



From the Principal's desk

February 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

February just flew by mainly for two reasons. Firstly, we were in the grip of Indus Day fever and as the practices for one event seamlessly blended into the other we lost track of the passage of time. Secondly, because, at Indus the charged atmosphere envelopes teachers and students alike and so involved are we in the tasks at hand that time loses its hold on us. Having said this however, time did stand still on the Evening of the Performing Arts on the 22nd of February. The Annual Indus Day programme was everything it promised; an exciting evening replete with music, dance and drama.

The programme commenced with the melodious rendition of the invocation song titled 'Where the mind is without fear'. This was followed by the innovation dance and the address of the CEO of the Indus Trust, Lieutenant General Arjun Ray (Retd.) who discussed the significance of not only educating the head and the heart, but also the mind. It is through this approach that we can prepare our students to take account of the parameters of the new world we live in: a world that is marked with a very high speed of change and a world where empathy is diminishing at an alarming rate. Lt. Gen Ray deliberated on the need of a new operative environment for the education of the heart, the mind and the head. The trinity of this new operative environment would be marked by localism, recognition of our cultural identity and innovation. Taking this idea forward he reinstated his belief in the fact that folk art, folk culture and our aesthetic culture will form the nucleus of this new operative environment.

The programme proceeded with a fine display of talent, creativity and skill. Through the Banjara Dance, the students celebrated the potential and the eternal wandering spirit in every human being. In the English Play, The Defenseless Creatures, students portrayed a series of contradictions in life which left the audience laughing and at the same time understanding the absurdity of communication through two different situations. The Hindi

Play, *Desh Ko Aage Badhao* was a satire on Indian politics highlighting the corruption prevalent in the Indian political system.

The chief highlight of the evening was the Jugalbandi where the students from Indus International School collaborated with the children of the Manganiyar community (of *The Little Princes of Rajasthan* fame) and presented a fusion of traditional and contemporary music and songs. As a tribute to the folk tradition and art of India, there was a special performance by the children of the Manganiyar community in appreciation of their culture and heritage.

The show culminated with a musical extravaganza by the Indus Orchestra and Choir displaying style and resplendence through an electrifying performance. The orchestra played various pieces from the western classical world of music. The vibrancy with which the orchestra was conceptualized using different instruments, enthralled the audience who could only watch spellbound as the students exhibited their innate and developing talents through their riveting performances. The songs presented by the Indus choir left the audience mesmerized with their rendition. The amalgamation of musical performances, orchestra, and drama and dance presentations was a visual and acoustic treat for all.





Apart from the feats in whole education the school has also been busy with several other tasks. Here is a glimpse at some of them.

PYP: We aim to incorporate experiential learning opportunities at age- appropriate levels in our endeavour to make education wholesome and effective. Hence, activities like the field trips related to their units of study are done on a regular basis. As a part of their transdisciplinary theme, 'How the world works, students of Prep 1 visited a small scale manufacturing unit to carry out inquiries into materials like paper, cement and fabric and their uses to make paper cups, cement bricks and cloth bags. The field trip gave opportunities for a hands-on experiential understanding of different materials in the environment, their properties and uses.

On 16th February, the PYP 3 Way Conference was conducted where students reviewed their goals with their parents and teachers together, helping them pinpoint the next steps and the respective goals in the months to come. Based on the feedback received, we are glad to know that all our students have displayed some or many attributes of the learner profile, thereby directing our focus to the development of internationally minded students. Ms. Navita also had a presentation on inducting new parents who joined in the latter half of the term, to the IB philosophy and practices, answering several doubts and queries regarding the system and processes.

As Grade 3 dives further into their inquiry into the transdisciplinary theme 'How we express ourselves' through the lens of Media, students had a wonderful opportunity of being

reporters and journalists when our classroom was transformed into a news room by Ms. Nidhi Mehrotra a parent from Grade 3. Ms Nidhi has a vast experience in media and broadcasting and kept students engaged in various activities which were connected to recording news, reporting, editing and publishing. Our Grade 3 News Room was buzzing with enthusiasm.

Students of Grade 3 from Indus International Community School (IICS) and IISB celebrated Valentine's Day through a fun day together on 14th February. Students were involved in creating posters for each other, teaching origami and playing a friendly soccer match. We could also see some students interacting with students of IICS in local languages. The students were caring and open-minded during the interaction and gained an understanding into each other's lives albeit for a short moment.

Grade 4 had an expert visit to inquire into the functioning of camera and the purpose of photography in connection with the trans disciplinary theme 'How we express ourselves'. The students had many questions which were answered through an engaging power point presentation and a demonstration in small groups on how the lens and the film of a camera functions and helps to capture an image.

The most exciting part of the Grade 5 unit based on the transdisciplinary theme 'How we organize ourselves' is the Business Fete, held on 26th February as a part of 'End of Unit Celebrations'. The fete not only provided our students the experience of running their own business but also brought out the importance of collaboration, a sense of commitment, responsibility, cooperation and integrity. The colorful posters and flyers attracted a large number of customers who were treated with lip-smacking food and some interesting games. We take this opportunity to thank the parents for encouraging our little entrepreneurs in this endeavour.

ACER ISA Exams: The students from Grades 3 to 8 attended the annual ACER-ISA exams in English and Math on the 12th and 13th of February. The ISA assessment program is designed specifically for students in international schools and is based on the internationally endorsed reading, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

MYP: The middle school students spent considerable time in practices and preparation for both Performing Arts Day as well as Leadership Day. The annual ***Trinity Speech and Drama exam*** was conducted for all students who have opted for drama under MDD and have pursued this for at least two years now. It was conducted at the Jagriti theatre and we

received positive feedback from the Trinity on our students' state of readiness, training and overall performance.

Early on in the month, a school-wide fire drill was conducted to educate all stakeholders about the evacuation routes and procedures. An informative fire safety demonstration by the Fire Department was conducted after staff and students had safely assembled in the designated area.

Several students from Grade 8 and Grade 9 attended a Biomedical Fair conducted by iCrest which was held in HCG Towers, Bangalore. Students attended a presentation where research opportunities in the biomedical field were highlighted.

In February, teachers continued with the series of workshops which they had started attending in January. The follow up sessions on emotional well-being with Cadabams was one of them. They also attended a workshop on MYP Personal Projects where they immersed themselves in grading sample projects to understand their role as supervisors and how they may support students in the process.

In our continuous efforts to reinforce and ensure emotional well-being of our students, Grade 9 students attended the emotional well-being workshop with Cadabams where the focus was on mental health; with particular emphasis on depression.

With a mix of excitement and anxiety, the second group of students of Grade 7 boarded the buses to leadership camp at ISL, Kanakpura. The activities provided them with new opportunities to explore, participate in and reflect on challenges in a positive manner, while developing leadership competencies. They cheered for their friends who wanted to give up midway and complimented the ones who made it successfully. The camp also gave students an opportunity to display attitudes of independence, co-operation and self-management skills.

We are happy to let you know that Ranveer Mishra (Grade 7) and his team from Gameday academy played BFT Junior cup today. They were the winner of this cup. Ranveer was the captain of his team.

We are also proud to inform that Snigdha Goswami (Grade 8) has done very well in the 2018 Year End Tour Championship held on the 25th and 26th of February, at Bangalore Golf Club. She was the winner in 2 categories, Category A Girls and Category B Girls. Snigdha was also crowned the Tour Champion for 2018 in Category B Girls. Natasha Jaichandra (Grade 7) was crowned the Tour Champion for 2018 in Category C Girls. Bangalore Junior Golf Championship 2018 was a series of twelve games played during the year and with this she is ranked number one in Bangalore.



IGCSE: Parent teacher meeting was held for Grade 10 on 2nd February to provide two way feedback and guidance to parents on how their wards have performed in the half yearly exams and the plan ahead to improve their performance in the upcoming Mock Exams.

Open Forum was also scheduled during this month where PAC discussed clarifications and queries from parents of Grade 10. These were addressed and a plan of action was shared during the meeting.

IBDP Orientation and Career Counselling workshop was conducted by Ms. Aparna Achanta and Mr. Hector Leon respectively for Grade 10 parents to apprise them of the expectations and requirements of IBDP and crucial understanding on how the selection of subject options plays an important role in placements and applying to universities. Mr. Hector emphasized to the parents to make informed decisions based on a lot of factors he laid out and ensure that their wards are able to pursue further studies.

IGCSE Hindi March Series Board Exams took place on the 21st and 28th February. Students seemed happy with the paper and are hopeful to score high in Hindi this year.

A session on exam preparation and stress management techniques was conducted by the Indus Wellness team where they invited senior students from the Grade 10 batch 2017-18 to share their best practices and guide the students on how to avoid last minute confusion before exam. Tips and strategies to take exam, revision strategies and healthy habits were discussed. Students came out of this session more motivated and focused.

DP: The Grade 11 have had an eventful month. The whole month was spent on various activities pertaining to whole education with a focus on the evening of Performing Arts. Students are now geared up for the culmination of house and innovation projects along

with ILeads speeches and exhibition of leadership journals on the Leadership Day. On the academic front, students had an orientation for the extended essay and the process of selection of the right subject for their essay.

The Grade 12 are engrossed in their IB text books and submissions of the IAs and such. The intensive revision is on full swing ending with a test at the end of each week. Emotional wellbeing sessions continue with Cadabams where the focus is on overcoming the exam stress.

CAS: In a run up to Leadership Day scheduled on 2nd March, all four houses have been busy in completing their Community Projects. Students and the housekeeping and security wardens who are involved in these projects along with the faculty advisors, have ensured excellent progress was made this month.

Phoenix House: Students of Phoenix house conducted a health and hygiene workshop in a government school in Handenhalli. The boys spoke of general hygiene and girls spoke specifically about feminine personal hygiene. The students also talked about the importance of breaking social myths related to menstruation, empowering women with the necessary nutrition and sanitation needs.

The students also conducted an emotional wellbeing workshop for Grade 9 and 10 IICS students as they near their final examinations. Apart from explaining the importance of healthy eating, sleeping well and scheduling, they also donated essential school stationery to these students with the money they raised for the cause.

Pegasus House: Organic farming in MYP and IICS plots have been in progress. The beautician course and the tailoring course are going well and the Leadership Day preparations in terms of making products for display such as candles, cloth decors, recycled jeans bag, table napkins, and cocktail napkins are in full swing.

Hercules House: The students added new designs and products to their recycled paper manufacturing unit. They have met the targets for production for Grades 6-9 & 11 and have also introduced new stationery products. They are all gearing up for the science exhibition on the Leadership Day.

Orion House: The Orion house conducted the Communicative English Classes for ammas in IISB and IICS. The IICS magazine is complete and will be shared on the Leadership Day.

Placements: Many universities visited us in February and the placements department was well geared up to host them. Some of the visits were from:

Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada: With historical strengths in education, engineering, business, geology, and medicine, it is one of the top comprehensive universities in Canada. In October 2019 Maclean's ranked Memorial University seventh out of 15 Canadian universities in its comprehensive university category.

Loyola University Chicago and University Northern Iowa, (USA): LUC is ranked 89th among National Universities according to the latest (2019) U.S. News & World Report college rankings. U.S. News commonly places Loyola among their fifty "Best Value" colleges as well. In 2011 USA Today ranked Loyola 6th among "colleges most committed to community service."

The University of Northern Iowa is a public university in Cedar Falls, Iowa: UNI offers more than 90 majors across the colleges of Business Administration, Education, Humanities, Arts, and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences and graduate college. UNI has implemented a Liberal Arts Core (LAC) in order to provide a common liberal arts foundation for all undergraduate students. University of Northern Iowa is ranked #25 in Regional Universities Midwest.

Johnson & Wales University and Creighton University, (USA): Johnson & Wales University currently has 4 academic units at four of its different campuses: the College of Business, the College of Culinary Arts, the Hospitality College, and the College of Arts & Sciences. JWU is well known for its culinary arts program, but was first founded with business and hospitality programs. The university is the largest food service educator in the world.

Creighton University: Students find great balance in Creighton's rigorous academics and strong focus on leadership skills, undergraduate research and life-changing community service experiences. With more than 8,000 students, more than 50 undergraduate majors in arts and sciences, business and nursing, and programs in 6 graduate and professional schools, including law, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy and more, Creighton is the ideal learning environment.

Foothill & De Anza Colleges, USA: Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, the Foothill-De Anza Colleges have demonstrated excellence and innovation in academic programs and student services. As one of the largest 2-year college districts in the United States, Foothill-De Anza provides credit classes for about 64,000 students a year. The colleges are active

members of the League for Innovation in the Community College, a national consortium of leading two-year institutions.

Apart from organizing these visits the placements department also continued to meet with students who have been late stragglers to discuss and advise about their essays. They also met prospective students and parents related to Indus' College Placements strategies on preparing students to apply to their selected university choices as scheduled by our Admissions Office.

Boarding: Life as usual is exciting in the boarding. Things are in full swing as we head towards the third term of this academic session. Grade 10 and Grade 12 students are now at an interesting phase of the year where they are challenged academically and are preparing meticulously for their upcoming mock exams.

Boarders also had fire evacuation drill and students were trained and rehearsed on the evacuation procedures of the boarding house ensuring the safety of all concerned.

Boarders were delighted to have dinner outside on the lawns socializing and bonding with their friends & peers. Students from Grade 6 to Grade 9 continued to visit the library to inculcate the book reading habit. Quite a few boarders from Grade 8 to 11 participated in the iCREST Science Fair. The junior boarders enjoyed the Science Edutainment Show conducted by Science Utsav which was an interactive learning platform for the students through hands-on activities, science experiments, fun projects, science games, puzzles, science expeditions, role plays and other innovative pedagogy techniques. They made us believe "Science is Awesome & Practicality is everything".

A good number of boarders participated in various tournaments at Head Start and TISB. Boarders also showcased their talent in music, dance and drama during the Annual Evening of the Performing Arts. Students also volunteered in large numbers to ensure that the programme went well.

What started as a small idea by the junior students has now grown into a project. The boys transformed a grass plateau into a lovely little blooming vegetable and flower garden with their hard work and unconditional love and care for the plants. The rewards of plenty of water and lot of sunshine were visible when the plants started bearing flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Sports: Sports is an integral part of whole education at Indus and Sports Day is one of the most exciting and energetic events for our students. The **PYP Annual Sports Day** which was celebrated on 8th February was filled with great passion, exhilaration and a spirited atmosphere.

The highlights of the event were the walk past by all our excited PYP students from Early Years to Grade 5, the torch run by students who have won accolades in Interschool and National competitions, the Early Years display, the Grade 1 to 5 Dumbbells drill and Fabric display, the Yoga display and Equestrian event.

Students competed actively in events such as sprints, relays and novelty games. Participation from parents and teachers added to the delight of competition. It was a perfect display of sportsmanship where our promising eagles not only participated but cheered for their teammates and opponents with equal zeal and enthusiasm. The results are attached in Appendix 1.

We are also pleased to inform you that our School Tennis and Athletics team took part in the **Head Start Friendship Inter School Tournament** which took place on 12th to 15th February at St. John's Sports Ground Koramangala, Bangalore. It was really a great opportunity for our children to exhibit their talents. See the list of winners in Appendix 2.

PAC Meeting: Parent Advisory Committee [PAC] met with the Principal, Vice Principal, Heads of School and Programme Coordinators to discuss and understand the suggestions and curriculum related queries of the parent body on 13th February. Members of the leadership team discussed each of these in detail with the PAC and provided a comprehensive action plan for moving forward. We thank the PAC team as well as all parents for their regular feedback and timely suggestions that helps us continue to provide an enriching learning environment for all students in our care.

As evident the school has been busy with myriad of activities that build character and leadership skills. I must take a moment aside to thank not only the PAC but all of you dear parents. Your good wishes and support are the cornerstones of the success of Indus.

Regards,

Sarojini Rao

Principal

Dates For Your Diary: March 2019

DATE	EVENT
2 nd March	Leadership and Innovation Day; Mock Exams for Grade 12 commences
4 th – 22 nd March	Mock Exams for Grade 10 commences
8 th March	Senior School Aquatic meet
15 th March	Mock Exams for Grade 12 ends
15 th – 22 nd March	Mid-Term Tests 2 for Grade 6-9 and 11
16 th March	Working Saturday; Q & A session for new parents of IBDP; IELC Whitefield Indus Day
21 st March	PYP Aquatic meet (Reception to Grade 3)
22 nd March	PYP Aquatic meet (Grades 4 & 5)
23 rd March	Spring Break commences; Boarders airport drop off
31 st March	Boarders airport pickup
1 st April	School Reopens after Spring break for all students

Appendix 1: PYP Sports Day Results

Individual Championship Award

CATEGORY	NAME	HOUSE	POINTS
GRADE 1 BOYS	Naryan Reddy	Orion	50
GRADE 1 GIRLS	Chin Yin	Orion	45
GRADE 2 BOYS	Arjun Pai	Hercules	60
GRADE 2 GIRLS	Parikaa Mehul Doshi	Phoenix	60
GRADE 3 BOYS	Ryan Reynolds Shalin	Hercules	40
GRADE 3 GIRLS	Aashna Thaker	Pegasus	70
GRADE 4 BOYS	Aarav Nanda	Pegasus	60
GRADE 4 GIRLS	Tia Padival	Phoenix	65
GRADE 5 BOYS	Dhakshith L	Pegasus	35
GRADE 5 GIRLS	Manavi Varma	Pegasus	65

Appendix 2: Head Start Friendship Inter School Tournament

TENNIS Boys Grade 9 & Below - WINNERS

NAME	GRADE
Kanshik Guptha	8
Rishi Agrawal	9
Vansh Motiani	9
Aryan Gupta	9

ATHLETICS - RESULTS

NAME OF THE STUDENT	GRADE	EVENT	MEDAL
GRADE 1 - 5			
Shriya Menon	2 Girls	50m	Bronze
Parikaa Mehul Doshi	2 Girls	Long Jump	Bronze
Ryan Reynolds Shalin	3 Boys	80m	Bronze
Neena Mokkarala	5 Girls	Shot-put	Silver
Yogesh Chintamani	5 Boys	Long Jump	Silver
GRADE 6 - 9			
Desh Kartik Dasgupta	6 Boys	100m	Gold

Desh Kartik Dasgupta	6 Boys	Long Jump	Silver
Arya Ana Ferrer	7 Girls	Long Jump	Bronze
Avni Bansal	8 Girls	100m	Silver
Avni Bansal	8 Girls	Long Jump	Silver
Mark Philip Jayan	8 Boys	100m	Bronze
Saahas Sandeep	8 Boys	Shot-put	Silver
Saahas Sandeep	8 Boys	400m	Bronze
Mark Philip Jayan	8 Boys	Long Jump	Bronze
Zaina Nida Imam	9 Girls	400m	Gold
Zaina Nida Imam	9 Girls	1500m	Gold
Poorvi Sriraman	9 Girls	Shot-put	Bronze
Harikrishnan	9 Boys	Long Jump	Bronze
Medley Mix Relay Open			
Avni Bansal	8		Bronze
Harikrishnan	9		
Mark Philip Jayan	8		
Zaina Nida Imam	9		