



From the Principal's Desk

August 2019

Highlights of the month:

- No. 1 in International Day-cum-Boarding School category (Education World India School Rankings 2019-20)
- Launch of Robots as Teacher Assistants
- Investiture Ceremony
- Independence Day celebrations
- Gender sensitization workshops

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the new academic session commences, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the parents, especially to the new families who are joining us for the first time. I hope you all had a restful break and are completely refreshed and ready for a great new start in the school year. I would just like to take a moment to stress upon the vision and core values of the school:

“To create global citizens and leaders of tomorrow through traditional values of love, empathy, respect and discipline- 21st century citizens who think globally and act locally”

It is our endeavor at Indus to instill in our students the values of love, empathy, discipline and respect and to ensure that they evolve as engaged citizens who are international minded, yet do their bit to mitigate problems in and around their vicinity. The beginning of the school year always marks a time of promise and possibility, and 2019-20 is no exception! With talented staff and a supportive community, our students are poised to reap the benefits of this extraordinary partnership. All of our efforts directly impact the students such that they can flourish by achieving academic excellence, becoming emotionally and physically stronger, and growing their talents.

Education World India School Rankings:

The month of August greeted us with wonderful news of being ranked **Number 1**, yet again, in the Education World India School Rankings as the best International Day-cum-Boarding School. The nation-wide survey was conducted by C Fore. Standing first for the eighth time in a row is a testimony of our perseverance to excel as well as the support and feedback we receive from parents.

The **Curriculum Road Map Day (CRM)** was conducted on 2nd August to clarify plans for the new academic year to the parents. A presentation on the overview of the programmes were made by the respective Heads of School and the Programme Coordinators. Parents spent the day meeting with teachers from different departments to gain clarity on the curriculum and other academic expectations.

Robot launch at Indus International School, Bangalore:

At Indus we strive for innovation in everything that we do. In our endeavour to make learning purposeful, it is important that teachers are able to mentor our students. To enable her to focus on teaching the individual child, without having to compromise on

the content, we believe a collaborative learning model (CLM) is the way to go. In the CLM, the three partners in the learning process are the teacher, the student and the technology. The robot teaching assistant which has been introduced in MYP comes after two years of trials and testing. This month we have successfully held classes for Grade 7 in Chemistry and History, Grade 8 in Biology and Physics and Grade 9 in Biology and Geography. With the robot taking over the role of delivering content, the teacher can teach what Google cannot. She can now mentor them, teach them how to learn, provide emotional support and kindle an entrepreneurial mind set. What is more, every time students came for a lesson they were presented new updates to the class based on their previous feedback. It was a proud moment for us to see a clipping of the robot lesson in action covered in the coveted Times of India. We will continue to conduct these classes in the coming months and further develop the system to provide an enriching experience for our students.

The Investiture Ceremony:

The Investiture Ceremony was solemnly conducted on 23rd August and was attended by proud parents who saw the new council take their oath to uphold the core values of Indus International School and carry out their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. The new council members were apprised about their roles as leaders of the school and also reassured that they would be provided with ample guidance, training and support to carry out their tasks as student leaders. Our CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, in his address to the parents and students, stressed upon the fact that to better prepare students for an uncertain future, we need to rely on new technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics. The future only belongs to creative and innovative thinkers and parents play a predominant role in empowering their children towards this. This occasion was not only joyous but also introspective as it witnessed young shoulders

don the badge of leadership, replete with roles that required action through creativity and innovation, and also stirred everybody in the audience to reflect on their roles as parents, teachers and citizens of the world.



Independence Day:

The school bore an air of festivity on the 15th of August, with the students, teachers and staff, celebrating the 73rd Independence Day of India as well as the South Korean National Liberation Day. The CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray hoisted the Indian National Flag in the presence of other dignitaries, students, teachers and staff. This was followed by a solemn rendition of both the Indian and the Korean national anthems. The highlight

of the day's events was the students showcasing their understanding of attributes such as love, empathy, discipline and international mindedness through competitions like 'Just-A-Minute' and Panel Discussion. An inter-house singing competition was also organised where students not only displayed a sense of patriotism but also their singing talent.



Gender Sensitization workshops:

Based on the POCSO Act, students from all grades had gender sensitization workshops in an age appropriate manner. Students of Reception to Grade 5 were introduced to topics such as stranger danger, safe and unsafe touches and child sexual abuse using child friendly strategies such as puppet shows and educational videos by our PYP Counsellor, Dr Khaizer. Students had detailed discussions with her about safety and danger with respect to the types of touches. Section-wise gender sensitization sessions were conducted by the behavioural counsellors for MYP and DP students.

PYP:

Goal setting involves the development of an action plan designed to motivate and guide a person or group toward a goal. Goal setting is a major component of personal development . The Head of School, Ms. Navita Kishan and the PYP Coordinator, Ms. Rachel Jayan held interactive sessions on the concept of Tikkun Olam and goal setting for PYP students. Setting goals and planning their journey early this academic session will give them a direction and enough time to collaborate and work with associated people to help achieve their goal.

PYP student council members marched in unison with the senior school counterparts during the Investiture Ceremony. Led by the school Head Boy, students took the oath to uphold the core values of Indus and perform their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. Every student who obtained a leadership role felt proud as they set themselves on the path to becoming leaders of tomorrow. It was a memorable day for each one of them, and a proud moment to stand as leaders before their peers, teachers and parents.

Our Prep 2 students went to the Indus Community School, on 23rd August to meet their new friends in Grade 1 while exploring the theme 'Who We Are'. They learned to develop bonds and new friendships with the students of Grade 1 at the Community school based on the Central Idea - Relationships can have an impact on well-being. The students shared thoughts and taught each other local and contemporary games and crafts amidst a lot of fun and laughter.

MYP:

Grade 10 students (group 1 and 2) left for ISL Camp at Kanakapura to hone their leadership skills through a range of well-thought activities.

On the 13th of August, Student Leadership Retreat for Grade 10 was conducted by the Head of School to create divine dissatisfaction in students which would ultimately help them set their Tikkun Olam. Placement and Career Counselling department conducted an orientation for grade 9 and 10.

We are proud to announce that Vidushi Keni (Grade 10), played the Indian Junior Golf Tour tournament in Hyderabad from 2nd to 4th August and was the runner-up in her category. We are also happy to announce that Naren Ramesh (Grade 9) won 2 gold medals and 1 bronze medal in Chennai Cube Open held on the 25th August. He finished first in 2x2x2, Pyraminx and finished third in Skewb. We also compliment Anvi Kurade (Grade 8) for standing among the top 25 in scholastic writing award 2019.

IGCSE:

It was a moment of sheer pride and exaltation to see our last batch of grade 10 students performing wonderfully in their IGCSE June Series Exams. The results were fantastic with 60% students being awarded Distinction .The overall toppers are mentioned in Appendix 1. A hearty congratulations to all!

DP:

As the Grade 11 students begin their journey into the IB world, they were oriented to the various components of IB. As the students come to terms with the IB requirements, the academic rigour is gradually picking up. Prior knowledge tests have

been conducted to understand the level, based on which the scaffolding will be planned. They also had their first Leadership Curriculum period where introduction to deep reading and exercises on deriving concepts from short paragraphs were conducted. The Grade 11 students participated whole heartedly in the Independence Day celebration and are generally building a rapport with other students and teachers.

Grade 12: The senior year of the IBDP began with submissions and culmination of their summer work. A TOK camp was also conducted where students clarified their queries. The students then attended the leadership camps in three groups.

CAS:

The House Visions have been initiated for the academic year 2019-20. Student involvement will be key to the successful implementation of the CAS (Community, Action and Service) initiatives. The house masters along with the students are preparing the way ahead for the new academic session.

Students of Phoenix house harvested the vegetables they had been growing and sold it to collect funds for their house. Students of Hercules, Orion and Pegasus are awaiting their harvest of tomato, carrot and onion respectively. Students of all houses have sowed different varieties of beans, cucumber and coriander.

Students of all houses have taken up the community kitchen initiative and are helping in cooking and food distribution for the underprivileged migrant labourers.

Students of all houses have started to identify vendors for the purchase of a new sanitary pad machine to produce low-cost sanitary pads as a part of their women's empowerment project.

Placements:

Counselling sessions were conducted for students where they understood the expectations and the application process in detail. A workshop for teachers on college applications and writing recommendation letters was also conducted.

Representatives from various prestigious universities are visiting the school and interested students are getting a chance to interact with them.

Apart from a workshop that was done for Grades 9 and 10 students, an orientation was conducted by the Director- Placements, Ms. Uma Ravitharan for MYP Year 4 and 5 parents on CRM day.

Sports:

It gives me immense pride to announce that Indus International School, Bangalore has done extremely well in the first inter-school competition of the year. Our badminton team had participated in the One Dream Cup Badminton Under-18 Boys / Girls Championship which was held at Star Badminton Academy, Bangalore on 25th August. Indus Bangalore Karate Team had participated in the Gezuke National Level Open Karate Championship 2019 held on 18th August at Bangalore and have won several medals. The tournament had more than 700 participants from different Karate Clubs and Schools. The results of the two tournaments are attached in Appendix 2.

We are also proud to announce that Saniya Patel of Grade 12 won the gold medal in the girls cross country event at the VIVUM 2019 organised by TISB.

Boarding:

Boarding has seen a lot of intense activity this month with a focus to help students understand the weekly routines, keep them engaged over the weekends and providing them some leisure time as well.

The first weekend was planned to help the boarders getting to know the campus well through a campus tour. This was followed with the presentation on the golf programme offered by Clover Greens conducted by Mr. Rahul Ganapathy. It was amazing to see a positive and encouraging response from the students who also got to go for a trial round.

Socials were planned for the boarders where students from each boarding house exhibited their talent in singing, dancing and shared their experiences in the boarding. Boarders enjoyed a sumptuous dinner followed by dancing.

The inclement weather has disturbed the morning schedules this month, but the special coaching for the school team in football, badminton and basketball continued giving boarders opportunity to enhance their sports skills. Weekend food stalls were organized and boarders got to try out a variety of dishes. The activities planned this month were thoroughly enjoyed.

National Seminar on Education: Systems, Practices and Research:

A national seminar on education with special focus on IB was conducted in Christ University from 22nd - 24th August. As a panellist in the discussion about the scope of IB in facilitating lifelong learning in students, I brought out the uniqueness of IB education and how Indus aligns itself to the IBO mission of creating 21st century citizens. I highlighted the importance of training students to set realistic but

challenging goals to find solutions to local problems. It was a rich avenue for exchanging best practices and pedagogical advancements with a distinguished audience from various sectors of the education field.

The school is vibrant again with student activity and involvement. We have many new students in every year level. A growing enrolment is great for our school community and enables us to provide a broad and engaging program for the students. Our start to the year has been remarkably smooth and we are confident that many of our school improvement initiatives are gaining traction. We are very buoyant that we will continue to see further improvement in student outcomes this year and in years to come.

Regards,
Sarojini Rao
Principal

Dates For Your Diary: September 2019	
DATE	EVENT
2nd September	Ganesh Chaturthi - Holiday
5th September	Teachers' Day celebrations
7th September	Working Saturday for Grade 6 – 12; Open forum: IBDP [Grade 12]
16th September	Mid-Term Tests for Grade 12 begins

20th September	Mid-Term Tests for Grades 6 – 11 begins
21st September	Working Saturday for Teachers only
25th- 27th September	Grade 5 Leadership Camp
27th September	Mid-Term Tests end
30th September – 4th October	Grade 11 Group 1 Leadership Camp

Appendix 1: IGCSE Board Exam 2019 Results at a glance

Toppers:

Shashank Kumar Singh	Attempted 10 exams – Result - 10 A*
Megan Lewis	Attempted 10 exams - Result - 10 A*
Akash Dhiraj	Attempted 9 exams – Result 9 A*
Satvik Elayavalli	Attempted 10 exams – Result 9 A*
Shrikar Chakravarthy	Attempted 9 exams – Result 7 A*
Jayram Attaluri	Attempted 10 exams – Result 7 A*
Amrita Basu	Attempted 10 exams – Result 7 A*

Appendix 2: Tournament results

One Dream Cup Badminton Under-18 Boys / Girls Championship:

Individual Event:

Name	Result
Arhaan Parikh (Grade 11)	Silver Medal

Doubles Event:

Name	Result
Justin Rosangpuia (Grade 8) & Arhaan Parikh (Grade 11)	Gold Medal
Anish Patel (Grade 11) & Kazi Islam(Grade 11)	Silver Medal

Gezuke National Level Open Karate Championship 2019

Name	Grade	Event	Result
Sonali M.K.	11	Kata	Gold Medal
Varsha M Reddy	9	Kata	Silver Medal
Srihari Nandakumar	5	Kata	Silver Medal
Thanushree Reddy	10	Kata	Bronze Medal