



From the Principal's Desk

May 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Children teach us about living each day with unbridled exuberance and joy, about seizing the moment and following one's heart. They teach us to appreciate the simple things like a walk around the campus with friends, a music class or the bus ride to and from school. Inadvertently, they also teach us about optimism in the face of adversity. May saw a culmination of such teaching and learning at Indus. Now, with exams around the corner, the school is beginning to wrap up this academic session and sow seeds for the next.

A Chinese proverb says "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people". We are definitely planning for a lifetime as underscored by the happenings in all the three academic programmes at Indus.

PYP:

The **Prep 2 Graduation Day** on 17th May, celebrated the milestones crossed by Prep 2 students through their transition from the pre-primary years into Grade 1. Students worked hard to understand the world around them and make significant strides in their language, math and transdisciplinary skill sets – and this day honors the hard work of these little ones that has helped them get to where they are. It was a moment of joy and utmost pride to see these little Indus fledglings spread their wings and prepare to fly. I thank Mrs. Wendy Maliakel, Mrs. Laure Morra and Mrs. Usha Sarath for sharing memories of their children's journeys through Prep 2.



The **Grade 5 Graduation** was hosted by Grade 5 teachers with the support of the Grade 4 teachers and students on 18th May. 74 graduants took to the stage and listened to the messages from various stakeholders. The messages from the valedictorians exiting the PYP Programme were filled with happy memories and learning moments. To emphasize and reiterate this thought, three parents Mr. Lafont, Mrs. Mahadevan and Mr. Singh, spoke about how the Indus ideology of whole education helped carve out a path in the world for the students. The most anticipated hat toss provided a befitting finale to the ceremony and a perfect beginning to a day of exhilaration and pride.



“Learning Math is fun” is what IISB believes in. Learning is not confined within the borders of the classroom and hence the school provides extended learning and fun activities. To enrich their learning of Math concepts, Grade 3 students went on a field trip to More Megastore. At the store, students were exposed to different advertising techniques used by stores to catch the attention of consumers. This trip provided the students with an opportunity to handle money responsibly and also apply their learning of Addition and Subtraction in daily life while they purchased a few items of their choice.

In connection with the concepts of money and number facts as well as our unit of Media, the teachers explained to the children the importance of choosing and eating healthy foods and talked about the nutritional values of different fruits and vegetables. They were made to explore and get a first-hand experience on shopping.

Students and teachers of Grade 4 along with the members of the Student Council, collectively, nominated students to contest in the election for the Junior Student Council. Preceding the election, PYP saw a round of colourful and enthusiastic campaigning by the nominees. The election was held on Wednesday, 23rd May. Students and teachers of Grades 3, 4 and 5 witnessed the nominees giving their final speeches and participated in the voting process. Secret ballot method was used to cast the votes. The results will be announced shortly.

PYP Assembly is another forum we provide our students with, in order to showcase their new-found skills and learning through the year. This month, students participated in the Music, Dance and Ballet assembly on 11th, 25th and 29th May respectively. We appreciate the enthusiasm and prowess they displayed excitedly during the same.

Robotic Competition: Students who have chosen Robotics as a club choice participated in a competition where they created models of robots called ‘Colour Ball Sorter’ and ‘Robo Hit’. They were excited to apply their understanding in order to program their models based on set parameters. We appreciate all our participants and congratulate our winners. Appendix A has the details of the winners.

MYP:

In the second week of May, Grade 7 students went for the ISL Camp at Kanakapura to hone their leadership skills by completing a range of well-

designed activities. As always, the team building exercises have contributed to a better interaction and understanding of the importance of working in collaboration.

On the 18th of May, Grade 5 Graduation ceremony was preceded by an orientation session where the MYP Coordinator shared information about academics and whole education in the middle years with parents of Grade 5.

Last week, when preparing for the final examination, students reflected on syllabus understanding for the entire year using Google forms. Revision activities were designed to address topics of concern as was evident from Google feedback.

MYP teachers were also involved in a day-long professional development session. In the first half of the day, in a hands-on session, teachers explored the use of ManageBac for assessment and reporting. For the rest of the day, a workshop on interdisciplinary teaching and learning was conducted. Teachers across departments worked collaboratively to design interdisciplinary unit plans for the academic session 2018 - 19.

On 28th May, the final examinations commenced for Grades 6 to 8. As has been the norm, examinations proceeded with limited invigilation to allow students to exercise discipline and demonstrate integrity.

As a co-curricular treat, I am very happy to inform you that Rishi Agrawal of Grade 8 won a bronze medal at Junior National Pencak Silat Championship 2018 held at Guwahati, Assam. We congratulate the young man on this achievement and wish him many more to come.



IGCSE:

The Grade 9 students participated in Student Council elections on 1st May, to vote for deserving Grade 11 candidates who will bring more strength to the student leadership body. The Student Council is a body that offers the first structured leadership responsibility to an Indus Eagle, who is nominated and then elected to the Council through a meticulous and rigorous process. This serves as a platform which paves the way for future leadership readiness.

On 17th May, the Grade 10 IGCSE March Series 2018 Hindi exam results were published. Dharmil Budheliya scored 92% and topped in the subject. Our students achieved to get 1 A*, 11 As and 8 Bs. Congratulations to all the Hindi students and we are proud of their achievements which is an indication of consistent effort and dedication.

DP:

The Grade 11 students were busy with completing the deadlines for IA/EE and TOK and simultaneously preparing for their Student Council election and interviews in May. The students campaigned for their houses and concurrently attended interviews with the Head of School and Vice Principal. The students have also been preparing for their final exams.

When you want to teach children to think, you begin by treating them seriously, giving them responsibilities, talking to them candidly, providing privacy and solitude for them, and making them readers and thinkers of significant thoughts. To provide them with hands on guidance and advice regarding the upcoming exams we had Siddharth Ramanan of Grade 12 (Winner of the Eagle award) come and talk to the Grade 11 students about time management and to give them study tips. Students enjoyed this session as the talk came from 'one of them'.

The Grade 12 students finally completed their IBDP exams and bid farewell to Indus. We wish them all the best as they take their first steps towards a journey that begins outside the ramparts of Indus.

Placements:

The Placements team has been wrapping up appointments and student placements. They have also been planning in a big way for the year ahead. College counselling is a pivotal focus of our school and Grade 12 IB students and parents need to understand the logistics and then take an informed

decision. The school and the college counsellors who have been following the progress of the child are the best people to handle the requirements adeptly. However, this is a three-way process and to facilitate parental understanding and involvement in the process, we have decided to dedicate three days from the busy IB schedule and arrange a three-day counselling camp in the school premises from August 1st, 2nd and 3rd after the summer break. School reopens from July 30th for the Grade 12 students.

A tentative schedule for these days is as follows:

- a. August 1st, 2018 :
Understanding the Application Process for the USA and Canada: What applications and processes are involved
 - Common Application
 - UC System
 - Private Universities vs. Public
 - OUAC (Canadian system)

- b. August 2nd, 2018 :
Understanding the UK (UCAS) System, Australia and Other South East Asian nations' university Application systems
 - Process
 - Requirements
 - What to look for
 - Language requirement

- c. August 3rd, 2018 :
Financial Aid Workshop: Understanding what financial aid is
 - Need base
 - Merit Base
 - Need Blind
 - Need Aware
 - Difference between Aid for International Students vs. American Residents/American Citizens
 - Websites
 - CSS Profile vs. FAFSA

I urge you to avail this opportunity and book your tickets/calendar in advance as you will also be able to have a one on one meeting with the counsellors.

Sports:

At Indus it has always been our endeavour to promote sportsmanship and to embrace and nurture the competitive spirit in our children.

Every year we hold Inter-House competitions to build team morale and team spirit and also to encourage active participation in sports and physical activity. Our children took these competitions seriously and gave their best to the teams. Our children are very supportive of one another and enjoyed cheering for their teams.

Some of our older children exhibited leadership skills and helped to organize and develop the competitions and events with the sports coaches.

The following Inter- House Sports competitions were held this year:

- Basketball
- Badminton
- Football
- Aerobics
- Cricket
- Tennis

Boarding:

Come May and the air is filled with anxiety, a drive to do and achieve their best, exchange notes, be behind teachers and peers for just that little extra support...so then you know exams are just around there. Boarding weekends saw just that and more. Students went full steam into preparing for the final board exams; Grade 10 and Grade 12 literally burnt the midnight lamp. Weekend extra academic support saw numbers increasing by twofold. Boarders of other age groups were simultaneously engaged in exciting activities and sports. The Pre-IB boarders engaged in meaningful and interesting activities like Paper craft, laundry visits, book reading, Zumba, in-house movie screening, visit to HAL museum and Play arena. Birthday celebrations and a wonderful evening of 'Formal Dinner night' topped the list. All boarders relished sumptuous dinner that was arranged in the dining hall. They were all dressed for the occasion and exhibited best table etiquettes. This was followed by dance which worked as a catalyst to release exam stress and the students had a relaxed time.

Annual PAC meeting: The Annual PAC (Parents Advisory Committee) meeting was conducted on 15th May to discuss the concerns/recommendations and plan the way ahead for the next academic session. The annual meeting

reviewed the achievements during the year gone by and looked at parental feedback on transport, food and some concerns in each of the three Programmes. As always, the school looks forward to such meetings and constructive feedback as they help serve the students better. We thank the PAC for their interest, involvement and support.

The end of the 2017-2018 academic year is quickly approaching. As I reflect back over the academic year, it has certainly been one of challenges but also of achievements. Of course, stimulating times bring out the best in everyone at Indus, and the successes are treated with humility. This year has been particularly filled with gifts of time and service provided by team Indus which have made the school a little better than what it was the previous year. I am confident that the wonderful activities, values and people that define Indus will carry on to the next academic year and to many years beyond.

Warm regards,
Mrs Sarojini Rao
Principal

Dates For Your Diary: June 2018	
DATE	EVENT
1st June	PYP Awards Day
7th June	RC-D Final Examination for Grades 6 - 9 ends; last working day for this session for Grades 6 - 8
8th June	PYP Student Led Conference; RC-D Final Examination for Grade 11 ends
9th June	School closes for summer vacation: Reception to Grade 5
11th - 15th June	Academic Classes for Grade 9; ToK Camp, Extended Essay and G4 projects for Grade 11 students
12th June	Gr 10 IGCSE board exams ends
16th June	School closes for summer vacation: Grades 9 & 11
17th - 20th June	Central Leadership Retreat

Appendix A:

PYP Robotics Competition:

COLOR BALL SORTER:

1st Prize

3B	Aishwarya V
3B	Ahan Saran
3B	Willow Jess Jenner
3B	Naila Said
3B	Milo Jay Matteo Cole
3B	Nikhel Sharma

2nd Prize

2A	Ashni S Yogesh
2A	Sarrah Wahengbam
2A	Ayaan Ananth Swaminath

ROBO HIT:

1st Prize

4C	Neil Daga
4C	Siddharth Manojkumar
4A	Tanush Reddy
4C	Vihaan Reddy
4C	Aarav Rajesh Krishnan

2nd Prize

5A	Dhanush Ekollu
5B	Yash Venkatraman Iyer
5B	Aditya Singh
5C	Vichakshan Ramana