



## **December 2016**

***"The principal goal of education is to create individuals who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done."  
Jean Piaget (1 896-1 980)***

Dear Parents,

Experts in the field of Early Childhood Education point out again and again that bridges between home and school in the form of parent involvement in programs, communication and close relationships are a key ingredient in creating quality-learning environments for young children. Thank you dear parents for your support, participation and encouragement that go such a long way towards our overall success.

The month of November has seen students and teachers settling back into their regular classroom routines after the Autumn break. Energy levels in the school were high as each Grade began exploring new Units of Inquiry and children were eager and enthusiastic to start the Inquiry cycle which included interesting research projects and group activities. Preparations and practice are underway for our Annual Sports Days on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December which we hope you will all be able to attend, more details to follow.

### **A taste of November:**

**Children's Day-** In keeping with the local tradition, Indus Early Learning Centre celebrated Children's Day on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, the birthday of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who held a special regard for children. Children thoroughly enjoyed the special day organized by the teachers and all got a chance to participate in a variety of lively activities including; magic show, crafts, hair braiding, cookie decorating, tattooing and musical games. Thanks to our dynamic team of IELC teachers for making the event a grand success.



### **Yoga Sessions:**

Yoga engages the heart, mind and body through its unique blend of physical yoga, social skills games and counselling techniques. It helps children develop emotional intelligence, communication skills, trust and empathy. It nurtures teamwork and leadership. It provides for a calmer and more productive learning environment.

We are very fortunate to have volunteers to take Yoga sessions with our students. Ms. Katia Major and Ms. Anne Tisserand have already started the classes on Thursday for Prep 1 and Prep 2.



**Ms. Katia and Ms. Anne are experienced yoga instructors and take regular yoga classes for children**



## **News from the classrooms:**

### **Nursery:**

The nursery are able to sit on the carpet and listen to a story. They are beginning to focus and are making an effort to follow the story. They are having fun participating in active learning about transports. They enjoyed this unit.



### **Reception:**

November has flown past for Reception what with the unit- 'Celebrations' of different kinds being very appropriate! Special birthdays were enjoyed and preparations for both the Class Assembly and Christmas started in full swing. Confidence developed in the usage of the phonics /c/ /f/ /g/ and /h/ with the latter using ideal examples for Christmas- holly and holy! Reception students have also shown enjoyment in understanding and counting numbers up to 10 with the rocket take off being an effective practice for backward counting. After being spoken to, they also had their parents respond generously, to the request about bringing in items for charity- a big thank you once again!

### **Prep 1:**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Prep 1 was delighted to present the class assembly to parents and other classes. Students enthusiastically took part in this event by showcasing their work pieces and their understanding on the current Unit of Inquiry: Transportation systems. We are very grateful for your presence and cooperation.



## Prep 2:

IELC –Whitefield has always been involved and has taken initiative in Community service through its various philanthropic gestures. Every year, we have been conducting different activities to collect cash or kind to reach out to the people in need.

During this Christmas season, to share the love and to show that we care, Prep 2 is making a New Year calendar. Our children have beautifully created art works of food items which will go in the Calendar as illustrations. This will also integrate with our current unit on 'Food'. The Calendar will be on sale on the day of Christmas Carnival. Please do not forget to pick up a copy for yourself! 😊



**Five ways that we can encourage a growth mindset in our children- from the blog <[wonderofchildren.wordpress.com](http://wonderofchildren.wordpress.com)>:**

“1. Asking open-ended questions to solve a problem or achieve a goal. “What do you think will happen if...” or “Why do you suppose...” These questions build logical thinking skills and often lead to rich discovery.

2. Using specific feedback that identifies what the child accomplished. What small steps led to a larger outcome? ( do not use labels such as “smart” to convey intelligence as a fixed ability)

Be supportive when your child attempts something new. It might not be the way you’d try to solve a problem, but if it works, acknowledge it honestly and without judgment. Pick your battles. Hair done by a three-year old might not be perfect, but it brings a child great satisfaction to say, “I did it myself!” Skills that build persistence simultaneously allow children to feel confidence and independence. When frustration arises, offer an encouraging word about what steps worked well.

3. Encouraging children to take a risk. Watch and listen to your child so you can take cues about what else they are ready to tackle. Vygotsky calls this the “zone of proximal development – when we gently nudge kids to use what they know to try something just a bit out of their reach, but yet developmentally appropriate. By offering small but achievable challenges, confidence and persistence emerge.

4. Being persistent and growth-oriented yourself. Narrate your thoughts as you try something new or frustrating (with a G-rating, of course!). Your child may even be able to offer some helpful tips. This allows children to see we all have to work hard to solve problems and we all continue to learn new things.

Finally: Don’t sweat the small stuff. Accidents and mistakes happen. Show your child that there’s something to be learned when we don’t achieve what we set out to accomplish. Maybe someone else lends a hand. Maybe you return to the task at another time. Maybe it’s best to abandon things for a while or break things down into smaller steps. Be specific about what worked, identify the emotions involved, and offer encouragement for the next time.”

If, together as parents and teachers, we offer our children the life-affirming attitude that they can continually increase their intelligence and skills through persistent effort, then life becomes full of amazing possibilities to be explored and pursued.

**Important dates in December**

December 1<sup>st</sup> , Thursday – IISB PYP Indus Day

December 3<sup>rd</sup> , Saturday – Christmas Carnival

December 8<sup>th</sup> , Thursday – Sports Day for Nursery and Reception at IELC- Whitefield

December 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Sports Day for Prep 1 and Prep 2 at Holy Cross School ECC road.

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Winter Break commences

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – School reopens

Warm regards and best wishes for a memorable festive season:



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