

News, like food, must not be served stale. I am aware that this comes late to you. I take responsibility for this and I offer no explanations save the assurance that the effort to be on time is always there.

8th March 2017

Dear Staff and Parents,

Today is International Women's Day and we warmly wish all the ladies among our staff and parent bodies a very happy Women's Day!

We feel it important to also specially remember the women who have shaped our lives. Of course, from that process of recollection and reflection comes the affirmation – and we say this unequivocally – that women need to be treated with the respect and love and care that they deserve; they deserve to be treated as fellow human beings at par with the rest of humanity.

As an educational institution, it becomes incumbent on us to role model the virtues and attitude to women. In the Indus group of institutions, women have always been accorded equal opportunities and status. All our policies reflect the philosophy that women can do as well as men and there should be no discrimination. Needless to say, the ladies have consistently vindicated the faith in them! Our Internal Complaints Committee helps ensure a safe atmosphere at work for the ladies.

But we need to think beyond Indus as well. We need to see that our students encourage – and even seek measures to protect – women's rights: a safe environment to work and live in, dignity of self, fair wages, recognition of their contribution at home, protection against discrimination of any kind, and so on.

May we always work together for a world that is equitable and safe; may we never be silent spectators to crimes and wrongdoing against women. Just as we cannot smile if one side of our face is pinched, so can this world not progress cohesively if we don't ensure equal status, equal opportunities, equal rights for women.

(February Updates. January Updates are given as a separate attachment)

1) Highlights of the Academic programme:

a) A session for the Grades 9-11 was conducted on 8th February by a parent, Mr. Prasanna Kumar Turaga, on the topic of 'Engineering and Technology'. He emphasized the importance of studying Physics to do engineering. He showed the students how engineers work in Design and Manufacturing. Mr Turaga also spoke about the upcoming areas of technology that require a multi-faceted approach from engineering teams. Mr Turaga shared his personal experiences as an engineer with the students.

Thank you very much, Mr Turaga. We are very grateful that you took time out to enlighten the students.

(May I request other parents to please help our students with information in their area of expertise or simply use their experiences to help them find their way through life. I am sure our children could use all the help they can get.)



b) Set – 1 examinations for the IGCSE started in the third week of February. They have done quite well in almost all papers. We'll keep our fingers crossed till all the Set – II examinations get over during May/June.

c) On the 13th of February, an interactive session was held for Grade 9 and Grade 11 students by RBI officials. A four-member team under the leadership of their General Manager, Mr. Subbaiah, addressed the students on various topics related to monetary policy, Bitcoins, Quantitative Easing; they also addressed students' queries relating to demonetization. The students were shown a video of how the banned notes were being disposed of and how the Central Bank was striving to make rural India adapt to digital transactions.

The officials also held a quiz relating to the topic addressed and gave the winners gifts and goodies to the students who attended the session. Thank you very much, Mr Subbaiah, and to your team.



d) IGCSE orientation for Gr 8 students: An IGCSE orientation for parents and students of Senior School (Grade 8 upwards, actually) was held on 4th Feb 2017 at the Indus Jubilee Hills campus. Career counselling and College Placement sessions were also taken. The aim of the session was to give parents and students an overview of the curriculum and help them make the right choice of subjects to strengthen the foundations for their chosen career. Parents and students were also informed about the use of Naviance in tracking academic progress and in making career-related decisions.

e) A Penmanship Competition was conducted on 14th February 2017 for the MYP students. The students took part very enthusiastically and tried their best to frame their letters symmetrically.

f) Grade 3 Fieldtrip to Sheriguda Government school in connection with their Unit of Inquiry 'Who we are' on 7th February.

Students of Grade 3 are learning about child rights and so the teachers organized a meeting with their peers from a different socio-economic background. This was an eye-opener for the students when they saw the children not have access to basic amenities. This led students to change their thoughts about themselves and about life. They also came forward to help the children.

2) Whole Education:

a) Session on Anti-Bullying: While teachers and administrators do not have control over individual and family factors that produce children who are inclined to bully, bullying problems can be greatly reduced in severity by appropriate supervision, intervention, and a climate of warmth and acceptance in a school. Regular sessions on anti-bullying goes a long way in conditioning the child's brain and develop a positive attitude. Keeping this in mind, Ms Gopica conducted an anti-bullying session for all MSP students in their respective classes.

b) Leadership camp Grade 6 and 7: The vision of Indus is to create leaders of tomorrow and the school leaves no stone unturned to realise its vision. In its endeavour to inculcate leadership qualities, the Indus School of Leadership (ISL) gives students an authentic leadership experience. The ISL is located on a 10-acre campus in the hill station of Yelagiri, midway between Bangalore and Chennai. It is the only institution of its kind that provides experiential leadership training to the students and teachers of all Indus Schools, as part of a formal leadership curriculum. It also provides opportunities for practical and outdoor leadership education through the Discovery Course, the first of its kind in India, and the second in Asia. The safety standards for the material and the accessories are certified by ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology), USA.

c) Language enhancement activities: To enhance English language of the students, a list of 5 books were given to students of Grade 6, 7 and 8 for the month of Feb and March. All these books focus on the theme of 'Friendship & Love'. Students were asked to choose any one book from the list provided and start reading the same. A 'Reading Log Sheets' was given to all the students. Students were directed to update these log sheets daily and get it signed by parents.

d) IISH PYP students attended the 'Aga Khan Literary Fest' and 'Oakridge International School, Bachupally – Visual Art Fest' on 10th February.

The following students attended the Visual Arts Fest held at Oakridge International School, Bachupally: Akshara Mareddy, Lynn Tresa Francis, Esha Agarwal, Amrit S. and Rakshit Sinha

Students learnt many art concepts like Mask making, Origami, Painting, Story Board, Clay Modelling and Rangoli. They will be encouraged to teach their classmates the art forms.

The following students attended the Literary Fest held at Aga Khan Academy: Faris Rizcallah, Ayan Dharod, Noe Tuan, Anagha Balakrishnan and Abhiram Boddu

They took part in various literary activities like character treasure hunt, shadow puppet etc. They learnt a lot about story telling in a fun way. They will be encouraged to share their learning with their classmates.

e) Students of Grade 6 conducted a special Assembly on Deep Reading on 13th February. They used a presentation to highlight the importance of deep reading and how can it help us in various walks of our lives. Arya Dharod of Grade 6 gave an introduction on the importance of reading books. The advantages and disadvantages of reading, the 3R's and benefits of reading were discussed. A video on the importance of reading books was played at the end of the session. It taught the students how books can transform aimless and disappointed lives into fruition.

3) CAS

a) CAS Grade 6: In CAS, Grade 6 students were given a task to come up with various ideas to reduce food wastage in our school. Students were divided into four groups and each group was assigned with a task:

Group 1: Survey group (Students polled the students, teachers, DA and the Sodexo team regarding food wastage and the solution)

Group 2: Food Squad (Roles and responsibilities of the food squad were framed)

Group 3: Campaign group (Different strategies like flash mob, presentations and TED talks were discussed)

Group 4: Vermicomposting (Students worked on the design of vermicomposting and will be coming up with a plan to execute in school.)

This project will continue for a few more weeks till the expected outcome is met. Students are expected to demonstrate their learning during the Leadership Summit.

4) Indus Day 2017

Our Indus Day was extremely successful. Starting with the euphony of *Where the Mind is Without Fear* and ending with superlative performances in the Musical *My Fair Lady*, the audience were very impressed. This year, the audience witnessed performances by two orchestral groups. The first one gave absorbing renditions of Mozart's and Vangelis' compositions; the second orchestral group brought along an interesting fusion of Hindustani classical vocals with Carnatic scales, incorporating a variety of musical instruments.

We had a combined Indus Day and so we had students from Grades 1 – 12 on stage. The PYP students showcased accomplishments in dance through a Spanish dance, the Waltz and a Maharashtrian traditional dance, Lezim. The students, dressed up in colourful costumes, stole the viewers' hearts with their skillful dancing, precision, and synchrony. Their confidence, enthusiasm and tremendous zeal were clearly visible in the wonderful dances that they had put up which, of course, could not have been possible without the great assistance provided by their encouraging teachers.

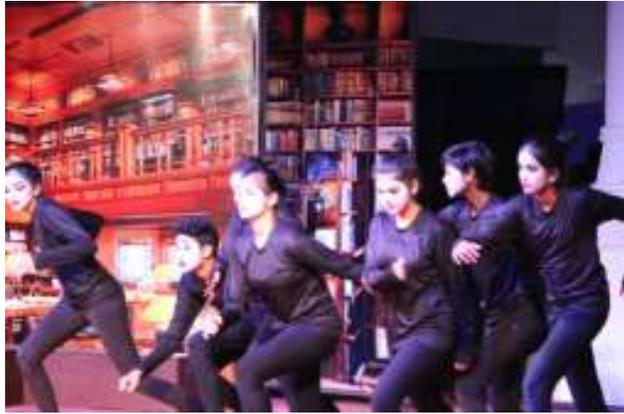
The classical dance group of Middle School students put up yet another outstanding Bharatanatyam performance and had the audience enthralled.



Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, in his address to the gathering, spoke about the three teachers in a child's life: the parent, the teacher and the student. One seldom realizes that the greatest gift of life is the ability, not only to acquire knowledge, but to transform what is learnt into effective action for the betterment of society as well. General Ray emphasized the importance of inculcating a book reading habit explaining that it impacts the way we write, think, interpret anything, and most importantly, the way we act. General Ray also spoke on how it is imperative to be prepared for a future that is volatile, uncertain, chaotic and ambiguous.

The major highlight of Indus Day 2017 was the staging of the Musical, *My Fair Lady*. Many students from Grades 9 and 11 were on stage this year. Dheer Sanghavi (as Professor Higgins), Anam Zehra (as Eliza Dolittle), William Joseph (as Col Pickering), Sriram Reddy (as Alfred Dolittle) deserve a special mention for their performances. The programme was undoubtedly a bit long and we will be careful next year but the high quality of the performances ensured that almost all present gladly stayed till the curtain call. Our gratitude to all the staff and students who contributed in some way or the other for the success of the entire programme, and to all parents who took the trouble of coming to school and encouraging us all with their presence.







Mark Twain once said - “Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection”. We are confident that with continued efforts, parents, teachers and students can collaborate constructively to make Indus Day better than ever before, in the years to come.

5) Miscellaneous (Activities for Boarders) :

Academics:

- a) Saturday academic support for term boarders re-started after the Indus Day. The support classes are being conducted in the Academic block from 10:00 h – 12:30 h every Saturday.
- b) Boarders are regularly attending the support classes after school. Same is being monitored by Programme Coordinators and Boarding staff.
- c) Saturday and Sunday (Boarding weekend schedule) has been modified to include more activity and inculcate reading habits in the boarders. The modified schedule will be shared by Head of Boarding with the parents.
- d) Morning physical activity and sports started from 24th February.
- e) Gr. 10 and 12 boarders are exempted from sports so that they can focus more on their exam preparation. Grade 10 students are having special classes in the academic block in respective subjects and teachers are always made available to clarify their doubts.

Activities:

- a) Boarders enjoyed their scheduled subway and Inorbit mall outings on 1st and 3rd Sunday of this month.
- b) Term boarders were taken to PVR Forum Sujana mall to watch Lion, an inspirational film based on a true story.

c) MYP boys conducted a table tennis tournament in the boarding. Dhevin and Aditya were declared winner and runners up in the respective categories. Dhevin did a wonderful job by organizing the tournament and motivating other boarders

d) 35 boarders including staff went for a concert "*Mozart - The Man. The Music. The Magic*" on Saturday, 4th February at the Birla Planetarium & Science Museum.

It featured Ms Natallia K Kapilova, an acclaimed Concert Pianist and Educator along with 5 other very talented musicians.. It was a wonderful moment for the students to witness a live concert; many of them who were listening to such music for the first time felt that they had received an education!

6) News from the Placements Office:

Anish Alluri and Ria T, scored 800/800 for Subject SAT Mathematics level 2 and Neha Pingili scored 770 in Math and 790 in Chemistry (out of 800).

Well done, Anish, Ria and Neha. May you always do well and may the preparation for these tests serve you well later on.

7) Arya's book *Clumsy Diaries*: Arya Dharod, aged 10 years, a student of Grade 6B has written his second and published his first book titled 'Clumsy Diaries'. It is an autobiography of an African Wild Dog named 'Clumsy' from birth to death, written over 40 chapters consisting 65 pages. The illustrated story, grippingly, covers a wild dog's birth, survival in the wild, being captured in the zoo, growing up, kids, parenthood, and death. The last few chapters are about his after-life in 'Wild Dog Heaven'. It is Arya's recount of his experience on his travels to a wildlife safari. The book makes a wonderful read not just for children, but even adults.

8) A Transition meeting with Grade 5: Ms Baljeet and Ms Raksha organised a transition meeting with Grade 5 & 6 English and Math facilitators. The objectives of the vertical and horizontal integration meeting were to improve collaboration and raise awareness of transition across segments. The role of facilitators was to discuss the barriers they come across as pupils move through Phases, and enable them to come up with strategies to develop systems and structures to raise attainment across Phases.

9) Ms Sony Sharma has been appointed as Associate Coordinator to assist Ms Baljeet Oberoi who heads the MYP Programme in school. We welcome Ms Sony Sharma to the role. Ms Sharma has been a Grade-level Coordinator in her previous assignment and played an important role in getting her school accredited for the MYP programme. We are confident that, with the support that she will get from all members of the Indus Community, she will be able to make a significant difference to the implementation of the MYP programme in letter and spirit.

10) Senior Boys' House Parent - Mr. Subramanian V joined us as the Senior Boys' House Parent. He has 29 years of experience in the field of Sales and Marketing. He has also worked as a trainer and likes to keep himself updated on Current Affairs.

We warmly wish him a long and happy time here. He may be contacted at subramanian.v@indusschoolhyd.com

Holi is round the corner. It is a festival marked by gaiety and a sense of community when celebrated in its true spirit. Warm wishes to all of you for a happy Holi. May the many warm hues of a life well lived light up your lives always.

Warm regards,

C P Joseph
PRINCIPAL