



**June 2017**

**From the Principal's Desk**

*“Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds, widen their horizons and inflame their intellects.” - Robert M. Hutchins*

Dear Parents,

The summer break is here and for many of us, this is a time of celebration and excitement as we watch our students' transition and graduate. However, it is also important to take time to reflect and introspect on the year gone by and to take stock of how we have grown and changed in what we do. This will help us plan the path for teaching and learning in the new academic session.

The month of June saw the culmination of the year gone by in all aspects of school life across the Primary, Middle and Senior School Programmes.

In the Primary Years Programme, it was indeed a proud moment when the students showcased their portfolios and shared details of their journey of learning across all disciplines at the *Student Led Conference*. They highlighted their accomplishments to their parents and also took them through the process they undertook to overcome the challenges that came their way.

The *PYP Awards Day* which was held on June 02<sup>nd</sup> ensured to recognise every student for their efforts towards displaying different attributes of the learner profile and attitude. Further, members of the parent body were also felicitated for their valuable contribution to the PYP during the course of this academic session.

The ambience in the Sports Complex was filled with excitement on June 01<sup>st</sup> during the *Robotics Competition* which aimed at testing the students' skills as well as

competencies such as critical, analytical and logical thinking. The competition also tested the students' skills in reflection, fixing and resetting apart from their knowledge of robotics.

We would like to appreciate *Yash Iyer* (Grade 4) who participated at the Robofest 2017 World Championship at Florida. Yash participated in the Junior Bottle Sumo competition and we are certain that this enriching environment takes him forward on his journey towards excellence.

The end of this session also saw the release of the PYP Magazine, '*Fledgling-The Kaleidoscope*'. This comprehensive and collaborative effort of the PYP team wonderfully captures the myriad hues of the PYP in the year gone by and has contributions from all PYP stakeholders- students, parents and teachers. It showcases the PYP and its holistic approach to teaching and learning. We are certain that this magazine will make for an engaging read and be a treasured keepsake in your family.

The *Middle and Senior School* students appeared for their *final examinations*, which ended on June 09<sup>th</sup> and students of Grades 6 to 8 began their summer break thereafter. Students of Grades 9 and 11 had an extra week of classes. During this week, the Grade 11 students attended a TOK Camp. Further, like the Grade 9 students, they too reviewed their final examination answer scripts and got specific feedback on their performance from their teachers along with the areas they need to focus on, moving forward. The Grade 11 students also completed logging in their CAS details for this academic session and submitted all documents to the CAS Coordinator.

The final round of interviews to choose the members of the new *Student Council* were also scheduled in the final week of school. I will be announcing the results in August during a special assembly.

The *SIMS reports for Reporting Cycle D* for all grades were published in the third week of June.

*The Eagle Annual* for 2016-2017 was also released this month. It is a representation of the middle and senior school which showcases the creativity and latent skills of the students who have contributed articles, art work and poems. The magazine is truly a wonderful compilation of thoughts, photographs and articles that capture meaningful moments of the year gone by.

However, it is important to acknowledge that there was a typo in the details provided in the magazine regarding the Senior School Aquatic Meet. On pages 235 and 236,

instead of Siddharth Sharma, the magazine reads the winner as Siddharth Chakravarthy. We apologise for this error. *Siddharth Sharma* won a bronze in the 4x25mts boys freestyle relay (Under 12 & 14 category) as well as a gold medal in the 4x25mts boys medley relay (Under 12 & 14 category).

The *Women's Empowerment projects* will see students, housemasters and participants even working over the summer break. Sessions in tailoring, distribution of sanitary napkins at Indus International Community School (IICS), making products from recycled paper and spoken English sessions have been organised. Further, plans are currently being drawn up to consolidate on the success these projects have seen thus far and how to improve on this in the months to follow.

The *Placements and Career Counselling* team have been busy planning for the new academic session where they are looking at hosting more university visits starting this August and are also looking at conducting workshops for students of Grades 10, 11 and 12. The team also continued to update data on Naviance pertaining to the current Grade 9 and 10 students who appeared for their PSAT examinations.

The *Boarding Houses*, which saw students working long hours at the start of the month in view of their final examinations saw a lot of hustle and bustle after June 09<sup>th</sup>. The excitement of the summer break and returning home to family was quite natural and students were kept busy organising and packing their personal items and they were assisted by members of the pastoral team in their travel plans. We are certain that the experience of the year gone by and of the friendships established by each boarder during the course of this year will make for beautiful and happy memories which they will cherish for a long time.

Between June 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, teachers from all three Indus Schools who are part of Leadership Teacher Track 2 attended the *26<sup>th</sup> Central Leadership Retreat* in Bangalore. In his opening address, the CEO, General Ray, emphasized the importance to continuously reinvent ourselves (self and organisation) in this VUCA world so as to gain competitive advantage. Gen Ray said that the most effective way of doing so would be by building a culture of innovation. Other aspects addressed during the retreat were Vision Alignment, Institutionalising a Legacy (through leadership, innovation and strong faculty), Succession Planning (through Team of Teams, Deep Reading and Leadership Curriculum), Visualisation techniques and Learning as a core skill. The participants left with food for thought and the need to plan for a more enriching, effective and successful teaching and learning environment which aims at teaching the child and not simply teaching the subject. The focus has to be on developing skills and competencies required by a 21<sup>st</sup> century learner.

As we come to the end of the 2016-2017 session, I would like to *thank the students, parents, teachers and staff* for the success we have seen this year. I am thankful to our students who have been open to new ideas, new concepts, new experiences and who put in significant effort into becoming more skilled and knowledgeable citizens. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff have been extremely professional and open minded in helping us achieve our goals. I believe that the parent body at Indus is the most engaged and enthusiastic and I thank you for your continuous and valuable feedback which has helped establish an effective parent-school partnership thus ensuring our students' success.

I wish you and your family a wonderful and relaxed summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back in August.

**Regards,**

**Sarojini Rao**

**Principal**

**Indus International School, Bangalore**