



From the Principal's Desk

May 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a great year this has been! And despite the summer heat the excitement continues at Indus. Although there is much I'm going to share about the happenings at Indus in this newsletter, I am also very cognizant of the fact that the summer break is just around the corner. There are a number of things you can do this summer to mix in learning opportunities with summer fun. Students can catch up on their reading and join summer programmes of their interest. If you're taking summer trips, talk to your child about history, geography, and other interesting facts about the places you visit. I know we are talking about the summer break here but there is no break from learning. Meanwhile, as usual in school the students have been meaningfully engaged.

PYP:

The election for the Junior Student Council was conducted on 8th May when students and teachers of Grade 4 conducted an internal nomination process to identify suitable candidates, which was followed by exciting campaign speeches and voting through secret ballot. The votes were counted and the names of the Student Council-

elects were announced the following week. They will be sworn in early next academic year, at the Investiture Ceremony, along with their senior school counterparts.

Prep 2 Graduation: Prep 2 celebrated their graduation and transition from the pre-primary years into Grade 1 on 16th May. Parents were excited as each student was appreciated for their personal efforts and achievements through the year. They felt proud as they witnessed the certificates conferred and were happy to share their children's journey thus far. We wish our young graduates the best as they successfully complete another milestone in their lives.

Grade 5 Graduation: The cohort of seventy six Grade 5 students confidently marched up onto the stage with a proud smile indicating a sense of accomplishment on 17th May to celebrate their graduation day. We are proud of our students who shared their priceless memories and also thank parents who generously shared their thoughts and appreciation of the PYP. In my address to the graduating batch, I spoke about the importance of being internationally minded as they step towards the next milestone in their academic life. We congratulate our young fledglings and wish them well as they embark on their onward journey into MYP.

On the same day, an orientation on MYP was conducted for parents of Grade 5. Apart from gaining information on the elementary aspects of MYP, parents also understood how Indus goes beyond the IBO mandates to offer a truly enriching IB Programme.



MYP:

An orientation of MYP Personal Project was done once again for parents of Grade 9 on 11th May. The purpose of the session was to help parents understand the aims of a core component of the MYP and their role in this journey. Parents took away a wealth of information and gleaned strategies which they could use to support their child to successfully complete the Personal Project.

On the same day, in keeping with the belief that all teachers are responsible for the emotional well-being of students, teachers attended another workshop in the series of workshops being conducted by Cadabams.

The students had intensive revision in preparation for the final examination from 20th to 24th May. The students were engaged in strengthening their subject knowledge and application skills in preparation for their final exams which commenced on 27th May.

IGCSE:

Grade 10 students continued to give their IGCSE June Series Board Exams in the month of May. IGCSE March series Hindi results were declared on 16th May. Students have

performed very well. Deep Marwadi, Hardik Agrawal, Yash Gupta and Sonali Malligere were the top performers. Congratulations to all them for achieving fantastic results.

DP:

The month of May saw our Grade 12 students completing their IBDP board exams. As they bid good bye to the school and teachers, it was a rather nostalgic moment for all of us. This is the 13th batch of IBDP students who are now poised to take on the world. As the school, students and teachers await their results in July, we wish them success and happiness in all their endeavors.

Meanwhile, our Grade 11 students started their final exams in May. After the exams were completed and the results were announced elections began for selecting the student council for the next academic year. The students were shortlisted based on the recommendations of the teacher, house masters and the CAS coordinator. The council elections took place on 17th May and after three rounds of interviews the deserving candidates will be poised to take on their new roles. The students are continuing to attend the college counselling meetings and chart their way ahead. The Grade 11 students have also embarked on their journey chronicling their achievements and goals in the form of an e-portfolio.

Parent Teacher Meeting for Grade 11 students was held on 25th May where the parents met the teachers for discussion on the academic performance of their child and also for suggestions regarding improvement. During this meeting there was also a presentation made for the present Grade 10 students (moving to Grade 11) and parents by the counselling team regarding the way ahead and the predicted grade policy.

Pre-IB is an initiative started by our school three years back, to bridge the gap between our national curriculum like CBSE, ICSE or State boards and IB Diploma. It is a

six week course where in the students are inducted into the school vision, core values and the IB learner profiles. Apart from giving them a broad outline of the scope of the subjects, they get an overview of the skills required for the IB programme and competencies to help them prepare for life. This year the course started on 29th April and will end on 15th June.

CAS:

Community Kitchen: Students of Grades 6 and 7 were involved in harvesting and learning the cooking process. Students of Grade 8 were involved in providing minor cooking assistance under the supervision of senior students and teachers. Students of Grade 9 and 11 were involved in cooking and food distribution under the supervision of senior students and teachers.

Students of Pre-IB learnt about the different CAS projects that the students undertake as a part of the four houses such as house vision projects, women empowerment projects, organic farming, vermicomposting, community kitchen and also participated in harvesting crops such as capsicum, eggplant and chilies. They made paper bags and greeting cards out of recycled paper. They also understood the learning outcomes of CAS and the components of CAS through interesting activities.

Sports:

We are happy to let you know that Snigdha Goswami (Grade 8) took part in the US Kids India Golf tournament on 18th May at Clover Greens Golf Club and won in her category (under 15 girls).

Natasha Jaichandra (Grade 7) was ranked No.1 on the first day of the US Kids European Golf tournament but ended up on the seventh spot on the third day. We

are proud to announce that she has already qualified for the world championship to be played in the US in July.

Congratulations to both Snigdha and Natasha on their accomplishments.

Placements:

In Indus, it is our attempt to place the child in life and not just in a university. Our focus next year is going to be on competency building of the students, goal setting and personalized guidance / intervention provided to each child by the counselling department and the teachers in the school.

We have worked out a 4-Year strategy in which counselling will begin Grade 9 onwards. An intelligent chatbot will be deployed for effective time management and for basic guidance. Teachers will also act as mentors to help students build their e-portfolios which is a much improved and enhanced version of the 'brag sheets' that the students used so far. The e-portfolio will not only document their accomplishments, academic or otherwise, but will also align them to their vision and mission in life.

Naviance, as you know is phasing out of Asia Pacific, and CIALFO has emerged as a much more student and teacher friendly platform. All information has been migrated from Naviance to CIALFO.

Mr. Hector Leon, as you are aware is moving on from Indus. Ms. Uma Ravitharan who has been in the counselling department for the last two years at Indus is now poised

to take over as the department head. Under her guidance, workshops are being conducted for the pre-IB and one-on-one counselling is in progress for Grade 11.

Boarding:

Students went full steam ahead into preparing for the final exams - Grade 10 and 12 in particular burnt the midnight oil preparing for their board exams. The Pre-IB and other boarders were engaged in interesting activities like in-house movie screening with their favorite popcorn and cool drink. They also visited Forum Neighborhood mall for a movie (Avengers Endgame) and had a wonderful time with their friends.

They were simultaneously engaged in sports, orchestra practice and community service. The hard work of the gardening project of junior boys reaped the harvest of about 10 kg of huge yet tender bottle gourds.

The Grade 12 boarders finally completed their IBDP exams and bid farewell to the Indus boarding. We wish them all the best in their journey that begins outside the nurturing environment of the school. It has been a truly positive year in the boarding and we look forward to another successful academic year beginning in August.

Annual PAC meeting: The Annual PAC (Parents Advisory Committee) meeting was conducted on 16th May to discuss the concerns / recommendations and plan the way ahead for the next academic session. The annual meeting reviewed the achievements of the year gone by and looked at parental feedback on transport, food and some concerns in each of the three programmes. I also took this opportunity to thank Dr. Anju Agadi and Mrs. Renu Kalagnanam who will no longer be a part of the PAC,

although they will continue to be an essential part of Indus. We extend a warm welcome to our new PAC Chair Mrs. Kumud Sharma and Co-chair Dr. Shanthi Attaluri. We thank the PAC for their interest, involvement and support. As always, the school looks forward to such meetings and constructive feedback as they help serve the students better.

Principals' Conference: We were also privileged to host the Principals' Conference on 27th May where all three Indus Schools met to touch base on various initiatives that have been taken to improve academic rigour. To ensure readiness for the DP, the schools will be compacting the syllabus under the 4-Year academic plan. In order to build academic rigour for DP, MYP will retain the same subject choices that were offered as part of our IGCSE curriculum.

The CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, in his address reinforced the idea that the purpose of education is to prepare students to lead from tomorrow. The CEO emphasized the importance of going beyond the IB mandate, to strive for excellence. To inculcate attributes of the IB learner profile in students, Indus believes that the teachers should develop and embody these qualities in themselves first. Towards this, decisions pertaining to implementation were also discussed.

The end of the 2018-19 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. I wish you all a relaxing, rejuvenating and enriching summer vacation and for continuous learning during this time. I look forward to welcoming you all back, late July/August refreshed, for what will be another exhilarating, new academic year.

Regards,

Sarojini Rao

Principal

<i>Dates For Your Diary - June 2019</i>	
DATE	EVENT
6th June	Grade 6 – 9 and 11 final exams end
7th June	PYP Student Led Conference; Last working day for students until Grade 8
8th June	Working Saturday
13th June	Reports published for Grades 6-9 & 11
14th June	Last working Day for Grades 9 & 11
15th June	Summer break begins
16th – 19th June	Central Leadership Retreat

Appendix: Snapshots from the Organic farming and Community kitchen project

