



From the Principal's desk

August 2022

"Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going."

-Jim Ryun

Highlights of the month:

- Investiture Ceremony
- Independence Day Celebrations
- ACER –IBT On Demand Tests
- ISL Camps
- Introduction of IB Career-Related Programme
- Innovation Curriculum Updates
- Inter-school Competitions
- Placements and University Fairs

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the new academic year commenced this month, I would like to begin by welcoming all the many new members to the Indus family. At Indus, we consider parents as partners in the journey that every child takes towards becoming a whole individual and an engaged citizen, driven by the right set of values and a purpose beyond

themselves. We are excited to welcome our current parents back to the school campus and are grateful for the opportunities to interact with them.

The month of August saw students and teachers settle down into their new routines and start working towards the shared common goals for the year. Here is a synopsis of the month's highlights.

Independence Day Celebrations:

The school bore an air of festivity on 15th August, with students, teachers and staff coming together to celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence as well as the South Korean National Liberation Day. The CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray hoisted the Indian National Flag in the presence of other dignitaries, students, teachers and staff. This was followed by a solemn rendition of both the Indian and the Korean national anthems. We also had inter-house competitions, which focused on building not just creativity and critical thinking, but also served as an opportunity to develop engaged citizenship through situational awareness.

Panel Discussion: The panel discussion, a much-awaited event was held this year on the topic- "Has India made as much progress in the field of innovation as it could have in the 75 years of independence?" Three students from each of the four houses- Hercules, Pegasus, Phoenix and Orion passionately debated the topic. While Hercules and Orion argued for the motion, Phoenix and Pegasus argued against it. After several rounds of intense discussion revolving around areas like agriculture, sustainable energy resources and the like, the debate was concluded with quick closing remarks by Gen. Ray about the need to inculcate a culture of innovation in our education and in life. Pegasus was declared the winner of the panel discussion.

Poetry Competition: Out of scores of poems received from students of the four houses- Hercules, Phoenix, Pegasus and Orion, the best poems, as adjudged by an internal panel was recited by the students. These poems revolved around the core values of Indus -love, empathy, respect and discipline. After careful listening and discussion, Orion emerged as the winner of the interhouse poetry competition.



Innovation Council: Innovation is the very pulse of everything we do at Indus and it is the vision of our MD & CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray (R) to make the culture of innovation the very DNA of its pedagogy.

At Indus, the Student Council has been transformed into the Innovation Council, which is a natural progression from our uniquely designed Innovation Curriculum. Each student across grades 4-12, who have found their place in this prestigious council have undergone a rigorous selection process, based on their respective house projects and Tikkun Olams, taking them to a whole new level of involvement and ownership. These students have spearheaded these initiatives in the face of adversity – both natural and societal, and led their teams to produce tangible results.

Hence, the position in the Council is an acknowledgement of the work that was done in the previous academic years- work for the broader school community alongside other school members.

Let us congratulate these young eagles, as they stand ready to take up the mantle and drive several innovative projects.

The Investiture Ceremony:

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 26th August and was attended by proud parents who saw the new council take their oath to uphold the core values of Indus International School and carry out their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. The new council members were apprised about their roles as leaders of the school and reassured that they would be provided with ample guidance, training and support to carry out their tasks as student leaders. Our CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, in his address to the parents and students, stressed upon the fact that the future belongs to creative and innovative thinkers and parents play a predominant role in empowering their children towards this. This occasion was not only joyous but also introspective as it witnessed young shoulders don the badge of leadership, replete with roles that required action through creativity and innovation and stirred everybody in the audience to reflect on their roles as parents, teachers and citizens of the world.



PYP:

Celebrating Independence Day – Prep 1: Patriotic songs and rhymes enabled our little ones in Prep 1 to connect to the three colours of the Indian National Flag - saffron, white and green, to celebrate India's Independence Day. They used lentils to decorate the flag and thoroughly enjoyed the fireless cooking experience. The tricoloured sandwiches with tomatoes, cheese and lettuce were quite a treat!

Grade 1 – Guest Talk: In connection with the Unit of Inquiry, How We Organise Ourselves, Grade 1 students are inquiring into 'People have roles and responsibilities in our community'. In his talk, Mr. John Prem Rabindranath emphasized the importance of school as a community, how it functions, what are the important roles of the stakeholders and how they are interconnected.

Grade 2 - Guest Speaker: As part of the transdisciplinary theme Who We Are, students of Grade 2 have been inquiring into health and wellbeing. Dr. Jyoti Patil, our doctor in residence, interacted with our students and spoke about the importance of personal hygiene and ways in which it will help them stay healthy.

Grades 4 & 5 - ACER IBT On-Demand Tests: Students from Grades 4 & 5 attempted the ACER IBT On-Demand tests in Mathematics, Language, Science and Reasoning. This was an opportunity for students to apply their learning across different subject areas and help teachers identify areas of focus in the months ahead.

MYP:

All grades from Grade 6 attempted the entry point test and the ACER IBT tests (except Grade 9) to help students evaluate where they stand and help teachers plan a course of action for the year.

Grade 9 and 10 students have been briefed about advanced placement courses and they are showing lots of enthusiasm to take up the same in the following subjects - Economics, Statistics, Calculus and Physics. This will put them a league apart in the education world.

Wellbeing Sessions: To begin having conversations that aid in breaking down the barriers and stigma attached to mental health, the counsellors conducted a series of workshops with students of all grades as the year set in. The session for Grade 9 was conducted on 12th August. The session began by focusing on helping students understand more about mental health, its importance & how it exists on a fluctuating continuum. Through group interactions, we also looked at identifying ways in which one can take care of own mental well-being and know when to reach out for help. The role of the school counsellor and addressing confidentiality in the counselling process were also explored.

The takeaway was to know that it is okay for us to struggle and not feel okay, what matters is that we are mindful of our own and others' well-being and do what is required to continue to take care of it.

ISL Camps: Grades 9 and 10 attended camp at the ISL Kanakapura campus, in two batches. They enjoyed and engaged in several leadership activities as always and came away with some great memories and learning.

DP:

Students of Grade 11 explored various subject choices in first week of August and finalized their IB subjects. New students from different curricula are being accustomed to the Indus culture and ethos. To gauge their prior knowledge in subjects like Math, English and Science, entry-level tests were conducted from 16th to 18th August. IBDP and IBCP courses have also been inducted with AP courses and registration for the same has begun.

To encourage deeper learning in the subject, we are giving an opportunity for students to attempt the Global Economics Olympiad (GEO). The applications have been distributed and the training has commenced for the same.

Subject wise research has also been initiated which teachers in collaboration with students will do. This will help the students develop their metacognitive and research skills, which will reflect in the quality of the academic work.

IBCP (IB Career Related Programme): We have introduced the IBCP for students in Grades 11 and 12 from this academic year. We have around 25 students who have enrolled into the programme in Grade 11 this year.

The IBCP is a framework of international education that incorporates the values of the IB into a unique programme addressing the needs of students engaged in career-related education. Apart from preparing students both professionally and academically, the IBCP will help foster attitudes and habits of the mind to allow students to become lifelong learners.

Placements:

The College Counselling department hosted more than 50 university visits from across the globe in August. Some of the top ranked institutions like Georgia Tech, University

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Indiana University Bloomington interacted with our students individually. Our Grade 11 and 12 students gained immense knowledge about how to build their profile and tips to gain admissions into highly selective institutions. On 23rd August, Prof Surya Banerjee, a Mathematics professor from the Centre for Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) University of Waterloo (Canada) conducted a fun and challenging Game Theory workshop for our senior year students. He introduced students to exciting careers related to Mathematics and Business and help them see the possibilities these fields of study can create. Counsellors are also meeting with grade 12 students to prepare college applications. A list of the planned college visits is attached in Appendix 1.

Innovation Curriculum Updates:

The Innovation Curriculum started with much enthusiasm in the month of August. Students and their respective Teacher Advisors (TA) interacted to help new students understand the rationale behind the weekly sessions. They also got an opportunity to brainstorm and understand their divine dissatisfaction through cognitive dissonance strategies, and thereby helped the students identify what bothers them. The focus for the month was to help new students identify their Tikkun Olam and help current students review and refine their former Tikkun Olam statements. To facilitate creativity in problem solving, TAs have started their DTP training sessions under the able guidance of the newly appointed Design team. They have been guiding teachers to implement short creative tasks in class to encourage students to think creatively.

Professional Development sessions: While Creativity is the No.1 competency for the 21st century, it is on a steady decline due to various factors. At Indus Bangalore, we are addressing the challenge this year with our **“Teaching for Creativity”** initiative. Our

team of specially hired designers have started working with our teachers, to equip them with strategies and skills that focus on building and nurturing creativity in students. The goal of these weekly sessions is to transform classrooms into habitats of creativity and collaboration through the Design Thinking Process.

Inter-school Competitions:

This year, our students participated in VIVUM, and returned home with multiple accomplishments. In the cultural events, “Desi Couture” was the theme for this year’s fashion event that required you to revamp traditional Indian outfits to themed high fashion. The winning pair that secured third place in the event - Zainab Merchant and Dia Doshi put together an outfit that symbolised the modern woman.

Synchronize 2022: Jisoo Kim, our Grade 12 student won first prize in Synchronize 2022 Fest, conducted by Bishop Cotton Girls High School in an event called *Photex*, where imagination and design aesthetics came together to redefine art.

Chiti Belwal and Daksh Gupta won third prize in *Blood Work* event in the same fest, which called for keen observation, deductive reasoning and swift action.

Pragy Narayan of Grade 9 came second in *Checkmate*, which was a chess event.

Strawberry Fields High School C.O.D.E Hack: The third edition of Strawberry Fields High School C.O.D.E Hack, a virtual interschool hackathon, was held from 12th to 14th August.

Our students performed well. The details are as follows:

- In the high school category, Rhythm Singhal won first place and a cash price of Rs.2500 in the category of "Chess Wizard".

- Vinayak Goyal completed the event "Masters of the market" successfully but due to a technical glitch he was not able to win.
- Our team in high school category -Akshat Kumar Shahi, Alisha Pinto, Anvi Kurade, Kabir Kaul and Rhythm **reached the top five.**

HMUN 2022: This year's prestigious Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) was held in Hyderabad, from 12th to 15th August. This was the first in-person HMUN since the COVID-19 pandemic, giving students from across the nation an opportunity to meet, debate, and form friendships.

Indus Bangalore drafted an impressive slate of twenty delegates, spanning from grades 8 to 11. Despite being new to the process, they tackled complex issues such as linguistic minority rights, gun violence in Latin America and children orphaned and displaced by conflict. The list of participants is in Appendix 2. Below are a few snaps from the event.



Sports:

Team Indus participated in the inter-school competition "VIVUM 22," on August 11 and 12, 2022. The boys' badminton team brought home the gold and the girls' team finished in second place. In the boys' 4x100m relay team, Indus bagged a bronze medal. The list of winners is attached in Appendix 3.

Boarding:

The month of August saw the excited Indus boarding team welcoming the group of Grade 5 to 12 students with open arms. We were happy to see our young eagles returning to boarding in increasing numbers.

Boarding has seen a lot of intense activity around in the first month with a focus to help students understand and follow the weekly routines, keep them well engaged over the weekends and providing them some leisure time as well.

The weekends were packed with activities like - Help the boarders getting to know the campus well, fun and bonding activities like movie evening, Tug of war, and Music-Dance-Drama orientation, which helped them to bond better. Though the inclement weather has disturbed the early morning schedules this month, the boarders were engaged meaningfully in various other projects like self-defense, regular group counselling sessions, night sports, weekend swimming, gardening, weekend food stalls and so on. The activities planned this month were thoroughly enjoyed.

10X International School updates: The Curriculum Road Map Day on 29th July saw a lot of excited students and enthusiastic parents attend to know more about 10X International School or the School of the Future. The program requirements regarding academic rigor and the use of exponential technologies to enhance student agency were laid out by the Principal Dr. Savita Chakravarthy and the Coordinator Ms. Sowjanya Dayanand. Classes started on 1st August with an informal session on day 1 to gauge the critical and creative thinking skills of the students. Faculty attended a two-day workshop on the assembly, flight and programming of Drones. This in turn

translated into students being shown how to assemble their own personal nano drones and fly them. The use of drones in the teaching of math and physics concepts is one of the highlights of the classes at 10X. Each student has been given a portable STEAM bag which consists of exponential technologies like VR goggles, drones, electronic components, a 3D pen, and other supplies, which will enable students to experiment and learn, by doing. The morning assemblies at 10X also has students presenting their ideas on a chosen theme. The theme for the month of August is aptly 'Independence'. The Design Thinking classes have gotten off to a great start with students working on developing competencies of '**How to Think**' and '**What to Think**'. Research and community service are just some of the other areas of action that the students at 10X have started dipping their toes into. We had a guest speaker, a Harvard graduate, Sidharth Menon address the students on what it takes to get into an Ivy League. The interactive session included discussion on the potential and growth in the field of AI and Machine Learning, which will be the future of work for the students of 10X. The last week of August saw the grade 9 students join their IISB counterparts in the ISL camp.

StartupYou updates: StartupYou, an online program for creating Life Entrepreneurs, commenced its third year this month with new students from all Indus schools and across the country joining their Beginner (5 weeks) level and current students continuing into Intermediate (12 weeks) and Advanced levels (15 weeks). We are proud to share that we have our first batch of advanced level students beginning their journey with StartupYou. The student cohort in the advanced level includes first-time founders, many in their pre-incubation journey, being social entrepreneurs and some strengthening their product innovations. As we begin this journey with some of the brightest young minds, we believe their ideas and learning is

well supported and balanced by an 'ecosystem'- an ecosystem of mentors, industry and educational support, entrepreneurs, and leaders. This is being built with strong support from our parent mentors, advisors and the leadership team at Indus.

As we can see from the stream of activities that has happened at school through the month, there has been a constant flow of energy that does not permit dullness. This approach has enabled the teaching fraternity and students to develop a growth mindset, a much-required competency in this extremely volatile and ever-changing world. As evident, we are taking small but certain steps towards unlocking potential and making the world a better place.

Warm regards,



Sarojini Rao
Principal
Indus International School, Bangalore

<i>Dates for Your Diary- September 2022</i>	
DATE	EVENT
5th September	Teachers' Day Celebrations
16th , 23rd and 30th September	Gender Sensitization workshops for students
12th - 23rd September	Grade 12 :Mid-Term Tests
30th September	Grade 12 RC-A Reports Published

Appendix 1: Planned College Visits

Date	Colleges
27th August	KIC University Fair: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bard College, U.S.● Baylor University, U.S.● Binghamton University, SUNY, U.S.● Bryant University, U.S.● California Baptist University, U.S.● City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong● Columbia College Chicago, U.S.● Denison University, U.S.● Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, U.S.● Indiana University Bloomington, U.S.● Merrimack College, U.S.● Niagara University, U.S.● Pepperdine University● Portland State University, U.S.● Roger Williams University, U.S.● Rollins College, U.S.● TEDI-London, U.K.● University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Summer Sessions, U.S.● University of Florida, U.S.● The University of Oklahoma, U.S.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Pittsburgh, U.S. • The University of Tampa • U.S.
30th August	Pioneer Academics (research program)
1st September	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Honk Kong
2nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester Polytechnic Institute, US • Bentley University, US • Emerson College, US
6th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern, Switzerland • Boston University, US
7th September	Pearl Academy, India
8th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UC Irvine, US • UC Riverside, US • UC Santa Cruz, US • San Diego State University, US • University of San Francisco, US • Foothill + De Anza Colleges, US • George Mason University, US • Ohio University, US • Colorado State University, US
9th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's University, Canada • University of Waterloo, Canada • York University, Canada • University of Guelph, Canada • Toronto Metropolitan University (Ryerson), Canada • University of Windsor, Canada


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McMaster University, Canada
15th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of British Columbia, Canada
19th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grinnell College, US • Hamilton College, US • Lewis University, US • Clark College, US

Appendix 2: Our list of delegates at HMUN


- Nisvi Sood
- Soha Baig
- Yogya Reddy
- Rayhan Mahadevan
- Naisha Jain
- Soham Shetty
- Aksh Agarwal
- Aarush Patil
- Amay Pandit
- Delisha Agrawal
- Benakashree Devanampriya
- Yasha C
- Tanvi M
- Aarnav Agrawal
- Avani Radheshyam
- Diya Anand
- Shruthi Swaminathan
- Siddharth Mitra
- Ishaan Chowdri
- Ruhan Srisrimal

Appendix 3: Winners at the VIVUM competition


Boys Badminton

SL.NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION
1.	Ayush Thaker	11	
2.	Justin Rosangpuia Ralte	11	
3.	Rahul Sharma	12	
4.	Mithil Lokesh	11	

Girls Badminton

SL.NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION
1.	Aditi Pradeep	12	
2.	Ariana Parikh	10	
3.	Shreya A Niran	8	

4x100m Boys Relay

SL.NO.	NAME	GRADE	POSITION
1.	Desh Kartik Dasgupta	Grade 10	
2.	Sameer Bicha	Grade 10	
3.	Aryan R	Grade 12	
4.	Akhand Bindra	Grade 12	