



## From the Principal's Desk

December 2018

It has been another incredibly busy and productive term at Indus and I would like to thank children, parents and staff for making all of the school clubs, events and activities as fantastic as they always have been at Indus. I am sure all of you have had a well-deserved break and festive season. It is hard to believe that we have already completed one term of the year! Here is a brief glimpse of the events that transpired in December.

### **PYP:**

**PYP Indus Day:** Through the annual Indus Day celebrations, the notion of whole education is brought to life. Every student from the Primary Years Programme participates in one element of the extravaganza be it dance, music or drama.

Students of the Early Years, Grade 1 and Grade 2 staged a delightful dramatization of the timeless classic, 'Jungle book' by Rudyard Kipling on 7<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate Indus Day. Our courageous young Eagles played their parts to perfection with utmost confidence and had a melodious choir singing by their side. The adorable little ones of the Early Years added a touch of humour to the event with their vibrant butterfly waltz, the pompous elephant march and 'Bare Necessities' conveyed an elixir for true happiness and joy.

The performances received a sweeping ovation from the audience stands and we thank all parents who joined in to show their appreciation towards our budding artists.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, students of Grades 3, 4 and 5 put up an adaptation of the famous musical, The Wizard of Oz. The evening was a visual and auditory delight. The hard work put in by the students and the teachers was evident. The audience

enjoyed every minute of the play. The students showcased their musical talents by not only singing the songs well, but also at times playing the instruments.

The message of the performance was what made it more special. At the end of the play, the protagonists realized that they have always had the qualities they yearned for, inside them. This is resonant with our belief at Indus, that every person has the potential to be an innovator, to be a leader; they need only to work towards it inside out.



### **Leadership Camps:**

*"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."*

- Nelson Mandela

Grade 3 Leadership Camp was conducted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Students were extremely excited to be a part of it and engaged themselves in activities organized by the enthusiastic trainers of the Indus School of Leadership. Students were given challenging group tasks to help develop critical thinking skills, team work and leadership competencies and they loved the experience. The challenge course was an all-time favorite as it helped students overcome the fear of heights, display the

attitude of independence and the attribute of being risk takers. Each child participated with great enthusiasm and learnt what it takes to be a leader.

Grade 4 students attended the Leadership Camp on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December. This was their first outbound and overnight trip and the excitement was palpable among all the students about their first overnight trip away from home. The students partook in various activities such as team building games, obstacle course and trekking. All of these activities were designed to help them develop and hone life and leadership skills such as critical thinking, active listening, effective communication and resilience. The students were able to mingle with their peers as well, as they enjoyed and danced by the bonfire. It was really heart-warming to notice how students overcame their fears as they challenged themselves to complete the uphill trek. The outbound trip was not only fun but went a long way to teach students self-management skills, effective collaboration, strategic thinking and developed in them an appetite for taking calculated risks.

#### **MYP:**

The students of Grades 6 to 9 had their half yearly examinations from 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December. Limited invigilation allowed students to exercise discipline and demonstrate integrity during exams.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December all teachers attended a workshop conducted by Track 2 teachers where the focus was on educating the heart and the mind of self and students. Clear strategies which can be applied in life and while teaching were brought out through brainstorming and discussion. Thereafter, teachers attended a session on emotional well-being conducted by Cadabams Centre.

#### **IGCSE:**

Our Grade 10 students had their half yearly examinations which was conducted in line with IGCSE Board Examinations, from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **DP:**

Through the half yearly examinations in December, the Grade 11 students got geared up for their first serious approach to IB examination. The students were given emotional support and guidance with workshops from the Cadabams on self-esteem and self-efficacy.

December was particularly eventful for Grade 12 students as they attempted improvement examinations to upgrade their mid-year grades. They also worked towards meeting the decision deadline of December 15<sup>th</sup> for college admissions.

### **CAS:**

To get a better understanding of organic farming in the allotted areas, the students learned to plough and divide the land. They also gathered some know-how and certain do's and don'ts by working with the farmers to ensure that the yield will not be compromised due to lack of knowledge. Students have sown seeds of tomatoes and broccoli and planted saplings of guavas, pomegranates and sapota.

The Hercules house students continued with their project to make useful products out of recycled paper. They exercised their creativity and entrepreneurial skills by selling them during the PYP Indus Day.

The classes for Communicative English Course are in progress for the Ammas in Indus International School Bangalore and Indus International Community School (IICS). The Orion House students have been actively involved in gathering interest for the course from the nearby villages. They have collected necessary information of the interested candidates so that they can be a part of our Communicative English course.

For the IICS magazine, students collected and edited articles that they have received so far from the IICS students. Two workshops were conducted to assist the students of IICS in creating content for their magazine. Our students showcased the various ways the concept of Tikun Olam can be interpreted in various forms of art.

A workshop to increase awareness about personal hygiene was conducted for the Ammas on 14<sup>th</sup> December and wellness kits were distributed to get them started.

Phoenix house students have been working on their women's empowerment project and have been trying to improve the quality of sanitary napkins produced. They are trying to use natural alternatives like banana fiber which they hope will improve the quality.

### **Placements:**

The placements department continued to work with the Grade 12 students for completing Common Application and applying before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December. They are also making sure that UCAS applicants have all they need for their applications as requested by universities. They are strategizing to ensure that the Australian and Canadian applications will be on target by 15<sup>th</sup> January.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, our students met the International Partnership Manager of Pioneer Academics, which is a U.S-based organization founded in cooperation between American university professors and international education experts. Its goal is to provide outstanding high school students around the world with challenging and creative research opportunities across a wide range of disciplines. Through the Pioneer Research Program, students not only improve their academic experience and research skills but are also guided, mentored, and inspired by thought leaders in their fields. Pioneer students have the unique opportunity to interact with American professors from top-ranked universities in an intimate online learning environment to develop the skills needed to succeed in college. These professors guide students in the study of specialized fields that students have never been exposed to in a formal academic setting. By the end of the program, students produce a capstone project that showcases the student's mastery of the subject.

The Placements department also hosted a few university visits in December like the Queen's University Belfast (UK) and New York University Abu Dhabi. Queen's University Belfast is a public research university in Belfast, Northern Ireland which offers academic degrees at various levels and across a broad subject range, with over 300 degree programmes available. The New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) is a research university with a fully integrated liberal arts and science college, located in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Together with New York University in New York City and New York University Shanghai, the portal campus is part of NYU's Global Network University.

### **Sports:**

Indus students have been doing exceptionally well in sports. It gives me immense pride to announce that our students has won several medals at the 21<sup>st</sup> State level

Karate Championship. Rek-Kyo-Shin-Kai Martial Arts Association, had organized the championship on 9<sup>th</sup> December at HMT Sports Complex, Bangalore. Indus won 1 Gold medal, 3 Silver medals and 1 Bronze in Kata. The results are attached in Appendix 1.



Following her selection to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Women's National Boxing Championship 2018, Saagarika Gowda of Grade 10 represented Karnataka in the junior women's category, held at Chandigarh and Mohali, Punjab from 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Yash Premal Zaveri (Grade 11) was selected for IBSO Under 17 Football team for the 64<sup>th</sup> National School Games. Yash joined four of our other students who were previously selected. They are: Prem Sharda (Grade 10), Jai Ashiya (Grade 10), Dharmil Bhudelia (Grade 11) and Devansh Surana (Grade 11). They represented International Board Schools Organisation (IBSO) in the 64<sup>th</sup> National School Games 2018-19 organised by Sports Games Federation of India (SGFI) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir.

Two of our students, Anoushka Vineet Saraf (Grade 10) and Dharika Raj Singh (Grade 9) were selected for IBSO Under 17 Girls Football team. Both of them represented International Board Schools Organisation (IBSO) in the 64<sup>th</sup> National School Games 2018-19 organised by Sports Games Federation of India (SGFI) from 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Agartala, Tripura.

Vidushi Keni (Grade 9) played the All India Junior Boys and Girls Golf Championship at Eagleton Golf Club, Bangalore from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December. We are happy to announce that she finished 7<sup>th</sup> in her category in India.

## **Boarding:**

Junior boarder boys were excited to see their hard work and patience rewarded in the kitchen garden; in the form of various vegetables seeds sprouting into little saplings. The organic spinach was ready to harvest and brought great joy in the eyes of the little ones.

December saw the students continuing with rigorous preparations for the ongoing half yearly exams. House parents helped during circle time giving various tips to beat the exam stress and encouraged them to practice mindful breathing.

December is that month of the year when there is so much of joy and festivity in all the boarding houses. The Christmas decorations like Christmas trees and lights added to the festive atmosphere.

An air of entertaining mystery was added with the Secret Santa game which was started a couple of weeks before the festival and culminated with the Christmas party. This entrenched event saw so many people going out of their way to make the season a joyous one for others. Having positive social interactions, fostered a heightened sense of interdependence and solidarity in our school community. What's more, when we give to others, we don't only make them feel closer to us; we also feel closer to them. Whether you're on the giving or receiving end of a gift, that gift can elicit feelings of gratitude—it can be a way of expressing gratitude or instilling gratitude in the recipient. Giving then leads to a win-win situation. With this winning thought, I wish you wonderful new beginnings and a great year ahead.

Regards,

Sarojini Rao

Principal

<b>Dates For Your Diary: December 2018</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Boarders return to school</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>School Reopens after winter break for Grades 6 - 12 Half Yearly Examinations for Grades 6 - 11 end</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Working Saturday [Teachers only]</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>School Reopens after winter break for Reception to Grade 5</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Senior School Sports Day</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Holiday - Sankranti</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Working Saturday; PTM for Grades 6-9; MYP Year 4 &amp; Year 5 orientation for parents of Grade 8</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>MYP Personal Project workshop for parents of Grade 9</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Grade 7 Leadership Camp</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Holiday - Republic Day</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Grade 6 Leadership Camp</b>

### **Appendix 1: RESULTS of 21<sup>st</sup> State level Karate Championship 2018**

<b>No.</b>	<b>NAME OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>Kata</b>	<b>Medal</b>
1	Aaryaman Verma	11	Kata	Silver
2	Fardeen Hans	11	Kata	Gold
3	Aryan Saigal	11	Kata	Silver
4	Yogeshwar Guntur Naidu	11	Kata	Bronze
5	Rakshit Sathyamurthi	11	Kata	Silver