

The Principal's Newsletter for the month of December 2016

12 January 2017

Dear Staff and Parents,

A very happy new year to you and your near and dear ones! May the successes and pleasures of the last year extend into this one with greater intensity. More often than not, may you go to sleep with the sweet knowledge that the day was a day well lived, and you got far more out of life than life (even at its most exacting) was able to take away from you.

But it surely can't be retrograde if we spare a thought for the year gone by – and so is it another year gone or that another year awaits? Shall we dwell on the memories of this past year before they dim and fade away, happily or sadly, or shall we impetuously turn our backs on 2016 and with face flushed look at the new dawn of 2017? But at home and at work, if we dwell not on the past year and learn from it, 2017 will be an Action Replay of 2016: that would be a waste, no? How will we give birth to ourselves this year? How will the Phoenix that each of us is be born anew?

Moving slightly away, but yet pertinent to my thoughts on New Year, the morning news can be depressing: In the Middle East, people are bombed, murdered, raped or tortured every day (Has religion indeed become the opiate of the masses there?); power struggles in India and elsewhere leave you asking where the man on the street fits in (As someone once said cynically: "Look out of the window and you see the boy after the dog, the dog after the cat, the cat after the bird and the bird after the worm – and you get an idea of the morning news.") But here let us remember Gottfried Leibniz's belief that the world we live in is the best possible world, even if it appears to contain a great deal of evil because an imperfection in the part may be required for a greater perfection in the whole.

*In other words, just as invention comes out of necessity, good can and does arise from evil. But that only tells us that **we** are called upon to address the issues that the world faces; wrongs will not be righted on their own and the world will not become wiser, more knowledgeable, more principled, or more compassionate if we don't ACT. Since we know that the toughest person to lead is oneself, this year let us each do something outside the sphere of our immediate lives to make this world a better place. The result is a guaranteed Win-Win one.*

To return to the thoughts expressed in the 2nd paragraph, can we begin to ask ourselves: "Do I have a philosophy of life? Why am I what I am? Am I a cosmic accident? Even if I were to suspend beliefs and believe it is so, how can I make the best of this 'accident'?"

Being born is a miracle in itself but Hannah Arendt felt that the real glory is in the way we affirm our identity through our words and deeds. In “The Human Condition” she wrote: “Men, though they must die, are not born in order to die but in order to begin.” The effects of our deeds are not entirely predictable but every birth carries with it the possibility of a changed world.

Martin Heidegger said, We are our possibilities! Let us each understand the miracle of being and of our being. Simply put, let us this year in (Gen Ray’s words) begin to unlock our potential.

December was a short month in school but even with the exams on, there were still a few interesting things happening:

- a) *A field trip to Hyderabad Meteorological Department was organised for the students of Grade 4 and 5 in connection with their Unit of Inquiry. Grade 4 students are learning about Global weather and Climate Change and Grade 5 students are learning about Natural disasters and Disaster Management. This field trip gave them an opportunity to understand how weather and natural disasters are predicted and recorded.*



- b) *With Christmas coming closer the PYP students ushered in the spirit of Christmas on 13th December with a small party followed by Secret Santa gift exchange. Students got a pleasant surprise as Santa Claus and his wife visited their classes and gave them candies.*



- c) *World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated every year on 2nd December to spread awareness about computer literacy and bridge the digital divide. To mark the occasion, Grade 11 students taught Kondakal School students of Grades 5 and 6 about basic computer operations. Digital Technology Club and Grade 9 Computer Science students exhibited their work on the occasion. Students did a commendable job by learning the software in around 10 hours and completing the projects!*
- d) *As part of a collaboration with Art and French, Students from Grade 12 Visual Art HL/SL joined the French students for a field trip to Kalakriti Art Gallery on Saturday, 3rd December. Art students need to visit local galleries and artists' studios to have first-hand experience and exposure to contemporary art. The Art students had a tour conducted by the curator to initiate a dialogue between the art works and the audience, followed by a session of rendering images from inspiration. Later the students had to critique the exhibition and aspects of curation, after which they had to reproduce one of the art works from the display or use the inspiration from one of them to create a piece of artwork.*

As a part of the French curriculum, students needed to reflect on means of communication and media. The French language students also had to critique the exhibition as well as engage in a discussion on the art displayed which were assessed as their 3rd Interactive oral required by the IB.

- e) *The Physics and Chemistry students of Grade 11 and 9 went on a Field trip to IIT Hyderabad on the 30th of November 2016. The students had wonderful educational experiences visiting the Mechanical/ Aerospace Engineering, and the Chemistry and Physics departments.*

In the Chemistry department, students got to know the importance of Chemical analysis and studying the functional groups of organic compounds. It helped students realize the need of such techniques in the food industry. The attraction at the Chemistry department was obtaining alum crystals using the aluminium from coke tins. Prof Tarun stressed the need for students to focus their research on recycling of waste.

Students were really thrilled to visit the Physics lab. Excellent and rare demonstrations on Superconductivity, Electron diffraction, Optical fibre communication, Zeeman Effect, Photoelectric effect, Newton's rings were explained very well by Prof Suryanarayana and his team of research students from the Physics department.

The HOD of the Mechanical / Aerospace department Mr Raja Banerjee the complete working of a petrol engine.



- f) All the students of PYP visited Shilpa Kala Vedika Auditorium to watch the play 'The Dinosaur' on 12th December. This was staged as a part of the Hyderabad Children's Theatre festival. The play presented in the form of puppetry was a visual treat. The light and sound effects added to the experience. It was a charming story of a little dinosaur who is lost among more bigger and dangerous dinosaurs. Students enjoyed the play thoroughly. The sponsor, Telangana tourism, hosted a quiz about the state and two of our students, Aarush Chatterjee of Grade 3 and Sri Hari Chalasani of Grade 5, won prizes in the same. Well done, Aarush and Sri Hari!*



g) A PYP Leadership camp was held from 14th to 16th December for students of Grades 3 - 5. The students visited Palm Exotica Resort on 14th December and took part in adventure activities like Zip lining, Archery, Bungee jumping and trampoline. These were fun-filled activities that enabled the students to overcome fear. They stayed in the school campus for the night camp. The next day students of Grade 1 and 2 joined them for activities on the School campus. The activities planned for the students helped them build their leadership skills and competencies like team work, resilience, strategic planning and collaboration, all of which will have great significance in their lives. Students of grade 4 and 5 stayed on the campus on the second day too and enjoyed spending the night in the tents. The leadership building activities continued till 16th December. The students expressed their gratitude to the trainers who had come down from the Indus School of Leadership.





h) *A team of 8 students from Grades 9 and 10 left for Singapore on 17th December along with a teacher escort, Ms Ritika Gulgulia, to attend the Singapore International Science Camp from December 18th to 23rd December.*

The students enjoyed the 5-day camp which gave them a sneak peak into the new era of digital learning.

They attended workshops / talks on Genetic Engineering, 3-D printing Software and Hardware, System Thinking and an Inter-Disciplinary Approach to the Nature of Science, to name just a few. There was practical learning as well. Students also got to do some sightseeing with visits to Malay, Marina Bay Sands and Universal Studio. Another important visit was a visit to the Google office where they could go around on their own and get a feel of the place.



Syed Nabeel Ahmed won the 1st Prize and Madhulika Itha won the 2nd Prize at the Group Presentation. Madhulika also won a Prize in the Amazing Science Race. Well done, Nabeel and Madhulika!

- i) On 11th December 2016, 37 students from 21 prestigious schools and colleges in and around Hyderabad participated in a regional Brain Bee competition at NATCO House, Banjara Hills. The competition had four phases; one written test followed by three rounds of Orals.

Dr. Subhash Kaul, Head of Neurology Department, Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, conducted the oral rounds of the quiz, enlightening participants on various functions of the brain.

The event was hotly contested but Ria ThimmaiHgari of Grade 11, emerged victorious in the end. Congratulations, Ria!



The International Brain Bee was founded in 1999 by Dr. Norbert Myslinski, Professor of neurosciences, University of Maryland, USA. Brain Bee is the largest world-wide neuroscience competition for High School students. Students compete regionally, working upwards to the Nationals and then an International competition.

Brain Bee tests one's knowledge of the human brain including topics as intelligence, emotions, memory, sleep, vision, hearing, sensations, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, schizophrenia, epilepsy, depression, addictions and brain research.

Ria ThimmaiHgari will participate in the 10th Indian National Brain Bee 2017 likely to be conducted in April 2017.

j) A short story written by Ria Thimmaiahgiri earned a place in the Merit List of an The All India Short Story Competition. She was awarded a Certificate at the National Children's Literary Festival 2016 at KiiT International School, Bhubaneswar.

k) Arya Dharod of Class 6 has written a delightful story based on Jungle Book but written from Sher Khan's perspective.

His and Ria's stories are being sent with this newsletter.

Sports:

a) The PYP Inter-House Basketball Tournament was conducted on the 5th and 6th of December 2016 for Mixed Boys and Girls teams.

Results: 1st Place: Orion 2nd Place: Phoenix 3rd Place: Pegasus

b) **Horseriding on the Annual Sports Day in 2016**

In the November newsletter, I omitted to make a mention of the very commendable equestrian display. Eight students displayed their skills that day. Sukeshwar Reddy, Zayan Ali, Karthikeya karampudi and Noe did Basic Riding; Abhinaya Polaka and Anika Patel were impressive in Dressage; Parth Jain and Sukeshwar Reddy were very good with their Show Jumping and also joined Shaurya Bhardwaj for a display of tent pegging. Well done, students, and well done, Mr Asu Singh!



c) *Sukeshwar Reddy of Grade 11 participated in the 6th Hyderabad Horse Show held on 10th Dec 2016 at HPRC. He was then selected to represent Telangana State Equestrian Association (TSEA) at the Junior National Equestrian Championship - 2016 (JNEC), a National show hosted by Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantt. from 26th Dec 2016 to 04th Jan 2017. He won two medals, standing 1st in the Open Category and the Junior Category. Hearty congratulations, Sukeshwar! May you win many more!*



d) *Sreeja Muppaneni of Grade 8 participated in the 62nd School Games National Competition held at Rajkot near Ahmedabad in Gujarat and won a silver medal in the 100 meters breast stroke and a bronze medal in the 50 metres breast stroke. She is working on doing well in the South Zone championship to be held at Belgaum in Karnataka in January. She will also be participating in an international competition held in Hungary, the dates for which are yet to be announced. Congratulations, Sreeja! Keep getting better and better.*



- e) *Rushil Pandya of Grade 8 participated in the 16th KBI National Invitation Karate Championship held on 3rd & 4th December 2016 at Nehru Indoor Stadium, Shimoga District, Karnataka and was awarded the Gold medal for Karate fight event in the 14-years category and Bronze Medal for KATA event in the 14-years category. He is working hard and aims to compete on an international level in the events. We warmly wish you the very best, Rushil.*



Miscellaneous (Activities for Boarders) :

- a) *A Christmas get together was organized for Weekly and Term boarders on the 8th of April. The boarders, Hostel staff and all other Campus staff were present. With carols filling the air, the evening ended with the giving of the Christmas gifts.*
- b) *Exam preparation: Regular after-school support classes and Saturday support classes were organized for boarders to prepare them for the examinations.*
- c) *Circle time: Every week House parents are meeting with the boarders to discuss their issues (if any), and remedial action is promptly taken.*
- d) *Hot Water: A new boiler has been purchased for the Boys' hostel to augment the supply of hot water using solar energy.*

Important Events being organized by the Indus School of Leadership:

- a) **Scuba Diving Trip (Port Blair - Andaman's Trip)** - Indus School of Leadership is organizing scuba diving for students of Grades 6, 7, 8, 9 & 11 from 14th – 18th April 2017. The total cost of the trip is Rs 65000/- only per student. Registrations close on 10th January 2017.

(Detailed information is attached with the newsletter)

b) Adventure Excursion and 100 km Ganga Expedition - The Indus School of Leadership is organizing white water rafting – Ganga Expedition (100 Kms) for students of Indus Schools. The dates are from 26th March to 2nd April 2017. Registrations are open to students of Grades 8, 9 and 11. The last date of registration is 15th January 2017.

The cost per student will be Rs. 65000/-

(Detailed information is attached with the newsletter)

Parents are urged to register their wards for these expeditions. Students learn a lot about themselves and get to understand life beyond the walls of home / school.

Parents of Grades 6 – 9 and 11 are reminded about the PTM on Saturday the 21st of January.

I end here wishing you once again a happy and successful New Year. May all members of the Indus community work to making a difference in their lives and in the lives of others.

Warm wishes,

C P Joseph

PRINCIPAL