



December 2016

From the Principal's Desk

Success stems from the end of your comfort zone.

Dear Parents,

December started on a high and colorful note with the **PYP Indus Days**. These annual celebrations aim at providing opportunities for our children to showcase their strengths in different areas of the performing arts. This year's overarching theme 'Leadership through Literature' combined two of our greatest strengths, resulting in two consecutive evenings filled with energy and enjoyment. Both the shows began with Tagore's "Where the Mind is without Fear" followed by a delightful Bharatnatyam invocation. The evening was presided over by our CEO Lt Gen Arjun Ray, me as Principal accompanied by the Head of Primary School, Ms. Navita Kishan. The special messages from the three of us underscored the benefits of whole education and nurturing creativity in the formative years.

On 1st December, the fledglings of Indus from Reception to Grade 2 delighted the audience and breathed life into their favourite stories and characters. The Early Years captivated the audience with their adaptation of the famous fable 'Nutmcracker'. The evening complete with ballet and ballroom dancers, transported the audience into the land of fantasy and toys. The story highlighted the importance of nurturing the habit of gratitude and counting our blessings. Grade 1 enacted a fun and frolic version of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' with creative use of stage elements. While the Oompa Loompas kept everyone in splits with their tongue twisting jigs, the underlying message about the importance of family was strong and clear. Grade 2 on their part took the audience on Aladdin's magic carpet to the sands of Arabia. The narrative emphasized the need to be able to unlock one's potential first which will in turn help unlock each child's potential thereby making a meaningful difference.

On 2nd December, the PYP students of Grades 3, 4 and 5 staged the musical 'Mary Poppins'. This delightful rendering was ably supported by the choir that sang "A Spoonful of Sugar", "A Jolly Holiday" and "Feed the Birds" along with the energetic and colorful dance sequences, 'Chim Chim Cheree', 'Step in Time' and 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'. Mary Poppins provided the perfect platform to connect individuals with the larger truths and ideas in a society. Literature creates a way for people to record their thoughts and experiences in a way that is accessible to others, through fictionalized accounts of the experience. The message that our young eagles conveyed through this adaptation stood out with clarity, which is anything can happen if you let it and that it is important to be adaptable as change is inevitable. They also conveyed the message of living life to its full potential which in turn gives happiness and how imagination and creativity form the foundation of success and one must strive for perfection.

Grade 1 has been inquiring into the changes that have occurred from past to the present for their unit, 'Treasures in the Past'. A field trip to the 'Government Museum' on 9th December, 2016 was an opportunity for these budding inquirers to know more about the evolution of human civilization.

Senior School Sports Day: The school playground of Indus International School was filled with great zeal, excitement and frolicsome atmosphere on 9th December 2016 as the senior school celebrated its Annual Sports Day. The much awaited event began with the hoisting of newly framed school sports flag followed by a well co-ordinated march past. The chief guest, Mr John Johnson, the Guest of honour, Mr Lalthuammawia Ralte, and CEO, Lt General Arjun Ray graced the occasion.

The heats which led up to the Sports Day had been conducted from 6th to 8th December. Spirits ran high as the various houses competed and put up their best performance in the track and field events like sprints, long jump, shot put, discus throw and relays for boys and girls. The students displayed a wide array of colorful and reverberant events such as human pyramid and umbrella dance. Their mesmerizing and energetic performance added rhythm and color. The performance by the equestrian team kept the audience on the edge of their seats. The march past by the four houses was done with a lot of synchronisation as the students marched smartly. The best march past trophy was won by Pegasus house and the overall champion trophy was awarded to the Phoenix house.

The fun races organized like the skipping race, obstacle race and sack race were also thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We applaud the sports team led by Mr. Poovaiah and

the students for putting in a concerted effort which made the event a huge success. The details of the Sports Day results are attached in Appendix 1.

The **Middle School** had the Practical exams for Grades 6 to 8. Grade 6 had General Science while Grade 8 had Computer Science. **MYP Parent Orientation** was conducted on 7th December for the parents of Grades 6 and 7. The Programme Coordinator explained the various aspects of MYP assessments and oriented the parents to the changes in reporting that will come into effect post the half-yearly examinations. The Head of School and the Coordinator answered several questions that the parents had in this regard.

The support classes in the MSP were suspended for this month in view of the sports practices and preparation for the half-yearly examination.

In the **DP**, the school has been working to optimize the potential of each student to ensure that all our Grade 12 students score well in the IB Exams. Four to five mentees in each group from Grade 12 have been assigned to a teacher mentor with expertise and experience. These mentors met with their mentees to find out how each one of them could upgrade their scores in the subjects of their choice. The mentees openly shared their concerns with their mentors which were then discussed with the Principal, Vice-Principal and the DP Coordinator. Corrective measures have been taken by the school and support classes have been organized during the week to revise difficult concepts and to practice IB type questions. Monitoring of support classes is done by the Vice-Principal and the coordinator. The school expects students to attend these classes so that they can benefit from the help being provided by experienced IB teachers.

The Department of English successfully completed their IOC recordings which is an important component of the **English A Literature Course** for all the Grade 12 students. The recordings were organized from 5th to 8th December.

The second group of Grade 11 students enjoyed the outdoor activities during the Leadership Camp at Yellagiri. For many this was a new experience.

CAS: The CAS activities have continued as the four houses engage in their tasks. The **Phoenix House** students of Grade 11 have worked on the Leadership journals of the Community School students, and have helped them with their ILEADS.

The students of the **Hercules House** continue to work on the IICS Science Exhibition. The design phase for the exhibition is done and the prototype and experimental phase

is going on. The students are coming up with innovative ideas and bringing them from paper to reality. The students of Grade 11 were especially occupied, utilizing their CAS periods to continue training the ammas to recycle the papers, who have then continued to make a few papers every day.

One group of students from the **Orion House** have worked with first batch of bus wardens and revisited all the four modules on Womens' Empowerment covered with them so far.

The students of **Pegasus House** worked to sell the candles that they have been making and they had some sales on the PYP Indus days.

Boarding: On 3rd December, the boarders from Grade 11 enjoyed a day out when they went to see the movie 'Arrival'. The other boarders were taken to watch the movie, 'Moana' on 4th December. On 10th December, the spirit of Christmas came over the boarding, with the Christmas programme, followed by dinner and a social evening. The sports complex was decorated for the occasion and students were enlightened on the significance of Christmas. This was followed by the singing of Christmas carols. Both the boys and girls put up entertaining dance performances. Everyone enjoyed a special dinner and returned to have an evening of some foot tapping music and dance. The evening concluded on a very happy note.

Sports: Indus International School participated in the National Equestrian Championship (NEC) and Bangalore Horse Show & Regional Equestrian league at ASC Centre and College in Bengaluru from 19th to 21st November 2016. We are proud to announce that our student, Manav Chordia of Grade 9 won the Gold medal in the Open Hack Riding (Junior Boys) event. Their consistent training and drive to excel was evident in the races. Students of Grade 9, Avani Jaishwal won the silver while Anum Merchant won the bronze in the Open Hack riding in the Junior girls event.

Placements: The month of December was busy at the Placements department with students completing their applications and document submissions before the deadlines that are fast approaching. The faculty assisted students by giving them feedback about their essays and documentation. They have also been gearing up for the submission of applications to a few universities in January. An open day session is planned to be conducted for the prospective Grade 11 students in January.

Central Leadership Retreat: We had the 24th Central Leadership Retreat from 18th December to 21st December. This served as a platform for the participants as a time to focus on oneself and realize that self-growth and self-actualisation are pre-requisites for becoming great teachers and great leaders. The CEO, Lt. Gen Ray addressed in his opening speech that the purpose of self-growth is to unlock one's human potential, to prepare children for life that is uncertain and chaotic. He also emphasized on the necessity to develop an entrepreneurial mindset which comprises of the ability to take initiative, and core competencies like risk-taking, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, lifelong learning, and decision making. This is possible when one develops a passion which can ignite the desire to unlock one's potential and creativity, the General told.

During the retreat, I spoke about how this kind of mindset can be achieved through deliberate practice. After going through the step-by-step process to inculcate deliberate practice, the members of the core academic teams from Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad brainstormed on how deliberate practice can be used to achieve their goals and targets. This was followed by presentations by the members on introducing competency based teaching which will be fundamental to gaining life skills. This retreat mainly focused on self-growth to unlock one's potential, which in turn will help with professional development of the teachers.

On this note, we wish that the new year brings each of you moments that you will always cherish. May the break refresh you and we shall look forward to move on with a renewed spirit to continue to make a difference.

Regards,

Sarojini Rao

Principal

Indus International School, Bangalore

Appendix 1: ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 9TH December 2016

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD

CATEGORY	NAME	GRADE	HOUSE
BOYS U-12	Dev Veer Singh	6	Hercules
GIRLS U-12	Maya De Laet	6	Phoenix
BOYS U-14	Ronit Lachhwani	9	Pegasus
GIRLS U-14	Navya Dinesh Budapanahalli	8	Phoenix
BOYS U-16	Ghalib Al Halim	10	Phoenix
GIRLS U-16	Sanjana Vonna	11	Phoenix
SENIOR BOYS	Roshan Neel Anand	11	Orion
SENIOR GIRLS	Drisya Antose	11	Phoenix
POSITION		HOUSE	
I		Pegasus	
II		Hercules	
III		Phoenix	
IV		Orion	

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POSITION	HOUSE	POINTS
I	Phoenix	960
II	Pegasus	615
III	Orion	545
IV	Hercules	500

TOTAL HOUSE POINTS (OVERALL TROPHY)