

## January 2016 | From the Principal's Desk

*"Tune in to opportunity; it often comes disguised as hard work."*

Dear Parents,

Success is never by chance; it is the result of varied sources that work together. The highlight of this month is the excellent **IGCSE results** that students achieved in the Set 1 subjects. The A\* hall has gone up to 70% in Chemistry and significantly in subjects like Physics, Biology and English Literature. We congratulate not only our students and teachers but also you as the parents for your support and encouragement.

**PYP:** The children of Reception and Prep1 visited the Explorium at Domlur on 8<sup>th</sup> January as a part of their unit on Water and Play ways respectively. The children had a wonderful time exploring and learning through different mediums of play. They filled cups, made dams, built water fountains, used trucks to dig sand, explored air centers and played with Lego. We thank the parent volunteers for their support.

It has been an exciting time in the PYP with field trips and sports. On 12th January, Prep 2 visited the Bluebells Preschool (for underprivileged children) in Bomannahalli to make connections with their current unit. Our students met children of their own age, observed how they study and went to visit their homes. On the day prior to the trip, the students prepared gifts, which included the cookies that they had baked to give to the children at Bluebells. After returning, they reflected, comparing and contrasting their lives as Indus students to the lives of the children in Bluebells school.

Grades 1 and 2 attended leadership camps held in the IICS grounds. The objective was to provide students a challenging experience to develop emotionally, physically and mentally. The camp gave the children opportunities for shared experiences in team building, solving problems, experiencing nature, outdoor learning and fun. Staff from the Indus School of Leadership assisted the teachers in facilitating the activities and games for the students.

The Grade 5 students attended the leadership camp at the Indus School of Leadership in Yelagiri from 20th to 22nd January. Students engaged in a structured outbound experience, designed to reveal leadership through team building, critical thinking, positive relationships and self-reflection.

The Grade 3 assembly was conducted on the 8th of January. Students showcased their journey of learning under the trans-disciplinary theme of 'Sharing the Planet'. They presented role plays on sustainability and caring for plant life. Exploration centers were set up for each stage of the inquiry cycle which included demonstrations, student action, aspects of integration and up-to-date news and related information about plant life.

PYP organized an Astro Evening Event on the 13th and 14th of January, for students of Grades 4 and 5 respectively. We invited Dr. Ajay Kumar Saxena, a physicist who brought the sky closer to the children. Students were exposed to various hands on experiments showing the presence of several scientific principles like Bernoulli's principle, angular momentum, earth's rotation, revolution, gravity and atmospheric pressure in their daily life. Their excitement was palpable when they viewed sun spots and the craters of the moon, through high power telescopes. All participants went home learning something new and came back with several intriguing questions about the making of our universe.

We thank the parents who attended the New Parent Induction session held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The purpose of this session was to give a clearer perspective about the IB PYP Curriculum framework. They participated in interactive sessions which showcased the learning process that takes place in the PYP.

**MSP:** After a refreshing winter break, the middle school went full swing into their academics starting with their half-yearly practical exams. This was followed by the half-yearly theory exams.

Grades 9 and 11 were fortunate to listen to Mr. Ram G Vallath on 13<sup>th</sup> January on the importance of aiming high in life and to never give up, no matter whatever obstacles one comes across in life. With the half-yearly exams just around the corner and preparations going on in full swing, Mr. Vallath's talk was of great inspiration for the students to put in their best effort to achieve the goals that they aspire to reach.

The mock examinations for the Grade 10 Hindi students appearing for the March series examination were conducted this month. There was also a Parent Teacher meeting conducted for the Grade 10 Hindi students, on the 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Mufti Day was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> January, and the students came to school dressed in casual wear and made donations towards raising funds for the IICS Sports Day. The funds were used to buy shoes and t-shirts for the community school students to wear on their Sports Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**DP:** In DP, the Grade 12 students are in the process of completing their Extended Essays and their final IB submissions. They have also had their monthly tests this month.

The Grade 11 students attended their half-yearly exams from the 20<sup>th</sup> January to the 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Republic Day Celebrations:** India celebrated her 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day this year and, we at Indus celebrated the occasion with patriotism in our minds. The day began with the hoisting of the Indian Flag and then we proceeded to support and cheer our Indus International Community School students as they celebrated their Sports Day.

**SPORTS:** On 29<sup>th</sup> January, we had our PYP students celebrate their Sports Day. It was an occasion when our energetic students were happy to demonstrate the various skills and experiences that they gained through the year through the 'Walk of Fame'. They participated in various events like Shot Put, Long jump, Relays and Sprints. All the students took part in the fun games after the track events were over and the winners were declared. This year's sports day witnessed exciting performances, sportsman spirit and the hard work of our students. The details are attached in Appendix 1.

**CAS:** The various CAS projects are in different stages of development and is an ongoing process. Pegasus continues fostering entrepreneurship with candle making and vocational training for women empowerment at Handenahalli. The advanced beautician course for the underprivileged women is in progress. In the Middle School, the students have been involved in the removal of weeds in a bid to prepare the ground to grow greens as planned.

Phoenix House has trained more students to step up the production of sanitary napkins after school. A few class helpers have also been trained to assist with the production. Helping the IICS students to make posters describing the school's core values has been the CAS activity that was taken up by the Grade 6 students. The drive to collect stationery for the IICS students is still going on and the Grade 7 students have been working on it this month. The Grade 4 IICS students were given classes on how to make a power point presentation by our Grade 8 students. The drive to collect shoes for the IICS students is still going on and the Grade 9 students have been making posters to raise awareness about this.

Hercules House has continued their efforts in recycling paper by making booklets from old notebooks. The grade 12 students have initiated this project and briefed their team members about the details. The shoe box and quilt making projects are also underway.

Orion House continues its drive to create more awareness of the benefits of clean drinking water. They have planned to involve the panchayat members to solve the water problems and improve the awareness of usage of clean drinking water. Grade 7 is working to organize the "One Nation Reading Program" in a village. As a precursor to this, the drive to collect books is being done by the middle school.

**Placements:** It is a busy time at the Placement Cell with applications being reviewed and submissions for all students through Naviance. They have also conducted a career fair for Grade 10 and the Pre IB Students. As always university visits have continued. This month they hosted the Trevecca Nazarene University, The Linden Fair, Arizona State University, Fairleigh Dickenson University, Berkeley College of Business, Eastern Washington University, Slippery Rock University, SUNY – Buffalo, Loyola Marymount University and University of Missouri - Kansas City.

**Boarding:** On 15<sup>th</sup> January the boarders celebrated Sankranthi and Lori at the Sports Complex. Students were told about the significance of the festivals and thereafter gathered around a bon fire as music and the live dhol was played to lighten the evening's proceedings. This was followed with a special meal.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January, the boarders visited the Innovative Film City. The visit to this theme park was an enjoyable outing for our boarders. Be it the rides, the museums or the food, our children enjoyed themselves.

**Smart Creatives Workshop:** To keep abreast with this dynamic nature of education, teachers have to be innovative in the skills they develop and their teaching methods. For this, Smart Creatives (a term coined by Google), is the kind of teachers that Indus envisions to develop its teacher talent into.

To further explore and explain this idea, a workshop was conducted for the teachers by me. The workshop was interspersed with interactive tasks from which individual plans for the teachers were drawn that would nurture them into Smart Creatives who have excellent technical knowledge, are business savvy with trans disciplinary knowledge and have thinking skills.

As achievers of excellence we seize every opportunity for more stunning results as we strive to make a difference.

Warm regards,  
Mrs. Sarojini Rao  
Principal, Indus International School, Bangalore

Appendix 1:

**PYP ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 2015-2016**

**INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS & HOUSE POINTS**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Points</b>
1 BOYS	Matei Olaro	Hercules	8
	Aarav Nanda	Pegasus	8
1 GIRLS	Anchonolu Chiamaka	Phoenix	18
2 BOYS	Yogesh Chintamani	Phoenix	13
2 GIRLS	Zara Van Leyenhorst	Orion	14
3 BOYS	Aditya Dhiman	Phoenix	13
3 GIRLS	Aishani Arul	Orion	11
4 BOYS	Ranveer Mishra	Phoenix	12
4 GIRLS	Diya Madhusoodan	Phoenix	15
5 BOYS	Dev Veer Singh	Hercules	18
5 GIRLS	Maya De Laet	Phoenix	15

**OVERALL HOUSE POINTS**

<b>Position</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Phoenix</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Orion</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Pegasus</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Hercules</b>	<b>72</b>