



## From the Principal's Desk

July 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our wonderful learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication towards excellence in education, and 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 resources you have spent on them is truly appreciated.

It looks like it's going to be 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. 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. The CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray himself has conducted goal setting and deep reading workshops for the teachers to ensure that they are cognitively and emotionally ready to take on the challenges of another academic year.

**Welcome address to all faculty:** 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Gen Ray spoke about the importance of nurturing self-development in teachers as a precursor to unlocking their potential. This will lead to unlocking the potential of the students. Gen. Ray recommended that teaching the child and not the subject alone through holistic development of the head, heart and mind is the need of the hour. He emphasised how this will help to mould and nurture value-driven and engaged citizens, who give back to the society.

At Indus, we believe that it is imperative that the faculty understand the school's vision to provide quality education to our students in the endeavour to mould them into engaged citizens. Towards this, I conducted a workshop for teachers on 31<sup>st</sup> July where I deconstructed the elements of the vision and took the teachers through the various steps and milestones in the process to realise the vision.

**Principals' Conference:** As a part of setting goals and preparing for the new academic year, a Principals' Conference was held on 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 works 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. Here is a glimpse into how the different programmes at Indus have been preparing for your welcome.

### **IBDP:**

Our IB Students have done us proud yet again by surpassing the Global and Asia Pacific average in their IB Diploma Examination. The Grade 12 results were declared on 6<sup>th</sup> July. 152 students appeared for the diploma. The Indus Eagles did us proud with an astounding average of 38.21 for the students who were awarded the diploma. The results underline the fact that the core values and ethos of the school is the wind beneath the wings of our Eagles as they spread their wings in different corners of the world and unlock their true potential. The DP team at Indus has done it again and thank you dear parents. Without your support this feat would not have been possible.

The current batch of Grade 12 students returned from their summer break on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. 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. One batch of students participated in outbound activities in the ISL camp, while the other students were busy in their final IB TOK presentations. The campus was alive once again and their enthusiasm was infectious. The teachers were busy 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 armor.

### **MYP:**

The Head of School and Coordinators returned to school early to plan for the new session ahead. New teachers joined school and were briefed by HR. 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 the unit planning and assessment while stressing on the need for collaboration in planning, teaching and assessment.

### **PYP:**

The newly appointed teachers 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 where they explored various aspects of the Enhanced PYP such as international mindedness, constructivism and center based learning through a hands-on and experiential approach. All the PYP teachers began the year by reviewing the programme of inquiry. They were also guided through in-house professional development sessions into the importance of critical thinking, differentiated instruction and collaboration. They also worked towards gaining insights about the use of the Design Thinking Process (DTP) and its application into the Units of Inquiry (UOI).

### **CAS:**

Organic farming is an initiative that we started last year in an endeavour to realise the life skills that accompany the process of growing plants and reaping their produce. Students of the four houses of Indus International School and Indus International Community School (IICS) sowed crops such as Ladies finger, Carrot, Tomato and Onion. This was handed over to IICS during holidays. The crops have grown considerably well. Photos are attached in the Appendix.

### **Placements:**

We are happy to let you know that many of our students have been selected in various premier institutes and Ivy leagues across the continents. The students have been occupied in the process of accepting university offers and finalizing the documentation required. The head of the counselling department gave a workshop to all the IB teachers on the college application process and on writing recommendation letters.

### **Sports:**

We are proud to announce that Naren Ramesh (Grade 9) participated in two competitions in July which were conducted by the World Cube Association. The World Cube Association governs competitions for mechanical puzzles like the Rubik's cube. He won a total of five medals in these competitions out of which two are bronze, one is silver and two are gold. We congratulate Naren for his wonderful performance.

### **Boarding:**

The boarding has been preparing diligently and work has been going on in full swing to ensure the hostels are ready to welcome the students into the new academic session. We welcomed the Grade 10, 11 and 12 students in July and wished them another great year of success and happiness in boarding. We look forward to welcome the junior students who are still enjoying a wonderful vacation and will come recharged to start a new boarding year.

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 paths in school again. In this new school year, I wish you inspiration and happiness! All the best!

Regards,  
Sarojini Rao  
Principal  
Indus International School, Bangalore

**Dates For Your Diary: August 2019**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	<b>Curriculum Road Map Day for Reception to Grade 10; Grade 12 Leadership camp Group 2 ends; Single Windows ends; Holiday for Grade 10, 11 &amp; 12</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Boarders pickup Grades 6 - 9</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>School reopens for all students</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Grade 10 Group 1 Camp</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Gender Sensitization workshops</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Bakrid - Holiday</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Student Leadership Retreats – various grades</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Independence Day – Holiday for PYP students</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Investiture Ceremony</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Working Saturday</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Grade 10 Group 2 Camp</b>

**Appendix:**



Tomato planted by Hercules house



Carrot planted by Orion house



Okra planted by Phoenix house



Onion planted by Pegasus house