

# Newsletter

From our Principal

**Creating Leaders of Tomorrow**

Issue 122, March 2013

**"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."**

**"There are four pillars, on which you can build the platform, to reach the zenith of success: Dedication, Devotion, Discipline and Determination."**

Dear Parents,

We marched into March determined to create history. That is what we accomplished by promoting our central philosophy of leadership through the aesthetic field of arts. Through music, visual arts and leadership summits we underscored that leadership is to be a whole person who by changing himself can change others.

Right through the ages, music has been used in almost every tradition, ceremony, religious practice, feast, and celebrations. It is believed that the rhythm and melody of a song, touched the inner soul. It is encouraged in places of worship as it rouses emotions that bring in sanctity. When tested, music was seen to have raised the levels of hormones released in the body. During these tests, there was activity seen in the parts of the brain that deal with reward and motivation, emotion and arousal.

Our goal this year was to showcase music. Our first attempt was spectacular when about a hundred and fifty students in the school orchestra, including students from our Community School performed on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The pieces ranged from classical pieces, jazz, film themes and contemporary music. Our second event was on a larger scale. This was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March and it was a three part programme; the first showcased selected pieces that were featured on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the second with a near hundred member school choir sang songs that impacted the world and made people aware of the need for freedom and the abolition of injustice and the third featured Mr. Shankar Mahadevan who also showcased leadership through music. Our students from the main school and the Community school sang along with Mr. Mahadevan. One of the songs was a special piece, "Make a Difference", that was written for the occasion by our Vice Principal, Mrs. Selina Krishnan along with the students. These events are a culmination of the successful application of Whole Education at Indus.

We were honored to have a host of dignitaries to be part of this programme and the Leadership Summit on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Prof. Nick Foskett, Vice – Chancellor of Keele University and Prof. Rosalind Foskett, Deputy Vice - Chancellor of Worcester University were part of the 'Leadership through Music' and the Leadership Summit on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March respectively. They are Educational leaders who have not only made a mark nationally in higher education and teacher development but have reached out internationally as well. We already have a tie-up with Keele University and are exploring possibilities to collaborate with Worcester University as well.

Creativity made its mark in The Leadership Summits as well. The Grades 6-8 Leadership Summit was held on March 5-7<sup>th</sup>. This event showcased our students' learning and understanding of the Leadership Curriculum. It is not an end itself but is a day wherein learning is shared through reflection and understanding.

These three days were filled with a myriad of events like the I- LED, which is the Indus Leadership Talks. This event provided an opportunity for students to share an experience which has brought about a transformation in them and the purpose of sharing this experience is, to in turn transform others. Students shared experiences based on themes like Cyber Bullying, Connecting with nature, Saving our environment, Adoption, Equality, Whole Education, understanding love, respect, overcoming fear, resilience and such like topics. The experience was truly meaningful and made each one realize how important it is to reflect on one's experiences and change oneself for the better.

The Panel Discussion was another major part of our Leadership Summits. These Panel discussions stemmed from the "The Blind Side" a movie based on , Jonathan Livingstone's book " Seagull", and "A Whole New Mind" a book by Daniel Pink. Various thoughts flowed out and it was a bundle of perceptions and perspectives which made the entire discussion worthwhile. These discussions paved the way for Critical Thinking and led to a lot more in-depth understanding of new ideas.

The Gallery Walk consisted of art works of the students on display and these works were based on themes like poverty, sustainability in education and protecting the environment. Students also displayed some of their Project Based Learning products and explained their learning which was a lot more meaningful for them. Leadership Journals which is a clear indicator of a student's understanding of the processes like identifying oneself through SCOT (Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats) and setting goals were displayed. Students shared their Journals and were very keen to answer questions regarding their Journal. The entire event was a true reflection of our philosophy of nurturing leadership.

The Leadership Summit on 27<sup>th</sup> March was a tribute to the power of persuasive communication by students, through the mediums of verbal communication, films, art and photography. Through the Indus Leadership Talks, students shared their transformational experiences and how these experiences have changed their attitude towards life. Participants in the two Panel Discussions, clearly conveyed the message of the need of strong inner values to combat the rampant materialism in today's globalized world. Two short films that were short listed were screened at the Summit. These films conveyed a student's perspective of the core values of the school. The film by Pegasus House centered on Respect was adjudged the winner. The Phoenix House film on love moved the audience as it underlined sacrifice of the highest order. The experience of making these films was a journey of learning in itself. Yet another salutation to student leadership was the Gallery Walk. Through murals

and other paintings and through photography, the concept of Equality was beautifully addressed by students. The Leadership Wall was a student's expression of the understanding of leadership, while the Leadership Portfolios were the documented evidence of student learning through the Leadership Curriculum, their goals, experiences and reflections. During the Summit, Prof. Nick Foskett released the 3 Peel Art Magazine which was themed on Equality and the IICS Year book. While addressing the students, Prof. Foskett, conveyed his appreciation on the Leadership initiatives that Indus has taken and reiterated the role of Keele University in higher education.

As Grade 12 were all set to graduate, the traditional Principal's Tea was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March. This was an evening of fun and games after the hectic period of Mock Examinations.

March also saw the 7<sup>th</sup> batch of eagles march out of our portals on Graduation Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> March. As always it was a solemn occasion, and the atmosphere was nostalgic. Our Grade XII students who have grown into fine young women and men, were all arrayed in their olive green and gold graduation robes and caps. The Prannoy Roy award was awarded to Niharika Neela. This trophy was instituted on the day the school was inaugurated on 14 July 2003. Dr. Prannoy Roy was here in person to announce the award and explain its purpose and intent. The trophy is awarded to a student who has consistently demonstrated the qualities of a whole person, who has shown in many ways that he/she has the makings of a Leader, a servant leader who has gone beyond self to make a substantial difference to a section of society.

Niharika's passion and acclamation in community service and empowerment of women along with her consistently meritorious record in academics and co-curricular activities has enabled her to be the recipient of this award. Her work has resulted in enhanced levels of Maths and Science in IICS and an Orphanage close by. She has served on the student council and has demonstrated exemplary qualities of head and heart.

The Eagle award will be given to any student not holding a leadership position but through self-motivation has displayed the philosophy of the school through action and commitment. The first recipient of this award is Kareena Fagwani. Kareena raised the Indus International Community School football team to a level of participation and victory in interschool matches. Please refer **Appendix I** for the list of students who were facilitated and awarded.

27<sup>th</sup> March was also a night to celebrate the end of a phase in life, through the Prom Nite. This year's theme was 'James Bond', which added to the glitter and glamour of the evening. The DJ set the pace and had all on the dance floor.

We congratulate Manjul Pahwa of Grade 11 who has been selected to participate in the Summer Science Program (SSP) which is a residential enrichment program in which 35 gifted high school students from around the world are selected to complete a challenging, hands-on research project in celestial mechanics. Students are engaged each day to learn college-

level astronomy, physics, calculus, and programming. By night, working in teams of three, they apply what they have learned to take telescopic observations of a near-earth asteroid, then write software to calculate the asteroid's orbit around the sun.

The PYP Action team initiated **Earth Hour** on Friday, March 22, 2013 from 2 to 3 pm. Indus teachers and students made sure that all non-essential electrical usage was powered down. Some of the children took an extra step and researched about Earth Hour at home and pledged to initiate Earth Hour in their communities as well. It is not just about saving energy for that one hour, but it symbolizes the first step in the direction of adopting eco-friendly activities into everyday life, which will lead the way towards a cleaner environment and a sustainable lifestyle.

The theme for this month's Mufti day in the PYP was Mismatch March which brought out children's creativity in their attire. Braids, pigtails, uniforms with casual clothes, mismatched socks, shoes and colorful accessories ...name it and they had it all.

Dr. Khaizer, our PYP counselor organized guest lectures for the Wellness in PYP. Some of the speakers were also Indus parents, Ms. Shilpi Chauhan and Dr. Sonali Agarwal. The students of Grades 4 and 5 learnt about Discipline, Time management and Problem solving. Students of Prep2, Grade 1 and 2 gained knowledge about Health and Hygiene practices

This month we hosted Rose – Hulman Institute of Technology, US on campus. Indus Counseling also played host to a group of senior educators from the National Institute of Education : National University of Singapore. Good Luck to the students registered for the ACT exam to be held in Bangalore on 13<sup>th</sup> April! The last date for registering for the May 4, 2013 SAT exam is April 5, 2013.

Our CAS work has continued through the house visions. The students from the Hercules House collected about 250 books from PYP and Scholastic Publishers. These books have been added to the existing collection at IICS. Accession numbers are being added to these books and will be completed by 10<sup>th</sup> April. The total so far is 1500 books from Hercules House in the IICS Library.

As per the syllabus decided by the students of the Orion House all the worksheets have been completed. This will culminate with a student evaluation to gauge their performance and teaching efficiency.

Science Lab Manuals have been printed for Grade 3, 4 & 5 and the ones for Grade 6, 7 & 8 will be printed by Spring Break by the Phoenix House.

IICS Yearbook, an initiative by the Pegasus House was released on 27<sup>th</sup> March, the Leadership Summit Day.

Grade 11 students have continued the English Reading Program for the Junior Grades at IICS & Kalahalli Orphanage. Each IISB student has been paired with 2-3 students of IICS & Kalahalli Orphanage. Worksheets were given to each student and their buddies worked with them. Reading, Understanding and Reproducing are three focus areas in this program.

Grade 6, 7 & 8 students were paired with IICS students of Grades 3, 4 & 5 for a regular Reading Programme. Along with this the students were also a part of the Reading Programme and Experiential Programme at Kalahalli Orphanage.

The Mock Exams for Grades 10 and 12 were conducted as per schedule from March 1 to 15. Students have been given a feedback. We thank parents who were able to make it for the PTM on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Mid Term Test 2 Assessment Report on TCS was ready for viewing on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. We also thank parents who attended the PTM on the 16<sup>th</sup> that was meant for grades 6 to 9 and 11. The IBT Results were announced and reports were handed over to the students on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Holiday homework has been sent to the students of Grades 6 upward. The students who were part of the orchestra have been provided with notes and power point presentations. The Recovery Timetable has also been sent to the parent.

In order to make up for the Academic subjects missed by students due to the choir and orchestra practice, the Leadership Curriculum periods and Zero periods (from 8th April to 1st May ), were converted and the Time Table for the above was sent to the Parents on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The topics to be covered by the subject teachers, from 25th Feb to 25th March for the MSP were also sent.

The ABRSM (Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music) examination was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013.

The MSP Gender Sensitization Workshop was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March by Dr Khaiser and Ms Vidhi Sharma.

The Back to School Test in Math and English will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 for Grades 6 to 9 and 11.

In the February newsletter we mentioned that Diya Sakhuja, of Grade 11 had bagged the second position in the Greenwood High Swimming Competition. We stand corrected as she in fact claimed the first position.

The Inter house football tournament for the students of Grades 6 to 8 on 20th and 21st of March was one in which spirits ran high. The results-

| Sl. No. | House    | Place     |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| 1       | Pegasus  | Winners   |
| 2       | Phoenix  | Runner Up |
| 3       | Hercules | 3rd Place |
| 4       | Orion    | 4th Place |

The Malaysia Schools Swimming meet was held from 26th Feb 2013 to 28th Feb 2013 at Seremban Swim Center, Malaysia. 15 Swimmers from Indus International School took part in this meet. A total number of 456 students from 88 teams participated in this meet. Besides tough competitions from Malaysian swimmers, our swimmers performed very well in their respective age group categories and showed improvement with better timings. In the Group II male category, the team that included Joshua Wayne Strydom, Ethan Jacob Utting, Ram Rershan, Gibran Merchant, and Krishnam Duggal won the Bronze Medal in the 4x100 m Medley Relay. All our swimmers gained very good experience at this meet and are motivated to do their best in upcoming swimming meets. Please refer to **Appendix II** for the results:

We congratulate Heman for his recent achievements. In the Kolhapur, Double Crown Tournament conducted by the All India Tennis Association, he was the Runner up in the Under 14 Category. In a similar tournament at Vijayawada he was a Semi-finalist. In the tournament held in Dubai he emerged winner beating participants from the UAE, Spain, Russia, South Africa to name a few.

The MSP and PYP student had gone for a chess event in Bhubaneswar from 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Atharva Barve of PYP won the best unrated player award in the 2000 category. In a chess event where more than 400 players participated, this is a great achievement.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Principals' Conference was held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013. It was time well spent as it was interactive. The conference had all the Principals and Coordinators of the Indus group of schools in attendance chaired by the CEO of Indus Trust.

The Spring Break is a time to rejuvenate, despite the heat that has set in. It is a short but relaxing time with family. When we return on April 8<sup>th</sup>, the rest of this session will witness a strong focus on academics.

Regards,

Mrs. Sarojini Rao  
Principal  
Indus International School, Bangalore

## Appendix I

### GRADUATION DAY AWARDS

#### Prannoy Roy Award:

- 1) Niharika Neela

#### Valedictorian Award:

- 1) Disha Nataraj
- 2) Anvita Pandit

#### Eagle Award:

- 1) Kareena Fagwani

#### Young Achievers Award:

- 1) Neisha Vinayan Nair – Music
- 2) Sruthi Swaminathan - Music
- 3) Akarshan Giroti – Sports(Taekwondo)
- 4) Anitej B Rao – Sports (Football)
- 5) Apoorv Bhagat – Sports (Soccer)
- 6) Valliappa Chockalingam - best behavior student/ most dedicated student
- 7) Viraj Samuel Henry Vaz - Music
- 8) Akarshan Giroti - Sports and Music
- 9) Sonia Sharma- Community service
- 10) Shingo Kunito – Sports (Swimming)
- 11) Ehsaan Najmi – Sports (Soccer)
- 12) Aparna Passey – Community Service
- 13) Roohi Bykod – Contribution to House Vision
- 14) Sucheta Bangalore – Contribution to Community Service
- 15) Rahul Manay – Contribution to Sports and House Vision
- 16) Nikhil Nandagopal – Contribution to Dramatics
- 17) Vick Rekhi – Contribution to Dramatics
- 18) Lavanya Valluri – Contribution to Dance
- 19) Kanjiran Lerdkornpradit– Contribution to Sports (Swimming)

## SUBJECT AWARDS

| <b>Subject</b>                    | <b>Student Award</b>                               |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| BIOLOGY HL                        | Niharika Neela                                     |
| BIOLOGY HL                        | Bavna Bhagavat                                     |
| BIOLOGY SL                        | Aditi Bali   |
| BUS.& MAN. HL                     | Akshay Rayan Sugandi                               |
| CHEMISTRY HL                      | Anvita Pandit                                      |
| CHEMISTRY SL                      | Masumi Padhye                                      |
| COMPUTER SC. HL                   | Talin Singh  |
| ECONOMICS HL                      | Srestha Balachander                                |
| ECONOMICS SL                      | Valliappa Chockalingam                             |
| ENGLISH A1 HL                     | Bavna Bhagavat, Sivani<br>Sivani, Abhaya Tatavarti |
| ENGLISH A1 SL                     | Sonia Sharma, Disha Natraj                         |
| ENGLISH A1 SL                     | Valliappa Chockalingam                             |
| ENGLISH B HL                      | Chan Yong Jin                                      |
| ENGLISH B SL                      | Kanjiran Lerdkornpradit                            |
| ENV. AND SOC. SL                  | Nishtha Prasad                                     |
| FRENCH AB. SL                     | Disha Natraj                                       |
| FRENCH B HL                       | Nishtha Prasad                                     |
| FRENCH B SL                       | Anvita Pandit                                      |
| GEOGRAPHY HL                      | Dushyant Naresh                                    |
| GERMAN AB. SL                     | Akarshan Giroti                                    |
| HINDI B HL                        | Vedant Grover                                      |
| HINDI B SL                        | Apoorv Bhagat & Chaitanya<br>Sai V                 |
| HIST. EUROPE/ME -<br>COMMUNISM HL | Anvita Pandit                                      |
| HISTORY 2 - COMMUNISM<br>SL       | Sonia Sharma                                       |
| ITGS SL                           | Young Woon Na                                      |
| MATH.STUDIES SL                   | Rishi Sankhyayan                                   |
| MATHEMATICS SL                    | Bavna Bhagavat                                     |
| MATHEMATICS HL                    | Anvita Pandit                                      |
| PHYSICS HL                        | Anvita Pandit/ Disha<br>Nataraj                    |
| PHYSICS SL                        | Nikhil Nandagopal/ Sivani<br>Sivani                |
| PSYCHOLOGY HL                     | Aditi Bali/ Sucheta Suman<br>Bangalore             |
| PSYCHOLOGY SL                     | Aditi Sharma                                       |
| SPANISH AB. SL                    | Valliappa Chockalingam/                            |

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                         | Vincent Mauduit         |
| SPANISH B SL            | Aditi Sharma            |
| SPANISH B HL            | Mansi Khatwani          |
| VISUAL ARTS OPTION A HL | Nivethana Krishnamurthy |
| VISUAL ARTS OPTION A SL | Kanjiran Lerdkornpradit |

## Appendix II

### THE MALAYSIA SCHOOLS SWIMMING MEET

| SL NO | NAME                                       | GRADE | AGE GP | EVENT  | POSN   |
|-------|--|-------|--------|--|--|
| 1     | ZACHARY<br>MICHAEL YACH                    | 11    | I      | 200 m Breaststroke<br>100 m Freestyle<br>50 m Butterfly Stroke<br>200 m Backstroke<br>100 m Butterfly Stroke<br>200 m Individual Medley<br>200 m Freestyle<br>50 m Breaststroke              | 5 <sup>th</sup><br>9 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup><br>4 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup><br>7 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup><br>7 <sup>th</sup> |
| 2     | JANIK GERLACH                              | 11    | I      | 100 m Backstroke<br>50 m Freestyle<br>200 m Freestyle  | 6 <sup>th</sup><br>11 <sup>th</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup>  |
| 3     | CHRISTIAN CIRILO<br>MARIA GOMES<br>PEREIRA | 09    | 1      | 200 m Breaststroke<br>100 m Freestyle<br>200 m Backstroke<br>50 m Freestyle<br>200 m Individual Medley<br>50 m Backstroke<br>50 m Breaststroke   | 6 <sup>th</sup><br>16 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup><br>13 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup>                 |
| 4     | KRISHNAM<br>DUGGAL                         | 09    | II     | 4 x 100 m Medley Relay<br>50 m Freestyle<br>100 m Freestyle<br>50 m Breaststroke<br>4 x 100 m Freestyle Relay  | <b>BRONZE</b><br>15 <sup>th</sup><br>11 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 5     | ETHAN JACOB<br>UTTING                      | 07    | II     | 4 x 100 m Medley Relay<br>50 m Butterfly Stroke<br>100 m Backstroke<br>4 x 100 m Freestyle Relay<br>200 m Backstroke<br>200 m Individual Medley<br>50 m Backstroke<br>100 m Butterfly Stroke | <b>BRONZE</b><br>13 <sup>th</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup><br>4 <sup>th</sup><br>12 <sup>th</sup><br>11 <sup>th</sup>                  |

|    |                         |    |     |   |  |
|----|-------------------------|----|-----|---|--|
| 6  | RAM DERSHAN             | 09 | II  | 4 x 100 m Medley Relay<br>200 m Breaststroke<br>100 m Breaststroke<br>50 m Breaststroke   | <b>BRONZE</b><br>10 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup><br>12 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 7  | GIBRAN ZOEB<br>MERCHANT | 09 | II  | 4 x 100 m Medley Relay<br>4 x 100 m Freestyle Relay<br>50 m Freestyle<br>50 m Backstroke<br>100 m Breaststroke  | <b>BRONZE</b><br>5 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 8  | JOSHUA WAYNE<br>STRYDOM | 07 | II  | 4 x 100 m Medley Relay<br>4 x 100 m Freestyle Relay<br>200 m Breaststroke<br>50 m Butterfly Stroke<br>100 m Backstroke<br>100 m Butterfly Stroke<br>200 m Individual Medley | <b>BRONZE</b><br>5 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup><br>11 <sup>th</sup><br>7 <sup>th</sup><br>7 <sup>th</sup><br>9 <sup>th</sup>         |
| 9  | DRISYA ANTOSE           | 07 | II  | 100 m Freestyle<br>50 m Butterfly Stroke<br>50 m Freestyle<br>200 m Freestyle   | 10 <sup>th</sup><br>9 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 10 | LENE SOPHIA<br>STRYDOM  | 05 | III | 100 m Freestyle<br>100 m Backstroke<br>50 m Freestyle<br>50 m Backstroke<br>100 m Breaststroke<br>200 m Freestyle<br>50 m Breaststroke                                      | 17 <sup>th</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup><br>19 <sup>th</sup><br>14 <sup>th</sup><br>11 <sup>th</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup><br>11 <sup>th</sup> |
| 11 | GOKUL GANESAN           | 05 | III | 50 m Freestyle<br>50 m Backstroke   | 34 <sup>th</sup><br>22 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| 12 | NARAYAN ROY             | 04 | III | 100 m Freestyle<br>50 m Freestyle<br>100 m Breaststroke<br>50 m Breaststroke<br>50 m Backstroke   | 14 <sup>th</sup><br>24 <sup>th</sup><br>15 <sup>th</sup><br>17 <sup>th</sup>   |
| 13 | YUI TAKEMURA            | 04 | IV  | 50 m Freestyle<br>50 m Backstroke<br>50 m Breaststroke  | 14 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup><br>12 <sup>th</sup>  |

|    |               |    |    |   |  |
|----|---------------|----|----|---|--|
| 14 | ERICA WEIMANN | 04 | IV | 50 m Freestyle<br>50 m Backstroke<br>50 m Breaststroke                    | 6 <sup>th</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup><br>10 <sup>th</sup>                    |
| 15 | KIRAN ANTOSE  | 04 | IV | 100 m Freestyle<br>50 m Freestyle<br>200 m Freestyle<br>50 m Breaststroke | 7 <sup>th</sup><br>16 <sup>th</sup><br>6 <sup>th</sup><br>22 <sup>nd</sup> |