



SEPTEMBER 2017 Newsletter

“There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colors are brighter, the air is softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again.”
- Elizabeth Lawrence

Dear Parents,

The month of August has been a foundational one at Indus Early Learning Centre as students and teachers focused on settling into classroom routines and establishing trusting relationships within their community of learners. The students have adjusted well to school after the summer holidays and are all happily participating in the wide array of activities, projects and events that are a part of daily school life at IELC.

We had our first special event to celebrate the 70th Indian Independence Day on August 14th, where an assembly was conducted by Prep 2 students to share the significance of the day. We began the assembly with the famous song Vande Mataram sung by Ms. Padmini followed by our little speakers who enlightened the younger ones about the National Symbols of India. Students also made a peacock as their Independence Day craftwork.

It was a privilege to be part of the team that visited Finland as a delegation to study the Finnish Educational pedagogy. I had an enlightening trip where we studied, evaluated and analyzed Finnish educational practices to eventually apply the best practices in a contextual and phased manner.



Finland Trip by Indus Delegation

Post our Management's visit to Finland on a study tour. Educluster, Finland in cooperation with the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, extended an invitation to Indus International School to send a delegation for a study tour. I would like to share my valuable takeaways and musings of the trip. The intensive programme, we attended, offered us an Insight into Finnish early childhood education and care (ECEC), teacher education, educational leadership as well as visits to a Kindergarten and School. This delegation was in Finland from August 14th to August 21st, 2017.



Finland was chosen as Finnish ECEC has an excellent reputation worldwide. Although Finnish children begin primary school later than in many other countries, they start out so eager to learn that they quickly achieve the same skills and knowledge as children who started school much earlier. This is validated through the International Benchmarking done by the PISA rating by OECD international evaluation of academic outcomes, putting Finland at the top of the list in spheres of Literacy, Numeracy, Science and problem-solving putting the limelight firmly on Finland and their educational policies.



The mission of this team was to evaluate and analyze the education system. Our Vision is to bring best practices from the Finnish ECEC in areas of Pedagogical leadership, teacher pedagogical knowledge and training, play-based learning that puts the child at the focus of pedagogical planning processes. We also endeavor to build a culture of trust and autonomy while looking at optimization of resources, ensuring shared expertise. This will be done in a phased manner so we have short term goals and actionables with a big picture well in sight!

Reflecting on what I believed were the best practices of Finnish Education. I was very impressed by their philosophy of the Joy of Learning. This phrase formed the underpinning tenant with a 'Learning to learn' philosophy in which children's natural way of acting is encouraged through play, exploration, physical activity, artistic expressions and self-expression and the highest priority is placed on developing the social emotional quotient of children. Transversal competencies are encouraged through building knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and will making students self-directed learners. The trip helped us compare and contrast and refine our understanding of teacher competencies and play-based learning.

A special mention and vote of thanks to my team who managed seamlessly while I was away to Finland.

Independence Day Celebration at Indus International School Bangalore

Independence Day was celebrated at IISB on 15th August, 2017 with aplomb and gaiety. Students of the senior school and the Indus Community School displayed their myriad talents and skills in a well conducted programme. All staff from the three Indus Early Learning Centres attended the event at IISB.



Keeping Safe Week



*As part of our endeavor to develop independence and self-management skills, particularly keeping safe, we conducted the **Keep Safe Week** from 16th August to 18th August, 2017.*

Students were introduced to various related topics through presentations, role play and puppet shows. Our parent volunteer and guest speaker Ms. Sophie demonstrated and explained the concept of 'Stranger-Danger' with the help of props and models.

During Safety week our students learnt about the safety rules, different types of touches and good secrets and bad secrets with the help of Poppy the Giraffe. Students also learnt about safety at home, school and outdoor through videos and role play by their class teachers.

A fire drill was conducted in school and our students practiced the stop-drop and roll method in case of a fire. The Fire drill practice was to educate students about the orderly manner of exiting their class rooms during an emergency and mental preparation for handling a situation calmly.

Since children learn best through reinforcement, their class teachers will continue discussing related topics during circle time, which is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their thoughts and build an environment of trust, shared learning and care.

New; from the Grades

PREP 2

Through many interactions with buddies and moments of bonding with each other our children are now settled into the school routine and all set to enjoy their journey of learning. We endeavor to build self-confidence and independent thinking in our children. In pursuit of this value, students collaboratively made 'Essential Agreements' for their class community and have been allotted with different responsibilities. Children are enjoying all the specialist classes. The starting of Chess along with Dance, PE and Music has been a like a cherry on the cake for our little explorers. They've been very excited about chess and have put their hearts wholeheartedly and taking active participation!



PREP 1

Prep 1 students in the first three weeks of school have been involved in fun, engaging and explorative activities to develop their gross and fine motors skills. Activities like sand play, threading beads, rolling the playdough, Pre-tracing on sand, flour, semolina the list goes on!

In Unit Of Inquiry, students made meaningful connections with our first line of Inquiry, Relationships within families, through a provocation role play that demonstrated the structure of a basic family.

Children enjoyed outdoor play immensely and loved riding on the cars and tricycles and playing on the slides and jumping into the ball pit. They collected leaves and created art using their precious finds!



RECEPTION

The Reception students were introduced to the trans-disciplinary theme 'Who we are?' Their first unit of inquiry is, 'Marvelous Me' which delves into the nature of the self; beliefs and values, human relationship including families, friends, communities, and cultures. Children were asked to look into the mirror and talk about themselves as one of the warm up activities.



NURSERY

Nursery students, our tiny tots have settled into their daily routines smoothly. They look forward to their circle times with nursery rhymes, passing the ball game and parachute play. Nursery children are also internalizing the concept of moving around the premises in an orderly manner and look forward to taking turns to be the engine driver in their lineup.

This month, children have discovered their keen sense of sight, smell and hearing in their Foundational Theme – All about me! This exploration has been through hands-on activities like the peek-a-boo game, which was a delight and reinforced all they saw with their little eyes. Looking for the mystery animals in the sand pit was also fun! Children also explored pleasant, aromatic, strong and sweet smells in the learning stations set out for them. Music and movement was engaging and the little ones enjoyed making loud and soft sounds with musical instruments.



After-School Classes

Catering to popular demand and requests from our parents. We intend on starting the After-school Classes from 11th September onwards. The schedule of days will remain the same as last year because we are having the classes as per attendance of specialist. These activities are open to our students, as well as students from other schools. We will also be introducing Parent Toddler classes from 1st October 2017. Fees for the same will be shared shortly.

After School Activities:

After-School Class	Day	Time	No. of classes in a month
Spanish (Reception, Prep 1 and Prep 2)	Tuesday	2.45 to 3.30pm	4
P.E (Reception, Prep 1 and Prep 2)	Wednesday	2.45 to 3.30pm	4
Keyboard (Prep 1 and Prep 2)	Thursday	2.45 to 3.30pm	4

Parent and Toddler Classes:

	Day	Time	No. of classes in a month
Parent-Toddler Class	Tuesday and Thursday	10.30 to 11.30 am	8

Save the Dates

5th Sept, Tuesday: Teacher's Day Celebrations

9th Sept, Saturday: Eureka Innovators Science Fest. All parents and students invited.



22nd Sept, Friday: Inquiry Cycle Workshop and Presentation for Parents

27th Sept, Wednesday: Multicultural Day

29th Sept, Friday: Ayudha Pooja & Dussehra



*From the desk of:
Nishita Israni
Head of Center
IELC RMV, Bangalore*

*Mobile: +91-7829261800
Email: nishita.israni@indusearlyyears.com*