

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013



Dear Parents,

Greetings from IIS Pune.

This edition of the newsletter will reach you while the mood of celebration is still in the air. Diwali greetings go out to you from the entire Indus family in Pune. May the warmth of the occasion continue to pervade your homes and bring joy and contentment to you and your families throughout the year ahead.

WHOLE EDUCATION was the hallmark of the month of October.

ACADEMICS: With the mid-term assessments having concluded at the beginning of the month, the focus was on analysis of students' performance in the first formal assessment of the year. Support classes for those who need extra assistance and also for high achievers who are being encouraged to seek higher levels of academic accomplishment are underway.

Five of our DP-1 (grade 11) students have been awarded **Indus Academic Scholarships** for having achieved excellence in their grade ten school-leaving examinations. Solani Khanapurkar was awarded a scholarship of Rs 200000 for having scored 96.91% while Trishala Kulkarni (93.82%), Harshvardhan Pendse (93.4%), Rhea Pradhan (91.64%) and Neel Ranjit Naiknavare (90%) were awarded scholarships of Rs 100000 each. As per the terms of the award, the students will receive 50% of the award in the academic year of 2013-14 and the remaining 50% in the academic year 2014-15 provided they achieve a total of 38 points in the final examination of grade eleven.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE EVENTS: In order to develop public speaking skills, an awareness of current affairs and general self-confidence our students were encouraged to participate in two MUN events in October. Students of grades 9-11 took part in an MUN conference for the first time: the inaugural **Ivy League Model United Nations Conference India**, hosted by the University of Pennsylvania's International Affairs Association in partnership with Indian International Model United Nations (IIMUN), ILMUNC, conducted from Thursday, October 10th to Sunday, October 13th, 2013 in New Delhi, India. Over 40 schools and 750 students participated in this event. Middle school students got their first taste of an MUN conference when they travelled to Hyderabad later in the month to participate in a **Junior MUN** organised by our sister school, Indus International Hyderabad.

SPORTS AND GAMES: October was an active month for the athletes in our student body. Our young swimmers distinguished themselves in two swimming events, a state-level competition at the Residency Club Pune and an international inter-school event in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in which 250 students from international schools of both countries participated. At the Sri Lanka Event, Harie **Calder** made a haul of five gold medals, while **Edith Rosell** claimed five golds and a bronze. **Aina Rosell** won one gold and two bronze medals and **Karoline Martinussen** finished with one silver.

Diminutive Ishaan **Kulkarni** of grade 2 continued his dominance of the west India junior golf circuit by winning in category E (under 9 years) of the India West Zone (Indian Golf Union) tournament in October. So far in 2013, Ishaan has won all five of the West Zone tournaments in which he has participated. He also won the Western India Interschool Championship in December 2012.

Meanwhile, our **under-18 basketball team** finished runners-up in an inter-school event – SPANDAN – organized by the Cathedral Vidya School Lonavala this month. 56 Indus students participated in the tournament which also featured contests in soccer and table-tennis. Our **under-18 soccer team** gave a good account of themselves before being eliminated in the semi-finals.

Sporting events for the month climaxed with the school's own **Sports Days:** PYP on 31st October and the senior school event on 1st November. Both events went off like clockwork with senior students displaying commendable athletic prowess as well as disciplined marching and entertaining drill displays. Members of the school's fledgling equestrian club got an opportunity to showcase their riding skills. Noteworthy was the enthusiastic participation of parents in events designated for them.

The **STUDENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT** conducted on 24th October by the CEO of Indus Trust, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray (Retd) for the students of grades 9-12, was the highlight of the month. Operating on the assumption that it is never too early to motivate students to introspect, analyze and think seriously about their future, General Ray conducted a dynamic workshop on the theme “***Creating a Personal Vision***”. The necessity of developing a positive attitude to enhance leadership was explored as was the power of delayed gratification which culminated in many students volunteering to give up desirables such as chocolates, non-vegetarian food and watching TV for a year. By referring to the examples of such young game-changers as Malala Yousafzai and Humaira Bachal, young champions of education in Pakistan, the CEO challenged the young students to be transformational leaders, eliciting commitments from a number of students to set up child advocacy groups for the upliftment of the under-privileged. The students also made a significant contribution to the workshop by making presentations on the future of work in 2030 and its implications on education. Some students also spoke about how they will nurture their potential. The CEO, as were the parents who graced the occasion, was impressed by the standard of public speaking and presentation skills on display.

A ‘**WHOLE EDUCATION**’ **PERIOD** was carved out of the daily working timetable this month which, given the challenge of finding time to engage in non-academic pursuits, was invaluable during October as rehearsals and practice sessions for the student leadership retreat, sports day and Indus Day were carried out at this time. When students return after the Autumn break the ‘**WE**’ period will be devoted to the preparation for our next major event, Indus Day.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT: We look forward to more positive and productive engagement with our parents in providing our students with an engaging and exciting school experience. We invite you to let us know if you are interested in carrying out programmes or activities that would be of mutual interest and beneficial for our students. Parents who are in interesting fields of work may want to share their experience with senior students. Parents with hobbies and other interesting skills might want to help us out with club activities. We’d love to have you in as visiting guest lecturers in a field that coincides with our curriculum.

We are in the process of planning a mega-symposium in the city of Pune sometime in February where we will invite distinguished guest speakers to discuss a topic related to the concept of Internationalism – a prime concern of the IB curriculum. **We would welcome your suggestions on possible speakers for the symposium:** renowned practitioners in different fields of work, so as to get diverse perspectives on the topic.

We have already motivated a number of senior students to engage in **child advocacy programmes** so as to develop in them a concern for other children less fortunate than themselves. This is also an area where the wide experience and contacts of parents will be invaluable.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

A CLOSING THOUGHT:

“It’s difficult for most adults, particularly those of us who have a commitment to improving our society, to maintain faith in our leaders and institutions. It’s even more challenging to help keep our children from becoming cynics when they see so little evidence of a moral compass in prominent adults and so many major institutions operating amorally at best. How can we expect them to maintain integrity or have faith in their own ability to effect change when so few adults appear to be having success in doing that?”

‘Teaching Integrity in an Age of Cynicism’: Mark Philips, teacher/ educational journalist. <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-integrity-age-of-cynicism-mark-phillips>

It is essential for schools and parents to work together to foster a positive and caring outlook in our children today. They are growing up in a world that is pervaded by negativity and cynicism. The media, the internet and even the conversation and behavior of adults around them - especially those in leadership roles - tend to demonstrate all that’s wrong in the world today and less of that which is good and noble. Mark, in the excellent article cited above, suggests: *‘we should make sure that our schools and homes are providing an antidote to cynicism rather than reinforcing it.’*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT IISP

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| ❖ School Reopens after Autumn Break | - 11 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Student Council Campaign begins | - 13 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Children's Day Celebrations
& Sr.School Lawn Tennis Match | - 14 th November 2013 |
| ❖ PYP Chess Tournament | - 15 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Working Saturday | - 16 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Student Council Campaign ends | - 19 th November 2013 |
| ❖ PYP Basketball Match | - 20 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Student Council Elections | - 21 st November 2013 |
| ❖ Grade 10 & 12 Classes | - 23 rd November 2013 |
| ❖ Leadership Camp : Grade 1& 2 (DAY TRIP) | - 25 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Leadership Camp : Grade 3& 4 (DAY TRIP) | - 26 th November 2013 |
| ❖ Leadership Camp : Grade 5 (Overnight)
& Sr.School Basketball Match | - 27 th November 2013 |
| ❖ One Nation Reading Together (ONRT) | - 28 th November 2013 |

Sincerely,

JAMES M. PAUL
PRINCIPAL

6th November 2013