

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to our parents and students as we begin another year. The year gone by was a busy one as we met our challenges head on: we won some, we made heartening progress in some others and, yes, we didn't make it in a couple. But, personally, I was willing to take it. As Principal, I know that I will be being needlessly harsh on the team here if I didn't count the pluses. And yet we are acutely aware that IISH is not where it should be. In all areas, there is so much unfulfilled potential, so many miles to go – and so we have now set our goals in all the verticals. Our Programme Coordinators or Heads of the concerned department will share precise details with you this month. Indus Hyderabad will see marked progress in all areas – I promise you that.

1) Improvements in infrastructure:

During the summer vacation, the following things were done for the benefit of our students:

- a) Six new air-conditioned buses were purchased and six old ones were retired.
- b) In the Boys' Hostel, six sets of washrooms were refurbished. Among other things done, they were re-tiled and new pipelines were laid for the hot water connections.
- c) New pipelines were laid from the pump house to different parts of the school as the old ones had got blocked due to calcification.
- d) Many students had shown an interest in tennis. We had a Tennis Wall built to help students improve their volleying skills.

2) New staff:

We have had to bid farewell to some of our staff because of their personal and other reasons. We try to keep attrition to a minimum and will continue to do so. At the same time, we ensure that the staff we get are the best possible.

Let me introduce you to our new staff:

- a) **Mr Rayburn Francis** is a trained Post-graduate in Physics and comes in as our Physics Teacher (for IB DP & IGCSE classes). He has more than 22 years of experience of teaching Physics in a variety of curricula. He has held different leadership positions in his career, including having worked as a Vice-Principal for

6 years in an ICSE school of repute in Madurai. His hobbies include listening to music, star gazing, Nature walks, writing poems, theatre and, of course, Science-related activities. He can be contacted at rayburn.francis@indusschoolhyd.com.

- b) **Ms Nagamani Kalkivai** comes in as the English HOD. Ms Nagamani holds an MA in English Literature along with B.Ed and BJMC (Bachelor of journalism and mass communication) qualifications. She has more than 20 years of experience teaching English in a variety of curricula, including MYP, IGCSE & IB DP, in India & abroad. She is an IB examiner for English Language & Literature. Ms Nagamani will be handling English Language & Literature for IB DP & IGCSE classes. Ms Nagamani may be contacted at nagamani.kalkivai@indusschoolhyd.com
- c) **Ms Meena Desikan** comes in to teach Economics. Ms Meena has done M.Sc and M.Phil in Economics. She has an international teaching certification. Ms Meena has 8 years of teaching experience at the IGCSE and IB DP levels in well-known schools and is also an IB examiner.
In her spare time, she blogs, writes poems and online book reviews. Ms Meena Desikan is a keen learner and regularly does online courses and learns anything from Korean to script writing. Ms Meena may be contacted at meena.g@indusschoolhyd.com
- d) **Ms Farida Fraz** comes in to teach Mathematics at the IB DP & IGCSE levels. She has 8 years of teaching experience in a variety of curricula including IB DP, AS/A Levels & IGCSE, in India & abroad. Ms Fraz holds an Engineering degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Mysore. She is also a trained Zumba instructor. Ms Fraz may be contacted at farida.fraz@indusschoolhyd.com
- e) **Mr Saikiran Vadla** will be handling Business Management & Business Studies for IB DP & IGCSE students. He has over five years of teaching experience in well-known International schools in India. Mr Saikiran is a Business Management facilitator for IB DP and an Extended Essay supervisor. He is also an IB examiner and took part in the DP Business Management Category 1 workshop conducted by the IBO. Mr Saikiran has also done his MBA in Planning and Entrepreneurship. Mr Saikiran is an enthusiastic cricket and badminton player and enjoys reading about current affairs, cooking and reptiles. Mr Saikiran may be contacted at saikiran.vadla@indusschoolhyd.com
- f) **Ms Rakshita Shekhar** comes in to teach Physics for MSP classes and to help students with Special Education Needs. She has more than four years of experience in well-known International Schools in India.
Ms Rakshita was previously a trained program developer for an IT giant when she realised that she wanted her life to be about making a difference where it mattered the most. After teaching for 8 years as a volunteer, she decided to

become a professional teacher and completed the Cambridge International Diploma for Teachers and Trainers from Bangalore. Ms Rakshita has enrolled for a Masters in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from the University of Kent, UK and is presently pursuing a postgraduate research project on the effectiveness of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as seen through the experiences of parents. Her hobbies include singing, travelling and writing poetry. Ms Rakshita may be contacted at rakshita.shekhar@indusschoolhyd.com

- g) **Ms Priyanka Bangarwa** teaches Mathematics at the MSP level. Ms Priyanka completed her Masters in Mathematics from St. Francis College for Women, Hyderabad and topped her batch with 95%! She won the 1st Proficiency prize and Spectrum prize for this. Ms Priyanka has participated in many Hindi essay writing competitions during graduation and received two State-level prizes (1st and 3rd). She was also awarded the *Gargi Puraskar* by the Rajasthan government in 2008. Ms Priyanka enjoys playing badminton and going for adventure trips. Her hobbies include listening to music and watching Indian biographical films. She may be contacted at priyanka.bangarwa@indusschoolhyd.com
- h) **Ms Prasanna Peri** joins us in the English Department at the MSP level. She brings to the table a rich and wide spectrum of experience from over a decade of working in academics, media, hospitality, international tourism and books retail. Energetic and inspiring, her interests, spanning from story-telling, blogging, radio jockeying to amateur astronomy, speak for her versatility. Ms Prasanna may be contacted at prasanna.peri@indusschoolhyd.com
- i) **Ms Sumitra Turlapati**, our PYP and MSP Art teacher, is a Post-graduate in Fine Arts apart from being an M.A. in Hindi, a B.Sc. in Life Sciences, and certified in Fabric Painting and 3D animation. She has 14 years of experience in teaching different curricula. Ms Sumitra may be contacted at sumitra.turlapati@indusschoolhyd.com
- j) **Ms Dolly Sirohi** teaches Geography to the IGCSE & MSP classes. She has over 12 years of experience in well-known schools and colleges in India. Ms Sirohi holds a Post-graduate degree and has completed a training programme in IELTS from the British Council in New Delhi. Ms Sirohi may be contacted at dolly.sirohi@indusschoolhyd.com
- k) **Mr Gopinath Padhi** is a trained musician and is proficient on the keyboard, guitar, mandolin, *tabla*, and the congo. He knows the PYP curriculum well and is a valuable addition to our Music Department.

3) Formation of the new PAC (Parents' Advisory Committee):

The term of a PAC member is two years. Many of our PAC members have completed their terms. In the coming week, I shall be sending out the guidelines for volunteering to be a member and the rules and regulations governing the formation of the PAC. I urge those who find themselves eligible to volunteer to be a partner with us in taking our school forward.

The Olympics have begun. The motto is *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, which is Latin for "Faster, Higher, Stronger". The very motto implies that it is not about natural gifts but the aspiration for, the active working towards achievement through sheer diligence, perseverance and tenacity. What is it about great athletes like Jesse Owens, Sergey Bubka, Nadia Comaneci, Michael Phelps, Haile Gebrselassie, Emil Zatopek, and Usain Bolt, to name just a few? Is it a natural – divinely given? – gift that they owe their success to? Is it only hard work?

Angela Duckworth in her book, *Grit*, tells us with compelling stories and convincing research that what makes people champions or let us just say successful people is grit. While people may be born with certain anatomical advantages (e.g. a good height) or certain financial / professional advantages (where people were fortunate to receive a specialised education / training or be given certain resources that helped develop talent), what ultimately made the difference was GRIT. As an example she quotes a six-year-long study of swimmers and the conclusion was this: the most dazzling achievements are, in fact, the aggregate of countless individual elements, each of which is, in a sense, ordinary. (Thus the title of the study, *The Mundanity of Excellence*.) One recalls the saying: The best of men are but men at their best.

Most of us only see or hear of the end result on television or in the newspaper, and we marvel at the felicity of an action; we attribute it only to an innate talent. What we don't realise is the hundreds and thousands of hours that go into making that look easy. As Nietzsche wrote: "With everything perfect, we do not ask how it came to be."

The Times of India in its July 31st edition tells a heartwarming story of the archer Deepika Kumari, daughter of a rickshaw driver in Jharkhand, who pursued her dream relentlessly and went on to win many gold medals at international events. In 2012, she was ranked World No. 1. Deepika was always clear about her goals and went about working towards them with unflagging determination. There are many such tales that emerge from the biographies of successful people.

I urge parents to get a copy of this book so that they can help their children find their interest, discover their purpose and plan their goals. It doesn't guarantee that your ward will be the next Tendulkar or Usain Bolt but it does give many wonderful nuggets of wisdom about preparing for the great game of life.

I end this letter with two promises: the first, a small one, that the Newsletter will, in future, not reach you so late and, the second one that Indus Hyderabad will see marked progress in all verticals of school life. We look forward to your support and guidance.

Warm wishes,

C P Joseph

PRINCIPAL