

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

February 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings from Indus International School Pune!

INDUS DAY – Senior School:

Indus Day is a celebration of talent through creative and performing arts.

As we learn and grow with our learners each day, we are reminded that life is a circle which has no beginning and no end. Humans were not made to have a limit and it is this limitless ability of our learners that we aimed to celebrate through the, 'Senior School Indus Day' by introducing them to someone like, 'Galileo Galilei'.

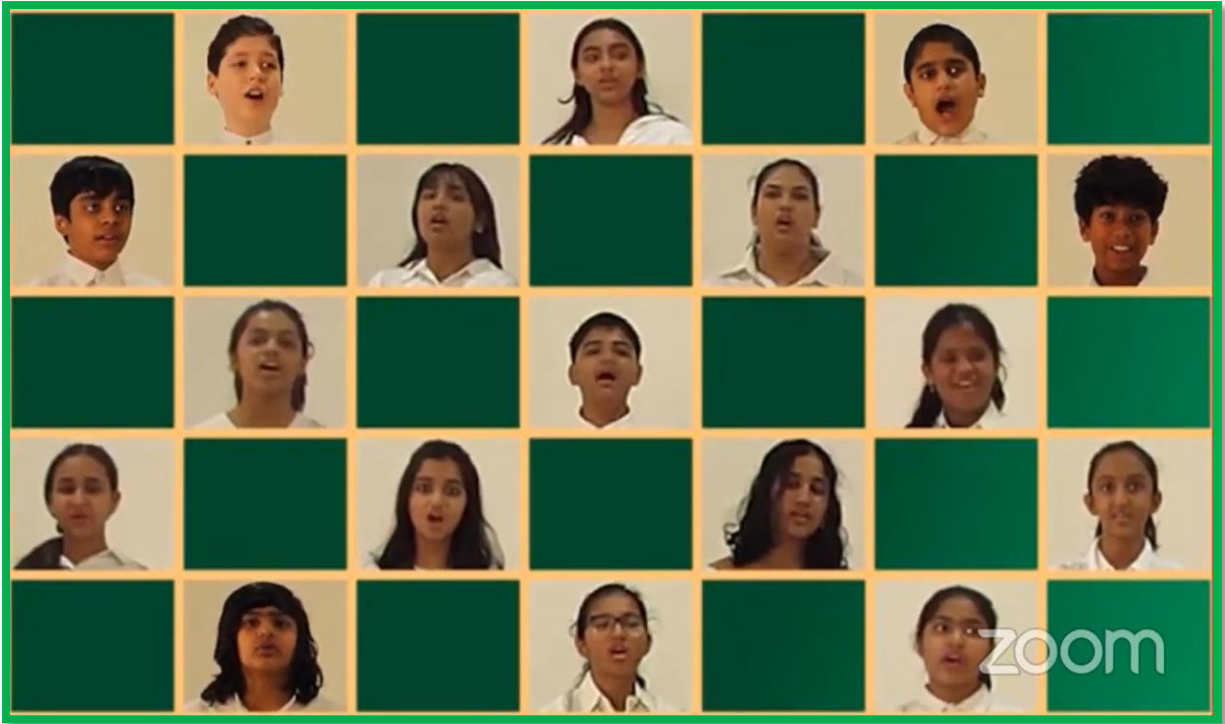
Galileo, a man who stood behind his dream, vision and purpose irrespective of what the world said or thought, was the perfect inspiration for our learners as they walk on the journey of life. The story highlighted the fact that innovation and new ideas are borne out of a struggle - often leading to sacrifice and sometimes creating humorous situations

The grit and resilience of our students is truly noteworthy, and we cannot be more proud of them!

We thank our staff and students for their outstanding contribution and collaboration for the wonderful show!

INDUS DAY (Senior School)









zoom



zoom



zoom

INDUS DAY – Primary Years Programme:

Talent comes in many forms and every child brings a unique one with him to share with the world. At Indus, we believe that talent should be nurtured and showcased as this helps every child grow. Our treasured annual Indus Day was held virtually this year and learners took the audience into a thought-provoking journey. They inspired us to think beyond the confines of our comforts and addressed the most difficult truth of our times- Climate Change. With a positive message of hope, they showcased their varied skills. We sure are proud of our Eagles.





**Sara Shah
PYP Head Girl**

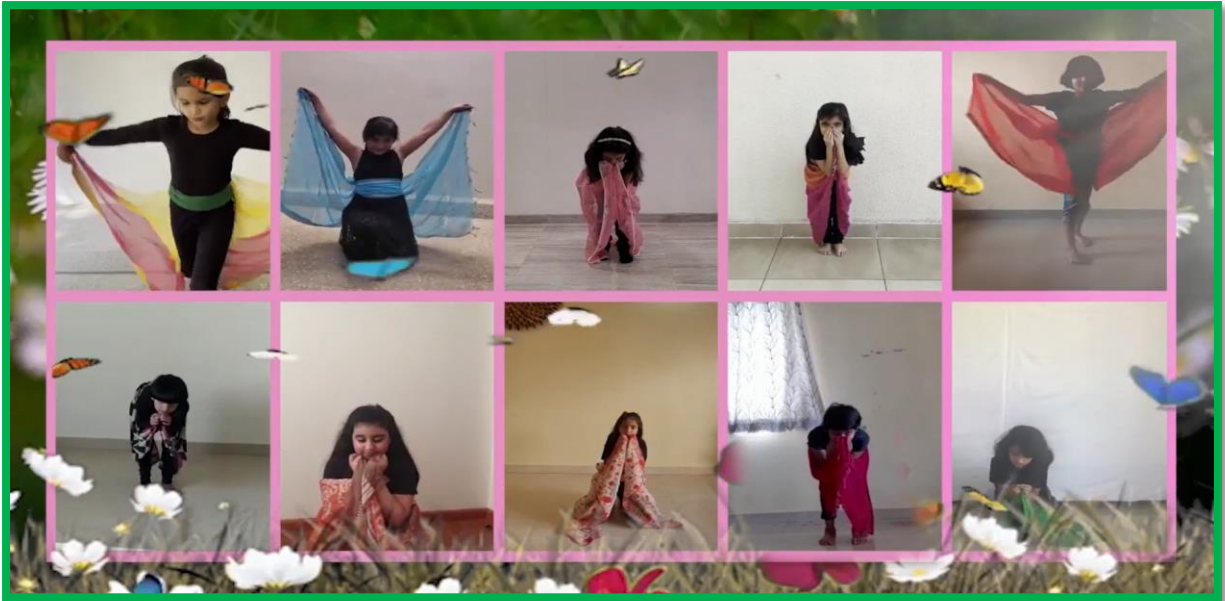


**Aathmik Smaran
Grade 5 Student**













**Ms. Puja Grover
Head of School PYP**



**Ms. Manju Suryanarayanan
PYP Coordinator**

Talent Show - Early Years Programme:

Our Youngest Eagles put together a wonderful evening of fun to the delight of all our viewers. The show was relayed on our school's YouTube channel and regaled the audience with laughter. Our students showcased wit, spontaneity and skill in different theatre arts and put their best foot forward through the play, 'Princess and the Pea'.







Young Achievers at IISP:

Sarthak Sangare (Grade 8):

Sarthak Sangare, a Grade 8 student secured FIRST POSITION at IIM Rohtak Innovation E Summit today and will be receiving a cash prize seed funding to pursue his entrepreneurial venture – ART.

ART is a service product. It is also a platform to learn traditional Indian art forms. There are two services in ART. First concerns the modules or lessons and videos. These services help the consumer to get the videos to learn a particular art form. Second services are of ART boxes. These art boxes have the appropriate material in the right amount and these boxes will use the authentic material similar to what traditional artisans use.

ART focuses on delivering material only in Mumbai, but the learning modules will be available throughout the world.

<https://youtu.be/BRI8s47u1qQ>



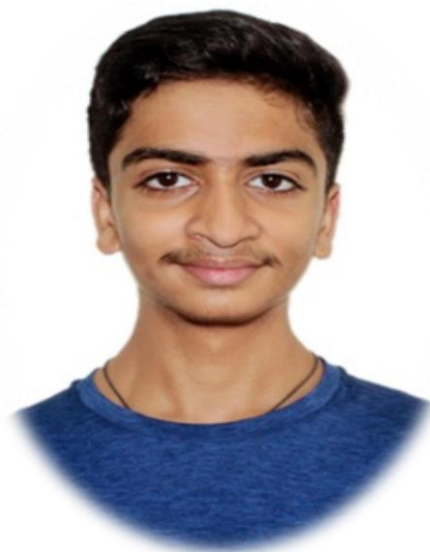
Sheehan Nathani (Grade 11):

It gives us immense pleasure to inform that Sheehan has successfully achieved 1st position in the Navy Day run and ride. This was an athletic and cycling meet organized in order to show respect to the Indian Navy for their timeless and courageous service. He has been awarded with a certificate and a medal to mark his achievement.



Mihir Bathija (Grade 11):

Mihir took part in a triathlon which was held under the aegis of Indian Triathlon Federation in Konark, Odisha. The Sprint distance he was competing in was a 750m swim followed by 20km of cycling and ending with a 5km run. The swim was a sea swim and with an undercurrent in the water, the swim was tougher than expected and he was in the 5th position when he came out of the water. By the end of a great bike leg, he was in 3rd place with a minute's gap to catch up for 2nd position. By the end of the race, he was placed second overall (considering all age groups) and 1st in the under 20 age group category.



Primary Years Programme (PYP):

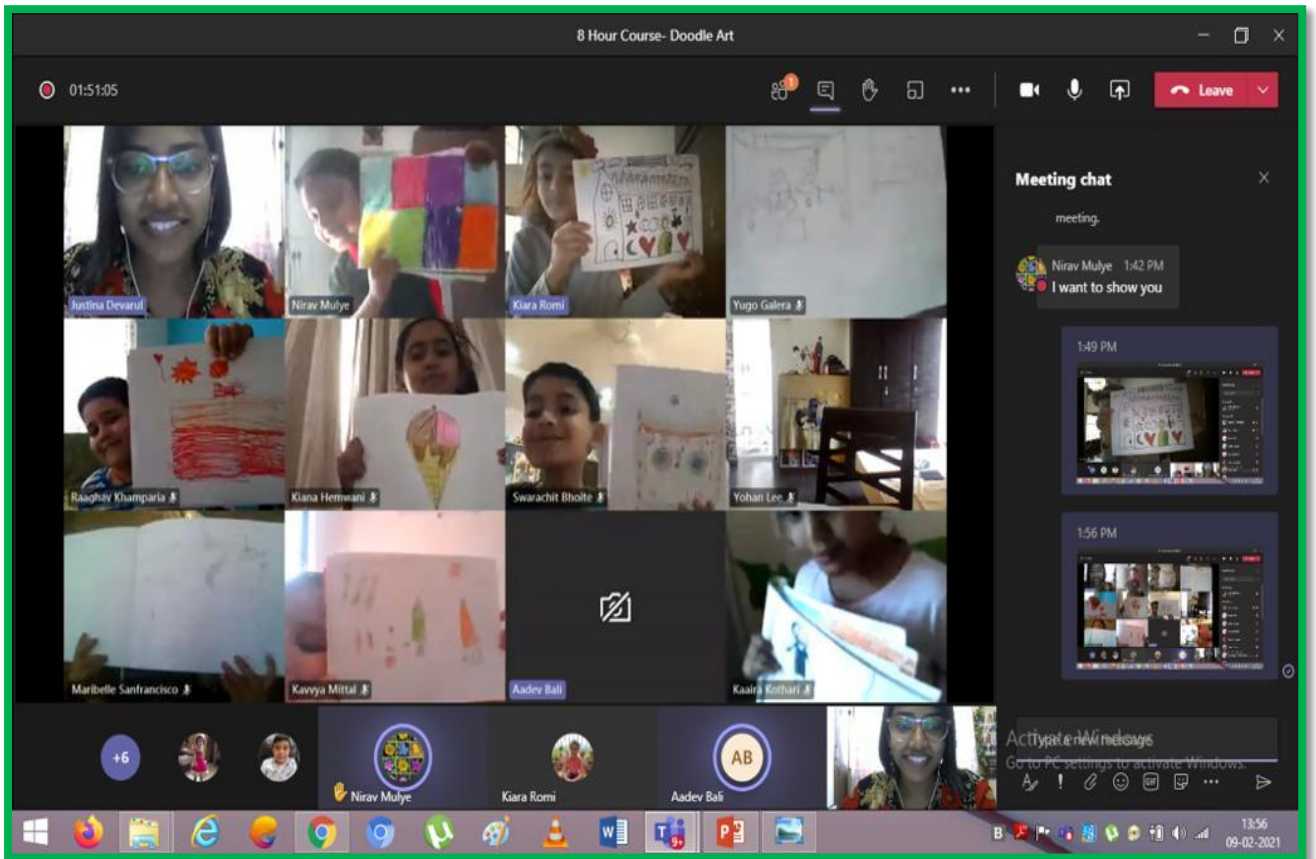
Learning in the PYP:

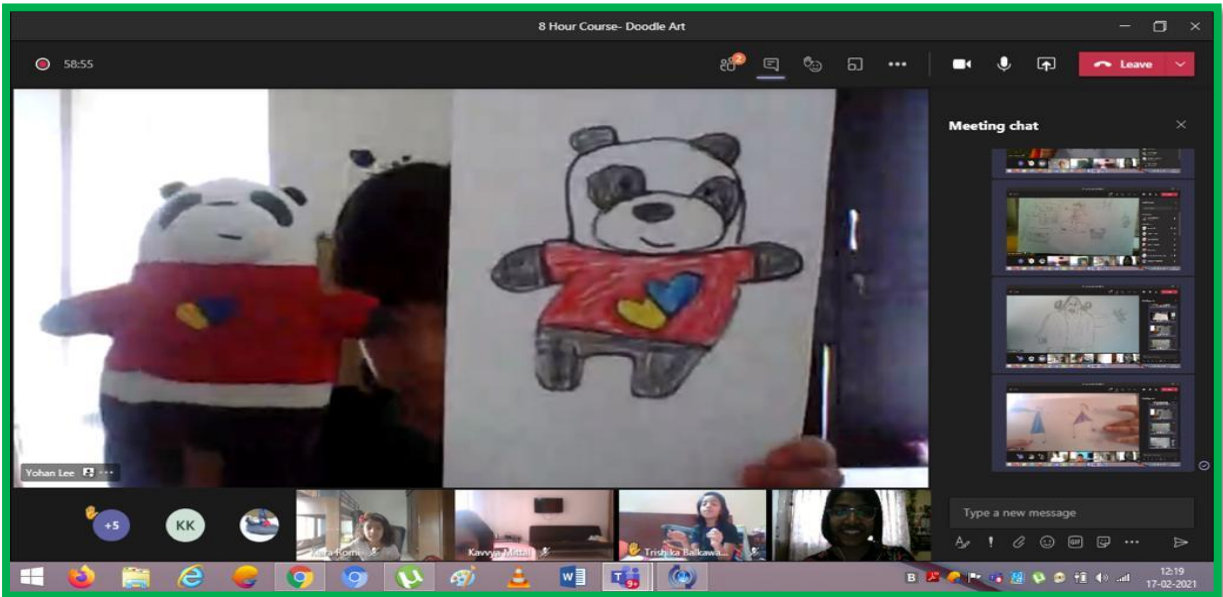
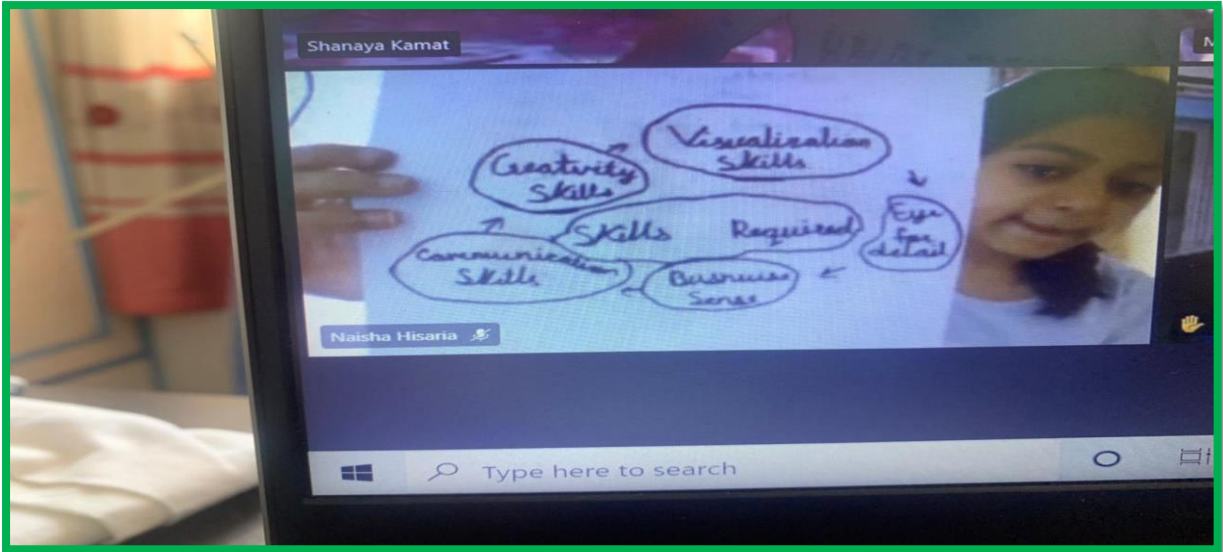
ACER IBT: The ACER IBT is an internationally administered program of assessments to compare student performance globally, between grades and over time. IISP students have consistently bagged distinction and high distinction in these tests over the years. Students of Grades 3 to 5 took the test virtually this year and we are confident that they will shine with their exceptional performance this year also.

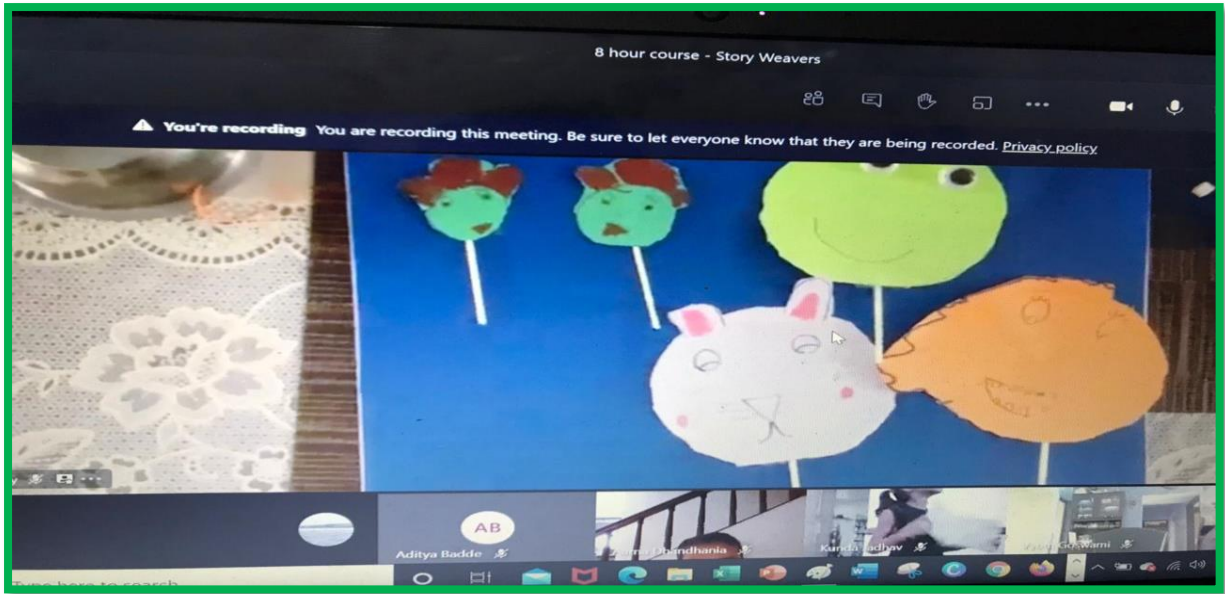
Leadership Curriculum: From identifying the attributes of a leader and comparing them to the attributes of IB learner profile to discussions on altruism and pursuing a social cause through Tikkum Olam, our learners have been learning about being leaders of tomorrow. They are also learning about being agents of change to reduce the impact of climate change.

PYP Parent Teacher Meeting: The term two virtual PYP PTM was a productive and meaningful session with parents being able to discuss their child's progress with the teachers effectively. More than 95% of our parents are satisfied with the PTM process and find it fruitful. We hope to continue this partnership with our parents who are a critical part of the learning community.

PYP Short Courses







Middle Years Programme (MYP):

Career Counselling Session for MYP 3 Students and Parents: The Placements Team conducted a session on Career Counselling for all MYP 3 students as they gear up for MYP 4-5 where they will be selecting certain subjects for a more in-depth study. The Placements Cell event held on 27th February 2021 for the MYP 3 students and parents was a way to give them further clarity on choices that they would be open to experiencing at the IB-DP as well as the University Level. The workshop was much appreciated by all parents and students since it answered many questions and will help learners make a more informed selection of subjects.

MYP 5 Mock Exams: The MYP 5 Mock exams are scheduled to start from 2nd March 2021. The learners have had practice of giving their Pre Mock exams on AssessPrep Version 2 and we are now geared up to help them with further practice through their Mock Exams.

An AssessPrep V2 Orientation session was conducted by the Examination Department for all MYP Students and Parents to introduce learners to the new version of AssessPrep ahead of their Midterm 2 examination. The session focused on the new features as well as ease of assessments which will make online test taking a smoother process for our learners.

We wish them all the best!

IDU (Interdisciplinary Units) Session: The MYP Head of School conducted an IDU session with the MYP 6-8 learners on 26th February 2021. The aim of the session was to help learners gain further clarity on the process of the Inter Disciplinary Unit assessment as well as conceptual understanding. Learners clarified various aspects which helped them gain a deeper understanding of the IDU Process in the MYP.

ACER-IBT Exams: The ACER-IBT exams were held for MYP 1-3 from 2nd to 4th February 2021. The Acer Exams are an International Benchmark Test and this year, due to the Pandemic, they were held virtually. All learners joined a Teams Invigilation Session before appearing for the tests which were conducted for Math, Language and Science. Indus Learners have always put in their best efforts and we are sure that this year too, they will honour their efforts on a global platform.

Virtual Indus Day: Each year, the annual day is a highlight event. For students, Indus Day does not just mean expressing themselves but also means hours of working together to create something meaningful. It means hours of collaboration as they showcase something we are proud of. This year, the pandemic took away face to face practice sessions but still learners managed to come to school for play and choir recordings. The Orchestra was superbly managed virtually by the Music department and was a truly magical expression of music.





Diploma Programme (IBDP):

Extended Essays & Internal Assessments (EE and IA): The DP office worked on the completion of the Extended essays and Internal Assessments. Timelines were set to wrap up IA's and meetings were held with students and parents – to address concerns related to EEs and IAs. With the support of DP teachers who met students after school online and during physical school hours; most EEs and IAs have been wrapped up and the process of uploading is on to meet the IBO deadline. The early intervention by the DP office will now enable students to focus on the Mock exams which is crucial to prepare for the May 2021 exams.

Back to school- staggered classes

The School Administration left no stone unturned to ensure all COVID protocols are in place to ensure the safety of students coming back to the campus. Apart from temperature checks, packed lunch was served in the blocks. The different zones for Boarders and Day Scholars; along with separate Time tables helped monitor students in varied small grade bubbles. While it was initially challenging to move from face to face classes to online and then rush to teach boarders in another block, meeting students in face to face classes made it all worth.

Climate Action Cup preparation: Student Council members from all three programs met to brainstorm ideas and solutions to implement sustainable actions- in order to reduce CO2 emissions outside the campus. The feedback provided by the Senior Leadership Team has resulted in a change in the structure of the presentation with a focus on creating Bio empathy.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS):

“You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great” – Zig Ziglar

Hercules House

Motto: Invicta – undefeated and unconquerable

Our Goal is to reach as many underprivileged schools and help students enhance their capabilities. We at the Pathfinder project, keep wellbeing and knowledge at our utmost importance and we plan to boost creativity and intellectual capabilities in the students of tomorrow.

Our initiatives include partnering up with the Raah Foundation and holding weekly talks and activities, for students to learn and engage in. We plan on bringing a more warm approach to the idea of receiving knowledge and understanding our world. Through our Art Workshops

- which range from pottery to mandala, we aim to raise money by selling our items
- creations to create a path for a higher quality education for them, through our literacy
- workshops, we aim to enhance comprehension, writing and communication skills in our students.

The second one is working with Aniket Sevabhavi Sanstha, Paud road.

It's a rehabilitation Centre for special children, run by thirty-year-old Ms Kalpana Varpe. The institution is named after her own mentally challenged son, who was refused admission in various schools.

We as a team pay visits to their organization and spent some quality time knowing and interacting with them. We look forward to two visits per month to the place.



Phoenix House

Motto: Sans Peur – without fear

The Stray Care is a project initiated by the Phoenix House of the IBDP Batch. As the name suggests, we are working on stray animal welfare, mainly for cats and dogs, the most common stray animals spotted on the streets, and till some extent, birds too.

Our initiative includes setting up small shelters for the strays living in and near our localities, feeding them and trying to get people to adopt them. Simultaneously, we're also trying to collaborate with local NGOs. Our initiative also includes raising funds which will be used for the animal's welfare and spreading awareness through social media platforms, as well as bringing out maximum participation from not only our house but other people as well, to make the project interactive and create a bigger impact.

Phoenix house had arranged for a guest webinar by Mr Shantanu Naidu, CEO of Motopaws organization and DGM to Mr. Ratan Tata.

Mr Naidu is actively working for the welfare of stray animals for the last couple of years and gave our students a brief about the same.

Pegasus – Exemplo Duemus (Lead by example)

Pegasus – Exemplo Ducemus stood consistent with the saying: Lead by example by relentlessly working on their projects called Pegaschool- We have partnered with the NGO AASHRE to train 10 of their 5th graders in conversational English.

Freedom struggle in India...

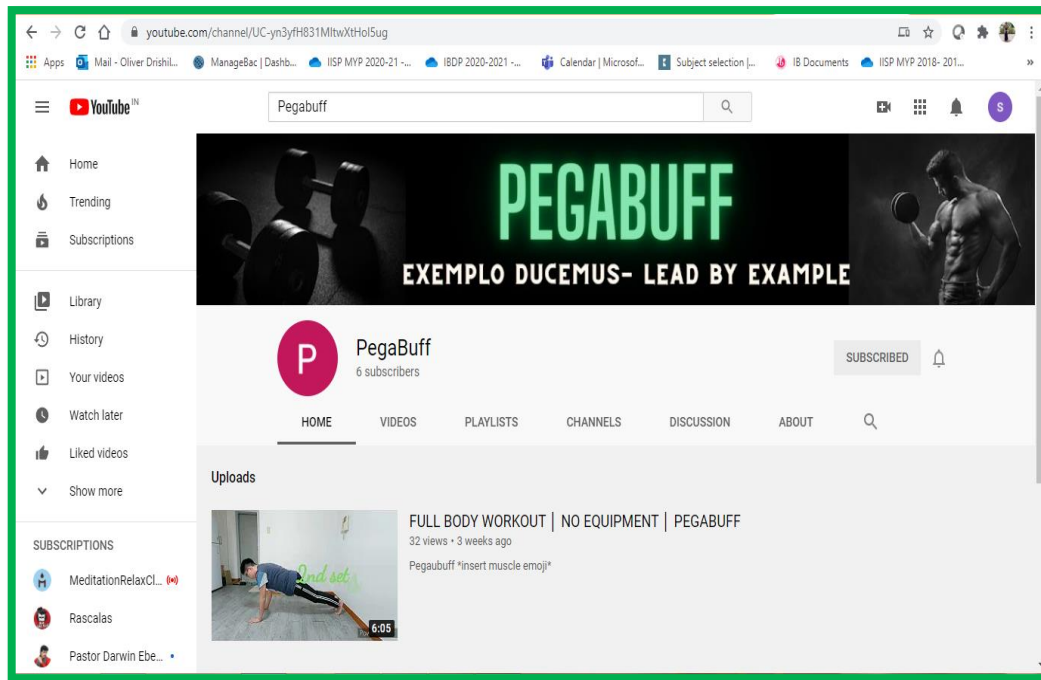
Fill in the blanks

1. The sea route to India was discovered by _____ in the _____ century.
2. East India Company came to India in the year _____.
3. When East India Company came to India it was ruled by the _____.
4. Vasco da Gama started his voyage from _____ in _____ and reached India in _____ at _____.
5. Sepoy Mutiny began from _____ part of India.
6. The leader of 1857 revolt was _____.
7. The last Mughal ruler was _____. He was sent on exile to _____.
8. Vasco da Gama took _____ months to reach India.

BODMAS

B – Solve anything within a bracket first
O – Solve based on order of exponents (indices) next (x^2 , \sqrt{x})
D – Perform division next (\div)
M – Perform multiplication next (\times)
A – Perform addition next (+)
S – Lastly do subtraction

Pegabuff-To pursue the Activity component of CAS, 9 students decided to create fitness tutorials and post them on their Instagram handle



The fitness tutorials were filmed and edited by the volunteer students themselves. With the fitness videos, the students could express their passion for exercise while maintaining their health during the ongoing pandemic. Social media posts could help spread this message.

On Wednesday every week, each of the students from AASHRE meet with their student teacher from IISP for a 1 hour session over a normal or zoom call.

The Angrewadi school project aim is to help the students to be confident and comfortable with spoken English at the end of 10 weeks, completing the two projects assigned in the academic year 2020-2021.

The learners of Pegasus house started their project by showcasing excellent leadership skills and work together, a common vision. We emphatically have faith in joint effort and solidarity which certainly brings about definite outcomes.

Self Initiatives: Dhruwan Shah from Pegasus House had organised a Polio Vaccination drive in the slums of Koregaon Park. It is outstanding to see such intuition and bravery amongst these uncertain times. He had also taken the initiative to distribute masks at a local school nearby.

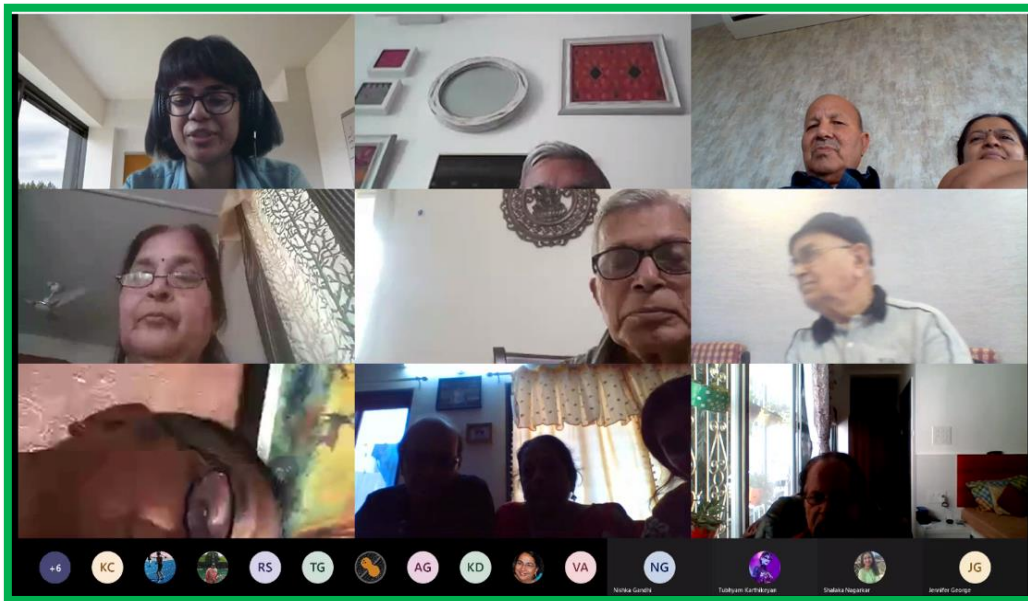


Orion House

House Motto: Nulli Secundus - Second to none

Orion house has started this year with great enthusiasm with the project at Sahjeevan Old age Home. The house organised for a small quiz on movies, sports and bridging the gap with abbreviations and social media and a fun antakshari was played.

In this academic session the Orion house shall strive and ensure to bring about a substantial difference and improvement in the health care and education of the young children.



Climate Change:

From the desk of CAS Captain:

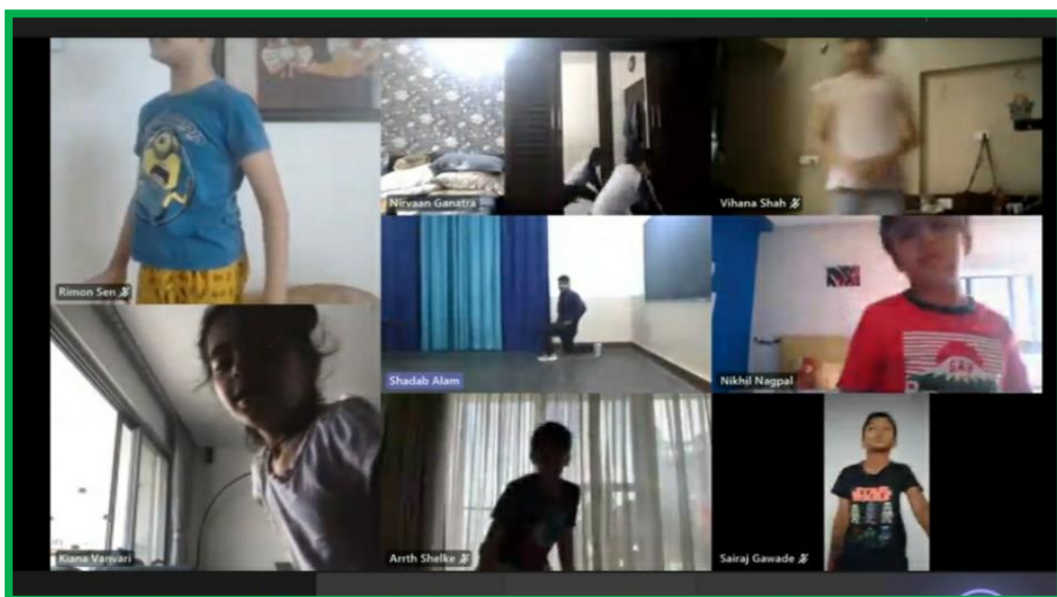
In this dynamic technological age, IISP's goal is to encourage students to break out of the bubble of climate ignorance into the mindset of bio-empathy. Students need the opportunity to see problems with their own eyes and understand why the problem is a problem. Only after proper empathy can they work towards change. All great problems in the past have been solved with the guidance of great leaders, and we at Indus strive to make our own students leaders in today's battle with climate change. Students must get the opportunity to hone their leadership skills and develop a holistic approach and sustainable mindset to solve the problems of our world. Experts believe that climate change might even be the cause of our eventual extinction by 2100, and so it is of utmost importance that we work towards a solution today. No matter how small the steps we take, what matters is that we take them. The youth is the future, and so, in order to battle climate change, our students have come up with numerous solutions by themselves, that the school can implement to reduce their carbon footprint. While the school is doing all it can to adopt a sustainable, non-polluting model, it is upto every individual student to ensure that their own carbon footprint is reduced- by cutting down consumption of fuel, adopting a different diet, or maybe something else. The choice belongs to our students. When they become bioempathetic and ready to take action, only then will the world change.

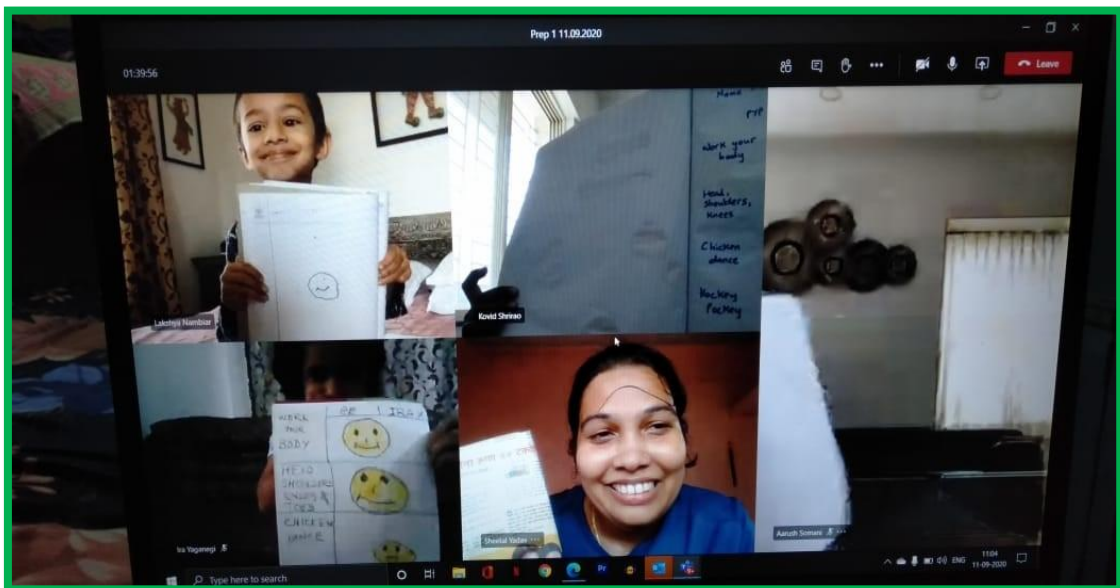
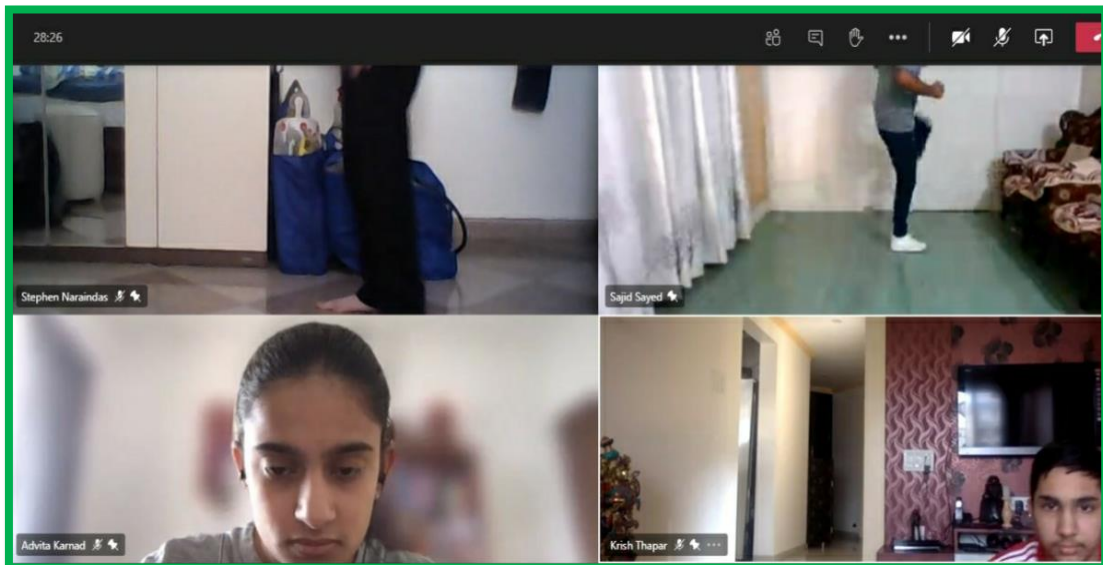
SPORTS:

The PYP and the EYP PE lessons reinforced a variety of important specific sports skills, game skills and self-management skills. The students are well engaged and very active in various fun games and activities and are encouraged to perform simple fitness activities at home.

In the senior classes, there was reiteration and reinforcement of concepts like Individual Games (Athletics), Cultural games and Circuit training. They were briefed on the concepts with various practical sessions for their conceptual understanding and applying skills. They were also assigned E-portfolio tasks and had few great interactive sessions on those tasks.

Sports hour sessions started with various challenging activities, fitness and strengthening exercises for MYP and DP students had more intense fitness sessions covering strength and conditioning. The students are well engaged and enthusiastically participating in the Sports hour sessions by making it more interactive and learning by fun. We also started with after school specific sports coaching of school team in football, basketball for Grades 6 to 12.





Counselor's Desk:

MYP:

In a World full of speakers, Children need Listeners!

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested parents and their grit to a large extent. Most parents needed guidance on how they can help themselves or how they may help their children process the complex emotions arising from this event. One of the many emotions being – Grief. The climate is of melancholy as families have suffered, people have lost their income, some have lost their normalcy. This is what we call 'Collective Grief'. People being confined within their homes, once again, leading to a lack of connectedness with others. Just as we experience, so do children, even if they do not say it out loud. Grief does not always have to be the result of losing a loved one, it can be due to any severe loss.

Loss is different for children. Children may be missing out on many events close to their heart – be it outdoor sports, sleepovers or just having the freedom to not second-guess the idea of meeting a friend. Losses over a long period of time are tough to cope with.

As Parents, Educators and Mentors - there is one thing that we can do to help them cope with this and it is a simple thing. All it takes is to 'listen'. **Listen empathetically. Listen actively. Listen without judgment.**

It is easy for a parent or a teacher to undermine the worries of a child that may not be relatable to them as adults. But the point is to stop these knee-jerk reactions that we have to most emotional situations and ask ourselves 'Is this the best I can do?' and take a step back from 'reacting' instead try 'responding'.

Here are a few guidelines to help you, help your child feel heard in a conversation.

1. Let your child lead the conversation

Ask open-ended questions and allow them the time and space to respond to you. Once they have responded, reflect with empathy, without judgment. For example, if the child says, 'I miss my friends', it would be empathetic to say, 'You sound a little sad that you aren't able to meet your friends', instead of 'Don't be sad'. It is practically unhelpful advice to ask anybody to not feel something that they already are feeling. This helps build confidence in your child, their own emotions and strengthens the bond you have.

2. Be in the conversation with them

Listen to the details, want to know the details that may be missing by actively participating in the conversation and not just nodding along in silence, waiting for the conversation to be over.

3. Do not let your fears stifle the relationship

We are afraid of losing the things that we love the most. While that is understandable it is necessary to be aware of it and not let it hijack your mind and how you behave. Fears can

make us biased. And bias makes us poor listeners because we analyse information through our filters and end up not being there for the person who wants to be heard.

All said and done, every child is unique and so is every parent. No matter what the issue is, if a simple act of kindness like 'empathetic listening' can be extended to children, the world would be a much kinder place for them to be in.

DP:

Group Sessions for Boarders

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic the students were attending the online classes from home and doing less in terms of social interactions and exercise. This has resulted in changed emotional bent of mind and enthusiasm. Therefore, group sharing session has been inculcated as a regular part of the weekly session. Group sessions are being organised for senior boarders in the green zone with due social distancing precautions. The theme for group session is 'Self Appreciation'. The students shared their experiences and their long - term goals. In these sessions an open discussion was called upon on short term goals with a special emphasis on body language.

<i>Dates for your Diary: March 2021</i>	
1 st March 2021	Final E- portfolio Submission (MYP 5)
2 nd - 15 th March 2021	Mock Exams (MYP 5)
3 rd March 2021	Guest Lecture - Climate Change (Grades 5 to 9 & 11)
5 th March 2021	Prep1 & Prep 2 Inquiry cycle presentation Student Led Conference
8 th - 23 rd March 2021	Mock Exams (Grade 12)
15 th - 23 rd March 2021	Midterm 2 Examination (MYP 1-4)

16 th March 2021	Leadership Summit (Grade 1-3)
17 th March 2021	Leadership Summit (Grade 4 & 5)
18 th March 2021	Mufti Day (PYP)
23 rd March 2021	Creative Writing (PYP)
18 th - 25 th March 2021	MTT 2 (Grade 11)
27 th March – 4 th April 2021	Spring Break

Thanks and warm regards

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