

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

August 2014

Dear Parents,

Greetings from IIS Pune.

PYP:

The first month of school has arrived and on the 4th of August – Monday, we will welcome our students into the environment of inquiry which is the PYP.

We await the arrival of the Curriculum Road Map Day to introduce parents to our new facilitators on Saturday – 2nd August 2014. We also look forward to briefing you on the added initiatives which will be put into practice this year in order to make the children holistic learners. They are briefly listed below:

1. *House System: Solidarity, unity and team work will be built on pride, honor and belongingness to one's house.*
2. *The Discipline Code: It aims at making the students realize that there is always a way to set things right. Discipline... not through force, but through love, empathy and respect.*
3. *Community Service Initiatives: The PYP CAS initiatives will take place through:*
 - *Action 365: A rupee for every noble deed.*
 - *Angrewadi Students: Every Grade teaching the Angrewadi students once a week.*
 - *Mufti Day: Community Service through Creativity done once a month*
4. *World War 1: This year, the world looks back upon the Centenary Anniversary of World War 1. As a result, at IISP, the whole school from Reception – Grade 12 will be taking the initiative to raise awareness of and support peace and non-violence.*

5. *Junior Achievers Program and Assemblies:*

- *The PYP Students will have assembly twice a week where they will talk about things that matter. This includes news and health apart from strengthening their moral, ethical and self-development.*

- *The students will also have various certificate programs throughout the year to enable them to identify their talent and reach their potential. The programmes will also be offered every day with after-school sports, which they can opt for if they so wish.*

With all of these and more, we look forward to surging ahead with our vision blazing like a talisman within ourselves!

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

We herald the commencement of the New Academic Session by extending a warm welcome to the New staff members amongst us viz. Mr. Shaji for Physics, Mr. Abid for Biology, Mr. Alankar for ICT, Ms. Bhawana for Business Studies, Ms. Sreeparna for Economics and Business Studies, Ms. Anusha as a SEN specialist, Ms. Gurvinder for Chemistry, Ms. Vijaya for ESL, and Ms. Kinjal for International Mathematics, along with a revamped Sports and Music faculty.

In our bid to soar even higher and do even better, we encourage our team of teachers to strive towards higher excellence and greater expertise.

Towards this end, there were a number of planned professional development workshops, right from a hands-on ICT workshop led by Ms. Razia - HOS Middle School, to a workshop demystifying report writing, held by Dr. Praseedha, our DPC, and the GEG workshop led by Google experts Ms. Kaur and Ms. Ayanthi. An enlightening workshop on Special education needs was conducted by Ms. Nivedita, our in-house counselor as well as the TOK workshop held by Ms. Naaz – HOS Diploma Program, which helped one to understand the DP Continuum that runs through all the subjects.

In addition to all these, with her usual energetic flair Ms. Anita, our MSP coordinator led the introduction to celebrating the World War 1 Centenary. This was held to make our students aware of the horrors permeated by the war on all fronts, and the emerging genius and creativity that arose from all the destruction that left an undeniable mark on humanity.

Linking this to the various subjects, from Grade 5 upwards during the course for the year, it will culminate on the 7th of October with "Peace Week – Remembering World War 1".

Grade X, as usual will prepare for their exams to be held in May/June 2015. But we are proud to take the fast track with the current Grade IX [2014-15] batch. They will be giving exams in some subjects in the month of Oct/Nov and the remaining subjects in the months of May/June 2016. This should help to not only lighten the burden of students of studying so many subjects together but also aim at consolidating higher grades, by concentrating on a few at a time. More on the fast track program will be detailed during the Curriculum Road Map [CRM] Day on 1 August, 2014, the schedule for which has already been sent to the Parents.

PLACEMENTS IBDP:

The current IBDP Batch of 2014 is successfully placed with 20 out of 22 students securing admissions from top-notch universities across the globe for their choice of program.

11 Students have secured admissions with scholarships and financial aid worth more than One Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$ 157,000/-) which is approximately Ninety Four Lakhs in Indian Rupees.

Two US resident students are heading back to their state of residents in US and will be studying at their top priority universities, while securing an In-State Tuition Waiver (60 – 70 % Tuition Waiver).

The two Korean students will be going to Korea and applying to their selected universities in July 2014. One Indian University applicant is waiting for the admission decision which will be out by June 2014.

The Placement Cell at Indus gives all credit to these young eagles as they applied to these universities in an eloquent manner and ensured the completion of application processes well ahead of the time lines. This not only guaranteed them quality admissions but also secured prodigious funding from the Universities.

The students have selected different careers like Bachelors in Computer Science, Physics, Biology, Business and Economics, Film Production, Media and Communications, Liberal Arts & Design. With admissions from world's best universities like

USA:

University of California Davis, Penn State University, Ohio State University, Michigan State University, Rutgers State University, NCSU, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Buffalo, RIT

UK:

Kings College, University of Exeter, Royal Holloway College, University of London, Keele University, Brunel University, University of Cardiff, Hult International Business School

CANADA:

University of British Columbia, CANADA, University of Alberta, Queens University, Simon Fraser University,

INDIA:

FLAME Institute Pune, Ecole Intuit Lab Mumbai and many more.

SUMMER SCHOOL & INTERNSHIPS:

10 students from the current Grade 11 have been pursuing their Summer School Programs in UK, USA, & CANADIAN Universities.

One student has received the Exceptional Merit Scholarship worth \$3,795/- at Barnard College, New York affiliated to Oxbridge programs.

The rest of the students pursued Internships.

MUNs:

We are going to participate in two of Asia's largest and most reputed Model United Nations Conference in August:

- 1. Harvard Model United Nations Conference, Hyderabad – 13th – 16th Aug 2014*
- 2. Indian International Model United Nations Conference, Mumbai -14th 17th Aug 2014.*

PRELIMINARY SAT (PSAT):

Last academic year, 12 of our Grade 9 & 10 students appeared for the PSAT. We are going to have a large number of students from current Grade 8 - 10 appearing for PSAT on 15th Oct 2014 at our campus.

We look forward to inviting top-ranked universities worldwide to meet our students and share quality information this academic year.

This year we aspire to achieve quality admissions from world-renowned universities with the highest amount of scholarships. Matching the best university according to the student's candidature and interest is our goal.

IBDP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

'HE WHO DARES TO TEACH MUST NEVER CEASE TO LEARN'- By Aristotle

Education is evolving at a fast rate in the 21 century and to keep pace with the growing educational requirements, it is essential for teachers to enhance the knowledge and skills they need to help students succeed in the classroom. Educational psychologist and researcher, Lee Shulman described an elaborate, wide-range knowledge-base for teacher education. This knowledge-base includes content knowledge, general pedagogical knowledge, curriculum knowledge, knowledge of learners and their characteristics, knowledge of educational context, ends, and purposes.

Indus recognizes the need for Professional Development and ensures that teachers keep abreast with the latest in their subject area. A two-week long Professional Development Programme was organized in July prior to the commencement of the academic session.

IB Diploma Programme teachers attended a session organized by the Google group on the integration of technology. In addition, Head of Departments were involved in various collaborative activities during this period. The teachers also attended a workshop on "Effective Report Writing", led by the Diploma Coordinator, Dr. Praseedha Sreekumar.

Head of School, Ms. Naaz Kirmani facilitated a session on Theory of Knowledge for the teachers.

There was a two-day training session organized at Indus International School, Bangalore for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, Economics and Business Management. The session was based on a collaborative learning approach where facilitators from the three Indus Schools got an opportunity to share ideas, resources and best practices in respective subjects.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT IISP

School Re-opens for Students	- 4th August 2014
Mock Fire Drill	- 11th August 2014
Independence Day Celebrations	- 15th August 2014
PAC Meeting (Internal)	- 22nd August 2014
PYP Soccer Match	- 28th August 2014
Ganesh Chaturthi Holiday	- 29th August 2014

**SANDEEP CHHABRA
PRINCIPAL**

AUGUST 2014