



January 2018

"Why do some people reach their full potential, while others of equal talent do not?"-Dr. Carol Dweck

Dear Parents,

This first month of the New Year has indeed flown by and students and teachers have been actively immersed in the new Units of Inquiry, researching and exploring new topics the classrooms. It has been heartening to note how happy the students were to return to school after the holidays and excited to get busy with school projects and activities.

As part of the Indus Leadership Training programme for teachers initiated by the CEO, General Ray and the Principal, Mrs Sarojini Rao, I have been reading and studying many inspiring books on the topic of intrinsic motivation and talent development, such as: Drive by Daniel Pink, Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell, and Talent is Overrated by Geoff Colvin. Each of these books refers to the research of Dr Carol Dweck, who asserts that success in school and in life is directly related to people's beliefs about their intelligence and talent. Those who believe that their gifts and intelligence are innate and determined at birth have a "fixed mindset", whereas those who believe that their abilities and intelligence can be developed through effort and practice have a "growth mindset". The effects of one's mindset on life choices and resulting achievements are profound! We teachers at IELC are implementing the goal of creating an environment at school dedicated to a growth mindset for adults and children in which everyone is encouraged to develop and learn through persistent effort and challenging fun.

"Believing talents can be developed allows people to fulfill their potential."-Dr. Dweck

Children and adults who hold the implicit belief that intelligence and talents are fixed tend to be concerned with proving their abilities, rather than learning. Children with a growth mindset tend to demonstrate the perseverance and resilience required to turn challenges into solutions. Challenges become motivating, rather than intimidating, when one understands that skills and intelligence are developed through education and persistent effort. All of the books listed above provide inspiring examples and proof that

extraordinary talent arises out of ordinary people as a result of years of passion and dedication to learning and practicing in their chosen fields.

Five ways that we can encourage a growth mindset in our children- from the blog <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 judgement. 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.

IELC Receives Award at Education World National Conference -

IELC once again ranked among the top Preschool Education Centre's in Bangalore, this year ranking 3rd overall and standing 1st in one of the parameters of INNOVATIVE TEACHING. We were pleased and proud to accept this award as it is demonstrative of the dedication of our dynamic team.



IELC Annual Day Practice -

Indus day is an annual event at IELC Whitefield. It showcases how our students express through different forms of Art. Leadership curriculum learning and goal setting is showcased along with the event. We have already started the dance practice in full swing in addition to designing costumes and organizing logistical details in preparation of our upcoming IELC Annual day on March 3rd, 2018. We will be in touch with you in the near

future with further details regarding the event but please do save the date on your calendars and ensure that your child is present for practices over the coming weeks.

News from the Classrooms:

Nursery:

As part of "Transportation Unit" Nursery went for a field trip to "Forum-The Neighbourhood Mall". Children were excited on their first yellow bus ride. They were watchful about other vehicles on the road as well. They rejoiced the train ride with friends and confidently drove the cars around in the mall. It was a short and sweet trip for the little ones enjoyed by all, thoroughly !!!



Reception:

Reception students celebrated Makar Sankranti as part of their unit "Celebrations". Makar Sankranti represents the end of the winter and it is observed each year in January. It is more prominently known as the harvest festival. They made beautiful Rangoli's and kites for Sankranti and took part in the "kite festival" with lot of enthusiasm.



Prep 1:

The month of January saw the successful ending of the UOI-Transportation for Prep 1 grade. Through this unit students learnt about different types of transports, purpose of transport and how transport connects people and places. Students learnt about the importance of traffic signs and road safety and also inquired into how transportation systems have evolved over the years. The class assembly gave them an opportunity to showcase their presentation skills and they displayed their models on innovative transportation. Prep 1 is excited to begin their new unit on the transdisciplinary theme - 'How we express ourselves'. The central idea of the unit is 'We can express our ideas and feelings through play'.





Prep 2:

What a fabulous start we have had to the new year! Prep 2 has begun their new unit 'Food'. Children have been inquiring into the importance of food in our lives and the sources they come from. They have been exploring the various nutrients that we get from food. We have been discussing about eating a balanced meal and how important it is to maintain our well-being. This has in-turn led to more mindful eating at lunch time. Children are keener on including salads and yogurt into their daily meal. This is indeed a positive beginning.

Grade 1

Grade 1's first field trip of the year was related to their unit, 'Treasures in the Past'. We had planned a visit to the Government Museum, where our children could experience some moments from the past. So, on the morning of 12th January, 2018, we embarked on our journey to the museum in the heart of the city. Once we reached there, we immediately started exploring the place. We saw some beautiful structures and exhibits from the past, which were centuries old. It was a wonderful visual treat for all of us. After lunch, we headed back to school with lots of learning and beautiful memories. While some found it boring and tiring, some said, "They (the artefacts) were indeed treasures from the past!" We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Swagatika Panda (Antra's mom) and Mrs. Mette Maersk (Julie's mom) for accompanying us and

helping us with the whole trip.



Peek into Play based Learning at IELC Whitefield









Important dates in February

February 1st – Reports online

February 3rd – Parent teacher Meeting – Second term

February 5th – PAC meeting

March 3rd – Indus Day at Indus International School, Bangalore

Warm regards and best wishes:



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