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August 2015 Newsletter

“If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” –Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Dear Parents,

We hope you have enjoyed your Summer Break and we are pleased to welcome our students and families to IELC as we start the new academic session together. We look forward to a year full of inquiry, innovation, creativity and development of new skills and competencies. Our Teachers at IELC are enthusiastically preparing to receive their students on the 10th of August. Being fully engaged in extensive professional development, classroom set up and planning, we are ‘almost’ ready, are you?

Yours sincerely, Ms. Linda Bruijnen

Introducing the IELC Team & New school timings

With Grade 1 starting at IELC we have changed the school timings to:

Nursery & Reception: **9:00am-2:30pm**
Prep 1, 2 & Grade 1: **9:00am-3:00pm**
School buses will leave IELC at **3.05pm**.

We are pleased to welcome our new team member Ms Amelia Acuña to IELC. Ms Amelia Acuña is an experienced Spanish and French teacher for IGCSE and IB in India and brings along enthusiasm and linguistic diversity. Ms Amelia will play a dual role as class teacher in Prep 2 and 2nd language Spanish teacher.

We are very pleased to welcome our interns Ms Uduak George at Nursery and Ms. Sandhya Khandekar at Prep 1/2. Both are pursuing the Cambridge International Diploma in Teaching and Learning at ITARI. Over the summer we parted from Ms Jacinth, Ms Poorna, Ms Catherine and Ms Ana and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

The Teacher Allocations 2015-16:

Nursery	Ms Christine Lawrence, Ms Chaitra Vageesh and Ms Rosy Thomas
Reception	Ms Joya Lall, Ms. Payal Bhatia, Ms Aishwaria Attavar and Ms Anusuya Mukherjee
Prep 1	Ms Nancy Matthew and Ms Lakshmikala Raghavan
Prep 1/2	Ms Anupama Kaveriappa
Prep 2	Ms Ranjeeta Rai and Ms Amelia Acuña
Grade 1	Ms Margaret Anne
Specialists	Ms. Jyothi Khare (SEN/ESL), Mr. Valentine Ward (P.E.), Ms Vini Chishi (Music), Ms Asha Pujar (Swimcoach), Ms Linda Bruijnen (Dutch) and Ms Shruti Sadasivan (Admin)

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Engaging parents in the education system activates a built-in support system that works to help both students and teachers do a better job. This is possible with an organized program involving the school and the parents in activities linked to the school goals. A well-structured partnership program improves the school, strengthens families, and increases student achievement and success. With this goal in mind, we would like to initiate a Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) for the parents of Indus Early Learning Centre Whitefield following the guidelines of the PAC at Indus International School Bangalore. The features of the committee are given below:

Aims and Objectives

- To provide an opportunity for IELC parents to share their ideas and mutual concerns on every facet of school life.
- To provide on-going communication between parents and the Team.
- To keep all parents informed of school policies and issues, and provide continuous feedback.
- To endorse, recommend, and collaborate on school initiatives.



Joining the Committee

- Parents are requested to give their acceptance to be a Parent Representative of IELC to the Grade teacher of their children. **Closing date: 15th August 2015.** In case of more than 3 interested Parents we will collate a list and request the Parents to vote for the listed candidates. The top 3 elected parents will become Parent Members of the Parent Advisory Committee IELC. (PAC-IELC)
- The Advisory Committee will include 3 parents and 2 IELC team members. 2 parents out of the 3 will represent the expatriate community. The teachers will be nominated by the Head of Centre.
- PAC Members will serve on the committee for a period of one Academic Session.

Criteria for Membership to the Advisory Committee

- Every parent (mother/father/legal guardian of the child studying at Indus Early Learning Centre Whitefield) can be a member of the Advisory Committee.
- Parents of students who have completed at least five months in school are eligible for nomination to the Advisory Committee.

Second Language 2015-16

We are happy to announce that Second Language classes will be offered for **all** grades. You may opt for Spanish or Hindi. Please email us your choice before **10th of August** or inform the teachers during CRM Day, 2nd Language classes will commence in the second week. For students with English as a Second or Foreign Language (ESL) the Spanish/Hindi option may be dropped and the allotted time spent on further developing English Language skills. However, language learning is a natural process when children are young. During this vital period, the foundations for thinking, language, attitudes and aptitudes are laid down. The choice is yours!

Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE)

HEALTH: The IELC menu is now expanded with the provision of healthy snacks in the morning and afternoon. We will serve the students a mix of fresh vegetables and fruit cuts. If you prefer to bring in your own healthy food items for snack and lunch time please inform the grade teacher?

SAFETY: During the two months that the Centre has been closed some major renovation and repairs took place on the building and property. The swimming pool was fully drained out and restored; interior painting was completed, as was a long list of carpentry jobs and IT upgrades.

All teachers and assistants will undergo First Aid training by Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) on 3rd & 4th August.

The Playground/Parking at the back entrance has been changed into a Pick-Up & Drop-Off Only zone accessible only between **08:15-09:15am and 2:15-3:15pm**, absolutely **no parking** will be allowed at the back entrance, for parking your vehicles and/or visiting the Centre during 9:15am - 2:15pm we kindly refer you to the front entrance and the IELC Parking area at ECC Road. Please Note: the Drop Off zone will serve as Playground from 9:15am-2:15pm.



We trust you will find IELC much improved and in mint condition as we reopen on Monday, 10th August.

SECURITY: GPS has been installed on our school buses as well as one Nursery seat placed in each bus. All the buses will have on board a Teacher and an Assistant to ensure your child's comfort. A third route has been added on for your convenience, please contact Ms Shruti for all details if you want to use our bus services this year.

ENVIRONMENT: With the support of Whitefield Rising we placed 5 waste bins near IELC, they will be managed by the school. Please help us keep the surroundings of IELC clean by using the waste bins? Thank you.

Curriculum Road Map Day 2015

The school will host a Curriculum Road Map Day (CRMD) for all parents on **Friday, August 7th**.

This is a presentation by your child's teachers which offers an overview of the year's curriculum, as well as the classroom schedule and routines. Topics will include communication procedures, parent involvement, curriculum overview, assessments, and essential school policies.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, August 7th 9:00 onwards. The presentations will be held in 3 rounds, so if you have more than one child at IELC, please plan to visit several rounds? This way both parents are able to attend each classroom presentation.

Please Note: CRMD is for Parents only!

09.00 - 09.45am First Round in all classes

10.00 - 10.45am Second Round in all classes

11.00 - 11.45am Third Round in all classes



During the breaks please visit the Book Fair on the lawn and enjoy the Coffee/Tea and Snacks which are courtesy of Ms Dolly; grandmother of Arrica & Kaavin and Director Evoma.

Teacher Development

Did you know the teachers of IELC already resumed their work on 24th of July? The team has followed workshops in the following fields: School Vision & Mission, School Policies, Differentiated Instruction (DI) and Inquiry.

Alignments of UOI's, Language & Math Strands were done in collaboration with Indus International School Bangalore and other IELC's assuring your child a smooth transition between the grades.



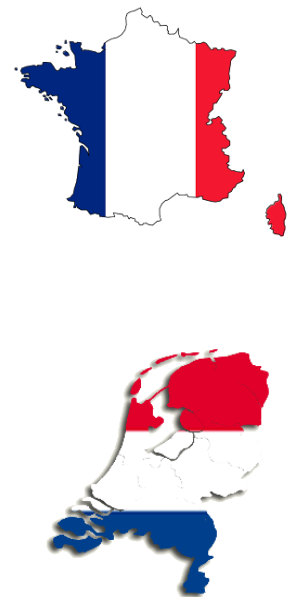
Mother Tongue Program

The development of the student's mother tongue or first language (usually the language spoken at home) is critical for their cognitive development. The level of linguistic competence a student can achieve in their second language is directly dependent on the extent to which their literacy in the mother tongue has been developed. The student's sense of cultural and personal identity, and their self-esteem, is also greatly strengthened by the mother tongue program.

IELC believes in the importance of multilingualism as well as mother tongue and culture maintenance for all students in our international community. Optional Mother Tongue classes outside the school curriculum are offered for **Dutch and French** and may be extended depending on availability of a teacher. The French lessons are taught by experienced teacher Ms Amélie Fuchs with whom the French speaking parents may enter into an agreement about participation and payment. The Dutch lessons are taught by Ms Linda Bruijnen.

The school offers support by facilitating during school hours and there is a selection of books in the library. If you are interested in your child participating in our Mother Tongue Program or require further information, please get in touch with us by e-mail?

Also let us know if you are interested to help us facilitate other languages?



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday 7th August: Curriculum Road Map Day for Parents. (9.00-12noon)

Monday 10th August: First day of school!

Friday 4th September: Teacher's Day Celebrations



Disclaimer: "This newsletter is meant for parents and interested parties of IELC Whitefield."