

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

April 2021 Newsletter

CEO's Message: May 2021

I am certain you are aware of the Startup School that is running in parallel with the main schools. The first session which was experimental will be closing by end-May. Those who join this programme, which is primarily experiential and involves about 4 hours a week only, is in addition to their IB curriculum. Apart from a select faculty, the students are mentored by parent-mentors from each school. They are successful entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.



The experiment has been hugely successful. In particular, the academic performance of the students has improved. This is attributed to the skill sets to organise and prioritise one's work, in addition to the habit of self-directed learning.

Our students are doing well. A boy from grade 9 in Indus Pune has been felicitated by a person no less than Ratan Tata, for his contribution to the Earth. A young girl student from Indus Bangalore has been invited by the Silicon Valley's most prestigious event - TiE Con 21, to address 10,000 entrepreneurs on her journey of innovation and entrepreneurship. There are many others, and space does not permit me to include them.

There are three direct implications for those who will graduate from Indus and the Startup School: (1) Improved academic performance; (2) coveted placement choices in Ivy League colleges and universities; and (3) the option of starting a business immediately after school. I would like parents to encourage their children to take advantage of this great once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Thank you.

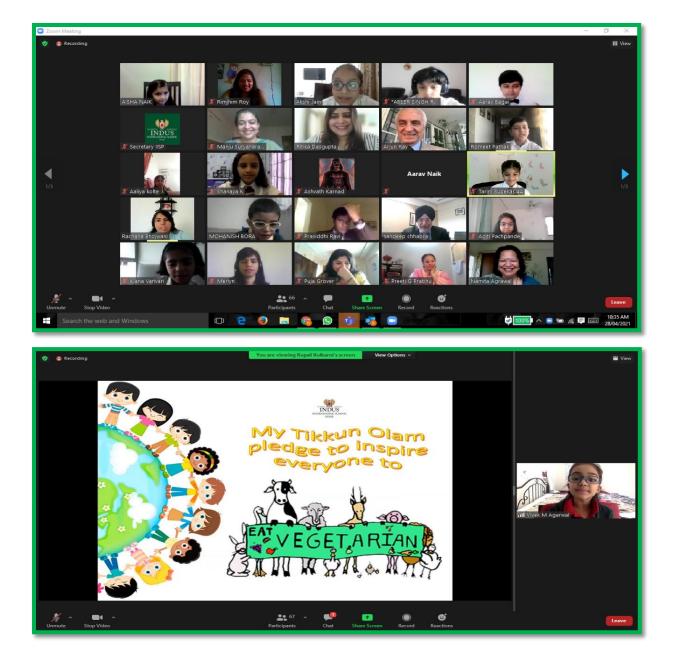
Lt. General (Retired) Arjun Ray (PVSM, VSM)

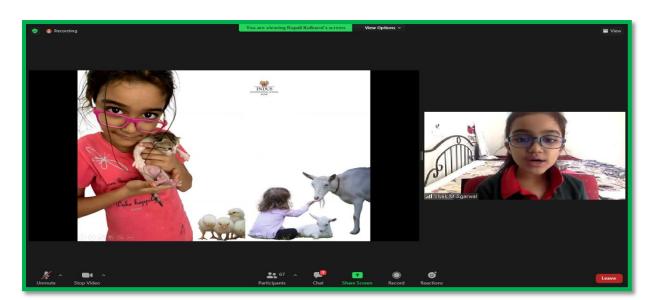
Founder CEO & MD, Indus Trust

Primary Years Programme (PYP):

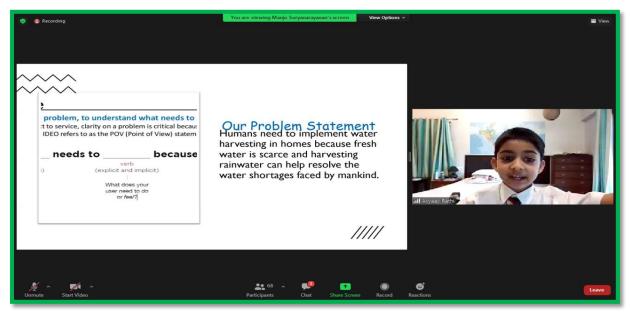
Leadership Curriculum

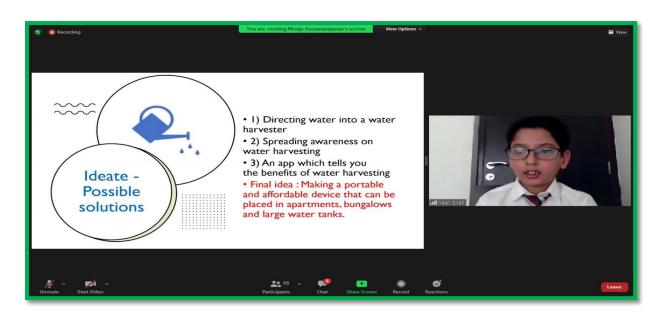
PYP Innovation Day: Climate change is real, and we are at the brink of climate collapse. At Indus, we are attempting to create awareness and motivate our learners to think & take action about this serious issue. Students today are not passive learners; they are indeed agents of change. To further encourage students to come up with creative solutions to existing problems, we celebrated the PYP Innovation Day on 28th April. Our youngest learners of PYP1 and PYP2 focused on their Tikkun Olams and showcased their personal action plans. While learners of PYP3 to PYP5 used the Design Thinking Process effectively to come up with unique solutions to some common problems. We are sure that this not only helped them deeply empathise but also prompted them to think critically and creatively.







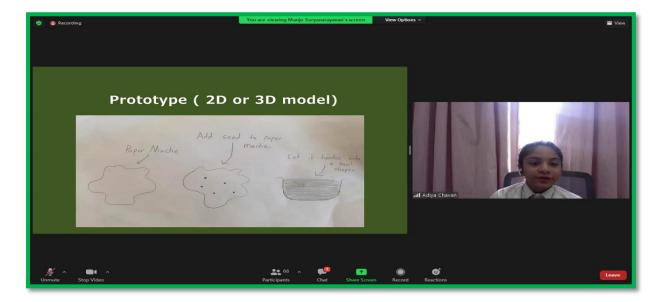








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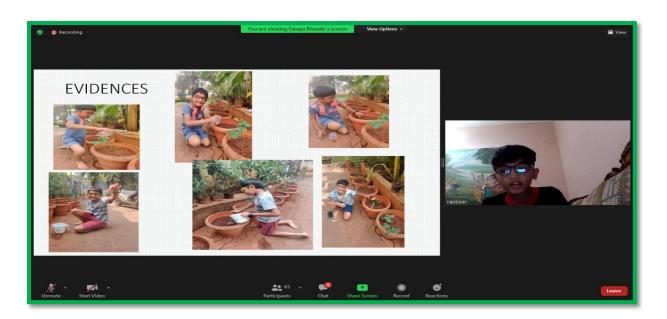






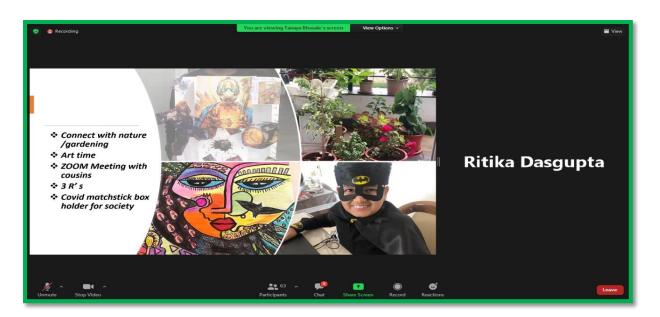


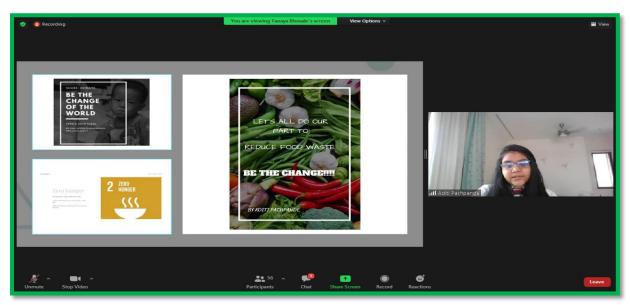






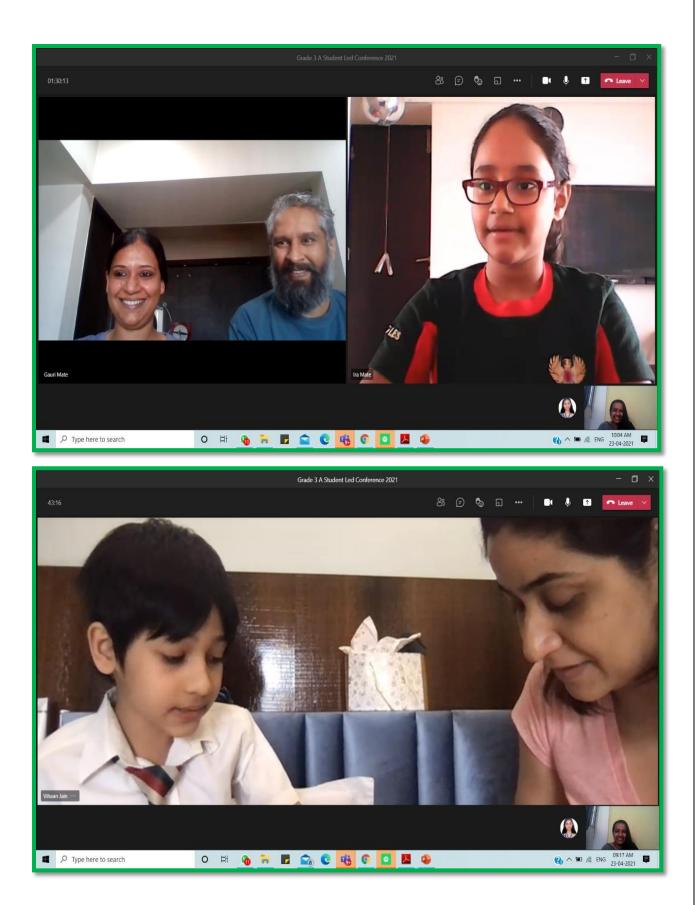


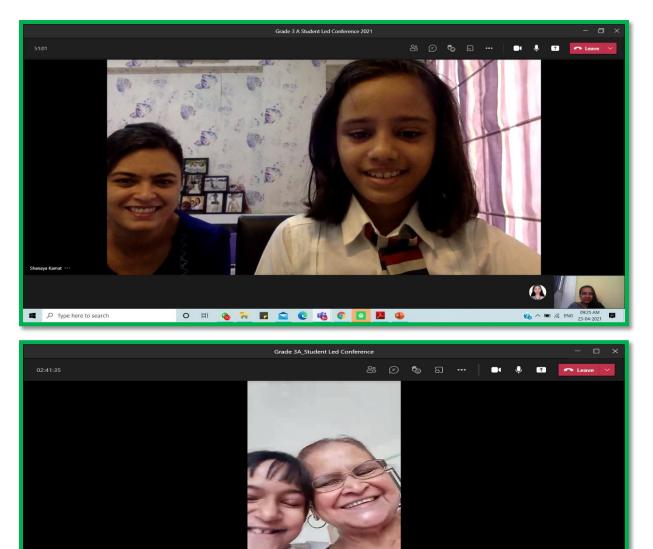




Learning in the PYP

Student Led Conference: The PYP4 & PYP3 students demonstrated an excellent sense of agency through the Student Led Conference. They showcased their skills and conceptual understanding they gained through their favourite unit completed so far. Students also challenged their parents with fun quizzes and games that they had planned on math and language concepts.







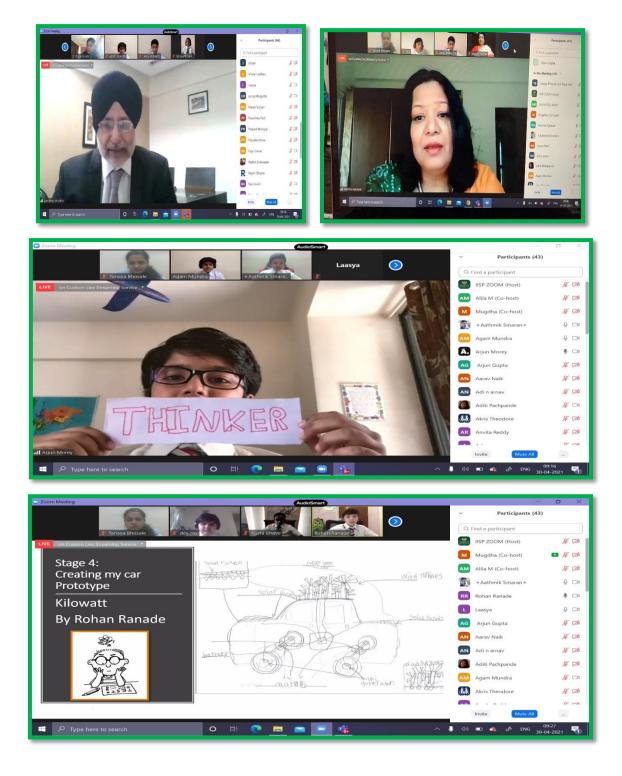


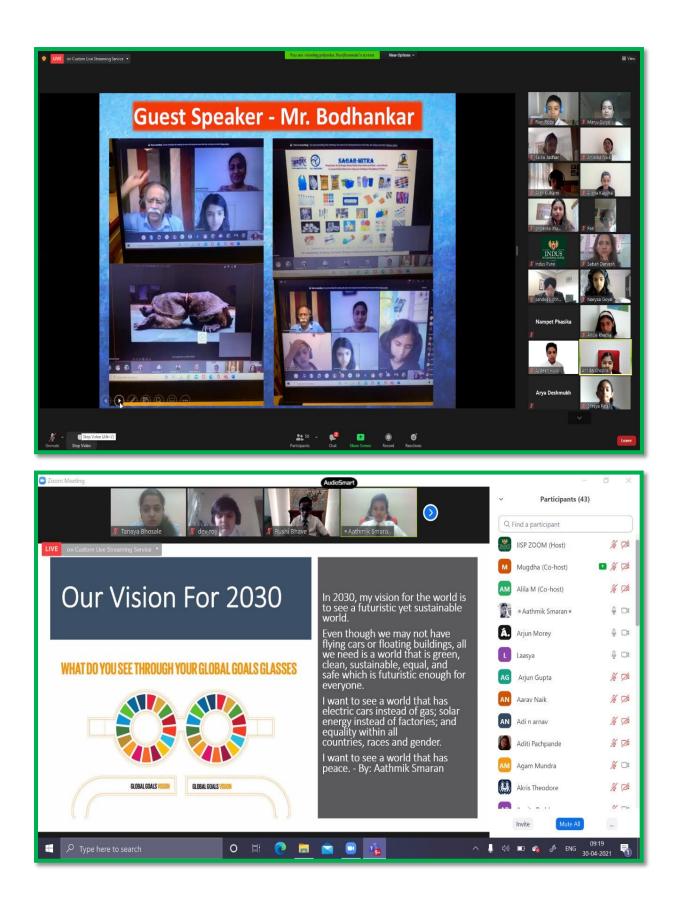




PYP Exhibition

PYP5 students culminate their journey in the PYP through the exhibition. Tackling a wide range of global issues ranging from climate change to gender equality, our learners successfully used the Design Thinking Process to come up with creative solutions. Their research into the cause and effect of these issues helped them empathise deeply and prompted them to take meaningful action. We, sure are proud of our eagles who showcased not only their learning journey but also their agency and a deep commitment to make the world a better place.







Celebrations

Earth Day: With the theme 'Restore our Earth' PYP5 students held a special assembly on Earth Day, 22nd April 21. They reiterated the importance of a sustainable lifestyle and engaged the learners in a fun activity of creating eco bricks. They also encouraged the audience to take small actions in their personal capacity to create a positive impact.









Middle Years Programme (MYP):

MYP 5 Alternate Task Assessments

As the Covid-19 pandemic surrounds us with an unfortunate level of uncertainty of offices, schools, jobs and exams, the IBO planned the alternative assessment for the MYP Students.

As the IB is a journey and the eAssessments are a culmination of that journey, the Assessment teams at the IB planned to conduct remote assessments for the students in those parts of the world where they are unable to come to the school for the On Site assessments. The Alternative Assessments gives students a fair opportunity to gain closure after successfully completing their academic journey in the MYP.

The students will be attempting a single task assessment which will be an extract of the regular 2 hour On-screen assessment. The time limit set for the Alternative task has been set between 40 minutes and 60 minutes.

We wish the students the very best of luck for their assessments.

Spark Plug Week

One of the cornerstones of Indus is the dedication we show in helping our learners enhance their creativity, innovation and critical thinking skills.

A great way to do this was the Spark Plug Week 2 – The second instalment of Innovative, Creative and Moon-shot Ideas.

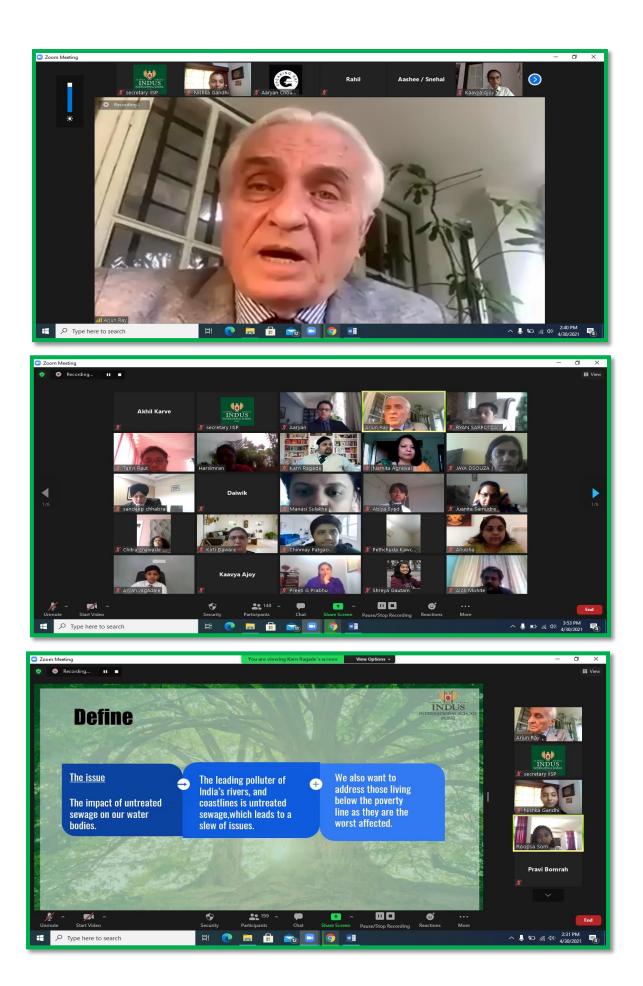
From 19th to the 23rd of April 2021, learners broke the boundaries of subjects to create ideas which were path breaking.

A few of these ideas included building better drainage systems to water purifiers, ocean cleaning innovations as well as re-looking at climate friendly laws.

The theme for their innovation was the climate crisis that our planet is plagued with. Keeping in mind various challenges faced on a local, national and global level, learners created solutions based on the Design Thinking Process.

An Internal Presentation of Ideas across the MYP was held on 28th April 2021 followed by the Innovation Day on the 30th of April 2021 where learners presented their innovations to our CEO & MD – Lt General Arjun Ray.

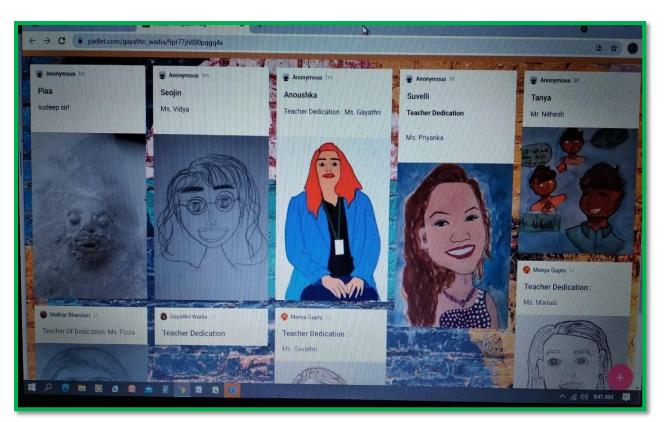
The feedback they received for a window into the limitless possibilities they hold within themselves.



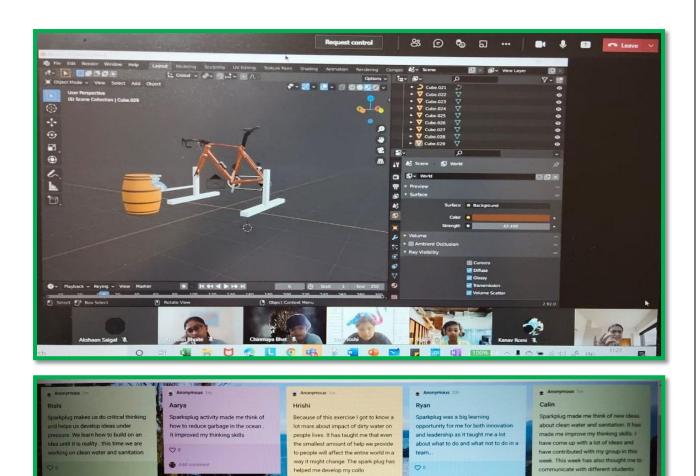












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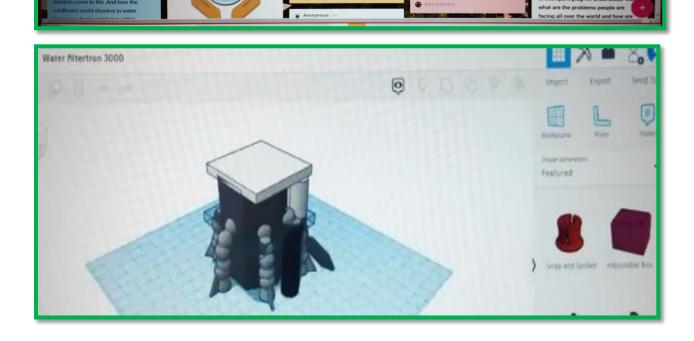
NO WATER NO LIFE

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Group -1

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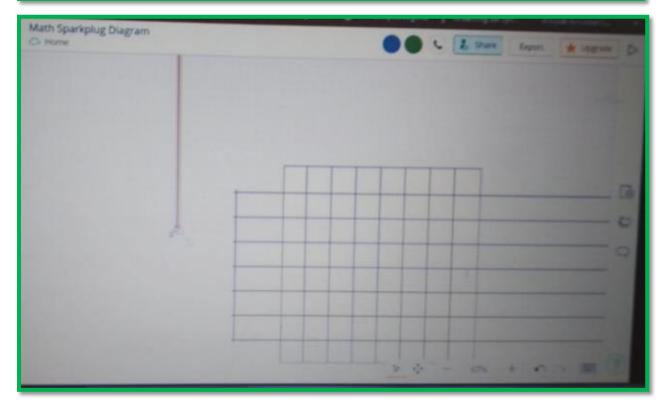


Define

Dams are one of the largest holders of water which can make them imperative for flood control. Although dams are strong they aren't very sustainably built and can collapse in a few years' time, wasting money and resources. We are trying to come up with a plan and/or design of a more sustainable dam that will help save resources and prevent entire ecosystems and cities from flooding.







PYP-MYP Transition

As each year passes, we bid adieu to one batch of learners and gear up to welcome another. And though 'Good-Bye's' are nostalgic, 'Hello's' are a cause for celebration! And we have begun the process of welcoming PYP 5 learners into the MYP Folds.

On the 23rd of April 2021, there was a formal MYP Orientation that was held for the parents of PYP 5.

This platform enabled parents to clarify various aspects in the MYP from Teacher-Student Ratio to Exams. Our MYP 1 Student Ambassadors – Pranav Prakash and Saanjhi Dubey also spoke to parents of their experience in transitioning from PYP to MYP in a virtual pandemic setting. Prior to this formal orientation, we had an informal chat with the learners of PYP 5 on 9th April 2021, as part of the PYP 5 to MYP 1 transition.

This was a great platform as it enabled us to break the ice and learners felt comfortable to ask the various thoughts about MYP that were on their mind.

The PYP 5 learners began attending the Mindfulness Assemblies every morning with learners from MYP1 to MYP5. These assemblies have become a way for the PYP 5 to get comfortably integrated into MYP while also getting to know their peers. We look forward to PYP 5 attending the Mindfulness Sessions till the end of the Academic Year.

From May 2021, PYP 5 learners will be assigned buddies from MYP 1.

We have taken special care to ensure that the buddies are learners who have themselves transitioned from the PYP which will help them provide more effective mentoring to their junior peers from the PYP. In addition to buddies, teachers across core subjects in the MYP will also hold sessions with the PYP 5 learners so as to give them a brief insight into subjects and their concepts in the MYP.

<u>Town Hall Meeting – Startup School</u>

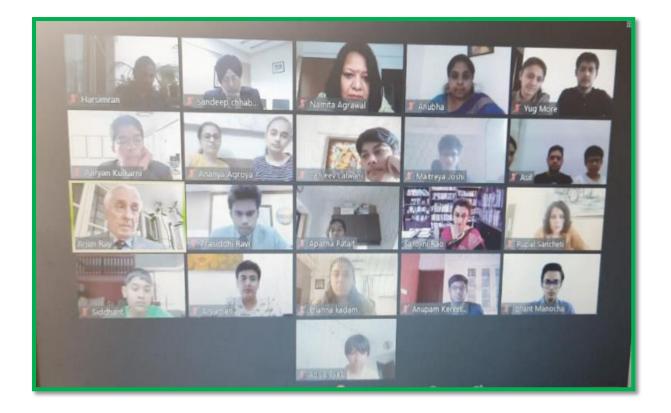
A Town Hall meeting was held for the Students and Parents of MYP1 to MYP3. Based on the overwhelming feedback that we received from parents and students who are a part of the Startup School at Indus from MYP4 to DP2, we are delighted to announce that the Startup School is now open for our learners from MYP1 to MYP3.

The Town-Hall was chaired by our CEO & MD – Lt General Arjun Ray as well as the Chief Philosophy Officer of the Indus Trust – Ms Preeti Prabhu.

Our Startup School student ambassadors – Aryan Kulkarni of DP2 as well as Idhant Manocha of MYP4 spoke to parents and students about their experience in the Startup.

The depth of questions as well as the quality of discussion ensured deeper discussions and clarity on all aspects of the Startup School.

We are very excited at the opportunities this brings and look forward to welcoming our learners into the Startup Fold.



Parent Teacher Meetings

The month of April 2021 also saw us hold Virtual Parent Teacher Meetings for parents and students from MYP1 to MYP5.

Parents selected the teachers they wanted to meet as well as their points of discussion which helped us seamlessly create invites and keep discussion points ready. Each meeting lasted for 10 minutes and we thank all parents and teachers for their support in helping us facilitate yet another seamless Parent Teacher Meeting.

Guest Lectures and Action Groups

As part of our learner's commitment to Climate Advocacy, a few of our MYP Learners came together to create an ACTION group called: LARRI - The Lake and River Revival Initiative. LARRI is an initiative with the aim of rejuvenating and replenishing Manas Lake, by conducting clean-up drives, tree plantation drives, and creating a green and sustainable area in and around Manas lake, and eventually, encouraging sustainable living in our personal lives. This will be the one of the many interesting guest lectures and student workshops that they have planned!

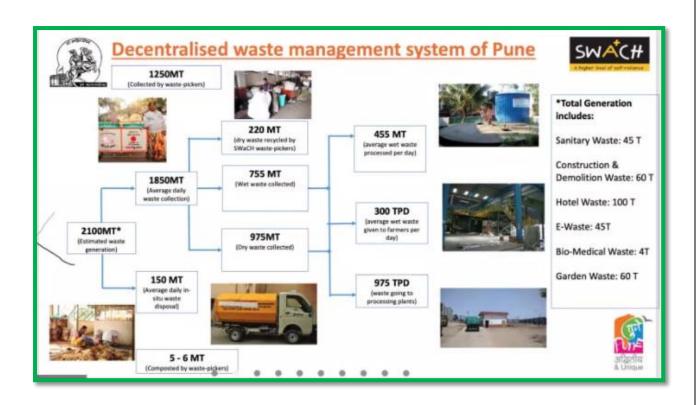
This group was started by our MYP4 learners and is spearheading initiatives across the MYP. We thank Aaryan Choudhary, Advita Karnad, Shreya Gautam and Ananya Ganesh for their consistent commitment to our world.

LAARI organized their first ever Guest Lecture this month on the 23rd of April 2021 where they invited Ms Suchismita Pai, who is the Head of Outreach at **SWaCH**. SWaCH is a renowned non-profit organization based in Pune dedicated to spread awareness about and

take action toward waste-management and sustainable living. This guest lecture helped our learners in understanding how they can contribute towards a more sustainable society.







Achievements:

We would like to extend our Congratulations to Siddhant Pandit of MYP2 and Ronith Lahoti of MYP3 for winning the National Innoventure Awards for their Grades.

We also Congratulate Sarthak Sangare of MYP3 for winning the Innovation Challenge as well as Scholarship award what was held by IIM Rohtak.





Diploma Programme (IBDP):

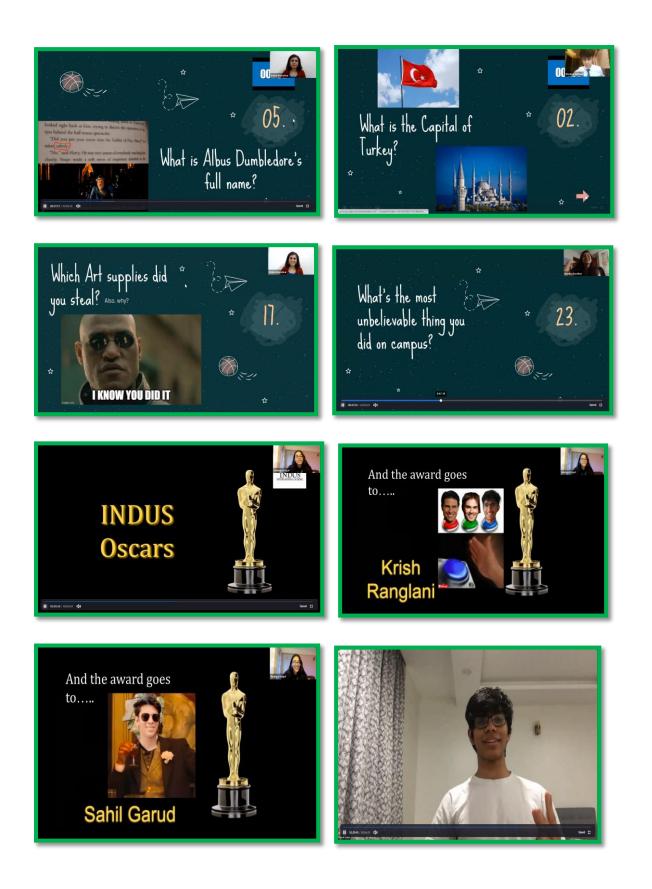
DP2

After a lot of deliberation, the IB finally arrived at the decision of cancelling Physical exams for all DP schools in India in view of the rising Covid -19 cases across the country, keeping student health and safety as a priority. As a result, the May 2021 batch of IBDP students will be on Non-Exam route. The school has submitted all student work that was supposed to be submitted online to IB and has submitted the Predicted Grades of students along with supporting evidence of all school assessments to the IB.

The student result will be based on the actual scores of student's Internal Assessments, Extended Essays, Theory of Knowledge PPT's and Essays, and the Predicted Grades supported by assessment evidence.

On Saturday, 24th April, the DP1 students organized a virtual farewell for the May 2021 batch. It was a fun filled and heart-warming event with enthusiastic participation from both, DP1 and DP2 students. Starting with a message from the Principal, the Vice Principal and the DP teachers, the seniors were engaged in an exciting quiz conducted by the juniors to test their wits, and also to unravel some of their secrets. Few seniors were honoured with interesting Awards based on a poll conducted earlier. The students shared a lot of good memories, gave some tips to the juniors and expressed their gratitude towards the school and the teachers, making it a memorable evening for all.















DP1:

Academics

The regular timetable was followed after the spring break, extra class of each block was scheduled from 2:30-3:30 pm based on the requirement of each department. These extra classes were made compulsory to attend to be able to complete final examination syllabus.

Deadline calendar for the month of April was sent in advance to all the students which includes the dates of Internal Assessments and other important submissions. This initiative was taken from the beginning of DP1 to help students know their deadlines and manage the submissions on time.

Examinations and Parent Teacher Meetings

Reporting Cycle C (RCC) reports were released on 10th April and Parent Teacher Meetings were conducted as per request of parents. Online meeting slots were shared with all students through invites. The meetings were rescheduled for a few parents who could not join on 10th April by mutually discussing the timings. Indus believes in updating its processes and there was one such initiative taken by the school. Innovation Curriculum feedback was shared by Mini-Principals of DP1 through the report cards in RCC. This helped students and parents know their progress so far.

The final examination syllabus focus was sent to all students, one month in advance keeping in mind the rigorous preparation required by students. One week revision is scheduled in the 1st week of May and Unit wise practice questions are uploaded on Managebac which is monitored by subject heads and Head of Departments. Two Formative Assessments (FA) were made compulsory for the final examination. Home based task, IB pattern questions, case studies etc. were few samples of FA's conducted across various subjects. Managebac is continuously used by teachers to update students about various submissions. Most of the submissions of FAs are done on Exam.net and Managebac. The final examination timetable will be planned keeping in mind the upcoming SAT examination.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

The CAS interviews were conducted online on 21st April. Each student was mapped to one supervisor. Students were required to upload their reflections on Managebac of any activity they have undertaken so far which qualifies for CAS. Their interview with supervisors was recorded as evidence and uploaded on Managebac. These interviews were scheduled in the CAS lessons and few of them were also scheduled after school in order to ensure that the students do not miss out on the academic time.

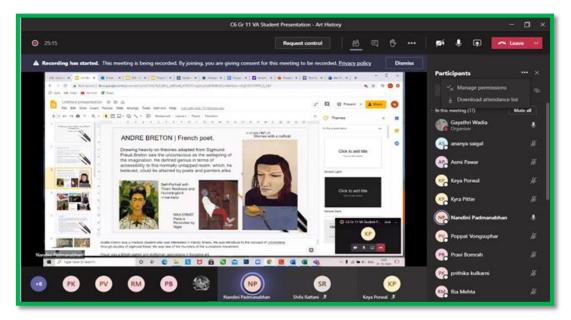
Innovation and Leadership Curriculum

Innovation and Leadership Curriculums are unique attributes of Indus school. Every child is seen as a Leader and they are constantly groomed through Innovation and Leadership Curriculum on Wednesdays which is the I Lead Day. In order to challenge students to come with innovative ideas, DP1 students participated in the Innovation Day held on 30h April. Every Mini-Principal of DP1 students had nominated their teams. The best team with unique idea showcased their talent on Innovation Day.

Climate Change Project

Climate Change Project is an ongoing activity taken up by DP1 students. After the feedback received from the CEO, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, the students have started their research and to find out the solution for lake revival. They have given a name to their project as "CRISIS" which means- Climate revival through innovative solutions in Indus school.





Guidance and Placements Update

The Placements Team has been meeting with DP1 students to start the preparation for their university. Most of the students along with parents have shown positive response to the meeting sessions.

Constant support to the DP2 students is ongoing with respect to offers received, choosing the college and discussing various aspects influencing the decision.

Two university sessions were arranged in the form of one individual session and a mini fair. [Flame University & Mini Fair conducted with Campus Connect Global]

One on one sessions with oncoming parents is underway for the batch of August 2021

The placements team has also planned an explicit schedule for the PRE IBDP batch starting 3rd May 2021.

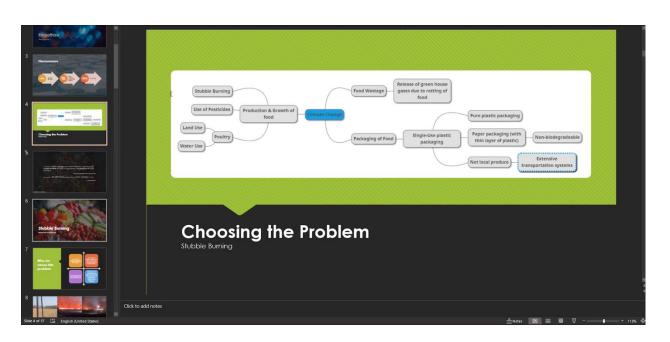
Startup School Update:

The month of April brought in a plethora of events and exercises, encouraging our young members of the Startup School to take up the inward journey of becoming an entrepreneur. The students were provided with opportunities to build on their learning and understand the importance of having a vision and purpose.

The students are gradually able to develop situational awareness and understand how empathy, reflection and a growth mindset are integral in thinking of creative solutions to the present-day problems. The aspect of growth arising from disorder, volatility and randomness is something that the students are not only able to understand but also welcome as they proceed in their ventures. All the teams have started working on the business plan based on the idea they selected. This is directed towards building their elevator pitch.

Deep reading continues to be regular ritual in the start-up school activity. Articles are shared with the students and their reflections are taken in the sessions on Wednesday.

Team 7 has earnestly worked towards the climate change DTP project. They collected primary and secondary research data to empathize with the problem that they identified. These were presented to our Chief Philosophy officer Ms Preeti Prabhu and our Vice Principal Dr Namita Agrawal. The students received constructive feedback and started working towards the prototype stage.



DTP has brought the students much closer to the reality. Despite the pandemic and its restrictions, the students have shown a lot of promise. The enthusiasm of making heterogeneous group, working collaboratively, conducting interviews, talking to the Environmentalists and challenging themselves time and again at every stage of DTP has made them much stronger and resilient in creating an impact in the society.

Team 3 led by Capt Rajeev Bali and Ms Surabhi Shahi revisited DTP stages. In order to understand ways to control food wastage in School, the team along with the parent Mentor Mr Sanjay Kulkarni brainstormed various innovative ideas and worked on their empathy stage. The interactive sessions led to some fruitful discussions that proved useful in creating an elevator pitch.

Contributions:

Captain Rajiv Bali, Director of Administration

Ms Anupriya Dhooli, CAS Co-Ordinator and HOD Business Management

Ms Surabhi Shahi, Facilitator Business Management and Economics

Dates for your Diary: May 2021			
1 st May 2021	Maharashtra Day – Holiday		
3 rd May 2021	Pre DP- Classes begin		
4 th May 2021	Inter Class GK quiz (PYP 1&2)		
5 th May 2021	Inter House GK quiz (PYP 3-5)		
7 th May 2021	MYP Orientation for PYP5 parents		
10 th May – 21 st May 2021	MYP 5 Final IB Alternate Task eAssessments		
10 th May – 24 th May 2021	Final Exam (DP1)		
12 th May 2021	Spell Bee (Prep 2, PYP 1& 2)		
13 th May 2021	Ramzan – Holiday		
14 th May 2021	Spell Bee (PYP 3-5)		
19 th May 2021	ICP/ SLC (PYP 1)		
20 th May 2021	ICP/ SLC (PYP 2)		
21 st May 2021	Graduation Day (Prep 2)		
22 nd May 2021	Graduation Day (MYP5)		
24 th May-4 th June 2021	Final Examination (MYP 1-4)		
28 th May 2021	Pre DP- Classes end		

Thanks and warm regards

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