

#### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

## November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings from Indus International School Pune!

# **INVESTITURE CEREMONY 2020-21:**

The Investiture Ceremony for the academic year 2020-21 was held on 23rd November 2020. The Investiture is a formal affirmation and public recognition of the leadership qualities of our young eagles. This year at IISP we have seen an expansion of our Student Council. The new positions have been brought in with the idea of catering to the needs and requirements of the 21st century VUCA world (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous). The capable shoulders of our student leaders will bear various responsibilities strengthened with authority designed to groom the appointees into competent and committed young men and women, who will be an example for others to follow and make the school proud. The Investiture ceremony is extremely important for our school as we believe it signifies the reliance and confidence that the school places in the newly invested office bearers. Donning the mantle of accountability, they also pledge to bestow their duties to the best of their abilities.

I sincerely thank the outgoing student council who have been good role models and hope that the leadership experience that they have gained will equip them well for the future. I congratulate the inbound student council who has shown immense potential to be nominated for the position and my appeal to them is to work towards not just unlocking their own potential but also unlocking the potential of others. I request the student council to be persistent in their pursuit of excellence and uphold mental as well as emotional strength, for it will allow them to face adversity with courage and help them in overcoming difficult challenges. I urge them to draw strength from our school motto: "InOmnia Paratus", prepared for all challenges.

## "All Human Beings are Entrepreneurs"

Lt Gen Arjun Ray, CEO & MD, Indus Trust, reminded us of the quote by Prof Muhammad Yunus, Noble Peace Prize Winner, while emphasizing on the prominence of Entrepreneurship. He stated that as a student council member, they had the opportunity to be life entrepreneurs as well as business entrepreneurs. He also specified that from the next academic session, the Student Council will evolve into an Innovation Council which will lead the student body on the path of innovation so that they are future ready for a world which we do not know. He further talked about the sense of belongingness highlighting its importance in today's times and urged students to work towards it.

The outgoing head boy and head girl shared their experiences and gratitude to the teachers and management in their speech. The newly appointed head boy and head girl promised to abide by the School Vision and Mission through the traditional values of love, empathy, discipline and respect.

We wish Best of Luck to the Student Council 2020-21!

Position	Grade	Names of the Student Council Member
Head Boy	Grade 11	Karan Patel
Head Girl	Grade 11	Simran Jadhav
School Sports Captain	Grade 11	Sheehan Nathani
School Sports Captain	Grade 11	Gayatri Karad
School Academic Captain	Grade 11	Aditya Nagarajan
Boarding Captain Boys	Grade 11	Krish Patil
Boarding Captain Girls	Grade 11	Vrinda Agarwala
House Captain [Orion]	Grade 11	Tushar Gupta
House Captain [Pegasus]	Grade 11	Dhruwan Shah
House Captain [Hercules]	Grade 11	Ananya Saigal
House Captain [Phoenix]	Grade 11	Nidhi Kulkarni
House Vice Captain [Orion]	Grade 11	Prithika Kulkarni
House Vice Captain [Pegasus]	Grade 11	Saachi Mehta
House Vice Captain [Hercules]	Grade 11	Meet Mehta
House Vice Captain [Phoenix]	Grade 11	Shourya Mukherjee
DP Innovation Captain	Grade 11	Dhruv Sakore
DP Innovation Captain	Grade 11	Aadi Bhandari
DP Innovation Captain	Grade 11	Payal Hinge
DP Innovation Captain	Grade 11	Sahil More
House Sports Captain [Orion]	Grade 11	Krish Desai
House Sports Captain [Pegasus]	Grade 11	Sarvesh Dahivadkar
House Sports Captain [Hercules]	Grade 11	Elisha Subaiya
House Sports Captain [Phoenix]	Grade 11	Aaryaman Singhee
School Activities Captain	Grade 11	Srisha Rewatkar

School Activities Captain	Grade 9	Shreya Gautam
School Activities Vice Captain	Grade 11	Ananya Drishti
School Activities Vice Captain	Grade 11	Krish Bhatia
School International Ambassador	Grade 11	Thunyapat Chayathonthanawat
MYP House Prefect [Orion]	Grade 9	Mihir Raddi
MYP House Prefect [Pegasus]	Grade 9	Aaryan Choudhary
MYP House Prefect [Hercules]	Grade 9	Advita Karnad
MYP House Prefect [Phoenix]	Grade 8	Ronith Lahoti
MYP Innovation Captain [Orion]	Grade 9	Bhavye Mathur
MYP Innovation Captain [Pegasus]	Grade 8	Arghya Patil
MYP Innovation Captain		
[Hercules]	Grade 8	Abiya Syed
MYP Innovation Captain [Phoenix]	Grade 8	Sarthak Sangare
School Sustainability Captain	Grade 11	Bhagesh Ahuja
School Sustainability Captain	Grade 11	Rehaan Goyal
School Sustainability Captain	Grade 11	Taniya Bhosale
School Sustainability Captain	Grade 9	Ved Sanyal
School Editor	Grade 11	Adheesh Kale
School Editor	Grade 11	Aariya Natu
School Editor	Grade 9	Ananya Ganesh
PYP Head Boy	Grade 5	Agam Singh Mundra
PYP Head Girl	Grade 5	Sara Shah
PYP Prefect [Orion]	Grade 5	Ved Oswal
PYP Prefect [Pegasus]	Grade 5	Arjun Morey
PYP Prefect [Hercules]	Grade 5	Navyaa Goyal
PYP Prefect [Phoenix]	Grade 5	Aathmik Smaran
PYP Vice Prefect [Orion]	Grade 4	Samaara Gandhi
PYP Vice Prefect [Pegasus]	Grade 4	Avyaay Rathi
PYP Vice Prefect [Hercules]	Grade 5	Rushi Bhave
PYP Vice Prefect [Phoenix]	Grade 5	Srishti Sriram
PYP Innovation Captain [Orion]	Grade 5	Rian Rode
PYP Innovation Captain [Pegasus]	Grade 5	Vidit Bhati
PYP Innovation Captain [Hercules]	Grade 5	Samriddhi Goyal
PYP Innovation Captain [Phoenix]	Grade 5	Indira Bhat
PYP Editor	Grade 5	Alisha Kaushal



RNILIS

Karan Patel HEAD BOY

Simran Jadhav HEAD GIRL



Agam Singh Mundra (PYP)

JUNIOR HEAD BOY



Sara Shah (PYP)
JUNIOR HEAD GIRL





Sheehan Nathani
SPORTS CAPTAIN

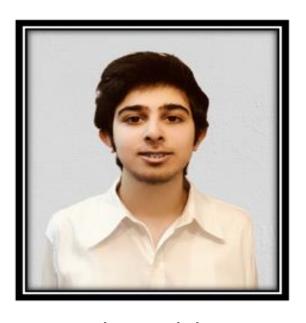
Gayatri Karad
SPORTS CAPTAIN



Aditya Nagarajan ACADEMIC CAPTAIN



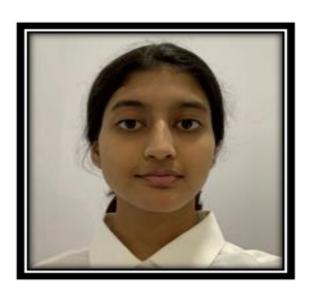
Tushar Gupta
Orion House Captain



Dhruwan Shah
Pegasus House Captain



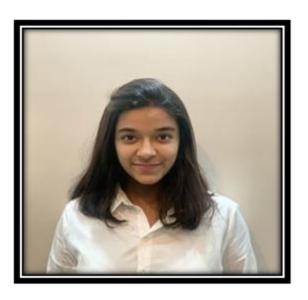
Ananya Saigal
Hercules House Captain



Nidhi Kulkarni Phoenix House Captain



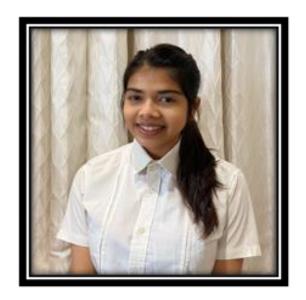
Krish Patil
BOARDING CAPTAIN



Vrinda Agarwala
BOARDING CAPTAIN



Thunyapat Chayathonthanawat
INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR



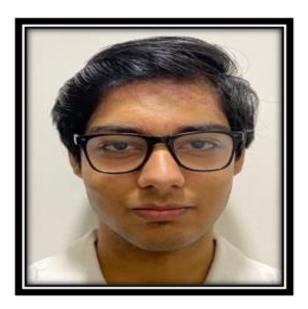
Prithika Kulkarni Orion House Vice-Captain



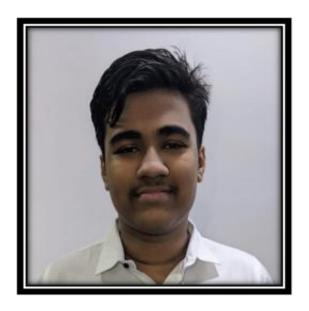
Saachi Mehta Pegasus House Vice-Captain



Meet Mehta
Hercules House Vice-Captain



Shourya Mukherjee
Phoenix House Vice-Captain



Dhruv Sakore (DP)
Orion House – Innovation Captain



Aadi Bhandari (DP) Pegasus House – Innovation Captain



Payal Hinge (DP)

Hercules House – Innovation Captain

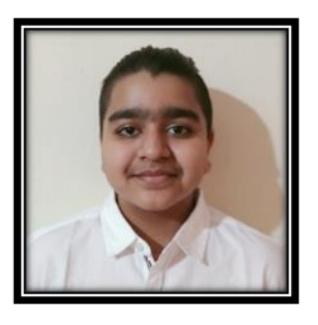


Phoenix House – Innovation Captain



Bhavye Mathur (MYP)

Orion House – Innovation Captain

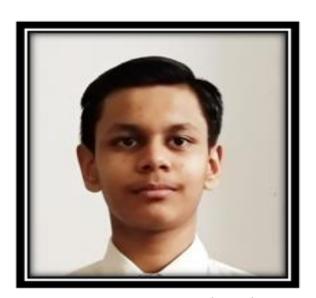


Arghya Patil (MYP)

Pegasus House – Innovation Captain



Abiya Syed (MYP)



**Sarthak Sangare (MYP)** 

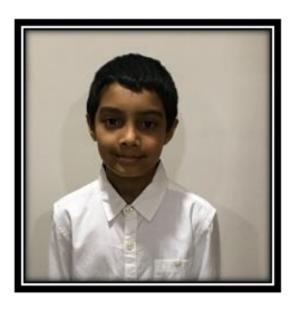
Hercules House – Innovation Captain

Phoenix House – Innovation Captain



Vidit Bhati (PYP)

Pegasus House - Innovation Captain



Rian Rode (PYP)

Orion House - Innovation Captain



Samriddhi Goyal (PYP)

Hercules House - Innovation Captain



Indira Bhat (PYP)

Phoenix House - Innovation Captain



Mihir Raddi (MYP)

Orion House – Prefect



Aaryan Choudhary (MYP)
Pegasus House – Prefect

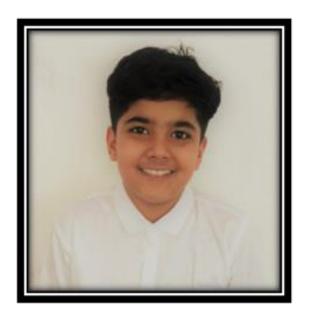


Advita Karnad (MYP)
Hercules House – Prefect



Ronith Lahoti (MYP)

Phoenix House – Prefect



Arjun Morey (PYP)

Pegasus House – Prefect



Ved Oswal ( PYP)
Orion House – Prefect



Navyaa Goyal (PYP)
Hercules House – Prefect



Aathmik Smaran (PYP)

Phoenix House – Prefect



Avyaay Rathi (PYP)

Pegasus House – Vice Prefect



Samaara Gandhi (PYP)

Orion House – Vice Prefect



Rushi Bhave (PYP)

Hercules House – Vice Prefect



Srishti Sriram (PYP)

Phoenix House – Vice Prefect



Krish Desai
Orion House - Sports Captain



Sarvesh Dahivadkar
Pegasus House- Sports Captain



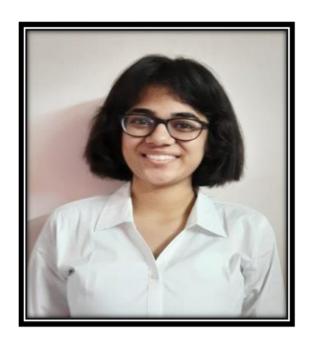
Elisha Subaiya

Hercules House – Sports Captain

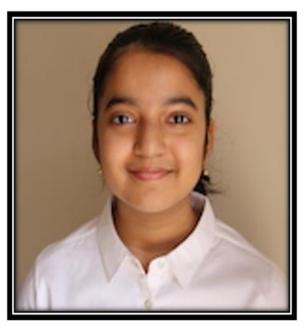


Aaryaman Singhee

Phoenix House – Sports Captain



Srisha Rewatkar (DP) ACTIVITIES CAPTAIN



Shreya Gautam (MYP)
ACTIVITIES CAPTAIN



Ananya Drishti
ACTIVITIES VICE CAPTAIN



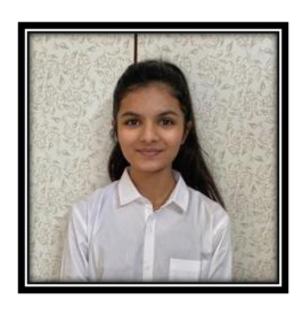
Krish Bhatia
ACTIVITIES VICE CAPTAIN



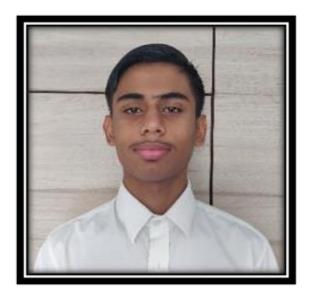
Rehaan Goyal
SUSTAINABILITY CAPTAIN



Bhagesh Ahuja
SUSTAINABILITY CAPTAIN



Taniya Bhosale
SUSTAINABILITY CAPTAIN



Ved Sanyal
SUSTAINABILITY CAPTAIN



Aariya Natu (DP)
EDITOR

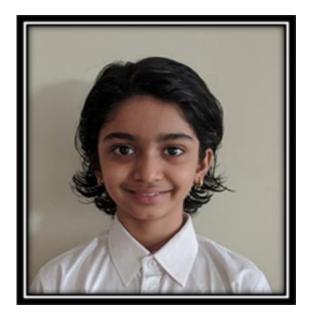


Adheesh Kale (DP)
EDITOR



Ananya Ganesh (MYP)

EDITOR



Alisha Kaushal (PYP)
JUNIOR EDITOR

# **I LEAD CUP Finale:**

The **I LEAD CUP Finale** was a perfect culmination of the celebration of the Creativity, Thought and Expression of every single student at Indus International School Pune. The plethora of opportunities (117 competitions) offered to the students during the four day mega-event (6<sup>th</sup> Nov to 9<sup>th</sup> Nov) helped develop problem-solving, reasoning, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication and most importantly collaborative abilities. It facilitated emotional development, social skill development, and overall personality development in the students. The core aim of education and learning at Indus International School Pune is to foster holistic development and the **I LEAD CUP** was planned in the similar spirit.

The Phoenix House was the winner of the I LEAD CUP.

A big thank you to the entire team of students, staff, parents and our esteemed judges!





















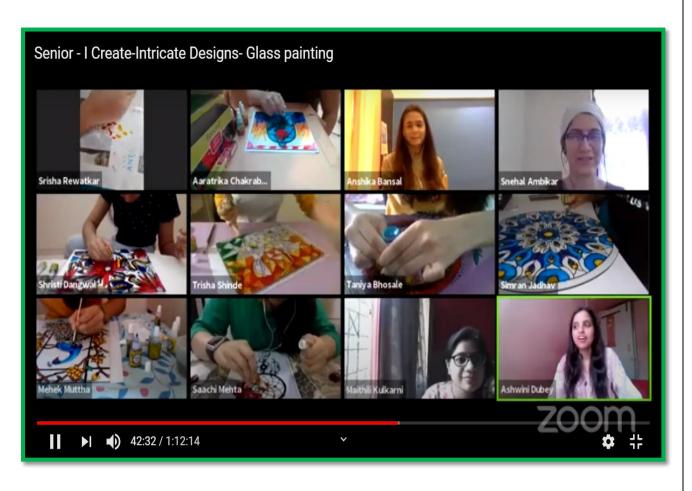




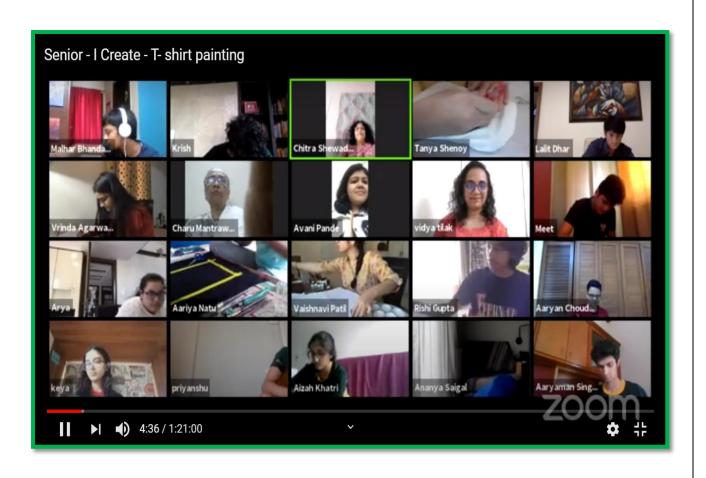






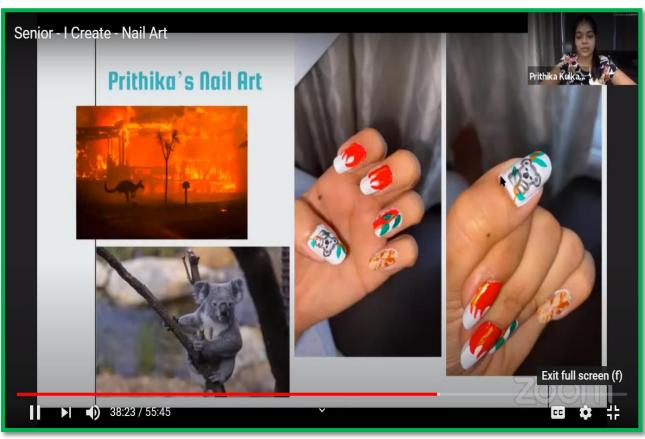












# **THE INDUS STARTUP SCHOOL UPDATE:**

The Start-up school continues to explore and challenge the creative energies of students. Its focus on growth mind-set in thinking about real world problems brings out the absolutely essential element of relevance and dynamism in education.

In the month of November, Students focused on the DTP (Design Thinking Project) challenge on climate change. Students finished reading stage 1 of Chutzpah and had a discussion on the same reflecting deeply on how children in Israel grow up with different childhood experiences and if that might be the reason for this small nation to be one of the leading hubs for innovation in the world.

The case studies that were shared this month, made the students reflect upon the leadership styles and its impact on the stakeholders and society. The case study on Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and pondered if his laissez faire style of leadership is suitable for a company. Comparing this style with managers who micromanage, they debated on the pros and cons of the same and reflected on how things may be different if they were more hands on.

# **Leadership Talks**

The weekly leadership talks by our CEO & MD, Lt Gen Arjun Ray focused on imagination, curiosity and creativity driving home the point that positive thinking and imagination are essential for creativity. The talk also focused on how to transform imagination to a viable idea, helping learners to understand that creativity is not a gift and that it can be cultivated with intentional practise. The importance of identifying and leveraging your signature strengths and weaknesses can prove to be instrumental in developing creativity. This talk certainly helped the learners with strategies to cultivate creativity and imagination!

Dr Uday Saxena a successful entrepreneur in the field of pharmaceuticals and a parent of IISH conducted an informative session on "How to start a start-up from baby steps to adult strides". In this session, Mr Saxena focussed on the key aspects one needs to focus on when launching a start-up. From how to test if an idea is incremental or moon shot, whether it is commercially viable to the importance of having a business plan, a strong management team, funding options, importance of patents and exit strategies, Mr Saxena touched upon critical aspects to look into in a short but very effective session.

Ms Preeti Prabhu, the Chief Philosophy Officer at Indus led a session on ethical creativity. During our entrepreneurial journey and even in day to day life, we often come upon decisions that lead to ethical dilemmas. A social experiment by Harvard Business Review was discussed which threw light upon the fact that some people may take advantage of situations and behave unethically. Ms Prabhu explained the ethical decision model and students were given two hypothetical problem statements and were then challenged to make ethical decisions on the same following the model. What ensued was a riveting

discussion on why a course of action may be more suitable than others. While the entrepreneurs journey is most likely for making profits it is also important to remember our values and ethics was the conclusion made. This indeed was a great learning experience for all.

As the students understand the balance between Moral and Ethical man, the start-up school continues to inspire them through hands-on projects that help students apply their learning and work towards a milestone which will change the world forever.

# **Primary Years Programme (PYP):**

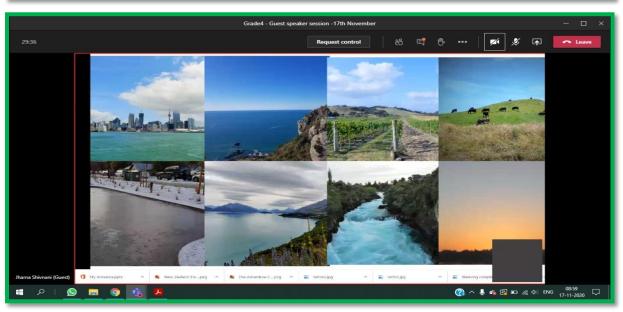
#### **Academics:**

Guest Speaker Session: Grade 4 is inquiring into "rituals, traditions and artefacts provide a window into the beliefs and values of cultures" under the transdisciplinary theme - How we express ourselves. Ms Jharna Shivnani, PYP parent conducted a session on the same where she focused on the indigenous and modern culture of New Zealand. Students had a wonderful insight into the lifestyle of the Maori people and the rich traditions that they follow.









#### **Celebrations:**

**Diwali Assembly:** Grade 1C conducted a special assembly and performed a skit to spread awareness about the harmful effects of bursting crackers as well as encouraging their peers to find more eco-friendly ways to celebrate Diwali.

Grade 3B took us through the 5 day celeration of Diwali reiterating the importance of each day. In the moving assembly students also recalled the hardwork done by brave men and women who are serving our society during the pandemic and helping us lead a safe life. We are indeed grateful to these everyday heroes!

Social Collaboration-Cultural theme- Grade 2: Our learners had been eagerly awaiting this day! Under the transdiciplinary theme, Where we are in place and time they inquired about different cultures and how it plays an importaant role in our lives. Our explorers defined culture in different ways, dressing up in traditional clothes like Hanbok from South Korea, Barong from Phillippines, kurta pyjama and Maharashtrian style sari. They relished authentic snacks such as chakli, puran poli, jawar puff and many other delicacies. The leaners thoroughly enjoyed shaking their legs to the sound of lezim, a folk dance from Maharashtra.













# **Leadership Curriculum:**

**Innovation Day:** Grades 3, 4 and 5 took us on a journey of innovation. Students explored various creative ideas using the scamper technique. They examined ideas like an ecofriendly restaurant, eco-friendly vehicle, telephone charger, unique pen etc. Students explored the feasibility, desirability and viability of each product and then modified their research. Our learners are well on their way to change the course of their future by building on their budding entrepreneurial competencies.

**I LEAD DAY:** In a gala three- and half-day event, learners across the school participated in a variety of challenges, demonstrating their varied talent and skills. PYP, alone hosted 51 events, and our young learners never ceased to amaze us with their creativity and critical thinking skills. Our judges, all of whom were specially invited for the events, were all praises for our little eagles and the effort they put in. It is also with pride that we acknowledge our wonderful teachers for planning and managing such a large event online with perfect coordination!



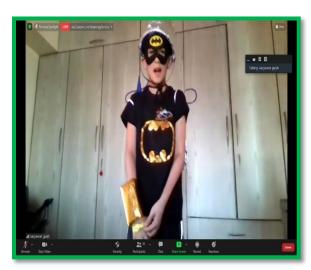


















**Student council:** In the first ever virtual investiture ceremony graced by our CEO Lt. General Arjun Ray the school student council took a solemn oath to complete their duties to the best of their abilities without favour or prejudice. The ceremony was streamed on you tube where our proud parents witnessed the proceedings. We wish our council the best in all their endeavours.

**Professional Development**: Ms Helen Furtado, the EYP coordinator led a session on formative assessments and tracking the same through an informative and interactive discussion. The formative assessment can be an assessment for learning or of learning. This is a tool used by educators to help them plan future lessons as it helps them understand if the concept and relevance of a unit or topic is understood by the students. It also helps them gauge the students' skill development.

### **Parent Orientations:**

The PYP counselor Ms Prajakta Apte, led a truly relevant session on the new normal after COVID 19. Focusing on the parents' emotional needs and how to identify them, she also equipped them with strategies to deal with the change. She offered several strategies they can use to help their children cope with the demands of the emerging situation. Educationing is a new term that allows us to think of education beyond traditional confines and focuses on developing life skills. Ms Apte elucidated these points well and the workshop was a welcome learning experience for all concerned.

# **Middle Years Programme (MYP):**

#### Academics:

At Indus, we believe in Holistic Education. This means that academics is given as much importance as co-curricular learning. The month of November saw learners enhance their conceptual understanding across subjects. Learners also participated in intense revision exercises which were done in class as well as in the Support Sessions conducted for the same. Portfolio subjects had their extended summative submissions across different criteria with portfolio's being due on the 20th of this month. This gave learners enough time to focus on intense revision with submissions taken care of.

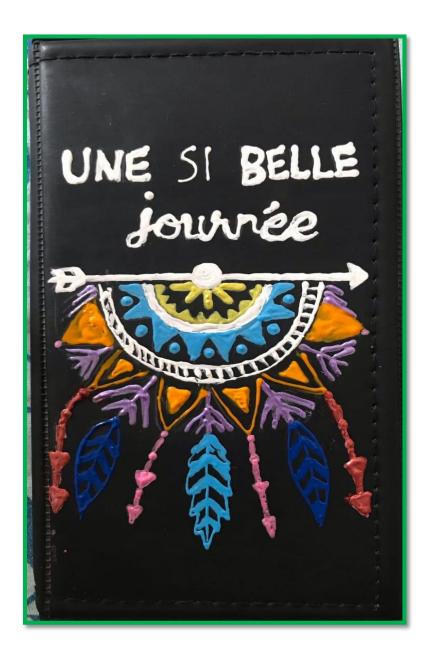
The Half Yearly Exams will commence from 4th December 2020.

# I-Lead Cup:

The first ever Innovation and Leadership Cup Championships were held at IISP. What made this event memorable and a grand success was the fact that such an event was never heard of or seen before, not just at Indus, but in any educational institution. 117 events were conducted across 4 days. Learners participated and competed for their houses in three categories: 'I-Think', 'I-Create' and 'I Express'. After intense participation which also saw parents come together to win points, the final standing was: Phoenix, Hercules, Pegasus and Orion. The closing ceremony had teachers wish all our learners a, 'Happy Children's Day', in their own unique way. The I-Lead Cup gave learners an opportunity to enhance each aspect of their communication, thinking and creative skills. We can hardly wait for the I-Lead Cup to begin next year for it truly was a great show of unity, house-spirit and the school core values.







# **Coffee Evenings:**

It is with immense delight that we present to you our latest initiative, that of the Coffee Evenings. We realise that in the hustle-bustle of life in the COVID World, we hardly get enough time to just be and chat with our students. To this effect, we have decided to hold Coffee Evenings once a month.

This is where all the learners of a Grade are invited to spend an evening with their respective Programme Coordinators and the HOS. We had Coffee Evenings from Grades 6 to 10 where learners spoken about anything and everything. We played games like Hangman and discussed series like, 'The Crown'. Learners spoke of their experiences in the lockdown while we told them how much we missed them. The session had laughs and emotional moments and one important realisation, that we miss our families... the ones we saw 8 months ago.

For what are teachers without their children?

# **Leadership Curriculum:**

Leadership Curriculum is a time to reflect on the skills and competencies that we are pursuing through our Academics and Innovation Curriculum and apply the same in our daily lives. Our learners have been collaborating in groups, brainstorming on various ideas coming up with unique solutions and designs to the challenges while working through design thinking process. They demonstrated key leadership skills like, creative and critical thinking, team work and persuasive communication.

## **Student Council / Investiture Ceremony:**

Like all things virtual, we decided to celebrate student leadership virtually too. Nothing is harder than being a leader in tough times and we are ever so proud of the outgoing council for being so resilient.

We are also proud of the new student council who have always displayed grit, determination, and courage, not just during Offline School but virtually as well. The council members were chosen after intense rounds of interviews, followed by voting and the final result declaration.

Learners spent time practicing for the first ever Investiture Ceremony which was held virtually and we felt a deep sense of bitter sweetness as we bid adieu to the outgoing members and welcomed our new leaders.

# <u>Diploma Programme (DP):</u>

November saw Student Council members being formally sworn in at the Investiture ceremony. The highlight of the ceremony was the chief guest, the CEO and MD Indus Trust, Lt. Gen Arjun Ray providing a vision for the newly elected Council members and sharing the plans for the new Innovation Council that will be appointed from the following year.

The DP2 students' TOK essays were moderated by select teachers; while students worked on their IA (Internal Assessment) submissions. The exercise of completing all IAs by December is extremely crucial as this year too all IAs will be uploaded for the May 2021 exams. Since the weightage of these IAs in some subjects have increased, the teachers will have more time to go over them and give some time to students to polish them further.

The CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) program is catching momentum despite being on a virtual platform. The Hercules House has tied up with the NGO Raah Foundation to see how members can raise funds for its program targeting underprivileged children.

The important skill required to raise funds - crowd funding was introduced and reiterated in a formal session on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 held for Grade 11 students. This will help strengthen the CAS activities, the DP1 students undertake in the service area.

Due to the overwhelming response for the Grand parents' day celebration organized by Orion House, another virtual event was organized this month- which saw good participation from students in Grade 11 – where grandparents played a variety of games.

# **Leadership and Innovation Curriculum:**

This month saw Leadership and Innovation Curriculum merging with two parallel syllabirunning for those who are in Startup School and those who are not a part of it.

The focus is on Deep reading and Experimentation - with DTP (Design Thinking Project) and collaborative tasks to solve real world problems such as Climate change.

## **Professional Development:**

Professional development saw teachers largely focusing on reviewing predicted grades for the future and going over the IA criteria department wise, in order to start the Moderation process.

In a Separate session with Staff and Heads of Department, a formal orientation on the different aspects of DTP and Experimentation was provided. Among other things, the focus was also on preparing a new template for Intensive revision in order to make it more effective.

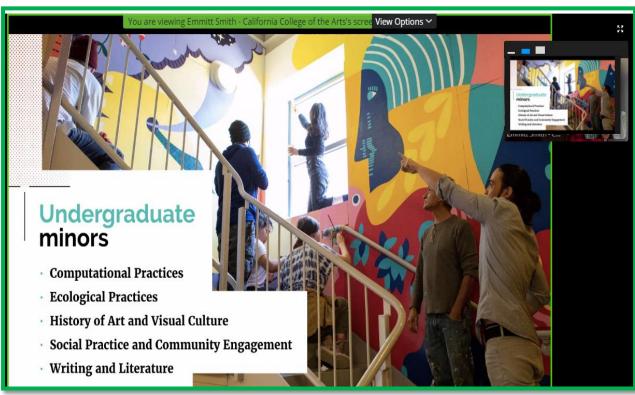
# **Guidance and Placements:**

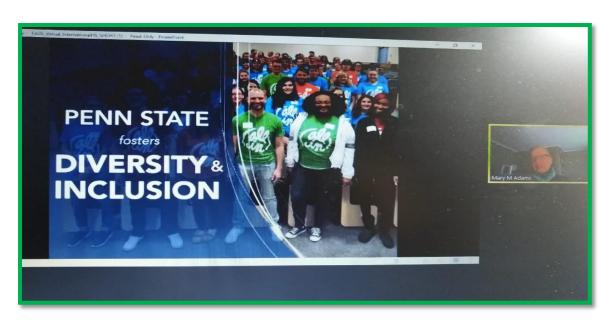
The guidance and placements department has conducted Cambridge Pre-Interview assessments and Oxford admission test for the students. Counselors and students have been busy with meeting early action/early decision application deadlines of  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  November to  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  November.

Numerous universities virtual visit for the students and parents have been organized as follows:

- Nagoya university of commerce and business Japan
- Bennington College US
- Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific university Japan
- Wentworth Institute of Technology US
- UK university Consortium visit
- Dutch university virtually Orange Festival
- Ohio Wesleyan University US
- California College of the Arts US
- Pennsylvania State university US
- Otis college of Art and Design- US
- Imperial College London- UK
- Trinity College Dublin- Ireland



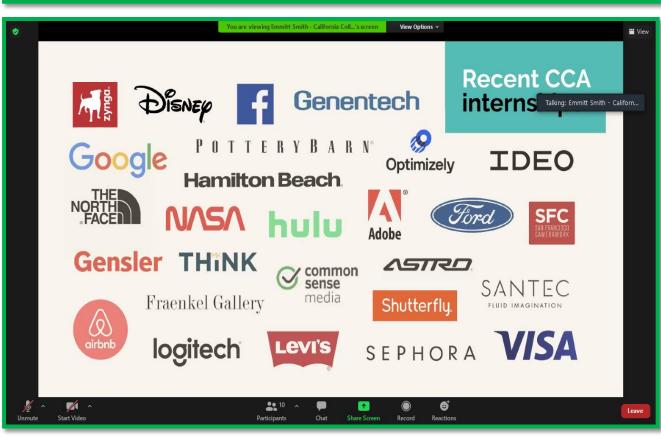








Animation Studio Manager	Architect	Art Director	Animation Studio Manager	Art Preparator	Art Teacher	Artist	Arts Journalist	Brand Strategist
CEO	Ceramics Technician	Concept Artist / Illustrator	Creative Director	Creative Photography Lead	Curator	Design Director	Designer	ng: Emmitt Smith - Californ  Digital  Product  Designer
Director of Education + Programs	Editor	Exhibition Developer /Curator	Alumni jobs		Exhibition Manager	Experience Design Lead	Film Producer	
Gallery Director	Game Designer	Graphic Designer	Illustrator	Industrial Designer	Interaction Designer	Interior Designer	Jeweler	Managing Editor
Museum Collections Associate	Museum Exhibit Designer	Photo- grapher	Product Designer	Professor	Prop Stylist	Sculptor	Service Designer	Software Engineer
Storyboard Artist	Studio Director	Supervising Animator	Technical Designer	UX Designer, Researcher, or Strategist	Visual Designer	Visual Effects Artist	Web Developer	Writer



# ber 2020 Half Yearly Examinations (MYP)

4 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Half Yearly Examinations (MYP & DP1)
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Numeracy Day (PYP)
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 - 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Winter Break
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	School Reopens

# Thanks and warm regards

Mr Sandeep Chhabra
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