

Dear Parents,

We had a week-long Diwali break. We hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends and that no holiday fatigue (coming as it did after the prolonged Dasara break!) spoiled the fun. Notwithstanding the break of the rhythm, we managed to do a fair bit in school.

### **1) Academic Matters:**

- a) The PYP PTM was conducted on the 21st of November. Results of the first Monthly Tests and their Mid-Term tests had been shared earlier.
- b) Middle and Senior School teachers – Indian and expatriate – generously gave of their time to share with the PYP students their knowledge and experience of different forms of government (of their own native countries) and the festivals they celebrated.
- c) Grade 3 students went on a field trip to the Birla Planetarium.
- d) Mr. Raj Seelam, Founder and Managing Director of 24 Mantra, spoke to MSP students on sustainable development. Students learned a lot about soil composition, and farming models and practices.

Ms Madhuri Kodali, engineer and a specialist in Entomology spoke to MSP students about Sustainable Development and Ecological Footprint.

Ms Kodali and Mr Seelam are MSP parents and we are very grateful to them for taking time out to share their knowledge and wisdom with our students. We request all other parents to assist us in whatever way possible so that our students learn in a variety of ways.

- e) Ms Indra Kola and Mrs Kasana (the IBDP Coordinator) along with Ms Pasupulati and Ms Shirin Bagchi organized a TOK retreat at a Resort away from school. It was very well organized and was a tremendous learning experience for all our students.
- f) The Report Card which has details of students' performance not just in academic work but in other areas, too, was sent to parents of Classes 6 – 9 and 11. Should

parents want to discuss the same with the teachers, they are more than welcome to contact the concerned Coordinator who will facilitate the same.

- g) An Extended Essay workshop was organized for IBDP students. Students have been very happy with the quality of instruction imparted at all the workshops organized for them.

## 2) Sports

- a) Badminton: In a State-level championship organized by the School Games Federation of India, Srishti Jupudi of Class 9 won the Under-17 Girls Championship (Singles). She also successfully led her District Team to win the Team event. Well done, Srishti! Srishti has also been selected for the SGFI National Championship to be held in Andhra Pradesh in December and January. We warmly wish all her all the very best.
- b) Eight IB schools (including IISH) took part in the PYP Network Inter-School Athletics Meet hosted by Sreenidhi International School. We won 3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal.

Panipak of Class 5 won the Silver in Shot Put and the Bronze in 200m, Ashiana Reddy Zore of Class 4 won the Gold in Shot Put, Yash Reddy of Class 5 won the Gold in Shot Put, Aryan Reddy of Class 5 won the Gold in Long Jump, and Aman Uddin of Class 4 won the Silver in Shot Put and the Silver in the 100m race.

- c) Orion House won the Inter-House Football and Basketball trophies for the year.

## 3) Other Co-curricular events:

- a) PYP students and teachers went to watch a play entitled "Kyun Kyun Ladki" on 5th November at Shilpakala Vedika.
- b) Children's Day was celebrated as Eagles' Day. Our students took part in Teacher-led activities and competitions, and enjoyed themselves very much. On the same day, PYP (who had celebrated Children's Day earlier in the month) celebrated Grandparents' Day. The atmosphere was lively and heart-warming.
- c) In partnership with Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt. Ltd., a competition called **Imagine Day** was organised, an initiative aimed at inspiring students to be creative with technology.
- d) An Inter-House extempore competition, '**A Minute to Speak It**', was conducted on 2nd November. Pegasus won the competition with 350 points followed by Orion, Phoenix and Hercules.

- e) Grades 6 and 7 went for a Leadership Camp to ISL at Yellagiri. They enjoyed the camp very much. Problems of transport to the Camp and a few other problems faced en route have been examined thoroughly by the school to avoid any repetition.
- f) In order to promote deep concept understanding of civilizations, the Humanities team of the Middle School Programme, organized a weekend excursion to Hampi. Apart from the fun of travel and enjoying one more example of “Incredible India”, students learned a lot from the observation and exploration of historical material. A range of activities was organized to complement the learning.
- g) The Visual Arts department conducted and displayed art works and artifacts made by the current batch of Grade 12. These works were completed during the last seven academic weeks. It was an exhibition where the students could freely interact with individuals, and express their thoughts and ideas behind the making of each piece.
- h) The Department of Theatre Arts, Hyderabad Central University, organized a theatre production to which the students of our Theatre Club were invited. Mr Akshath Arora, who is in charge of training the students of our Theatre club, was involved in the production of the play. The play was a piece of contemporary modern theatre adapted from a Greek text, *Seven Against Thebes*, by Aeschylus.

#### 4) From the Careers and Placements Cell:

- a) Ms Deepti Chitkara, our Placements In-charge, has met with all Grade 12 students outside of academic time to discuss transcripts, college applications, essay writing, updating the colleges on Naviance, scholarships, and other relevant matters.
- b) Ms Chitkara attended the University of HULT counselling session held at Mumbai on 23rd November, and the University of Oxford counselling training session on 26th November at Ashoka University Campus, Delhi.

#### 5) CAS Activities held in November:

- a) This month the Grade 11 students were engaged with the Mokila Integrated sports coaching, and filling up their Reflection and Supervisor’s forms, two very important documents for their IBDP diploma.
- b) A group of 10 students are also involved in a “Green” project; they have sold up to 900 Kg of paper to raise funds for the Kondakal Primary school re-construction.
- c) The regular CAS activities had to be interrupted due to the Sports Day practice. Nonetheless, all the grades from 6 to 11 had their 4-session Leadership curriculum workshops conducted by the Vice-Principal, Mr. Rizwan.

## 6) Our Junior Schools at Jubilee Hills and Gachibowli:

We are very happy to inform all our parents that the Indus International Junior School at Jubilee Hills was adjudged the No. 1 pre-school in Hyderabad by Education World. Our Junior School at Gachibowli was adjudged the No. 4 pre-school in Hyderabad.

Congratulations to the Head of School, Ms Nuwaira Pasha, and to Ms Kiran Kaza and Ms Mukta Khurana, the Centre Heads at the Jubilee Hills and the Gachibowli campuses, respectively, for their hard work and vision. Congratulations to all our teachers there as well for their commitment and unfailing enthusiasm.

## 7) Some important dates:

- a) We have our Sports Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December beginning at 9:30 a.m. It is a celebration by students of Grades 1 to 12.
- b) Monthly Tests for Grade 6 - 9 & 11 will be held from 11 - 16 December.
- c) There will be a workshop on Persuasive Communication for the Faculty on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December.
- d) The 2<sup>nd</sup> PAC Meeting will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
- e) **School closes for the Winter vacation on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December (the last working day being the 16<sup>th</sup>). Staff return to station on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, Boarders return to school on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and School begins from the 5<sup>th</sup> of January at the usual time.**

I share with you a story that I narrated to the students at Assembly one Monday morning:

*An old monk who was on his deathbed was visited by his favourite disciple who begged him to share some words of wisdom while he was there. The monk said to him, "Zusya, you must always know yourself and be true to yourself. In the world to come, they will not ask you why you were not Moses but why you were not Zusya."*

(Moses is one of the great prophets of the Old Testament in the Bible who led the Jews out of bondage.) As teachers, we are always conscious of our duty to develop our pupils in a variety of ways to the best of their ability. We are aware that each child is indeed unique and we must keep in mind the singular potential of each; accordingly, each child

must be encouraged and nurtured. We ask you to remember as well that your child need not be a carbon copy of anyone you know, or a fulfilment of someone else's unrealised dream / aspiration. Your child has his / her own place to fill in this world, which your child will do successfully only if all of us are respectful of that unique combination of thoughts, feelings and abilities. Your understanding and cooperation are always eagerly sought in this regard.

Warm wishes,

C P Joseph

**PRINCIPAL**