



August 2016

From the Principal's desk

"Persevere, unleash your passion and aim for excellence."

Dear Parents,

The month of August greeted us with the great news of being ranked No.1, yet again in the India School Rankings. Standing first for the fifth time in a row has been as a result of our continuous perseverance to excel. The survey conducted by C Fore and the result thereof, placing us once again in first position in India in the category of International Day Boarding Schools, challenges us to continue to strive for excellence.

Investiture Ceremony: August 20th marked an important day in our calendar with the Investiture. The sanctimonious ceremony was presided over by our CEO Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray. As is customary with the army band in attendance, the Student Council led by the Head Boy marched in unison. This was followed by the Oath that confirmed each council member's intention to uphold the core values of the school and fulfil the given tasks. This ceremony was different as the council members from Grade 12 had earned their positions based on how well they had worked while in Grade 11. It was a proud moment for each member across the three programmes to have their badges pinned by parents or teachers they had nominated. In a thought provoking speech, Gen Ray spoke about how parents play a big role in empowering the child.

Book Critique: While club activities met for the first session this academic year, selected teachers along with Gen Ray and me, engaged in a gripping session that

critiqued two books, namely Jonathan Livingstone Seagull by Richard Bach and Peak by Anders Ericsson.

This was the first of the Deep Reading sessions planned this year to encourage teachers to not only read but also reflect on the learning that can be applied to our lives.

Independence Day Celebrations: Grade 6 and above assembled on the DP lawns on August 15th as Gen Ray hoisted the Indian flag and Ms. Eun Jung Kim hoisted the Korean Flag to celebrate the Independence Day of each of these countries. Both the national anthems that were sung upheld the spirit of patriotism as we remembered the struggle and sacrifice that resulted in freedom. The highlight of the day was the Inter House Music Competition, Industaan Concertino. The theme this year was "Your World and Mine." Students had to compose not only the lyrics but also the music. In this close contest, the house that won the first place is Orion House and the second place was secured by Phoenix House.

Gender Sensitization Week: All teachers and students were sensitized during the week starting from 20th Aug – 26th Aug 2016 regarding POCSO (Prevention of Children against Sexual Offences) Act. The sessions for the teachers and Grade 6 and above were conducted in batches by an NGO called SASHA, headed by Ms Shweta Luthra and her team.

The aim of the sessions for the teachers was to understand the POCSO Act, which emphasizes on the No Touch Policy of the school, to sensitize the environment to observe certain behaviour that leads to such offences, the action to be taken in case of a reporting of any such incident that is filed and clarity on the repercussions of the same on the offender. The important message that emerged is that the law protects the child under all circumstances and it is harsh on the offender.

The aim of the sessions for the students was to enhance an understanding of the changes occurring to them which are natural and not to have a low self-esteem because of which they become vulnerable to child sexual abuse. They were also informed about whom to contact in case they are victimized or have knowledge of some other child being victimized. The procedures and repercussions of such an offence were also covered at length.

PYP: Though school opened for all the students on the 8th, much has happened. On 23rd August, Grade 2 teachers invited a nutritionist from Truworth Wellness, Ms. Dolly Jain to speak to the students about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and eating a balanced meal. This engagement was based on the central idea 'The choices we make affect our well-being'. She helped the students make connections and reflect on their daily routine. She also helped them understand the importance of including all food groups in their meals and live an active lifestyle.

In order to take learning beyond the four walls of the classroom to develop real-life connections, Grade 3 visited the Indus International Community School campus to interact with students of the same grade to understand the similarities and differences between the two school communities. This was in connection with the Unit of Inquiry 'How we organise ourselves'. Through this interaction, students were able to make connections and understand the needs of different communities.

To further add meaning to their learning, students also visited the village Handenahalli in the vicinity. Through this field trip, students had the opportunity of exploring a village community, to understand the working of different systems involved to ensure smooth functioning. They visited a village school, the post office and the panchayat. This experience gave rise to student questions that will be further inquired into through the unit.

Grade 5 teachers conducted a digital sensitisation workshop for Grade 5 students to guide them in being responsible digital citizens. Through interactive discussions and theme related videos, students co-constructed an understanding of what it means to be a digital citizen and how to use technology responsibly. The discussions helped students understand online behaviour, academic honesty, and most importantly, that digital rights come with an equal number of responsibilities as well. At the end of the session, the students co-created and signed a bond that reinforces the essential agreements to be responsible digital citizens. This made the workshop more meaningful and gave the students a sense of ownership, which will reflect in their level of engagement and commitment in the coming months.

The PYP Counsellor, Dr. Khaiser introduced students from Reception to Gr 5 to what is Good touch and Bad touch using various strategies like a puppet show, safety lessons on child abuse, Stranger- Danger and some educational videos. They were asked to name persons in their safe circle who they trusted, and who they felt were allowed to touch them. They were taught ways to prevent bad touch and how to face situation with strangers.

MSP, IGCSE and DP: In the senior school, the academic year has started in full swing with preparations for the Mid-Term tests which are due in September. They also attended the gender sensitisation workshops.

The IGCSE Set 2 results were published this month. The results have been encouraging as the percentage of students who scored A and above has improved considerably from last year.

The first two leadership camps for the year were also held this month, at the Indus School of Leadership at Yellagiri for two groups of Grade 12. As always, it was an

exciting camping experience for each group as it strengthened bonds through team activities.

Interschool Competitions: Our students participated in the well-known interschool competition, VIVUM 2016 that was held in TISB from 24th to 26th August. Several schools attended this fest and our students won a few prizes. The details are attached in Appendix 1.

A group of sixteen students from Indus International School represented the school at the Harvard Model United Nations Conference held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad. This was held from 12th-15th August, 2016.

The MUN provided a rich learning experience for the students as they were involved in discussions on various topics, writing their resolution papers and lobbying with delegates of other countries.

Three of our students were awarded with honourable mention in their respective committees. They are Satyajit Amin (Grade 10), Bhaavika Gupta (Grade 9) and Drisya Antose (Grade 11).

Students from across Grades 7 and 8 also participated in the Junior OAK MUN that was hosted by Oakridge International School, Bangalore. The conference was conducted over 2 days, from 26th to 27th August 2016.

Our students were recognised with the following awards:

Jibran Cutlerywala - Outstanding Delegate

Satvik Elyavalli - Honorable Mention

Aadi R. Narayan - Verbal Mention

Pratibha Pradeep - Verbal Mention

This was no mean feat, as there were close to 300 children participating in the conference. The students had a very enriching and exciting experience at the conference.

CAS: The month of August witnessed the students and teachers do the groundwork for their Community, Action and Service projects for the year. These projects play a vital role in the curriculum at Indus. Strategic planning and preparation for various house projects have been underway this month. Some of the projects taken up by the houses as a part of their house visions are installing a paper recycling machine by Hercules, low cost sanitary napkin production stage 2 by Phoenix, publishing the IICS magazine by Orion house and vocational training for women from the surrounding under privileged communities through tailoring and beautician courses, which has been taken up by Pegasus house.

Sports: It has been a busy period for the Department of Sports. The after school sessions were helpful to select students for the various teams that would compete in inter school sports events.

It gives us immense pride to announce that Indus International School won the first inter school football tournament for the academic year 2016-17. A total of 18 teams from the Bangalore region participated in the tournament. In the finals, Indus International School staged a thrilling comeback to register a 2-1 win over Vidyashilp Academy in the summit clash as curtains drew on the seven-a-side tournament, a prelude to an exclusive league for schools in the city organised by Game Changer. Rahul Rawat of Grade 11 scored two goals and was instrumental in winning the finals. Ghalib Al Halim of Grade 10 won the player of the tournament and bagged vouchers worth of Rs. 40,000. Altogether Indus International School bagged Rs. 1,50,000 worth in prizes. The names of the participants are attached in Appendix 2.

Following is the link of the newspaper coverage:

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/A-game-changer-in-every-sense/articleshow/53801230.cms>

In our endeavour to promote cricket, we played a few friendly cricket matches this month. The matches were played against :

- Ebenezer International School on 13th August
- MCC on 20th August
- Delhi Public School on 28th August.

All these matches were played with great fervour with all the teams exhibiting great calibre, until victory was claimed by Indus in all the matches. We congratulate Monish Reddy, Rebanth and Deep Marwadi, all students of Grade-8 who were awarded the "**Man of the Match**" titles in the 3 matches respectively.

The names of the participants are attached in Appendix 3.

The 4th Chess Summer Camp attracted 10 students from PYP, MSP and the DP. The first camp was a learning camp where the focus was on Chess Openings. In the second camp, the focus was on different types of positions to enhance evaluation and correct moves. The third phase of the camp, which was held from 1st to 5th August, was a chess event based on the different types of positions that stem from the Top Level of Grandmasters. This phase was a double round robin that enabled each player to play from different positions on the chequered board.

Boarding: The focus for the boarders is to enhance academic rigour through support classes that have commenced from 22nd August.

The new session commenced with an ice breaker, an evening of fun and celebration to strike a chord of family feeling. It serves as a prelude to more such gatherings when boarders meet to celebrate various festivals.

A workshop on substance abuse was organized on 13th Aug. Dr. Sunil was invited from Cadabams de-addiction centre to create an awareness among the students of Grade 9 upward on the deleterious effects on the human body as a result of alcohol, smoking and substance abuse. Students were free to ask questions which were well answered.

On 27th August CARE – Charlie's Animal Rescue Centre conducted a session on animal care. This was informative and well received.

Placements: The Placement Cell has finished preparing the Indian transcripts for class of 2016 attending Indian colleges. They have also been busy with one-on-one meetings with parents besides meeting students as well. The work on Naviance is on and workshops have been conducted for parents, teachers and the students of Grade 12.

The Placement Cell hosted visits from many universities in August like the University Of Aberdeen, Glasgow, Essex, Bristol, Carleton and Dalhousie. Besides this, a College fair was also organised on 30th August, where several top universities like The Pennsylvania State University, Ryerson University, Suffolk University, Syracuse University number of Universities from the US visited us. These visits help to open up several career options for our students.

As we embark on this journey of the new academic year, we will continue to encourage our students to dream deep as we believe that every dream precedes a goal.

Regards,

Mrs. Sarojini Rao

Principal

Appendix 1: Results of VIVUM conducted at TISB (24th – 26th August)

MOOT COURT – Indus team beat NPS in the semi-finals, and Bishop Cotton in the finals, and emerged winners – stood first. The participants were:

- Gautam Malhotra (grade 12)
- Kunal Ranger (grade 12)
- Satyajit Amin (grade 10)

IMPROV – Indus team bagged the first prize after defeating 12 other school participants. The participants were:

- Karam Poddar (grade 12)
- Yohaam Dalal (grade 10)
- Prerna Agarwal (grade 9)
- Satyajit Amin (grade 10)
- Ishita Ashish Sawant (grade 11)
- Vibhuti Amin (grade 9)

Appendix 2:

Inter School Football against Vidya Shilp :

Sl No	Name Of The Student	Grade
1	Roshan Neel Anand	11
2	Bharat Maheshwari	12
3	Rahul Rawat	11
4	Nischal Kishan Jain	12
5	Pemmasani Venkat Prajyesh	12
6	Kevin Babu Chiramel	11
7	Parishith Ramesh	11
8	Dhruv Prasad	12
9	Skanda Srinivas	12
10	Ghalib Al Halim	10

Appendix 3: Indus Cricket team who won the friendly cricket matches against Ebenezer International School, Delhi Public School and MCC

Sl.No	Name	Grade
1	Aadhiva Reki	6
2	Rithvik Elan	6
3	Sidharth Agarwal	7
4	Varun Venktesh	7
5	Monish Reddy	7
6	Rebhanth Amin	8
7	Deep Marwadi	8
8	Vishnu Chindulla	8
9	Luquman Hakim	8
10	Krishi.Koliwad	8
11	Vishal Ramnani	8