



From the Principal's Desk

July 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children. Although you may not end up spending as much time on campus as the students, you are deeply valued members of our school. Without you, the students would not be here. The time, love, and money you have spent on them is truly appreciated. They probably won't say it, but I'm sure they agree with me, so on their behalf, thank you for all you do.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our Head of Schools and Coordinators are all geared for an exciting year ahead. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team has been registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning. Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome them and hope that they will help us in our goal of nurturing and unlocking potential.

You will also notice the numerous maintenance and construction revamping that the school has undertaken especially in the boarding. This is all to give you a benign fresh start!

All of our staff work hard to make school a positive experience for all students. Indus is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

Welcome address to all faculty: 30th July commenced with my welcome to all the teachers and staff where I focused on the Indus Vision and the way ahead. Plans were shared with teachers to enhance academic rigour, strengthen the leadership curriculum and consolidate on our USP of whole education. We will ensure continuous improvement through experiential learning. The process will emphasize on design thinking and innovation in particular.

In his first address to all the teaching faculty on 30th July, Gen Ray spoke about nurturing self development in teachers who will first unlock their own potential and then unlock the potential of the students. He emphasised how this will help to mould and nurture value driven citizens, who will give back to the society. There will also be a focus on learning competencies and non-cognitive skills that will help our students to be lifelong learners who can succeed in a VUCA world.

Principals' Conference: As a part of setting goals and preparing for the new academic year, a two-day Principals' Conference was held on 26th and 27th July. The leadership teams of the Indus International Schools from Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune met to strategise and develop plans to implement academic rigour. Specific targets to be set for students, teachers and mentors, which will be measured and analysed at regular intervals, were discussed in detail.

Here is a sneak peek into how the different programs at Indus have been preparing for your welcome.

IBDP: The month of July was a busy month for the Diploma Programme as the results for IBDP May 2018 exam was released and the ripples of the fabulous success could be felt across all the International schools in Bangalore.

Our IB Students have done us proud yet again by surpassing the Global and Asia Pacific average in their IB Diploma Examination. Over 20 of our students got above the score of 40/45 and 90% achieved their IB Diploma. Our Valedictorian Rithana Srikanth achieved a near perfect score of 44/45 even as she balanced her academics with the extracurricular activities and social projects. Also, two other students Achyuta Menon and Pratheek Kishore achieved a score of 43/45 . Many of our students have been selected in various premier institutes and Ivy leagues across the continents.

The results underscore the fact that the core values and ethos of INDUS is ingrained in each one of our Eagles as they spread their wings in different corners of the world and unlock their true potential.

The students were busy accepting the University offers and finalizing the documentation required.

July has been a month when teachers have been honing their professional skills with workshops being conducted on student centric learning, placement and behavior counselling, design thinking and how to increase academic rigour to start the new academic year with new skills in their armour.

On 30th July, classes commenced for Grade 12 students. Students were briefed about the expectations for this year and the need to build in academic rigour right from the beginning to strengthen their subject knowledge.

MYP and IGCSE: The Head of School and Coordinators returned to school early to plan for the new session ahead. The new teachers had an orientation on MYP where expectations and information about the systems and processes was shared. New teachers also had department-specific orientation. HODs shared information pertaining to unit planning and assessment while stressing on the need for collaboration in planning, teaching and assessment. On 23rd July, all teachers returned to school and were welcomed by the Vice Principal who shared expectations for the year ahead.

For the rest of the week, teachers were involved in professional and self-development sessions. The following sessions were conducted:

- Unit Planning using the Design Thinking Process
- Student Centric Learning to enhance academic rigour
- Use of ManageBac for Planning, Assessment and Reporting
- Gamification as an instructional strategy
- Goal-setting and deep reading by Lt. Gen. Ray
- Address by Mr. Premchand Palety, Founder and CEO of C Fore

All staff were also involved in a workshop on POCSO in following directives set by the Government of India to ensure utmost safety of children. Teachers took away valuable learning from the workshops to collaborate and plan academics for the session ahead.

The self and professional development sessions definitely set up a concrete platform for teachers to imbibe the invaluable learning and fine tune their pedagogy in planning, instruction and delivery for this session.

Adiv Reki who is moved from Grade 7 to 8 has been recognized as a citizen activist for pedestrian infrastructure in Bellandur. The news link is attached below and I request you to take a look.

<https://m.timesofindia.com/city/bengaluru/bellandur-residents-step-up-to-make-roads-walker-friendly/articleshow/65047451.cms>

We are proud to announce that two of our students, Naveen David from Grade 10 and Anavi Kurade of Grade 7 have been declared as winners in the annual Scholastic Writing Awards. The Scholastic Writing Awards calls for outstanding original works by students of classes 4 to 9, in the category of fiction/short story in English. The Writing Awards is an annual competition that encourages students all over India to use their writing skills and creativity. Apart from being invited to a literary residency which will be conducted later this year, the winners will have their stories published in a paperback anthology, "For Kids By Kids". Our hearty congratulations to the winners.

On July 30th, classes commenced for Grade 10 students. Students were briefed about the expectations for this year and the need to build in academic rigour right from the beginning to strengthen their subject knowledge.

PYP: Newly appointed teachers for the year 2018-19 joined the PYP on 18th July and were introduced to the School Vision and culture of Indus institutions by the Head of School, thus emphasizing the importance of the same as they begin their journey ahead. They were then introduced to the IB PYP philosophy on 19th and 20th July where they explored various aspects of the written, taught and assessed curriculum using hands-on and experiential approach.

All the PYP teachers joined the new teachers on 23rd July and began the year by reviewing the Programme of Inquiry. On 25th July, teachers were introduced to the POCSO act through a detailed presentation by Ms. Ashwini Kulkarni from the Sasha Foundation. 25 teachers also participated in an IB workshop on 26th and 27th July featuring Assessment in the PYP, and gained further insights on the same. This workshop was conducted by IB Workshop Leader and Head of Primary School, Ms Anjalika Sharma from Indus International School, Hyderabad. Teachers also went through an in-house intensive professional development session that helped strengthen their understanding of differentiation, lesson planning, the art of questioning and application of the Design Thinking Process. They are also striving to welcome all our students to a bright and happy classroom which encourages thinking and learning.

CAS: The House Masters have been busy with consolidating the House Visions for the session ahead. As part of the Pegasus House Vision of 2017-18, all the pencil pouches that were made by the women support staff, have been sold and the proceeds will be split and distributed to the support staff who were involved in the project.

Sports: We are very happy and proud to announce that Manavi Varma (Grade 5) swam her way to glory at the Glenmark 35th Sub Junior & 45th Junior National

Aquatic Championship 2018 (organized by the Swimming Federation of India) representing Karnataka State held in Pune with a:

- 1) Gold in 50 metres butterfly
- 2) Silver in 50 metres backstroke
- 3) Bronze in 50 metres breaststroke
- 4) Bronze in Karnataka group 4 team medley relay.

Kudos to her for bagging so many awards in her first ever national appearance! We are all very proud of her.



Boarding: The boarding has been preparing diligently for making a home away from home for the students. Work has been going on in full swing to ensure the hostels are ready to welcome the students into the new academic session. We also welcomed 2 new house parents – Ms Arti and Mr. Vikrant. Both of them join us with years of experience in childcare and boarding management.

Placements: Our Placements team have been busy preparing for the new academic year which included a workshop to all the IB teachers on College Application. They are now preparing for parent “Camps” or workshops to be held in August. The workshops will include topics on understanding the application

process for the USA and Canada and for the UK (UCAS) System, Australia and Other South East Asian nations.

I request you to see my CRM recording where I broadly outline the plans for the new session. It will be available on the ERP login in the coming week.

A special note to students at the commencement of their academic journey. Dear Students, be responsible. Go to class; Get some sleep, manage your time and here's my personal addition: Get involved! It is going to be the things you learn both inside and outside the classroom that will help you grow personally and socially and make you an engaged citizen.

Coming back to school is a reason for celebration because it means a new step towards a wonderful future. It will be fun to watch you walking on the paths in school again. Best of luck! Real learning means paying attention and staying curious. In this new school year, I wish you inspiration and happiness!

Warm regards,
Sarojini Rao
Principal

Dates For Your Diary: August 2018	
DATE	EVENT
2nd August	Curriculum Road Map Day [Prep to Grade 9]
3rd August	Curriculum Road Map Day [Grades 10 to 12]; Holiday for Gr 10 & 12
4th August	Boarders pickup Grades 6 - 9
6th August	School reopens for all students
11th August	Investiture Ceremony
13th – 17th August	Gender Sensitization workshops week
15th August	Independence Day; Holiday for PYP students
22nd August	Bakrid - Holiday