

Principal's Newsletter May 2023

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)



1 - Math Day



In the PYP, for Math Day students were provided an opportunity to learn about famous mathematicians and their contributions, participate in interactive math activities, and develop a love for numbers and problem-solving. Math Day created a positive learning environment for students, where they could build confidence about their math abilities and see the real-world applications of math concepts. Each grade was given different math strands and activities were planned around the same. EYP- PYP 1 covered the strand of Shapes where they sorted and classified objects based on their shapes, made shape collages, and created patterns using shapes. PYP 2 used the strand of patterns and looked for the same in nature and illustrated them. PYP 3 delved into Data Handling and created a visual representation of the bar graph using themselves, where they organised themselves according to the four house colours and stood on a life size grid. PYP 4 showcased the strand of Measurements by playing a game on measurements- Scavenger hunt- looking for objects of different heights and measuring using tools of measurement. Finally, PYP 5 conducted an activity called 'Figure Me Out' where, in groups of 2 they used their knowledge about BODMAS to create and solve algebraic equations that would uncover a secret number to find answers to each other's questions or riddles. Overall, Math Day was a fun and engaging way for students to develop their mathematical skills and knowledge.



2 - PYP 5 Exhibition



Displaying student agency while using their understanding of the Design Thinking Process, the PYP 5 learners of IISP organized their PYP Exhibition in school on 10th and 11th May. Students shared their action plans through a play with the audience while proving that their spirit is truly 'Unstoppable' with a power packed musical performance. This year the students inquired into the TD theme 'Sharing the planet' by exploring more about their areas of interest regarding the UN Sustainable Goals and how they can be used to make a difference in the world around them! Parents and guests from other schools were present to listen to the presentations done by students.

The final round of the IBT ACER exams were held over 18th – 23rd May for PYP 3 – 5. Students appeared for the benchmark tests for all four subjects and have shown enhancement in a number of strands for each of them. We congratulate all our PYP learners for showcasing preparedness and grit for the same.



3 - EYP Graduation Day



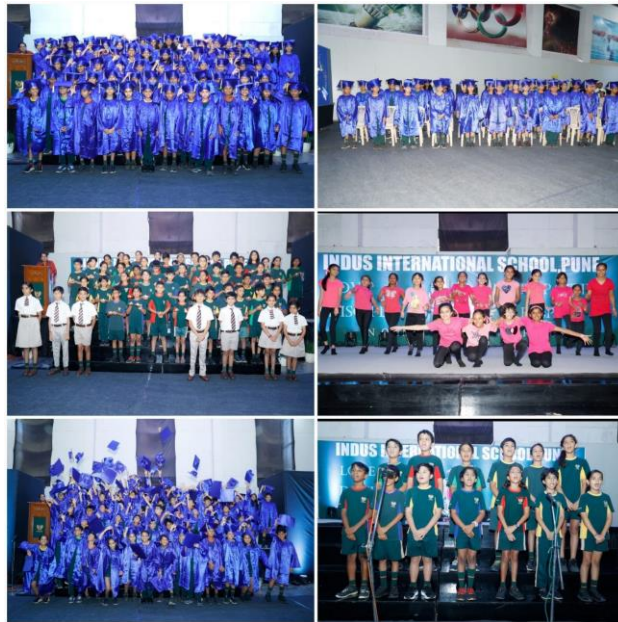
The youngest eagles from Prep 2 have graduated now into the PYP. With hats on their heads and certificates in hand, they looked ready to conquer the world. It was mesmerizing to see PYP 1 and Early Years perform different songs, dance, and share their words of wisdom for their friends! The EYP team waved goodbye to their learners with teary eyes, and a sense of pride. The ceremony was filled with laughter, applause, and a sense of accomplishment. Parents, teachers, and friends cheered the EYP graduates on, recognizing their growth and potential. We congratulate our learners and wish them success as they take their next big step towards a bright future in the PYP!



4 - Student Led Conference and Final Reports



PYP students ended the year with a student led conference scheduled over 30th and 31st of May. Activities related to the units experienced through the year, language, math, ICT and performing arts were explained by the students to their parents. Children showcased their learning and overall acquisition of skills and concepts through the SLC. Parents were encouraged by students to do some of the tasks done by them throughout the year. The SLC proved to be a great opportunity to discuss the progress of each student too.



5 - PYP 5 Graduation Ceremony

It has been a year of exploring, learning, and experimenting. The year has come and gone by so quickly and our learners have made us proud throughout the year. The enthusiasm and zest with which they participated in all academic and non- academic classes is worth appreciating. The PYP Graduation Ceremony held on 2nd June helped us celebrate all their achievements. The light passed on during the candle ceremony by our graduating students to the upcoming batch set the tone for the next stage of their learning, and with it, the evolution of this generation of our citizens. As they take their journey ahead in the MYP, we wish each one of them success, happiness, and courage to excel in all spheres of their learning.



6 - PYP Art Carnival



Showcasing the art skills acquired through the year, an art carnival and showcase was organised in the PYP over 30th and 31st May. A total of 2500 art pieces were displayed for parents to see the varied art types and styles that students explore through their PYP years. The art exhibition was a great platform for budding artists to show their potential and inclination in the fine arts.

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)



7 - MYP Years 1-4 & DP1 Creative Competitions





We are delighted to share the success of the Creative Art and Writing Competition organized by our talented student-led team! This competition provided a platform for students in MYP Years 1-4 and DP Year 1 to showcase their incredible artistic and literary skills, fostering creativity and inspiring imagination.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated organizing team consisting of

Advita Karnad, Saher Oswal, Vedaant Bal, Abhishri Bhoite, Aathmik Samaran, Ved Oswal, Ashvath Karnad, and Hari Bal. Their hard work and dedication ensured the smooth execution of this event.

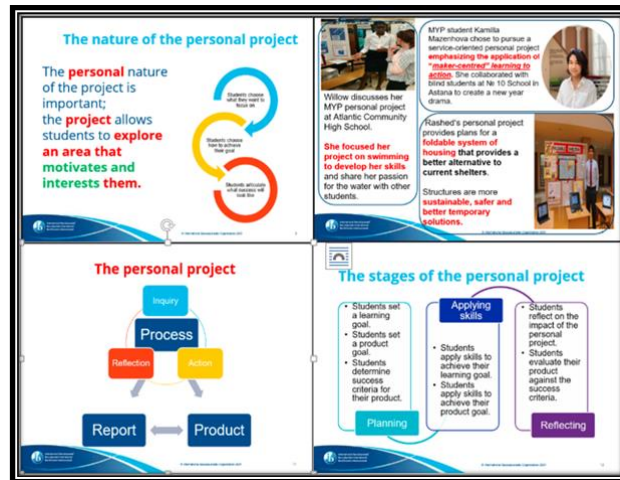
The creative writing contest took place on the 28th of April, allowing participants to showcase their writing skills through handwritten pieces. The creative art contest accepted submissions until the 2nd of May, encouraging students to explore their creativity through artworks.

Both competitions featured carefully chosen prompts to inspire originality and self-expression. Art prompts were provided during registration, while writing prompts were revealed closer to the competition date, adding excitement to the event.

We are pleased to announce that three winners per grade were selected for each competition, recognizing the wide range of talents among our students. Each participant received a participation certificate as a token of recognition for their commitment and enthusiasm. The competition concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony with the Vice Principal! It was a delight to witness the immense

talent and creativity showcased by our students. On the 23rd of May, the deserving winners (MYP Years 1-4 and DP Year 1) were awarded their merit certificates, receiving recognition for their efforts and talent. We hope this event has inspired all participants to continue exploring their artistic and literary passions.

Congratulations to all the participants, winners, and the organizing team for their exceptional efforts.



8 - Personal Project Orientation Session- MYP Year 4

Our MYP Year 4 students attended the first Personal Project orientation on 8th May. It was truly delightful to witness their enthusiasm and engagement during this session.

The Personal Project provides a unique opportunity for students to showcase their creativity, critical thinking, and organizational skills. It empowers them to take ownership of their learning, dive deep into a passion, and make a positive impact on their community or beyond.

During the orientation session, students gained valuable insights into the nature of personal projects, understanding the significance of this independent endeavor. The knowledge and guidance shared have laid a strong foundation for them as they embark on this exciting chapter of their academic journey.

This project encourages students to select a topic of personal interest and explore it in-depth, applying the skills and knowledge they have acquired throughout the Middle Years Programme.

The orientation emphasized the importance of effective time management, encouraging students to break down their projects into manageable tasks and set realistic deadlines. Regular reflection and self-assessment will enable them to track their progress and make necessary adjustments along the way.

As our students begin their Personal Project journey, we extend our best wishes to each and every one of them. May this experience be immensely rewarding and fulfilling, leaving a lasting impact on their academic and personal development.



9 - Successful Completion of MYP5 May 23 IBMYP Onscreen Assessments!

Our students from MYP5 have successfully completed their International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IBMYP) May 23 Onscreen Assessments. It is with immense pride that we congratulate each one of our students for their hard work and perseverance.

The onscreen assessments, which took place from 8th May to 19th May, marked a significant milestone in our students' academic journey. Throughout the assessment period, our students engaged in a wide range of subject-specific examinations, projects, and tasks that encompassed the core areas of the IBMYP curriculum. These assessments not only tested their knowledge and understanding but also encouraged critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication skills.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated and talented team of educators who provided guidance, support, and encouragement to our students throughout their preparation for the onscreen assessments. Of course, we must also recognize the unwavering support and encouragement provided by our parents and guardians. Your trust in our school and your continuous support have been invaluable in shaping the success of our students. We are grateful for the collaborative effort between our school, our students, and their families.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our MYP5 students the very best as they embark on the next chapter of their educational journey.



10 - INCLUSIVE SEX EDUCATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY- MYP4

On 8th May 2023, MYP 4 students participated in an empowering workshop titled "Inclusive Sex Education for Health and Safety" as part of the Life Skills program. Recognizing the significance of the topic, the students were divided into groups for effective interaction and communication. The workshop aimed to equip students with knowledge to become well-informed individuals and foster healthy relationships built on consent and boundaries.

Covering a wide range of subjects, the workshop encouraged open discussions among students. The session began with an exploration of puberty and adolescence, addressing the physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional changes that occur during this phase. Students shared experiences and coping mechanisms, acknowledging the confusion often associated with this vulnerable period.

The workshop also delved into various forms of attraction beyond romance, including aesthetic, emotional, and intellectual attractions. Gender and sexual identity awareness were discussed, encouraging students to develop self-awareness without rushing into labelling themselves. Thorough discussions on boundaries and consent enlightened students about their significance in everyday situations and intimate relationships. The FRIES acronym (Freely given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic, Specific) was employed to clarify the concept of consent.

Legal aspects of age of consent and relevant case studies were covered, followed by a brief discussion on the importance of safe sex. Students were provided with helpline numbers and information on seeking support from student counsellors or trusted adults for any concerns they may have.

The workshop garnered positive feedback, with students expressing gratitude to the resource persons for their informative and enlightening sessions. By providing essential knowledge and fostering open dialogue, this workshop played a pivotal role in empowering students to navigate their personal lives responsibly, with respect and well-informed decision-making.



11 - Second milestone for plastic Warriors



We are glad to share with all of you that the innovative initiative “Collaborate to Conserve” on “Plastic Waste Management” achieved its second milestone in first week of May. This student led initiative, well guided by school faculty, and supported by parents, collected another 22-24 Kg. of household plastic waste since January. The same was handed over to Keshav Sita Foundation & Rudra Environmental Solutions for conversion to usable polyfuels.

“Collaborate to Conserve” for plastic waste segregation and management was launched in October last year by MYP5 Students Ronith Lahoti, Rajveer Jadhav, and MYP3 Student Arrsh Muttha. Initiative focused on creating awareness amongst fellow students and parents on domestic plastic waste segregation and collection. Collected domestic plastic waste is then sent for conversion to usable PolyFuel by Thermo Catalytic Depolymerization process, used for burning, heating and power generation. The initiative had achieved its first milestone in January by collecting almost 23 Kg. of plastic waste in 3 months. With the second milestone achieved in May, the students have demonstrated that this noble initiative to care for the environment in our own small way is sustainable and here to stay. Encouraging all the students and parents to now scale up plastic waste management exponentially by committing to manage all the

domestic plastic waste responsibly through this initiative. We are further planning to become a role model and promote collaboration to conserve environment across many more schools in Pune this year.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)



12 - DP1: Jui Keskar at National Level Science Competition (IRIS National Fair)



Jui Keskar won the Grand Award at the National level Science Competition (IRIS National Fair) this year. Hence, she was selected to represent India at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Texas, USA.

At ISEF, there were about 1700 participants from 70 countries. Jui Keskar showcased her invention (Measuring progression of Parkinson's Disease using wearable sensors). Jui Keskar reached the final round and received the "Finalist" medal and certificate



13 - DP1 TOK Exhibition

The TOK Exhibition is an empowering assessment task which gives students a great deal of choice, and allows them to present their achievements to a public audience. The DP1 students enthusiastically demonstrated the three objects based on one IA prompt. The TOK exhibition showcased the immense power of knowledge in shaping the understanding of the world. It fosters critical thinking, interdisciplinary connections, and ethical considerations. Through self-reflection and engagement with the community, students emerge with a deeper appreciation for the complexities of knowledge and a desire to continue their intellectual journey. With this they completed the one year journey of TOK and are readily prepared to face the bigger challenge of TOK essay.



14 - DP1: Group 4 presentations

The DP1 students worked on their Group 4 presentations on 5th and 6th of June. The group 4 project is a collaborative, interdisciplinary activity where students from different group 4 subjects work together on a scientific or technological topic, allowing for concepts and perceptions from across the disciplines to be shared. It allows students to appreciate the environmental, social and ethical implications of science and technology. The students not just showcased their knowledge but also demonstrated the ability to work collectively, communicate effectively, and apply scientific understanding to address complex issues. It is the process of learning and growth and allows to embrace the opportunity to expand scientific knowledge, develop essential skills, and foster a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of different scientific disciplines.



15 - DP1: Advita Karnad published Research paper

Advita Karnad's research paper titled “The Extent to Which Virtual-Reality Simulators and Augmented Reality Simulators Influence Interaction with the Real World” has been published in the April 2023 issue of International Education and Research Journal (IERJ). Advita was mentored for over six months by Harvard Research Scholars in the Impact & Research Fellowship Program facilitated by Harvard Student Agencies.

The link to the paper is <https://ierj.in/journal/index.php/ierj/article/view/2667>.

Pi Math Contest

Advita was awarded a certificate for Superior Performance and placed in the Award winners category in the 2023 International Pi Math Contest. PiMC Gauss is a math contest for high school students (9th - 12th grades).

This contest is prepared by an exam committee with members who are alumni in top colleges like MIT, Harvard and high school students with awards in National/International math competitions. PiMC was organized first in 2015 and was held as an “Alpha Math Contest” for elementary and middle school students. It is organized by AlphaStar Academy based in Santa Clara, California.



16 - DP1: Zaina Kudchiwala: Wandering Down Oak Street

The novelette is a character-driven story that delves into the struggles of the protagonist as a teenager, particularly her self-esteem, self-consciousness, social status, and interactions. The novelette aims to showcase how societal norms, expectations, and influences can significantly impact an individual's identity during adolescence, and how mental health can be affected by these factors.

As the author of this novelette, Zaina found the experience to be incredibly challenging and humbling. Through the process of writing, she gained a deeper appreciation for the complex nature of these issues and the importance of exploring them in literature. Overall, this project has taught her a lot about the power of storytelling to shed light on important social and psychological issues, particularly during the challenging and formative period of adolescence.



17 - Vaccination Drive

The conclusion of the academic year culminated in the successful completion of two distinct projects. The blood donation drive held on May 4th, 2023 and Influenza Vaccination drive held on May 19th 2023.

The drive was a crucial step in protecting, 60 children living below poverty line, from influenza and its potential complications. The vaccination helps in building immunity against the flu virus, which is especially important during the untimely rainfall and the current pandemic. The school and the local authorities have come together to ensure the health and well-being of the underprivileged children in the area.

Additionally, the distribution of nutritious food in the form of vegetable khichadi was distributed to provide the children with sustenance and support their overall development. The school and the local authorities have shown great initiative and care towards the community, especially during these unprecedented times. The school received support from the Bhugaon Sarpanch Smt. Archana Surve, Upasarpanch Shri Kalidas Shedge and the Taluka Health Officer Dr. Vaman Gengaje.

Such initiatives can go a long way in ensuring a healthier and stronger society. It is important to continue promoting and supporting such efforts that benefit the underprivileged and vulnerable sections of our society.



18 - MUN at Mahindra International School

The Model United Nations (MUN) conference, held recently at Mahindra International School, brought together a group of delegates representing various countries to deliberate on complex and critical global issues. The conference was centered around topics such as terrorism, threats to international peace and security, and the situation in Palestine, which are multifaceted and require nuanced approaches.

During the moderated caucuses, the delegates engaged in productive discussions, raising important questions about the ethics of warfare, steps to reduce terrorism, and the contribution of violence to combat terrorism. Through effective communication and active participation, the delegates were able to share their ideas, propose solutions, and build consensus on the draft resolutions.

The lobbying sessions provided an opportunity for the delegates to engage in deeper conversations, discuss their positions, and collaborate on solutions. The two draft resolutions proposed during the conference focused on using technology and education as weapons against terrorism and advocating for international cooperation and the use of arms against terrorism.

The deliberations were marked by the use of formal language and a diplomatic approach, with delegates carefully weighing the pros and cons of each approach. The second draft resolution garnered more votes and was ultimately passed with minor amendments.

In conclusion, the MUN conference provided the delegates with a valuable learning experience, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of complex global issues and the importance of effective communication, collaboration, and diplomacy in addressing them.

Pre DP session: Building student- parent connect with Indus

The Pre-DP student and parent were invited to school on 28th April 2023 for a small get together to familiarize themselves with the school environment and policies, meet teachers and administrators, and learn about academic expectations and resources.

During the orientation, students and parents were provided with important information about the school such as the school's mission and vision, academic programs, policies, and procedures, as well as rules and regulations. This provides an opportunity for students and parents to become familiar with the layout of the school and its resources.

It was an important event that helped to ensure that both students and parents have a smooth transition into the new school year and are equipped with the information and resources they need to succeed academically and socially.

Final IBDP May 2023- DP2 Examinations

The batch of 2023 completed their final DP2 examinations on 19th May. 141 students appeared for the examinations in the time zone A. This momentous occasion represents the culmination of months, if not years, of dedicated studying, perseverance, and determination. It is a time to celebrate not only the completion of exams but also the personal growth and knowledge gained along the way. The successful completion of examinations represents a significant milestone in the lives of students. It signifies their ability to overcome challenges, discover their potential, and validate their efforts. It opens doors to new opportunities and paves the way for future success. As we celebrate the end of examinations, let us remember that this is just the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning and personal growth.

CAREER GUIDANCE & PLACEMENTS DEPARTMENT

SAT (SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST)

The second digital SAT was successfully conducted at Indus International School Pune by the College Counselling Department on 6th May 2023. The feedback received from students regarding their performance was incredibly positive.

The next SAT will be held on 3rd June 2023. The registrations for this have ended. If you wish to choose Indus as your test centre for the August SAT, we strongly advise you to register for it at the earliest as the seats are likely to get filled up quickly. August SAT will be held on 26th August 2023 and the deadline for registration is 11th August 2023 on the College Board website.



19 - Summer Engagements

Summer Engagements

The College Counselling Team has encouraged all DP1 parents to reach out and meet with their child's individual college counsellors to discuss and plan for the summertime engagements and the application plan of their child. As each student is unique, the summer time engagements have to be tailor-made to suit their different interests and talents. Since registrations for most in-person summer programs have closed, we are sharing options of the online summer programs with students and parents. We encourage students to explore the options being shared and discuss the shortlisted ones with your respective college counsellors. These meetings are important as it helps parents and counsellors collaborate and work in the best interest of every student to ensure a strong profile for college applications.

Classroom Sessions

The College Counselling Department has been conducting weekly classroom sessions with DP1 students on essay writing. Students have been familiarized with the different types of college essays – Common App Essay, College Specific Essays and the UCAS Personal Statement. Even if a student does not intend to apply to the US or UK, the process of writing these essays will help them to self-reflect, prepare for interviews, or write their Statement of Purpose for applying to other countries. They have been encouraged to write the first draft and email it to us before 9th June 2023 so we can share our feedback and ensure that they are on the right track.

Workshop on Essay Writing by USC & Georgia Tech University

DP1 student and parents were extended an invitation to attend one of the most anticipated and enriching workshops on Common App Essay Writing hosted by University of Southern California (USC) and Georgia Tech University (GaTech) on Tuesday, 23 May 2023. This workshop includes students from various schools in India and provides a diverse platform for learning. Indus students made a strong impression by asking inquisitive questions to the university officials.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation are very crucial documents that teachers write for the students based on their performance in a particular subject as well as their interactions in class. Each student has been advised to request 2 subject teachers and 1 counsellor/staff for their letters of recommendation. Students have filled in a form indicating their choice of teachers and questionnaires where they have detailed all the essential information that they would like the teacher to consider while drafting their LORs.

Subject Selection for Incoming DP1 - Class of 2025

The Careers counsellors are busy meeting various students from MYP3-5 (Grade 8 –10) both from Indus and those who join us from other schools. Students are highly encouraged to have at least one conversation with your assigned counsellor so that we enter the IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) or IBCP (Careers Program) with the right combination of subjects. Students are advised to take advantage of the Career Guidance Ecosystem provided by school.

English Proficiency Requirement for DP1 Students - Class of 2023

Most colleges in the US would waive off the English Proficiency requirements considering students have studied in the IB program, but there are numerous colleges which still want you to provide the English Language Proficiency scores. Most visa embassies would want to see your score; therefore, Current DP1 students are highly recommended to either appear for TOEFL or IELTS. Both the examinations are accepted worldwide, only the UK Visa office would compulsorily ask for IELTS (academic) score. Based on their preferred choice of country, students are expected to appear for one of these examination in the upcoming summer break.

BOARDING



20 - Crazy Olympics



The boarders had a change of sports from Badminton, Football, Basketball, Swimming, etc. to the Crazy Olympics, which included Balancing a stick, Balancing a book on the head, Three Legged Race, River and Bank, and the all-time classic Statue. It was a chance for them to showcase their finer skills and collaborative abilities. The all-time classic statue game was a crowd favourite, with everyone freezing in hilarious poses and trying not to laugh. Overall, the Crazy Olympics brought out the creativity and competitiveness in everyone, making it an unforgettable experience for all involved.



21 - Mexican Dinner





Boarders thoroughly enjoyed the Mexican food festival. The menu spread, spicy flavors and fresh ingredients made for a delicious meal. They especially loved the Guacamole and Salsa that came with the Chips. The dessert was amazing as well. The boarders were very happy with the Mexican food festival and eagerly await other similar events.



22 - Mall Outing





The long-awaited mall outing that all boarders look forward to being was organized on 13th May 2023. The Grade 11 boys visited Phoenix Mall, while the other boarders visited the all-time favourite Pavilion Mall. The excitement was palpable on the way to the mall, with students discussing all the stores they wanted to visit and the food they wanted to try. As they walked through the entrance, they were greeted by a vibrant atmosphere and the sound of cheerful chatter. The sight of the sprawling mall and the endless rows of shops was overwhelming, but our students were eager to explore every corner and make the most of their day. With their wallets ready and spirits high, they set off on their adventure, ready to shop, eat, and have a great time together.



23 - Chess Tournament



The entire school was thrilled with the news of Kabir and Krit's achievements at the chess tournament. The two boys had worked tirelessly to improve their skills, and their hard work had finally paid off. Krit Ruenklin (PYP-5) came 1st and Kabir Banga (PYP-4) came 3rd, and as soon as they returned to school, they were greeted with cheers and congratulations from their classmates and teachers. Kabir and Krit were overjoyed, but they knew that they couldn't have done it without the support of their chess coach, Mr. Aniruddha Deshpande.



24 - MYP-5 and IBDP-2 Students Depart from Boarding



As the IBDP-2 boarders finished their High School Journey, their juniors hugged them good luck and bid them farewell. It was a very emotional time for the students and boarding staff alike. The juniors knew that they would be the ones taking their place in school next year, and they were excited but also nervous about the responsibility that came with it. The juniors are all charged to step up and take on the challenge of leading their school. They are determined to make their senior year a memorable one and are excited for the opportunities and responsibilities that lay ahead.

Our MYP-5 students have successfully completed their board exams and have departed for their well-deserved summer holidays. We look forward to their return for the next academic year Aug 2023-24, when they will embark on their IBDP / IBCP Journey.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events:

PYP

July 24th - PYP CRMD

24th – 28th July - Single Window Dates

August 1st – School reopens post summer break.

MYP

25th May – 2nd June- MYP RCD Final Exams

5th – 8th June- MYP Year 4 Regular classes

9th June- MYP Year 4 PTM

10th June- Summer Break Commences for all.

DP

9th June - DP1 PTM

10th June -Summer break begins.

Thanks and warm regards

Mr. Sandeep Chhabra

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