

“Children are our greatest untapped resource.” – The Dalai Lama

**MARCH 2016**



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the latest news and the happenings at our Early Learning Centre.

Our philosophy in Early Childhood Education is based on the belief that children are unique in their own way. We believe that respectful and caring bonds with children and their families set the foundation for the child's future learning. Each child must feel a sense of belonging within a group, and know that their contributions are valued and respected. Our aim is to nurture the 'whole' child, so that they can aim to reach their natural potential.

The much-awaited news is now official. We welcomed our new music teacher Ms. Yurri Shimray, who hails from the beautiful hills of Northeast Manipur, India. According to her, she grew up interested in learning music and her dream came true after joining college as a choir and music student. She eventually pursued music and graduated from a full-fledged music conservatory. She's excited to be part of the Indus family and looks forward to teach music to our students.

### **Pick-up & Drop-off**

Thank you for following the driving route during drop-off and pick-up. It has been a smooth flow of traffic through the school back entrance. If you are stopping for more than drop-off or pick-up or you arrive outside your time slot, please park at the front.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> – Indus Day at MVJ Auditorium. Time: 3:30 to 6:30PM (No regular school)

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break – School Closed.



## Our Appreciation



Our sincere thanks to our PAC parents for the time and support rendered in preparing props for our big event 'Indus Day'

Many thanks to all our parents, who took time out to attend the Parent Teacher Meeting in February, we hope you are pleased with the progress your child has made.



We appreciate our teachers for their efforts in giving our students a fun filled experience at school.

Last but not the least, our genuine appreciation of our young students, who have been working hard to practice for the upcoming Indus Day and are now polishing their acts to proudly present them to you.

## News from our Classrooms:

### Grade 1



As part of their inquiry into the unit on Communities, the Grade 1 students visited the Whitefield Post Office to better understand why we need a post office. They learnt the roles and responsibilities of the post office towards our community. Children were taken on a guided tour to understand how the letters are collected from the postbox and how they are sorted on the basis of its pin code. They interacted with the postmen from different areas in Whitefield as well as other employees who gave them a detailed description of the Indian Postal Service. It was an interesting and informative trip about something that is almost non-existent in our communities today.



### Prep 2 Field Trip: 'To the Planetarium'

In connection with the unit on 'Natural Cycles', under the transdisciplinary theme, 'How the world works', Prep 2 visited the 'Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium'. Children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learnt about the different planets, the stars, the sun and other heavenly bodies. It deepened their understanding of the movement of the planets, especially the Earth. They also reflected upon what rotation and revolution is and how these movements cause the day and night cycle, seasons, etc. Overall, the trip was a perfect amalgamation of fun, excitement and learning. Prep 2 had a good time together.

This February, students have been engaging in several activities to consolidate numbers and letters. They worked with many manipulatives to reinforce these concepts. In the **Combination Class**, both age groups have been supporting each other during these activities. The younger students are brushing up on their reading to decode three letter words, while the older ones are learning to write sentences and apply the rules of grammar.

Along with catching up with academics, students have been constantly practicing for Indus Day.



**Prep 1** had a very eventful month with a lot of hands-on activities, experiments and role -plays. In UOI, we are conducting an inquiry under "How we express ourselves". We explored expressions through role-play through various stories such as, 3 Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, and Three Billy Goats Gruff. Children had fun learning through these engaging literacy and numeracy activities. They learnt opposites through experiments in language.

Reading programme is progressing well and we are thankful to all our parent volunteers. In Math, they explored ordinal numbers through games and basic positional vocabulary through hands-on activities.



## Reception Class

Water is an essential part of our life. Apart from us, plants, land animals, sea animals; all need water for our survival and daily use. Reception Class has been exploring the different sources of water and water's various uses. To expand their understanding of the unit, we went on a field trip to Jerry Martin's farmhouse at the beginning of the month. Children had a wonderful time at the farmhouse. They fed the animals green beans and carrots with great excitement. Delving further into the unit, children explored how plants need water for their survival too. They planted their own patch of mustard seeds in a little patio and have been waiting for the process of germination to begin. They visited different stations to experience various uses of water in our daily lives. They understood that water is essential for drinking, washing clothes/utensils, watering plants, washing cars, and washing themselves. The next part of the unit will focus on ways of saving water.



## Nursery

It was a fun day for our Nursery children on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February as they went on their first field trip to visit Jerry Martin's farm. Children were really excited and looking forward to the trip as they were to travel by bus. They were also looking forward to seeing the animals, which they had learnt about in their first unit of the term.

After a guided tour of the farm, children were able to experience animals up close and personally feed them and even pet a few. With this, we can rightly conclude from the expressions on our children's faces, that photos in picture books just don't compare to the real thing!



### **Professional Development:**

Effective professional development is vital to the success of a school and student learning. A few members of the three IELCs attended an IB workshop conducted over three days at StoneHill International School, Bangalore.



### **Leopard Situation:**

When the Leopard visited our city limits we had proof that we humans live with majestic animals in urban areas without even knowing they are there. We at IELC took this visit in our stride and continued our learning journey with a few positive discussions in the older classes.

We took necessary precautions to remain safe and have put this period in the past.



### ***Something to ponder...***

- **“The first essential element for the child's development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy.”**
- **“The organization of psychical life begins with the characteristic phenomenon of attention.”**
- **“The more the ‘capacity to concentrate’ is developed, the more often a profound tranquility in work is achieved, and the clearer the manifestation of discipline will be within the child.”**

Wish you all a good month ahead.

Warm Regards,  
Winnie Clara Pinto  
Officiating Head of Centre