



September 2017

“Researchers have assigned different categories to the roles that educators play in their interactions with young children. These roles include; ‘co-learner’, ‘co-explorer’, ‘play-partner’, ‘interested listener’, ‘decoder’, ‘planner’, ‘meaning sharer’ and ‘strategy-suggester’ to name a few . These terms reflect the wide range of communication skills an Early Childhood Educator must draw from on a daily basis.” (Carney, 1991 & Te Whaariki, 1996)

Dear Parents,

Thanks to the energy and commitment of our wonderful team of Teachers, Our Centre is undoubtedly a dynamic hub of multi-cultural exchange, social interaction, creative thinking, discovery and learning on a daily basis. The month of September has been one of accomplishment and achievement for the Centre as we’ve brought in a new programs and shared new learnings together, all the while aiming towards the goal of holistic education for our dear students.

IELC Curriculum:

Even though the children at IELC are just beginning their school days, the IELC curriculum provides a wonderful framework for learning that builds a firm foundation for all future education.

With that goal in mind, we offer an inquiry-based curriculum of age-appropriate subjects with a balanced blend of five essential elements: concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes, and action.

The first four – concepts, skills, attitudes and actions – are relevant in and across all subject areas and provide the framework for structured and purposeful inquiry, or discovery. They can have different applications and interpretations, depending on the subject area. The fifth element is knowledge, which is considered to be a holistic understanding of ideas, not merely the acquisition of facts and skills.

This month I would like to address the IB skills that your child will develop at IELC while learning all about Self, Others and the World. These skills provide the foundational

knowledge your child needs to be a leader in his or her life- one who becomes able to impart meaning and purpose to his or her own journey on planet earth!

Skills - What do we want students to be able to do?

The five sets of skills acquired in the process of structured inquiry are:

Thinking, Communication, Social, Self-management and Research

1. The skill of **Thinking** gains complexity as the child grows and matures, and learns to become self-reflective. At IELC, thinking begins with comprehension, the acquisition and application of knowledge. Later, the thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, dialectical thought, and meta-cognition (thinking about thinking) are developed within the primary year grades.

2. **Social** Skills are one of the most important abilities that the young child can develop at school. In a holistic curriculum, social skills are as important as any other aspect of learning. These skills include: accepting responsibility, respecting self and others, cooperating, negotiating and resolving conflicts, group decision-making, and adopting appropriate group roles. (being a leader and/or a follower when appropriate)

3. **Communication** skills also play an important part in a holistic curriculum by allowing each child the opportunity to develop several types and styles of communication, such as: listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, presenting, and non-verbal communication. (dance, physical education, swimming, etc.)

4. As children develop **Self-management** skills, they become more and more able to actualize their specific talents and to offer those talents in the world. Self-management skills include the development of both gross and fine motor skills, spatial awareness, organization, time management, a healthy lifestyle, codes of behaviour, and making informed choices.

What a long list!!! Fortunately, we learn these skills step-by -step at IELC, starting with the teachers' guidance -with patience and perseverance.

5. Through developing Research Skills, children become empowered to gain the knowledge that they seek to understand life. These skills take a long time to develop depth within school, so at IELC we begin with small and easy steps. Research skills include: observing, planning, collecting data, asking questions, recording and organizing data, interpreting and presenting data.

I did not learn many of these skills, with any depth or understanding, until I went to university. At IELC, your children will begin to practice all of these skills while learning, playing and growing throughout this year!

Peace Day Celebration:

“Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us, and the world will be as one”- John Lennon

Our students joined hands in celebrating Peace Day at the Centre. Some of them did a Peace march and shared their thoughts about what peace means to them. Some of our students made Peace dove and a peace flower. Each Petal and wing symbolized Friendship, respect, love, sharing and happiness. Our younger eaglets read a book ‘The Peace Book’ by Todd Parr and made beautiful doves. I wish we all could learn the true meaning of Peace from these little ones.



Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):

We are pleased to announce the following parents are our Parent Representatives members of the Parents Advisory Committee at IELC: Ms. Shikha Khanna, Ms. Sophie Rugeland, Ms. Mallika Krishnan and Ms. Linda Storgard . We thank you for the support and look forward to work closely with PAC! You may get in touch with the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC IELC-Whitefield) by e-mail: pac.ielcw@gmail.com

Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE):

HEALTH: Our pool is maintained by Mr. Shushant and regular tests of the water are carried out by Hydrotech. As a safety precaution, the use of swimming support tools like inflatable armbands is advised when your child is still developing comfort in the water or basic water safety skills like floating.

SAFETY: Please take note of our school timings. We start classes at 9am and both gates are open between 8.25am and 9am after which they will be locked.

We had our first whole school fire drill on August 30th. We have also had forced entry drill on September 14th. Our students know the process of the drills very well by now and they are gradually understanding the importance of the drills.



Whole School fire drill was conducted on August 30th, 2017

SECURITY: GPS systems are installed and operational in all our buses, parents of students taking the buses are requested to be at the bus stop on the time given to you, (do not wait for the bus parent to contact you), and be aware of the list of do's and don'ts which are put up on all the buses, we kindly request you to follow the bus rules.

In the light of recent incidents in Delhi, we have reviewed all the existing instructions and SOP's to ensure the safety of our children at all times. We had a meeting with the PAC members to discuss the same. Following measures have been taken and/or will be implemented immediately:

- We are reexamining all the CCTVs and their location, keeping in mind coverage of 'Blind spots' and secluded areas.

- Separate toilet is used by the housekeeping staff, drivers and classroom assistants. The male staff is escorted to and from the toilet by Ms. Julie. Student toilets are used by students and teachers only.
- During school hours, Mr. Narayan (School driver), Mr. Sushant (Store manager) and Mr. Ramesh (Gardner) will NOT stay within the campus.
- Visitors will always be accompanied by Ms. Julie (Admission and Admin Officer). They will not be left unaccompanied on the campus at any time.
- Police verification of all new staff will be done immediately, to include teachers, support staff, outsourced personnel, bus drivers, helpers, maintenance staff, etc.
- The school will become a NO ACCESS ZONE in the afternoon for the parents and relatives. Parents will have to wait at the gate to pick up their child at home time.
- It is mandatory to show the school issued ID for the drivers and maids when they come to pick up the children.
- Catering personnel will be escorted from the gate, lay the food in the dining hall (monitored by Ms. Julie) and leave the campus. Classroom assistants will help serve the food and refill the bowls during lunch time.
- Any visitor to the school will be accompanied by the security to the Admin officer's desk.
- If a child needs to be picked up early due to some appointment, parent will inform Ms. Julie and the class teacher in advance.
- Any changes of pick up arrangement for your child needs to be communicated one day prior to the HOC, teachers and Admin.
- As usual buses will have the bus parent and the safety warden, who will make sure all the students have their seat belts on and safety of our children.

ENVIRONMENT: We are regularly composting our garden and food waste.

Stranger Danger Workshop:

In today's times and age, we need to make sure our students are educated and know how to deal with certain situations. Ms. Charon Chawla from Yoga Bears conducted a "Stranger Danger" workshop for our students from Prep 1 onwards. The session was delivered through storytelling and yoga poses. It taught our students the importance of being cautious towards strangers. The story chosen for the session highlighted the known dangers that exist in society and was portrayed sensitively without causing alarm.



Ms. Joya

Ms. Joya is recovering well and is looking forward to join school after Diwali break. We wish her speedy recovery.

News from our classrooms:

Prep 2

School assemblies provide a good opportunity for students to showcase their learning throughout the unit. On September 28th Prep 2 conducted their assembly. Students took their parents on a special journey around the world. They participated enthusiastically and showcased their learning throughout the unit 'People around the world' under the transdisciplinary theme 'Where are we in place and time'. Through their assembly, children brought forth an important message of love and respect. They shall continue to embrace the differences and rejoice the similarities and believe they all are special because they are unique and different.



Grade 1

Field trips give us opportunities to visit places and get hands on experience and build on to our learning. The experience goes beyond reading about a concept; students are able to see it, manipulate it or participate in it physically. Grade 1 students at IELC Whitefield, all dressed in school uniform, got the opportunity to explore 'SOUND GARDEN' in connection with their unit on 'Senses'.



Important dates in October

September 29th – Holiday - Ayodha Pooja and Dussehra

October 2nd – Holiday – Gandhi Jayanti

October 6th – Inquiry Cycle presentation in respective classrooms

October 13th – Diwali celebrations at school – Diya making

October 14th - 21st – Autumn Break Holidays – Diwali Break

October 23rd – School Reopens after Autumn Break

October 26th – Reports online

October 28th – Parent Teacher Meeting

October 31st – IELC Halloween Parade – Parents are welcome!

Parental Involvement:

We look forward to your participation in upcoming school events and getting to know each of you better.

Parental involvement is something we value greatly at our Centre as it helps us to see things from multiple perspectives, enriches the environment and creates important links between school and home. We encourage you to feel free to approach us either in person or via email with any concerns or suggestions for ways to better the school.

Thank you for working together with us to create a happy and safe haven where our students can thrive and develop to their full potential.

Regards,



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