



## **August 2017**

*“Developmentally appropriate practice means creating a caring community of learners, one that is inclusive, safe and orderly and emphasizes social relationships.”*

-Dr. Gallagher, 2005. - Brain Research and Early Childhood Development.

Dear Parents,

August has been an action packed month for children and teachers alike, settling into classroom routines and establishing new relationships as communities of learners. We are pleased with how the children have adjusted back after the holidays and how happy and excited they are to begin a new school year.

### **Yet again, the eagle soars!**

Over the past 12 years, our journey has taken us through a myriad of experiences that have led to the establishment of quality teaching and learning processes.

We are happy to share that Indus International School, Bangalore has been named the No. 1 International School in India for the sixth time in a row. The Education World C- Fore survey is perception based, and people are contacted at random and asked to rate International Schools on a variety of criteria.

The criteria include competence of teachers, teacher welfare & development, innovative teaching, individual attention to students, leadership, infrastructure, parental involvement, safety and hygiene, special needs, and value for money. We await the release of the Education World magazine for more details.



## Finland

### ***'Less is More, Little is not enough'***

Finland's education system goes by the above tenet. There are no dead ends in the education system in Finland.

Spend 30 minutes in an Early Childhood Day Care, and you may learn all you need to know about education reform- If you want results, try doing opposite of what we think we should do in classrooms. Instead of control, competition, focus on academics and screen based schools, try warmth, unhurried learning, collaboration, and highly professionalized, teacher- led encouragement and assessment. Children are allowed to slouch, wiggle and giggle from time to time if they want to, since that's what children are biologically engineered to do. The education system is more child- centered, more evidence based, and one of the most effective educational systems in the world.

Children in public schools are not only given basic subject instruction in math, language and science, but learning through play-based methodologies in preschools and kindergartens, training in second languages, arts, crafts, music, physical education and amazingly, as many as four outdoor free-play breaks per day, each lasting 15 minutes between classes, no matter how cold or wet the weather is. Educators and parents believe that these breaks are a powerful engine of learning that improves almost all aspects that matter most for children in school – concentration and cognitive focus, behavior, well-being and physical health.

Teachers have the freedom to innovate and experiment as trusted professionals. They are encouraged to constantly experiment with new approaches to improve learning. The teaching profession is the most admired job in Finland next to medical doctors. Students of the Teacher Training Program at the University of Jyväskylä enjoy the cutting-edge concept of “personalized training”.

After observing Finnish educators and professors for the last one week, I have come to realize that Finland's historic achievements in delivering educational excellence and equity to its children are the result of a national love of childhood, a profound respect for teachers as trusted professionals, and a deep understanding of how children learn best.



Finland - University of Jyväskylä's beautiful campus



Insights to Finnish Early Childhood Education and Care –  
Learning by doing



## **Independence Day**

Students and staff at Indus celebrated India's 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day on the 15th of August. Since the day also marks Korea's Independence, both Indian and Korean flags were hoisted, followed by respective National Anthems.

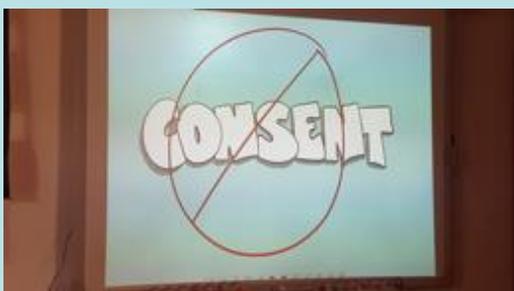


## **Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE)**

**HEALTH:** We all know mosquitoes can be a nuisance, but some can spread serious diseases (e.g. Dengue fever) when they bite. At IELC we regularly empty stagnant water from trash cans and flower pots to prevent breeding. To prevent mosquito bites, we advise parents to ensure our students wear long pants and long sleeves and apply repellent to exposed skin. The only way to protect yourself and your family is to avoid getting bitten.

### **SAFETY:**

- One of the teacher committees in IELC is the HSSE committee which monitors hazards and follows up on prevention action points. The committee members are Ms. Julie and Ms. Asha. Please contact them directly if you notice any HSSE hazards in or around the school.
- In accordance with the POCSO Act and the directions given by Karnataka Police, workshops on safety & gender sensitization were held for all Indus staff members (support, administration and teachers). The foundation for changing the collective mindset must be laid with all stakeholders. It is about making people aware of the need to bring about a change and educate people, especially with regards to gender equality. Sasha organization held a workshop for teachers and staff members of IELC's and IISB, and discussed child development, signs of child abuse, appropriate responses to situations involving children, etc.
- Personal safety Week at IELC – Whitefield was successful, as our students got to understand the meaning of the word 'CONSENT'. They understood the difference between good and bad touch and whom to contact in case they are uncomfortable with anybody. Ms. Daina and Ms. Kesang lead these informative sessions at the Centre, incorporating videos, puppet show and role play.



**SECURITY:** All our staff members are wearing IELC ID cards and students have their ID cards on their backpacks. Parents are requested to arrange ID cards for themselves as well as any family member picking up the student. Please contact Ms. Julie for more details.

**ENVIRONMENT:** With the help of our housekeeping team, we work hard to clean up any clutter and maintain our classrooms in an orderly manner.

### **Play Areas Upgraded:**

We are pleased to announce that all our play areas at IELC have been upgraded and are fully operational. New Monkey bars have been installed in the front and back yard to give variety of play options to our little eagles. Our Tree House has gotten a much needed overhaul on the rope work and ladders. New bicycles and tricycles have arrived and sports equipment has been purchased.



### **Leadership Curriculum:**

We have begun teaching the Leadership component of the curriculum over the last couple weeks. The focus in our Leadership Curriculum this month has been Goal Setting and helping children understand the importance of goals. Children have also begun inquiring into the concept of Leadership through such questions as; 'What is a Leader?', 'What does a Leader do?' & 'What does





## **Time Table:**

There have been a few minor adjustments in our Time Table this year in order to accommodate the specific needs of each age group. Here is a general overview of the new Time Table for Specialist Classes:

- **Swimming:** twice weekly for all sections.
- **Spanish:** Nursery- once a week, Reception, Prep 1, Prep 2 and Grade 1 – twice a week.
- **Dance:** Once a week for all sections.
- **PE:** Once a week for all sections.
- **Music:** Twice a week for all sections.
- **Library:** Once a week for all sections.
- **Leadership:** Prep 1, Prep 2 and Grade 1 children only – once a week.
- **ESL & SEN:** Reception, Prep 1, Prep 2 & Grade 1 children only – twice a week.
- **SMA (Shankar Mahadevan Academy)** – Once a week for all sections.
- **Chess** – Prep 1, Prep2 and Grade 1– Once a week on Fridays.

## **Assemblies**

Each month, a different grade hosts an All School Assembly for IELC. Because public speaking skills are valued at IELC, the school holds monthly assemblies. The purpose is to build a sense of community, foster a climate of kindness and recognize the achievements of students.

Each month the hosting grade invites their parents to attend their assemblies, the assembly schedule will be shared with the parents by mid-September.

## **Important dates in September**

September 5<sup>th</sup> , Tuesday – Teacher’s Day celebration at school

September 27<sup>th</sup> , Wednesday – Parent Advisory Committee meeting at IELC Whitefield

September 29<sup>th</sup> , Friday – Holiday – Ayodhya Puja

October 2<sup>nd</sup> , Monday – Holiday – Gandhi Jayanti

**It’s about being better than we were yesterday...**

Regards,



**Priyanka Khurana**

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