers. We are sure that the students will excel and do us proud.

<u>**DP:**</u> The Intensive Revision in Grade 12 continues and is conducted at two levels now. The practice tests conducted during these sessions address both the time management skills and the content to score high.

The Parent Teacher Meeting was held on the 11th of February for Grade 11. A joint session conducted by the IBDP Coordinator, Ms Aparna Achanta and the Director College Guidance and Placements, Mr Hector Leon provided more clarity on the way ahead. Our students are working on their Leadership Journals and are striving to accomplish the tasks set for the House Visions for this year.

Three of our Grade 12 students - Pallavi Menon, Manasi Sharma and Vinay Eshwaran - were a part of the 42 ToK Conference held in Canadian International School on Friday, 10th February. For this Conference, schools were invited to send teams to make ToK presentations as per the IB requirement.

<u>CAS</u>: The Community Action and Service projects hold an important place in our curriculum at Indus. Apart from being an essential part of the IB, we consciously endeavor to go beyond the curriculum and contribute to the community. Various projects, which focus on womens' empowerment were taken by the students, assigned house wise and pursued through the year. The culmination event, the **Leadership Day**, which showcases the various projects that our students have been involved in is

planned to be conducted on 22nd March. The students have been working with commitment on these projects.

The students of the **Pegasus** house have been involved in the vocational training of the women from the underprivileged local community. They have been actively participating in motivating the Ammas and creating and designing the Indus book bag collection. Students have also been devising new strategies for fund raising and the cloth drive. The beauty courses are on hold until a beautician who can provide certification is sourced, however the students will continue with their production of natural products and a small group of Ammas and the community school children will learn the basic skills of making beauty products from natural sources.

The production of celebration candles has elevated to another level this month. The PTM was also a great success in terms of sales and Pegasus raised close to Rs.15, 000. The students have also completed and delivered all orders till date, with customer satisfaction.

The **Phoenix** house students were involved in the preparation of the community school students for the ILeads talk to be conducted during the Leadership Day in March. A group of students have also been involved in the correction and amendment of the journals. Apart from this, the production of low cost sanitary napkins has been taking place at a steady rate. Packing machinery has been procured for the packing process.

The **Hercules** house had a very productive month with producing recycled paper, in February. The students have worked proactively with the Ammas to make handmade paper at the IICS recycling unit. They met their monthly targets as they went through the process from collection of waste paper to soaking and grinding and finally making and cutting the paper. Apart from this, the students also conducted a bake sale on PTM day to raise money to procure the calendaring machine. They sold cupcakes, burgers and brownies and made a reasonable profit on the day.

The **Orion** house students have been focusing on developing the essential soft skills for Ammas. At level one, Ammas have slowly begun to relate what they have learnt to real-life situations. They have explored skills like operating an ATM. They showed a lot of interest when they were taught basic questions and commands and body language. The students also taught them a few grammar concepts, including pronouns and prepositions inculcating real life examples. The Ammas have started using these concepts to develop their writing skills and have moved on to use them for their speeches for Leadership Day.

<u>Parikrama Festival of Science</u>: Five of our Grade 8 students participated in the 3rd edition of the Parikrama Festival of Science hosted by Parikrama Humanity Foundation.

This NGO runs four schools and a college for more than 1700 street and slum dwelling children in Bangalore. The theme for this year was 'Soil and Agriculture' and the event was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research from 14th to 16th February. Our students who were a part of the event included Amritaa Basu, Jitae Kim, Satvik Elayavalli, Shrikhar Chakravarthy and Abhishek Agrahara.

Besides the numerous events that took place on the first two days, two significant ones were conducted on the third day - the Agricultural Hackathon (where students in groups were given a situation faced in the fictitious village of Jagnoi). The students in groups had to personally talk to the representatives and hack a solution to solve the problem faced in the village. At the end, each team had to present their ideas in front of the jury. Amritaa Basu of Grade 8 and her team came up with a very practical solution and were declared winners.

The second event was a Mock Parliament session where students, in groups, had to represent a state (which was given to them on Day 1), and convince the jury members to give a major portion of the financial budget to their state. Each students had to do extensive research. The session was opened and closed by the speaker Mr. Rajiv Gowda who is an MP. The highlight was that all of our students took an initiative to present a specific component of the given state. Satvik Elayavalli and his team were declared the winners by the jury members at the end. All the students had an enriching experience as they explored various situations that is socially relevant in our country.

<u>Placements:</u> The Placement Cell continues to be busy and right now they are meeting students applying to Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and India. They also are looking forward to visits from universities like University of Chicago, North Carolina State University, German University of Technology in Oman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University at Bloomington, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

<u>Boarding:</u> Our boarders have spent exciting weekends that include a visit to the Play Arena where they engaged in activities like go karting, bowling, laser tag, wall climbing and zip lining; playing inter grade basketball, cricket and football matches and spending a creative happy hour that had a session of storytelling with discussions, games and activities. On 26th February our girls visited Wonderla. The various land and water rides imparted a magical experience in the amusement park.

On 20th February, the session on Mindfulness conducted by Mr. Guru Rao was an experience that has made an impact on their reflective minds. During this session our boarders learnt how to focus and be aware of all thoughts, sounds, images or feelings that pass through the mind.

<u>Sports:</u> Our students participated in a couple of interschool cricket matches like the Vidyashilp interschool cricket tournament (3rd and 4th February) and the Mallya Aditi

inter school cricket tournament (12th to 18th February). We won two out of the three matches that we played. The details are in Annexure 1.

The Indus Chess Team played the 4th Karnataka State Schools Team Chess Championship 2017 at Greenwood High International School from 30th January to 2nd February. The details are attached in Annexure 2. The Indus chess team also played at the Podar Inter-School Chess Championship 2017 at Podar International School on 5th February. This chess event was a tour which provided exposure in the game for a lot of new players in the PYP. The details are in Annexure 3.

In life as in chess it is big picture planning that leads to success. Despite winning recognition many times, we continue on our journey to scale greater heights through our strategic planning.

Regards,
Sarojini Rao
Principal
Indus International School, Bangalore

Annexure 1: Interschool Cricket tournament

* <u>1st Match on 03/02/2017 Indus vs DPS East</u> : DPS batted first - 133 runs

Indus - 101 runs Indus lost by 32 runs

* 2nd Match on 04/02/2017 Indus vs NPS: NPS batted first - 109 runs

Indus - 110 runs /2 Indus won by 8 wickets

Man of the Match: Deep Marwadi (Grade 8) scoring 45 runs

* 3rd Match on 04/02/2017 Indus vs Vidyashilp Team A : VSA - 122 runs INDUS - 123 runs/1 Indus won by 9 wickets

Man of the Match: Monish Reddy (Grade 8) scoring 40 runs

Annexure 2: The participants of 4th Karnataka State Schools Team Chess Championship, played at Greenwood High International School from 30th January to 2nd February 2017.

Under-7 Indus Team A

- 1. Ankith Lakshmikant of Grade-1 played in Board-1 and scored 2.5/4
- 2. Jin Tokumasu of Grade-1 played in Board-2 and scored 2/4
- 3. Abhinav Kalagara of Grade-1 played in Board-3 and scored 1.5/4
- 4. Ishaan Jain of Grade-1 and scored 3.5/4 won the gold in the 4th Board.

Under-7 Indus Team B

- 1. J K Aarush of Grade Prep played in Board-1 and scored 0.5/4
- 2. Damir Atnagulov of Grade Prep played in Board-2 and scored 0.5/4
- 3. Arad Vohra of Grade 1 played in Board-3 and scored 1/4
- 4. Vivian Regis of Grade 1 played in Board-4 and scored 1/4

Under-7 Indus Girls Team

- 1. Diotima Das of Grade Prep played in Board-1 and scored 1/4.
- 2. Anvi Chadha of Grade Prep played in Board-2 and scored 1/4
- 3. Indira Bhat of Grade 1 played in Board-3 and scored 1/4
- 4. Anisa Singh Arora of Grade 1 played in Board-4 and scored 1/4

Under-9 Indus Team

- 1. Aarav Nanda of Grade 2 played in Board-1 and scored 2/5
- 2. Sathvik Shastry of Grade 3 played in Board-2 and scored 1.5/5
- 3. Ishan Mathew of Grade 2 played in Board-3 and scored 2/5
- 4. Kanishk Singh of Grade-1 played in Board-4 and scored 2/5

Under-11 Indus Team

- 1. Abhiram Kasturi of Grade 4 played in Board-1 and scored 1/5
- 2. Adrija Basu of Grade 5 played in Board-2 and scored 2/5
- 3. Krish Kerkar of Grade 5 played in Board-3 and scored 5/5 and won the silver in the 3rd Board.
- 4. Aniketh Kalagara of Grade-5 played in Board-4 and scored 3/5

Under-13 Indus Team

- 1. Armaan Gabriel Gregory David of Grade 5 played in Board-1 and scored 1/5
- 2. Agustya Singh of Grade 6 played in Board-2 and scored 2/5
- 3. Ryoya Ogino of Grade 7 played in Board-3 and scored 3/5
- 4. Naren Ramesh of Grade-6 played in Board-4 and scored 4/5

Under-15 Indus Team

- 1. Amal Deepak of Grade 9 played in Board-1 and scored 1/5
- 2. Akhil.S of Grade 7 played in Board-2 and scored 0.5/5
- 3. Rohan Rao of Grade 9 played in Board-3 and scored 3/5
- 4. Nitisha Iyer of Grade-9 played in Board-4 and scored 4.5/5 and won silver in the 4th board.

Under-18 Indus Team A

- 1. Brian Mendonsa of Grade 11 played in Board-1 and scored 1/3
- 2. Hirak Shah of Grade 11 played in Board-2 and scored 0.5/3
- 3. Sarwagya Jain of Grade 11 played in Board-3 and scored 0.5/3
- 4. Takumi Ogino of Grade-9 played in Board-4 and scored 2/3

Under-18 Indus Team B

- 1. Rishiek Ladia of Grade 11 played in Board-1 and scored 1/3
- 2. Parshwa Koticha of Grade 11 played in Board-2 and scored 1/3
- 3. Prakash Solanki of Grade 11 played in Board-3 and scored 1/3
- 4. Rudranshu Sharma of Grade-11 played in Board-4 and scored 1/3

Annexure 3: The participants of Podar Inter-School Chess Championship (5th February 2017):

Under-7 Indus Team

- 1. Ishaan P Jain of Grade-1 scored 3/6
- 2. Ankith Lakshmikant of Grade-1 scored 3/6
- 3. Abhinav Kalagara of Grade-1 scored 3/6
- 4. Ruan Ravipati of Grade-1 scored 3/6
- 5. Tejaswi Ram of Grade-Prep scored 3/6
- 6. Anita Cook of Grade-1 scored 2/6
- 7. Indira Bhat of Grade-1 scored 2/6
- 8. Anvi Chadha of Grade-Prep scored 1/6

Under-9 Indus Team

- 1. Ishaan Matthew of Grade-2 scored 3/6
- 2. Adarsh Chowdhury of Grade-2 scored 3/6
- 3. Palash Agarwal of Grade-3 scored 3/6
- 4. Martin Fuhrmann of Grade-3 scored 3/6
- 5. Nirvaan Rao of Grade-2 scored 2/6
- 6. Mathieu Lemperle of Grade-3 scored 2/6
- 7. Omkar Nair of Grade-1 scored 2/6
- 8. Sreehari Nandhan of Grade-2 scored 2/6
- 9. Aashna Thakur of Grade-1 scored 1/6
- 10. Imaan Zara Khan of Grade-1 scored 1/6

Under-11 Indus Team

- 1. Aniketh Kalagara of Grade-5 scored 4.5/6 and placed 7th in the Merit List
- 2. Adrija Basu of Grade-5 scored 3/6
- 3. Ruhan Srisrimal of Grade-4 scored 3/6
- 4. Nicolas Cook of Grade-3 scored 2/6
- 5. Roshal Shah of Grade-5 scored 2/6
- 6. Aditya Dhiman of Grade-4 scored 2/6
- 7. Aeshan Bedi of Grade-4 scored 2/6
- 8. Maneesh Gowda of Grade-5 scored 1/6
- 9. Diya.M of Grade-5 scored 1/6