



December 2015 | From the Principal's Desk

The greatest design thinkers are the ones who are drawn to the greatest challenges.

Dear Parents,

As we continue our journey in which transformation of each individual is a key component, we believe that we have the power to create new ideas that can be communicated with the utmost simplicity to impact our students and enhance their learning.

Leadership Fest: The highlight of this month was the two day Leadership Fest on the 9th and 10th December, which provided the students of Grades 6 to 12 with a plethora of opportunities to exercise and display their budding leadership qualities. The different activities saw team effort, brain storming and collaboration by the students.

The events during the fest were organized as inter-house competitions in areas of creative expression like photography, documentary production, lyrics composition and dance. The themes for these competitions were based on topics that are relevant in our society.

MUN Competition: The fest opened with an inter house MUN Competition. It was well contested and we could see that the delegates had done a lot of reading and research.

Documentary production: Each house projected a documentary 'The Journey so Far' to showcase the efforts of the students to realize their vision. Students from the main school worked tirelessly with their shutterbugs, trapping moments frame after frame.

The students captured all the activities that they have been involved in, from last year until this year, through these documentaries. This included projects like the science exhibition, Swach Bharat and the Recycle machine.

Photography competition: 'Bangalore through my lens' was the caption given for the photography competition, and this gave the opportunity for students from all four houses to portray Bangalore in all its cultural, historical, and architectural glory

House Vision Implementation: The various houses displayed how they have implemented their house vision, through their CAS projects display. The houses also used their display-boards to project their work towards the implementation of their house visions.

Orion House students have spent productive time teaching the Community School children fundamental reading and writing skills, which in turn translated to well-written articles by these students. The magazine 'Parivarthan' which was released during the Fest afforded a platform for the IICS students to display their prowess as writers and artists.

Phoenix House students displayed the implementation of their house vision in supporting students in the Community School to complete their Leadership Journals for the Leadership Summit. It was a two way learning process as IISB students learnt about their strengths and weaknesses along with the IICS students. The efforts of Phoenix House was also visible in the sanitary napkin production. The girls of Grade 11 of the house worked diligently and made more than 30 packets in 15 days which will be sold to the girls of IICS at a nominal price.

Pegasus continues to foster entrepreneurship through candle making and vocational training for women empowerment at Handenahalli. As they traced their journey in the documentary, they used a flickering flame which symbolized lighting up the lives of women through candle making. The total number of candles made till date is 1340 by the students of Grade XI. Bake sales were also conducted by the house to raise funds to realize their house vision and they raised a commendable amount of Rs. 13,090.

The vocational training center for the beautician course at Handenahalli, Sarjapura has started as per the plan on 25 Nov, 2015. Six trainee women who have completed the basic course have confirmed their enrolment. In the meantime, six more women are likely to register for the second round of the basic level course. This will commence in Jan 2016. The women will be certified by a beautician institute.

The Hercules house successfully completed their house vision of training the IICS students from Grades 6-9 to host a science exhibition. Sustainable living was the theme this year. It was a hands-on learning experience for the students and it was evident in the twenty five projects that were displayed.

Mobile Apps creation: The innovative streak in the students was also exhibited with the various mobile apps that they created. Today's life is inextricably knotted with technology and every house was assigned to make an app that will create a difference. An app called 'Life Lyn' created by the Orion house students is meant to help children in distress. 'Tutor Me' is an app that was created by the Hercules house to make a difference in a student's academic life. This app helps students to get in touch with their peers and teachers online and helps with clarifying subject portions of their interest. These user-friendly app, will be released into the play store after completing due procedures.

Fusion Dance: Balance in everything we do is the key to life and this was presented by the fusion dance form which showcased the 'Yin-Yang' energy of life. 'Nature' was the theme of another group of students. Here, the dancers showcased a fight between humans both as destroyers and saviors of nature. There was also a fusion dance of Kathak and contemporary Hip Hop.

Industan Concertino was a lyrics writing competition that saw a lot of excitement and creativity. The topic was announced in the morning and in the given time frame of 4 hours, the students composed meaningful lyrics and set the same to music.

I-Lead Talks: The ILEAD talks conducted during the Leadership Fest was a venue where the students spoke of their dreams and aspirations to make a difference in the world. From IICS, the final 4 speakers for the ILEAD talks were chosen after two rounds of audition. After a month long preparation, on the summit day i.e.10th December the students of IICS spoke confidently and passionately about their dreams of becoming researchers and surgeons and even going to NASA to pursue their dreams. Their conviction was contagious and it seems any and every obstacle in their path will amount to nothing in the face of such grit and determination.

The I-Lead talks by the students across Grades 6 to 12 added momentum to the journey of self- discovery and self- actualization. It provided the students with a platform that forces them to introspect, reflect and employ the most powerful and important tool of leadership which is one's own personal example to lead. They talked about making a difference. While one designed rubrics and made lesson plans to empower the underprivileged, a few students harvested the hope to light the path of others and their own. Some spoke of overcoming their deep rooted fears and the others, of their intent on eradicating child labour. They not only spoke about it, but revealed through every word and action how in their own small way they have transformed their thoughts into action. Each student emerged as a leader, leaving the audience spell bound by not only their potential but also by the determination to succeed.

There were a few inter-school competitions as well, where we did well. The Indus MUN Team from the Senior School participated in the MUN organized by TISB. See Appendix 1 for results.

Selected students participated in the 'The Last Word'- organized by Stonehill International on 5th Dec. The different literary events included Mad Ad, a Debate, Oral Interpretation and Street Play.

Pratibha Pradeep won the first prize in the Oral interpretation, Vishnu Karthik and Prerna Aggarwal won the 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively in the Oral Speech, the Street play Team won the first prize and the Mad Ad team won the second prize in the event.

The holiday season was ushered by the PYP with joy and harmony on Mufti Day on 11th Dec 2015. The students attended school dressed in clothes that represented any festival of their own choice.

In the academic year 2014-'15, 7 PYP students appeared for the Bharatnatyam examination conducted by Bangiya Sangeet Parishad. As per the results received, we are proud to announce that all have graduated from the Adya level having secured the 1st division. The list of students is attached Appendix 2.

PYP also celebrated the Joy of Giving by voluntarily contributing gifts for the 150 children, in the Kallahalli Orphanage. We would like to thank our caring PYP fledglings for their overwhelming response, as we have collected 250 books for the orphanage library and around 304 gifts. Most of the gifts are board games, puzzles, rackets and balls which will be housed in their library for collaborative recreation.

CAS: In MSP, the CAS activities were conducted as per the schedule.

The Phoenix house students continued with their project on the 50 Acts of Kindness and completed the making of goodies box for IICS students of Grade- 2. They have made 40 packets of gifts.

The Pegasus house students have set up a vegetable garden at IICS. The assignment to prepare a documentary on the MSP house vision in alignment with the school vision was completed by grade 9. Grades 6 to 9 participated in the House Display Board Contest in MSP. Students of Grade 6 along with Grade 11 successfully organized a fund raiser to cater to the main House Vision and raised Rs. 19,000/- (which includes the initial investment).

The Orion House continued their effort to set up the mobile library. Grades 6 to 9 created posters to motivate IICS students to read. ·

Students of the Hercules House have almost completed the Shoe Box Project. Students of Grades 8 and 9 continue to make quilts.

Sports: Indus International School and Indus International Community School athletes participated in the 8th State Level School Olympics Athletic Meet held at the Sree Kanteerava stadium on 9th and 10th December 2015. We won 15 medals. Siddhi Sharma from Grade 7 created the new meet record in the shot-put girls U-12 years. Maya De Laet from Grade 5 won the best athlete award in the girls U-10 category and Dev Veer Singh came third in the 200mtrs race.

Indus celebrated its **13th Annual Sports Day** on 16th of December. The chief guest for the event was Mr. Nishantha Hennayake, the illustrious batting coach behind the success of three legendary Sri-Lankan Captains such as Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sanghakar

and Sanath Jayasurya. He is a first class domestic cricketer having played 35 games as an opening batsman.

The event began with a well-coordinated March Past by all four houses led by the school sports captains, Dhruv Marwari and Divya Malapani, followed by the School Head Boy Shreyas Srivathsan and School Head Girl Ami Mehta.

Indus is proud to have a full-fledged equestrian team and this added excitement to the morning not only in the March Past but also through tent-pegging led by Aryaman Agarwal followed by the dressage and show jumping which pointed to the harmony between each rider and the horse.

Carrying the torch to light the flame were our two young athletes Kartik Kapai and Sugandhi Reddy of Grade 11.

The highlights of the morning included a Karate display and a Japanese fan dance. House spirits ran high as students competed in the track events. As is customary the students cheered for the teachers who competed in the 4x100m relay. The overall trophy was lifted by Phoenix House. The results are attached in Appendix3.

Placements: The Placement Cell has been busy with uploading the student documents on Naviance. They have also been reviewing the personal essays for students applying through the Common App and other university application systems. A range of university visits were also hosted which includes HULT, Ashoka University, Raffles Design School, Duke University, University of Waterloo and University College Cork. They are busy at the moment with students applying through UCAS to meet the January 15th deadline.

The Leadership Retreat for teachers, Track 2 in Innovation and Design Thinking was held on 5th December 2015. The daylong session saw presentations on the crucial aspects of Design Thinking by the CEO's team.

The presentations on 'Observations', 'Brainstorming' and 'Prototype and Testing' added clarity and contributed to better perspectives to the teachers who were primarily introduced to Design Thinking.

The break-out sessions that followed saw the presentations by the core team across the three programmes on "How to nurture creativity in our classrooms."

What emerged from the presentations was to nurture innovation and a growth mindset. These topics will be explored further and presented on a larger platform by the members of PYP, MSP and DP.

It was celebration time on the 16th December, as the teachers and admin staff brought in the **spirit of Christmas**, after lunch. The festive mood had been infused by the Secret Santa game and they celebrated with a few games and by exchanging gifts. On that note arrived the winter break.

Alumni Reunion: Indus Bangalore hosted its Inaugural Alumni reunion on Saturday, December 19th on the school campus. The evening was graced by the presence and addresses of the Indus CEO, General Ray, who spoke about alumni being brand ambassadors. I as Indus Bangalore Principal, spoke about the need to embody the school spirit in our endeavors, and the Chief Guest, Dr Aditya Sondhi, an alumni of Bishop Cotton Boys' School, spoke about the importance of alumni taking initiatives. We also had a member of the founding alumni batch of the school, Spandana KS from the batch of 2007 address her fellow Eagles. The dedicated alumni website, to help alumni further nourish their bond with Indus and each other despite distance, was also launched. The reunion saw alumni from all 9 IB DP batches reunite from all parts of the world, flying in from places as far as the US and Singapore, to rediscover old friendships and catch up on years' worth of stories, late into the night. The evening concluded with the formation of the association team. It was, altogether, a highly nostalgic, emotional reunion and we have great expectations that our Eagles have been reunited with a common purpose.

Central Leadership Retreat: The 4 day Central Leadership Retreat for Track 3 teachers, comprising the Leadership team of all three Indus Schools and the CEO's team, was held between 19th Dec-and 22nd Dec 2015. The theme of the retreat was **"Innovation and Teacher Disposition as the Art and Science of Self-Renewal"**. The session began with the presentation made by the CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray on the significance of "Teacher disposition" in the making of an effective teacher.

In his presentation, the CEO clarified the subtle difference between the much researched 'western idea of teacher disposition' and the need to move towards the "Indus disposition". While the former is more on the lines of teacher effectiveness in the classroom, the latter focuses on self-growth of teachers which empowers them to unlock the potential of students in their classroom through unlocking their own potential.

This was followed by my session on creating 'SMART Creatives' – a creed of teachers indispensable as 'Organizational ambassadors.' The interactive task that followed brought out how each school would draw individualized plans for their teachers that would nurture them into smart creatives who have excellent technical knowledge, are business savvy with transdisciplinary knowledge and have excellent critical competencies.

On days 2 and day 3, members shared the progress that each of them has made on the Personal Vision they had set for themselves at the last retreat which was held in Colombo, June 2015. Also, there was focus on how effectively the design thinking process can be implemented in various spheres of school life.

On the final day, all the schools presented their individual strategic plans for 2016-17 and 17-18 based on the key take-away points from the three days of the retreat. As the retreat drew to a close, all members felt better equipped to give more meaning and purpose not just to their own lives but transform young minds they each are responsible for by unlocking their potential.

The winter break brings an opportunity to share time with family and friends that creates memories to cherish. May this season of good cheer fill your homes with peace and prosperity as you welcome 2016.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Sarojini Rao

Principal

Indus International School, Bangalore

Appendix 1:

The following students won awards in the MUN that was conducted from 12th to 14th December, at TISB:

1. Satyajit Amin – Gr. 9 Best delegate (committee - Historical JCC, Finance minister of USSR)
2. Sunakshi Jindal – Gr. 11 Honorable mention (committee - FIFA, country Chile)
3. Rithik Jain – Gr. 10 Honorable mention (committee - Historical JCC, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of USSR)

4. Inan Batra – Gr. 11 Verbal mention (committee - UNCSTD, country UK)
5. Ananya Srivathsan – Gr. 9 Verbal mention (committee - DISEC, country UK)

Appendix 2:

PYP students (from Grade 5) passed the Bharatnatyam examination, conducted by Bangiya Sangeet Parishad in flying colours: Arnavi Vasudev Joshi, Monaa Reddy, Sara Khurana, Yukta Reddy, Lilou Thomas, Varsha Reddy, Baanee Singh

Appendix 3:

Senior Sports Day 16th December 2015: Individual Championship Award

CATEGORY	NAME	HOUSE	GRADE
BOYS U-12	Rehaan Bicha	Hercules	6
GIRLS U-12	Pratibha Pradeep	Phoenix	6
BOYS U-14	Aryavardhan Sahu	Orion	8
GIRLS U-14	Ines Huret	Phoenix	8
BOYS U-16	Ghalib Al Halim	Phoenix	9
	Adrien Lee	Phoenix	9
GIRLS U-16	Shagun V.K	Orion	10
SENIOR BOYS	Sagar Patel	Phoenix	11
	Lee Jae Ho	Pegasus	11
SENIOR GIRLS	Sugandhi Reddy	Phoenix	11

March Past Points:

POSITION	HOUSE	POINTS
I	Orion	50
II	Pegasus	30
III	Phoenix	20
IV	Hercules	10

Total House Points (Overall Trophy):

POSITION	HOUSE	POINTS
I	Phoenix	249
II	Orion	243
III	Hercules	153
IV	Pegasus	92