

March 2016 | From the Principal's Desk

"The path to success is paved with small wins. Even the grandest and most glorious victories rest on a string of modest but constructive steps forward."

- *Robert I. Sutton*

Dear Parents,

March has always been an exciting month in which we strive to keep the balance between academic time and rehearsal time for the Indus Day celebration.

It is no easy feat to train 137 students within a span of four months to play in the Indus Orchestra. Many of our youngsters did have an appreciation of music, but had not played an instrument before. The tireless efforts of the Head of the Department of Music, Mr. Joseph Maccanna and his team combined with the zealous and committed involvement of our students enabled the 137-strong Orchestra to play a selection of classical music on the 11th of March. The Choir comprising of 106 children were no less brilliant than the Orchestra. They certainly got the audience in the groove with their 'Final Countdown' and 'I want to break free'.

The evening of performing arts had a good balance of dance and drama. True to the school's philosophy of 'Think Globally and Act Locally', we had a graceful *Bharathanatyam* performance by our girls who have all done their formal '*Arangetram*'. The attire, rhythm and bhavna spell-bound the audience. The Fusion dance was a fine complement to this with its vigor and speed.

Jean Anouilh's play '*Antigone*', an adaptation of Sophocles' '*Antigone*' was executed to the point of perfection. The students who performed got into the character and each one did his/her best. It spelt sophistication and style. Drama is a reflection of life, and life does have its share of conflict: the Hindi play '*Badalti Sabhyata aur Sanskriti*' humorously portrayed this clash of ideas and values between generations.

The Indus Orchestra and Choir has grown from strength to strength, and every year the standard that they establish for themselves have been steadily increasing. It was delightful to see the clockwork precision with which the events unfolded and the tremendous appreciation

and applause of the audience. All this made one thing evident, that Indus is indeed a 'Holistic School'.

PYP:

It was a busy month in the PYP. Grade 1 celebrated Grandparents Day on March 16th to get a peek into the 'daily life' of the past and to understand how things have changed over time. Students warmly welcomed grandparents to class and heard anecdotes about their experiences of the past. They engaged in group interactions and prepared questionnaires to interview grandparents. Students were able to clearly make connections with the many changes in technology and life style over the years.

Grade 1 visited the Government Museum on March 18th to deepen their understanding of the central idea 'Personal Histories connect the Past to the Present'. Our young learners were quite surprised to see the earthen pots, metal weaponry, and a variety of musical instruments used in the past. Children curiously peered at the display of ancient jewelry and the rich collection of bronze and silver coins. The stone monolith inscriptions particularly fascinated them. These insightful observations further lead to thoughtful student reflections.

The Prep 1 Leadership Camp on 22nd March saw students of Reception and Prep 1 enjoy their leadership camp, wherein students participated in team building activities such as Caterpillar walk, Bumper guard, Egg hunt and Potato hoppers. The objective of each game was to make children work towards building communication skills, trusting each other's judgments, accepting failure and developing commitment so as to complete tasks.

On 23rd March, students of Prep 2 participated in many team games during their leadership camp. Through these games they learned what it means to gain and develop mutual trust, as well as how to support each other and work as a team by concentrating on the instructions given by peers. Some of the games they engaged in were Mine field, Bumper guard, tug-of-war and Air raid, which were followed up by a time of self-reflection on the personal learning experiences.

The Grade 3 Leadership Camp witnessed 'Growth-Mindset in action', where students were open-minded and willing to take risks. Through the different engagements and group activities, students encouraged their peers and worked out strategies to achieve their goal. The highlight of the camp was the rope course, which the students were determined to attempt and complete successfully. They tried to overcome their fear and other factors that were potential roadblocks and went on to take up the challenge.

The students of Grade 4 showcased their understanding of the central idea 'People apply their understanding of forces to invent machines', through a gallery walk. This end of unit

celebration, under the trans-disciplinary theme 'How the world works', was held on 7th March. Grade 4 parents along with the students of Grades 3 and 5 attended the event. They explained how machines help make our work easier as they displayed the models of machines they had invented. They spoke about the problem that their machine solved and the forces and simple machines that made their machine function. Students had also worked in groups to create confetti launchers and a couch potato game and excitedly showed these off as well.

MSP & IGCSE:

In March, it was the turn for the Grade 6 students to go for their leadership camps at Yellagiri. The students eagerly await for these camps as they provide a great learning and team building experience.

With Grade 8 launching into the IGCSE syllabus, the after school support classes for Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English are being conducted from Monday to Friday from 03:30 to 04:45pm. Study circles are also being conducted for the MSP students on Mondays and Wednesdays after school to address incomplete and delayed submission of assignments.

The March series IGCSE was conducted as per the schedule. We also conducted the Grade 10 Mock examination for the Set 2 subjects and for the non-fast track students.

MSP had their first completely student-led assembly this month. This initiative has been introduced to get the students to showcase their talents in front of a larger audience and thus increase their confidence levels. This will also help increase student bonding among the MSP students. They have been conducting practice sessions for this after school.

DP:

The Grade 12 students have been busy with the submission of their written assignments. They also appeared for their mock exams in March.

CAS:

CAS activity in the Diploma Programme and in the Middle School is an on-going process as each house continued work that fosters their respective house visions.

The **Pegasus** house students continued with their efforts to foster entrepreneurship by selling the candles that they have produced. They have also seen through the completion of the advanced beautician course for the under privileged women in the community. This was introduced as a means to empower them by providing vocational training.

The Pegasus house students in the middle school have been engaged in various activities towards the maintenance of the vegetable garden, where they have been digging, ploughing, sowing seeds and watering the plants.

The **Phoenix** house students have already started brainstorming ideas for the Leadership Summit of Indus International Community School (IICS) for next year. The sanitary napkin production, which is an endeavor to spread the idea of health and hygiene to the neighboring, under-privileged community is taking place at a set pace and the students have been involved in the production and the fund- raising activities.

Another group of Phoenix house students have been pursuing their project of doing 50 Acts of Kindness. As a part of this, they have been collecting materials to make up first aid boxes and hygiene boxes for the IICS students.

The **Hercules** house students had taken it up on themselves to do their bit in saving our natural resources and reduce waste by recycling paper. They aimed to do this by collecting old books from which they recovered unused paper to make useful booklets. They are now planning to start another procurement drive for used books. Meanwhile, fund raising to buy a recycling machine is an ongoing process. The middle school students have been also working on their Shoe box and quilt making projects which they plan to donate to orphanages.

The **Orion** house students have taken up the responsibility of publishing the school magazine for the community school and they have started brainstorming ideas for next year's magazine. They will also be involved in fund raising for the same.

As a part of setting a mobile library, the middle school students have been involved in a book collection drive. They went through an orientation session by the school librarian to understand about cataloging and categorizing the books that they have collected.

Sports:

The Indus cricket team took part in the Sri Lanka International Cricket Tour which was held in Sri Lanka, Colombo from 21st February to 28th February 2016. The juniors in the U12 Cricket team rose to the winner's position by winning 5 matches out of 8 matches played. The motor qualities and the skills executed by the students in playing the matches was excellent.

Siddharth of grade 6 was won the Best Bowler Award. Monish Reddy of grade 7 was declared the Best Batsman.

The senior Indus cricket team won 3 matches out of the 8 matches played. Ashwin T of grade 9 won the Best Bowler Award and Aditya E of grade 11 was won the Best Batsman Award. The participants list is attached in Appendix 1.

There were inter-house matches in football, badminton and basketball conducted for grades 6 to 8. The results of these matches are attached in Appendix 2.

Boarding:

A health talk was organized for our boarding students in March. Dr. Syed Akram from the Apollo Clinic, Bellandur addressed our boarders on healthy eating habits which covered various aspects of diet and nutrition, calorie intake, fats and protein requirement. He also spoke on healthy living life style which included sleep and exercise. Substance abuse in various forms were also spelt out to the children and the harm that it causes to their bodies. This interactive session created an awareness that our students need.

Placements:

The Placement Cell has been busy with assisting the completion of applications to universities in Canada. They have also helped students prepare for interviews with universities through their mock sessions. University visits for Boston University, University of Chicago and Johns Hopkins were also scheduled. The Director of Placements attended the Delhi Conference sponsored by Test Racker and ACT and in his presentation addressed "How to Improve an International College Office".

IB Workshops:

As part of professional learning and development, teachers attended subject specific IB Workshops, which were conducted in Bangalore and Hyderabad. Selected senior staff attended the IB Asia Pacific Conference at Hyderabad which brought in over 1000 delegates from across the region. This was a mega event organized by IB Asia Pacific for future planning, curriculum exposition and higher education collaborations and networking opportunities for IB Schools in the Asia Pacific Region. This provided an excellent platform for IB practitioners to attend sessions that addressed all three programmes conducted by experienced and renowned IB Workshop Leaders.

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 4th, the rest of this session will gather momentum and focus on completing what has been planned, effectively.

Regards,
Mrs. Sarojini Rao
Principal
Indus International School, Bangalore

Appendix 1:

Students who participated in the Sri Lanka Tour Cricket Tournament:

Sl No	Name	Grade
1.	Ritvik Elan	5
2.	Aadiv Suresh Reki	5
3.	Dev Veer Singh	5
4.	Varun Venkatesh	6
5.	Ayan Sapru	6
6.	Arham Srisrimal	6
7.	Chaitanya Khandelwal	6
8.	Siddhant Agarwal	6
9.	Deep Devanbhai Marwadi	7
10.	Krishi Prakash Koliwad	7
11.	Monish Reddy	7
12.	Yerram Reddy	7
13.	Luqman Danyal Hakim	7
14.	Avyaya Anasapurapu	8
15.	Nittin Ashok Murugan	9
16.	Ashwin Tantia	9
17.	Pranav Byakod	9
18.	Abhay Khandelwal	9
19.	Sarthak Gupta	11
20.	Aditya Nathamuni Elayavalli	7
21.	Rebhanth Amin	7
22.	Prit Ketan Shobhana	8
23.	Ronit Lachhwani	7

Appendix 2:

Results of the Inter-house Football, Badminton and Basketball matches conducted for Grades 6-8 on the 21st and 22nd March 2016:

Football Tournament:

Sl.No	House Name	Result	Points
1	Hercules	Winner	10
2	Phoenix	Runner	7
3	Orion	Third Place	5
4	Pegasus	Fourth Place	3

Badminton Tournament:

Category	House	Position	Points
Junior Boys Grade- 6 To 8	Pegasus	I	10
	Phoenix	II	7
	Hercules	III	5
	Orion	VI	3

Category	House	Position	Points
Junior Girls Grade- 6 To 8	Phoenix	I	10
	Pegasus	II	7
	Orion	III	5
	Hercules	VI	3

Total House Points in Badminton

Category	House	Points
All	Phoenix	17
	Pegasus	17
	Orion	8
	Hercules	8

Basketball Match:

Category	House	Position	Points
Junior Boys Grade- 6 To 8	Phoenix	I	10
	Pegasus	II	7
	Hercules	III	5

GRAND TOTAL

House	Position	Points
Phoenix	I	34
Pegasus	II	27
Hercules	III	23
Orion	IV	13