



From the Principal's Desk

December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The month of December brings to end the first term of the academic session. Our students and staff have accomplished a lot over the last few months of school. Our child-centred vision of preparing students for life aims to develop competencies which they will need to be prepared with to take on an uncertain future. The key is in life-long learning and innovation is the only way forward.

THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (Reception to Grade 5): Students from Reception to Prep 2 participated in the **leadership camp** on December 07th. The camp was conducted on school premises and focussed on testing the physical and cognitive abilities of every student. The students used their attentive listening skills to comprehend the rules of the team games organised by members of the Indus School of Leadership [ISL], and they put in cooperative effort for their team to do well.

We also had fifty one students from Grades 3 to 5 participate in the **Robofest Competition**. This competition had students from 45 schools across the country participate and we are immensely proud of all our students' commitment and effort. Our Grade 5 team won the Bottle Sumo competition and are now eligible to participate in the World Championships which will be held in the USA. The Grade 4 team won third place in the Sumo Wrestling competition.

Congratulations to all our winners! Please note that details of the winners are available in Appendix 1.

THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME AND IGCSE (Grades 6 to 10): The focus across all grades was on the **half yearly examinations**. In our endeavour to encourage student autonomy and also strengthen trust and absence of fear, these examinations were successfully conducted with limited invigilation.

THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (Grades 11 and 12): The Grade 11 students too followed a limited invigilation schedule for their half yearly examinations.

Grade 12 students continued to be busy with **college and university applications**. The Language A IBDP Oral Commentaries were also conducted in the first week of December. It was heartening to note that all students have met the deadline for submissions. All **Theory of Knowledge essays, Extended Essays as well as Written Assignments** have been completed successfully and these will be moderated by members of staff over the winter break. The main objective of bringing forward these submissions is to give students time to work on their Internal Assessments over the next few weeks and once these are completed, they can then apply single minded focus on intensive classes from the month of January.

Needless to say, the college placements team have been very busy working with students and parents on their application process. A representative from the **London School of Economics and Political Science** also met with students, mainly Grade 11, on December 04th and took them through the requirements of admission and courses available at the graduate level.

To help students manage their emotions and overcome any stress, we conduct **mindful breathing** every morning during assembly. Further, Grade 12 students have also had **circle time** in small groups where they met with their peers in the presence of the DP counsellor and the focus here has been on peer support facilitated through discussions to help increase our students' emotional and spiritual quotients.

SELF & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A Leadership Retreat was conducted on December 09th for all teachers with a focus on **goal setting** as a part of the self-development programme. Our CEO, General Ray, conducted the whole day workshop where he emphasised on the importance of developing the ability to

reskill oneself with an objective to remain economically relevant in an uncertain and constantly changing world. Teachers were expected to apply the principles of deep reading and finish the book Homo Deus by Yuval Noah Harari ahead of the retreat.

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT: The 27th Central Leadership Retreat was held between December 17th and 20th. School leaders and other Track 2 members from the three Indus Schools [Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad] attended the retreat conducted on the Bangalore campus. The theme for the retreat included the following:

- **Lifelong Learning**
- **Power of Habit for Peak Performance**
- **Future Education Technologies in AI dominated schools**

During the retreat which included half day workshop sessions and training along with presentations and panel discussions; participants were taken through the importance of being lifelong learners and how to incorporate the power of habit to ensure peak performance in our pursuit for excellence. Excellence should be something that we seek not just for ourselves as individuals but also for our students and team members since working in collaboration is the only way forward. With the arrival of education technologies inside the classroom, the role of the teacher will transform to that of a learning companion and a facilitator who can empower the child to learn how to learn. The focus will continue to be to unlock the potential of students through the development of their non-cognitive skills, rather than simply teach them the content or subject alone.

BOARDING: To celebrate the end of term, the boarders attended a special **Christmas dinner** on December 09th which was preceded by carols and music performances. The boarding team along with campus staff had spent considerable time earlier in the day decorating the venue in red and green streamers and also fairy lights. The evening was a welcome change for all our boarders during the exam fortnight. Many of our Grade 9-12 boarders have also been attending **extra academic support** over the weekend in core subjects where the focus has been on application of concepts and content as well as preparing for assessments. These sessions are run in small groups, thus ensuring one on one support for the students.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Despite the half yearly examinations scheduled, students across the middle and senior school did spend time on their **women empowerment community projects**. There was progress in the work done by Hercules house students where they made handmade products using the paper produced at the paper recycling plant. Similarly, Phoenix house continued with the production of sanitary napkins. Students of grades 9 and 11 are also being trained to help the housekeeping staff members who are part of this project. Likewise, the housekeeping and support staff who are being trained in tailoring by Pegasus House have produced colourful and high quality cloth pencil pouches that will be sold in the coming months. Candles too were produced and sold in large quantities during the two weeks preceding the winter break during which teachers played Secret Santa. Orion house whose women empowerment project focuses on spoken English and soft skills training at two different levels have also made good progress. Level 2 participants are working on their speeches that they will present in front of an audience in the month of March.

SPORTS: At Indus, we strongly believe in whole education and its importance in ensuring the all-round development in every student. We encourage students to pursue their passion and to apply the principles of goal setting, deliberate practice, resilience, time management and self-management skills, to achieve excellence in their chosen area of interest.

Daniela Wyatt, a student of Grade 10 has been doing extremely well in the **Bowling** circuit at the state, national and international level. Daniela was selected to represent Colombia in Ten Pin Bowling at the Pan-American Junior Tournament in Monterrey Mexico where she won 4 Golds & 1 Silver and was recognized for her stand-out performance at the Central American Junior Bowling Championship. She took the U-16 individual & all-tournament golds as well as team, all event team, and doubles. Her average, at 193.17 was the best female average of the tournament (which included the U-21 category as well). She also participated in the Karnataka State Tenpin Bowling Tournament and made it to the final round. We are very proud of her achievements and wish Daniela the very best of luck in the national trials in South America.

Natasha Jaichandra of Grade 6 was the second runner up at the Kids **Golf** World Championships held in Malaysia 2017 on December 15th 2017. Earlier in the month, Natasha was the runner up at the Bangalore Junior Golf tournament held

on December 4th which is a 12 game tournament. Natasha is currently on top of the leader board and hence has a very good chance of winning the series. We congratulate Natasha for her accomplishments and wish her the very best of luck in the upcoming competition.

We are also proud to announce that **Vidushi Keni** of Grade 8 has won the Karnataka Golf Association Junior Golf Championship, held on 18th December at KGA in the age category of 13-15 years and also in the higher age category of 15-17 years. We congratulate Vidushi and believe she will continue to do well in her pursuit of excellence in the area of golf.

The **Indus cricket team (under 14)** participated in the BTR Shield organised by the Karnataka State Cricket Association [KSCA]. Despite their efforts, our team lost to NPS, Rajajinagar in the knock out stage by a narrow margin. We are proud of our team for playing so well and not giving up until the end of the match. The list of participants is included in Appendix 2.

OTHER EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS: We are happy to announce that **Tarang Vankar**, a student of grade 6 was declared the winner of the Dells Champs Programme which was conducted in the last academic session.

Ayyappan Rajesh of Grade 11, participated in the **Enable Makeathon [Ideation to Impact] competition run by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]** where his team, using Machine Learning and Deep learning have developed an App for differently abled individuals. Using natural language processing algorithms, the App features a keyboard with sign language symbols that converts the sign language to text and also helps in grammar issues. Ayyappan's team has qualified for the next round of competition. We wish them the very best of luck in their endeavour to truly make a change in society.

A fortnight of playing Secret Santa by the teachers culminated in an afternoon filled with festivity, happiness and laughter on December 15th. Teachers exchanged gifts, played games and enjoyed singing Christmas carols before they left on a well-deserved and restful winter break.



GLIMPSES FROM DECEMBER 2017

As we start the new year, I would like to thank you for your support and feedback. The success we have experienced this academic session, like the preceding years, owes a great deal to parents and families like yours. I wish you a restful winter break and hope this provides a myriad of opportunities for you and your child to do things that you might not be able to accomplish when school is in session. For the New Year, I wish each of you health, happiness and success in everything that you do!

Warm regards,
Sarojini Rao
Principal

<i>Dates For Your Diary- January 2018</i>	
DATE	EVENT
January 03rd	Boarders return to school
January 04th	School Reopens after winter break Half Yearly Examinations for Grades 6-11 end
January 06th	Working Saturday [<i>Teachers Only</i>]
January 15th – 17th	Senior School Sports Heats
January 18th	Grades 6-11 RCB Reports Published
January 19th	Senior School Sports Day
January 20th	Parent Teacher Meeting: Grades 9-11
January 22nd	Parent Teacher Meeting: Grades 6-8
January 25th	IICS Sports Day
January 26th	Republic Day [<i>Holiday for all</i>]

APPENDIX 1: ROBOFEST COMPETITION

Bottle Sumo Winners 1st Place	Grade	Sumo Wrestling Winners 3rd place	Grade
Aahan Hegde Ranganath	5	Chandires h Asaithambi	4
Aditya Singh	5	Chirag R	4
Aneesh Papatla	5	Swapn Singh	4

APPENDIX 2: BTR SHIELD – DIVISION 3 -KARNATAKA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION (KSCA) CRICKET TOURNAMENT (Knock Out)

	Name	Grade
1	Rithvik Elan	7
2	Dev Veer Singh	7
3	Sidhanth Agarwal	8
4	Varun Venkatesh	8
5	Arham Srisrimal	8
6	Krishi Koliwad	9
7	Shivraj Singh	9
8	Deep Marwadi	9
9	Luqman Hakim	9
10	Manikuluth Ganjikunta	9
11	Aadiv Reiki	7
12	Keenan Katavkar	7