



From the Principal's Desk: June 2015

"Dream by day. Get going. Aim high. Change your attitude to gain altitude."

Dear Parents,

The summer break is the best time for seeing places, meeting people and having fun and is also the right time to fuel oneself with positivity and allow that fuel to propel each of our students into positive thought and action.

Primary Years Program: 12th June marked the end of a much-happening academic year and the beginning of the summer break. In the PYP, 9th June was the **Awards Day**. Each child was presented an Appreciation Certificate celebrating his/her individuality. Some of the parent volunteers also received certificates for their contribution and support through the year.

The **Student Led Conference** in the PYP lends an opportunity for students to take their parents through their journey of learning, which is documented in their portfolios. It is a profound session for students as they reflect on their academic year and share their strengths, areas of excellence, challenges, areas of growth and their most noteworthy learning experiences.

Guest Address: Mr. Dilip Thakore, founder-editor of Education World, addressed the faculty across the three programmes on 13th June. Mr. Thakore was the founder-editor of Business India and Business World. His address focused on leadership lessons that teachers in particular gain from Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of thought and its relevance in today's life. With such vast experience, it was

rightly appropriate to have had Mr. Thakore to release the Magazines. We were also honoured to have Ms. Summiya Yasmeen, Managing Editor, Education World, during the address.

School Magazines: The PYP magazine 'Metamorphosis towards a better me' on 13th June, encapsulates the transformations, small and big that our children have undergone during this year. It includes the creativity honed through the years and also collective actions, thoughts and aspirations and achievements that were in spotlight this academic year. Our children have proved what J K Rowling, Author, said, "We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all of the power we need inside ourselves already."

The Senior School Magazine covers a two year period that chronicles reflections, creativity, experiences and is brought alive through vibrant photographs.

Literary Fest: The Literary Fest in the Middle School Programme after the Final Examination aimed at promoting reading, creativity and critical thinking among our students to unlock the power of reading through multi-sensory experiences. The overall idea was to help our students meet their favorite authors, story tellers, illustrators in one roof and to engage in different literary games which will encourage reading/writing habits with literary skills. Some of the authors who visited during the fest, were Mr. Ram G Vallath - one of our parents, Ms. Shalini Srinivasan, Ms. Archit Taneja, Ms. Suzanne Sangi and Ms. Revathi Suresh. In the PYP we had two story tellers, Ms. Navnita Kedar and Ms. Tripti Srikanth from Storywallahs. We sincerely hope that they read during the vacation and are able to reflect and write a critical appreciation of at least two books that they have read.

IB Diploma Programme: In the Diploma Programme the ToK camp was a concentrated session that benefitted all who attended. Students in the Pre IB Programme completed the course with a test that assessed their learning and understanding of the course.

The Career Counselling Cell conducted a seminar for Grades 10 and 11 on the test-taking of the SAT and ACT. As always they have been busy with family meetings and processing of documents for university admissions.

Addressing Teachers and Staff: In my end of Term Address to the teachers on 11th June, I highlighted all that we have achieved during the year. The overall increase in academic performance in the IGCSE, IBDP and ACER bear testimony to our belief in Whole Education not at the cost of academic excellence. Our numbers in the Diploma Programme have gone up. There has been more student participation in the choir and orchestra. Our student council has made a difference to the underprivileged around through the completion of the respective house visions, which of course will continue with the newly elected body. It was also a time to acknowledge the hard work that the teachers and staff have put in.

Central Leadership Retreat: 14th June saw a group of 24 of us that included our CEO, Lt. Gen Arjun Ray leave for Colombo to attend the first Track Three Leadership Retreat, at Hotel Mount Lavinia. Away from Bangalore, Colombo afforded the ideal setting for all to focus on ourselves and what we need to do. We spent three days in this retreat sharing our Personal Visions and our Legacy Statements with a five year plan for each, to take it forward. We believe that we need to work on both our horizontal as well as our vertical growth. Retreats like this are imperative for our spiritual growth.

The vacation is an ideal time to relax. It is an opportunity to rejuvenate. Do have a wonderful holiday!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Sarojini Rao
Principal
Indus International School, Bangalore