

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

November 2021

Greetings from Indus International School Pune!

We are delighted and proud to inform that **Indus International School Pune has been ranked India's #7, Maharashtra's #1 & Pune's #1** International Day-cum-Boarding School in the Education World India School Rankings 2021-22.

I thank the teachers and staff for their commitment towards the Indus vision and ethos, which has made this possible.

My heartfelt gratitude to the entire parent body for their unwavering support in all our endeavours.

This award is a recognition of our achievement and track record in Academics, Curriculum & Pedagogy, Co-Curricular Activities, Sports, Community Service, Leadership, Faculty Welfare & Development, etc.

I LEAD CUP

Indus International School Pune organised its second season of I LEAD CUP from 12th November – 14th November. The I LEAD CUP is an inter house competition in which every student took part in 4 events under 4 different categories:

- **I THINK**
- **I EXPRESS**
- **I CREATE**
- **I PLAY**

The focus was on Creativity, Communication Collaboration and Critical Thinking - skills of the 21st century. The theme for this years I LEAD CUP was **Care/Connect/Community/Culture** which are referred as the 4 Cs required for the 22nd century. With the pandemic accelerating change they have become relevant today as we prepare our students for a VUCA + world.

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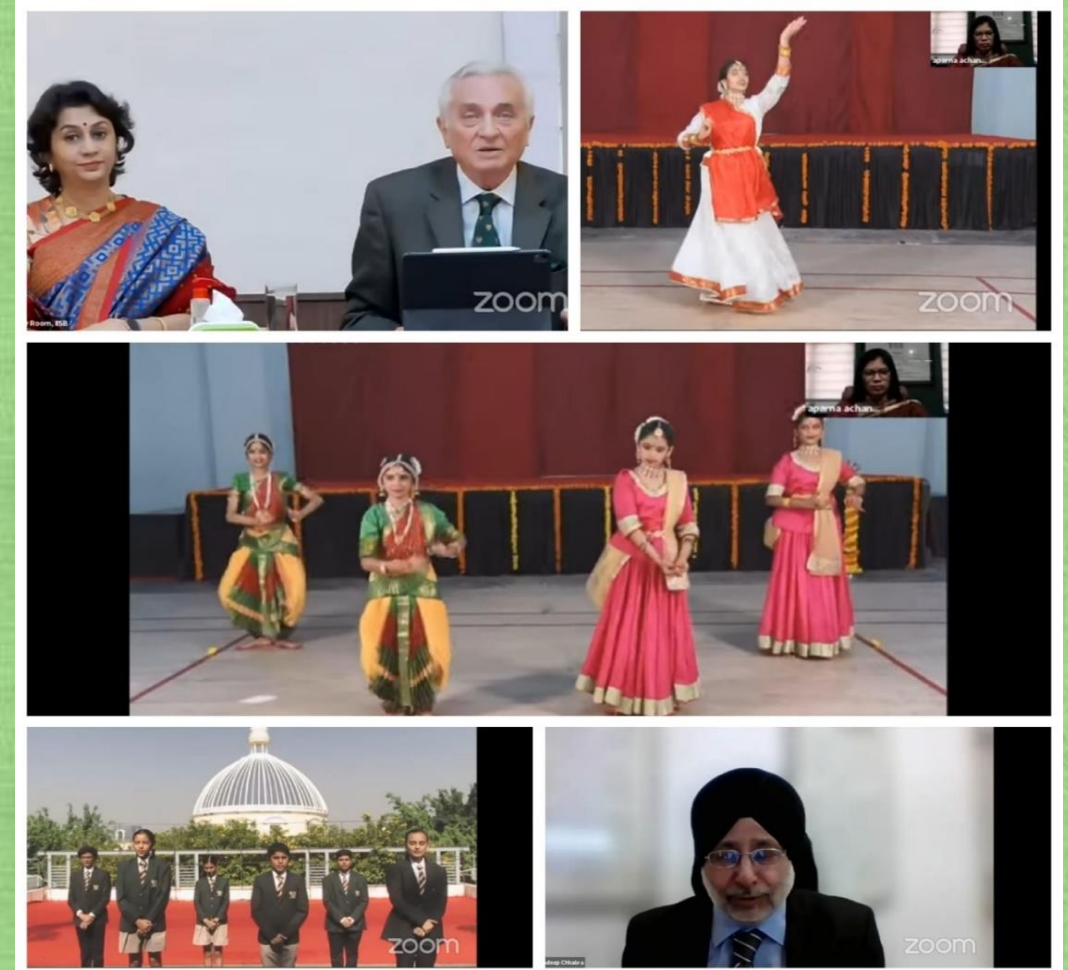
November 2021

The I LEAD CUP is a platform that provides opportunities for students to discover interests which will motivate them to a learning journey and this interest will hopefully evolve into a passion.

Along with the introduction of a fourth category - I PLAY, many new events were included in the previously existing categories, thereby making a total tally of **177** events. Two exclusive parent events were organised in this second season of I LEAD CUP.

The Raising Gen X event was an opportunity for parents to share experiences and life lessons with students, through a short documentary. Thus, ensuring the sharing of acquired wisdom with our students while Raise the Mic proved to be a creative opportunity for parents to display their singing skills.

The four houses competed in the 177 events to reveal the winning house on 14th November as a part of the closing ceremony, organised to celebrate Children's Day.



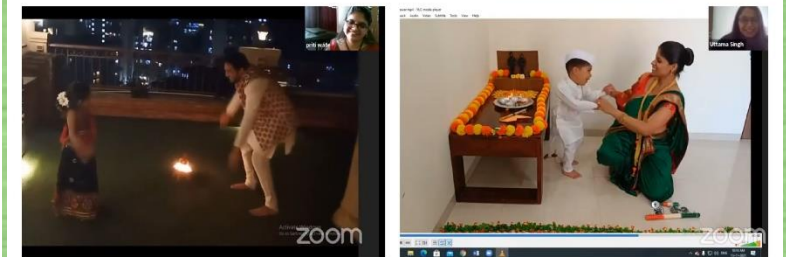
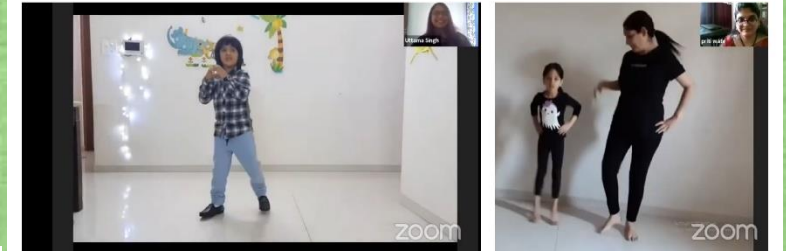
I LEAD CUP

On the occasion of Children's Day, the teachers showcased a short programme displaying their drama, dance and musical skills while also celebrating all their students. As a testament of collaboration with parents, the best performances of the parent events were showcased during the opening and closing ceremony thereby making the event a truly joyous one!

The final tally of points indeed personified a nail-biting finish by making Phoenix house the winners of the I LEAD CUP 2021 – 22! An event of this magnitude is impossible without the support of the parents, teachers and students, the sheer enthusiasm showed by students this year, truly made this event an experience in itself.



I LEAD CUP



I LEAD CUP



TOK CONFERENCE - Episteme

Indus International School Pune hosted a virtual Theory of Knowledge Conference with 15 participating schools from India and abroad participating in 4 student-led, open-ended, non-competitive workshops based around the theme of Episteme- Challenging the limits of Human Knowledge.

The workshops were conceptualized by the Vice Principal and guided by the TOK Coordinator and the TOK mentors. This was probably the last event for all DP2 students and we are proud to share that the 16 IISP workshop leaders put up a stupendous show. The dedication and confidence with which these youngsters carried out the sessions and involved teachers and 125 students from other schools into the discussions is awe inspiring.



Looking into the future after the pandemic has played havoc with our lives, what young people need is reliance and adaptability. The most important skills which redefine how we look at knowledge and excellence are now creativity, communication, and collaboration, alongside empathy and emotional intelligence; and being able to work across demographic lines of differences to harness the power of the collective through effective teamwork.

TOK CONFERENCE - Episteme

We cannot answer questions on the uncertainties and Episteme in a simplistic or straightforward way, which is the reason why **“Episteme”** was the theme for this year’s conference. The conference saw four completely engrossing, baffling, enigmatic, energetic, debatable, and enjoyable workshops to encourage bonding over ideas that matter in the lives of the youth. Students joined hands in this amazing experience to redefine how we look at aspects of knowledge and excellence for young people, to visualize how we know what we know and to reflect on where we are heading in this VUCA world!

The Conference was sponsored by Monash University, Australia and Krea University and hosted on an aesthetically designed virtual platform created by Indus alumni Aaryan Kulkarni.

On Day 1, the Keynote Speaker Dr Aninda Chatterjee introduced the concept of ‘Episteme’- whether there is anything that is physical or absolute knowledge or does it only exist in the mind and is a copy of reality.

The 4 workshops had intense discussions on several engaging activities/ games and presentation. All workshops ended with higher order knowledge questions in different areas of knowledge which culminated into collaboratively summing up their learnings into a Map of Knowledge.



TOK CONFERENCE - Episteme

On Day 2, the Vice Principal, Dr. Namita Agrawal shared the purpose of the conference, vision of the organization, some of the learnings from each of the workshops and how the conference adds value to their own perspectives.

These 4 Maps of Knowledge was then presented by the workshop leaders at the start of the closing ceremony where the Conference leads combined the maps of knowledge into one aligned with the main theme of the conference.

Batch 2022 currently has been working online for the past 2 years. This initiative was to provide them a national and international exposure, build their EQ subtly and boost their confidence.



TOK CONFERENCE - Episteme



YOUNG ACHIEVER at IISP

We are pleased to inform that Aditya Pachpande, MYP5 student and Founder, NextGenInnov8 gets adjudicated by World Book of Records London (UK) for most DIY Suraksha UVC kits assembled in a single day.

A successful endeavour inspired by a teen's observation of his mother's need has sparked the interest of many people, leading to a World Record attempt. This was one-of-a-kind effort which enabled us to enter the World Book of Records. A total of 114 students and staff participated in a World record attempt from Indus International School Pune. We appreciate each and every participant's enthusiasm and commitment to this historic event.

This World Record event honours COVID Heroes who came together on this platform to promote the noble cause of assembling DIY UVC Kits for donation to those in need.

We are proud of you Aditya!!



PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

Mini Principal 3 Way Conference

The Mini Principal 3 way conference between the student, parent and the mini principal was organised over 26th and 27th November across the PYP. Students showcased their learning of the innovation curriculum over the past few months through a presentation of their work pieces or visual aids. They verbally expressed their takeaways about concepts like deep reading, goal setting and Tikkun Olam.

The design thinking process projects made by students were also shared with parents to give them an insight into the learnings of their wards. This conference also acted as an opportunity for the parents and Mini Principals to connect and analyse the performance and holistic development the student.



PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

Physical Interaction

PYP students have been coming to school bi monthly for a face-to-face interaction with their teachers and a PE class. They have been enjoying meeting their friends and teachers on campus while keeping all the Covid protocols in mind. This interaction and bonding time is surely helping students connect better with their teachers during the online classes too and giving them a chance to experience school life in short interstices.

ACER

The IBT ACER exam for PYP 3 – PYP 5 was held on 9th and 10th November. Students appeared for the online exam for the 4 subjects over two days. ACER is an international benchmark test that assesses a student's overall conceptual clarity and understanding. This year, the students appeared for the online exam in the presence of their homeroom teachers to ensure a principled approach towards the exam and clarity while attempting the same.



MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

Class Activities

Design: When you create leaders of tomorrow, you're also creating the architects, engineers and designers of tomorrow, just to name a few of the amazing areas of work our students take up. Students worked on creating models for sustainable cities and came up with innovative and creative ideas that tackled some major concerns we face today. Here's what they had to say about the process and their results.

Ronith Lahoti, MYP4 Student (Design for Unit 2)

Overall the Design is pretty accurate to the annotations in Criteria B, and looking from a 2030 perspective, the features surely are simple yet effective and innovative, that allow the user to manipulate the room, as per their comfort. Also with a mini kitchen, the room feels more like home, and this can help the user get adapted to the stay as and when they enter. Due to this reason people can live shorter and longer terms depending on their work purpose, and find comfort in the VUCA world of the future, while being away from home.



Top View



Front View

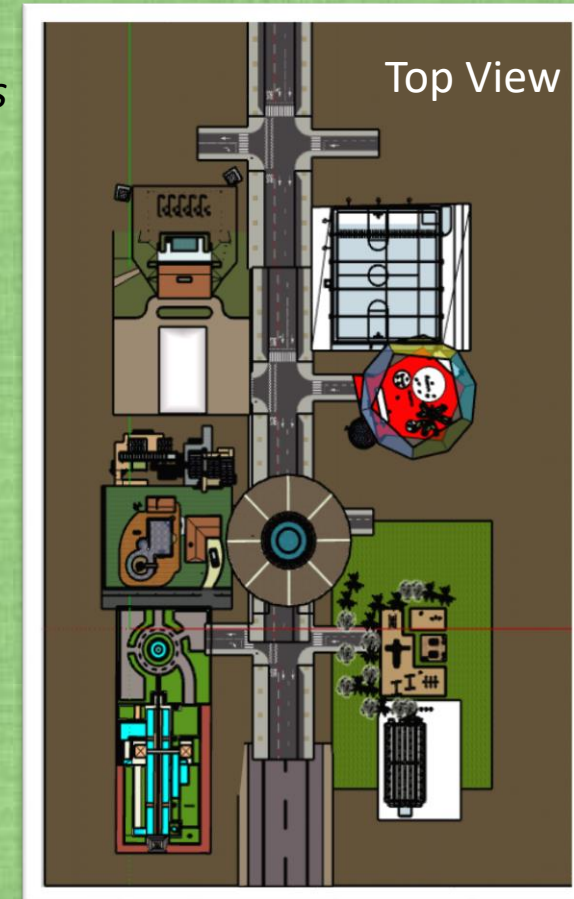
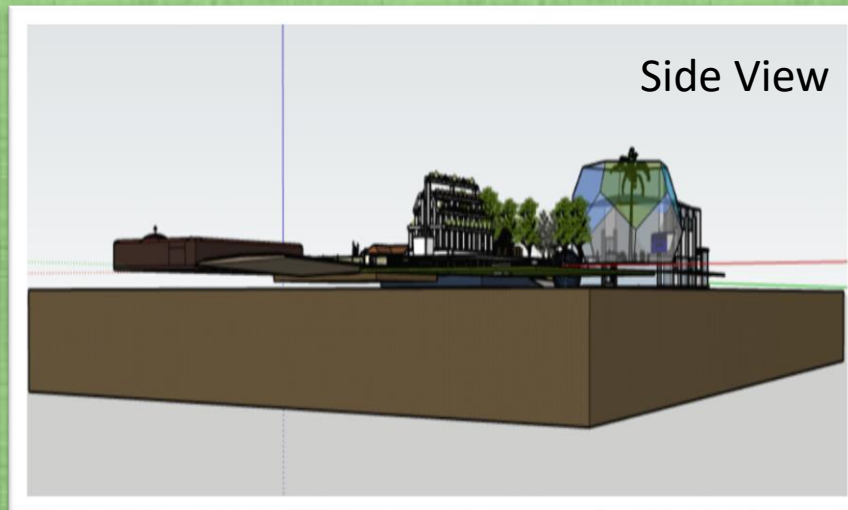


Side View

MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

Vedika Agarwal, MYP4 Student (City Life 2030- Design Extended Summative Assessment)

I created a sustainable and futuristic neighbourhood for my solution to the problem presented in the unit-2 City Life 2030 in Design. I created my neighbourhood on Google SketchUp which is a 3D modelling prototyping software. My neighbourhood has lots of facilities like swimming pool, virtual reality centre, a hydroponic system, a security centre, etc. that addresses the related concept of Inventions. The neighbourhood works on solar panels and a reusable water system that prevents water wastage. Facial recognition is also an important aspect in my neighbourhood that is used to enter the housing society. To conclude, my neighbourhood did take a lot of time to create but I am very happy with the final outcome. I hope the future city life 2030 looks and functions like this.



MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

ACER

MYP Years 1-3 took the ACER IBT exams online on 9th & 10th November. The exciting opportunity to see where they stand on an international level had students buzzing with nervous enthusiasm. The standardised benchmark tests are conducted annually and provide reliable, valid and evidence-based assessments.

Questions addressing higher-order thinking skills are used to ascertain whether a student can 'read between the lines' to understand subtleties and nuances. Much like our own assessments, these tests check if students are capable of applying knowledge to any given contexts. Many of the questions are based on enquiry.

Students took the ACER exams online and are eagerly awaiting their results that will come out in February or March of the coming year.

Indus School of Leadership (ISL)

MYP Years 2 and 3 attended their online Leadership Camps in December. The three-day online camp helped students of both grades to go deep into understanding themselves and understanding issues like mental health impacting daily lives, finding purpose, what is wellness, being a better team player, and more such engaging subjects. Topics like team-building, climate change, and self-awareness were also covered, and students were given various activities based on each session.

At the end of the camp, the students all reflected upon the different sessions, and created concept maps, as well as an overall reflection, which they shared with the rest of their batch, and their trainers. It was a memorable and enriching experience.

A poignant student reflection that was shared read
“In-person ISL Camp was great for a team building experience, though this year’s online camp was personally for me to understand and to improve myself as a better person for myself, my peers, and a better person for the environment as well.”

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)

Academics

The students of DP1 attended physical school all five days of the week. The teachers made the best of this opportunity of face to face learning and classroom interactions. The science classes utilized this time to conduct practical experiments in the lab. The students enjoyed working in the lab and gained hands-on knowledge of working on scientific experiments and handling lab equipment. The learnt about safety protocol in the lab, designing experimental methodology and collecting experimental data with precision. At the same time, students who could not join the physical classes were provided alternative methods of data collection with material available at home.

DP2 students are in their final journey of Diploma Programme submissions. Students are taking feedback from teachers and trying their best to meet all expectations and deadlines. The Pre-Mock examination is scheduled from 6th January. The syllabus focus was shared with students well in advance. Teachers send practice worksheets to students every fortnight. Students use their after-school time to complete these worksheets. They also refer to a marking scheme sent along with question papers to understand the gaps. Laboratory requirements were taken from students and the Science departments. Resources were procured and experiments were conducted for Internal assessment in the month of November. DP2 students are provided with support classes every day and they are given the option of choosing any one subject for better conceptual understanding.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)

Assessments

The Half yearly exams begin from 6th of December and being a major exam of Grade 11, there would be no academic classes for the duration of the exam. However, students who need additional support in subject are encouraged to approach the Teachers, Mini Principals or the Coordinators.

Support classes will be scheduled during the exam week for concept clarity based on individual requests.



DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)

Climate Action

To be able to take meaningful action, it is very important to have a complete understanding of the problem at hand. To be able to conserve the river and lake system, the student of Grade 11 explored the Ramnadi from its point of origin to the confluence spending half a day with expert conservationists who are the founder members Ramnadi Restoration Mission, Vasundhara Swachhata Abhiyan and Sagarmitra. The students learnt various geographical, social, economic and environmental aspects of a river.

They understood the role of catchment areas, connection of rivers, lakes and groundwater and discussed how conservation efforts upstream on Ramnadi would improve and sustain the quality and quantity of water in the lakes downstream such as Manas and Pashan.

Complete safety protocol was ensured during the trip. The resource persons were fully vaccinated. Packed food was carried for the students from the school cafeteria. School buses were used for the travel of students and staff whereas the resource people used their own transport. The student body lead by the innovation council have planned the conservation of Manas lake and Ramnadi based on the learning from this visit.



CAREER AND GUIDANCE CELL

The Careers Department processed about 40 Early applications [Early Action/Early Decision] for the 1st November deadline. The Grade 12 students were also guided with respect to the University of California applications during the month of November.

While the focus was on November deadlines, the Careers department maintained the one on one support for rest of the senior students and their parents as well.

With respect to students engagements, the department conducted biweekly sessions with DP1 and DP2 students. Topics discussed were around profile building, college essays, country specific requirements and open Q&A sessions. In collaboration with other schools, Indian University Virtual fair was organised for the benefit of the students & parents. University of Toronto was invited exclusively for the Indus Pune student and parent body where the representative interacted and shared first-hand information.

The Careers department conducted Cambridge Pre-Interview assessments and Oxford admission tests for our Grade 12 students on the 3rd and 4th of November 2021. 7 our students appeared for these exams.

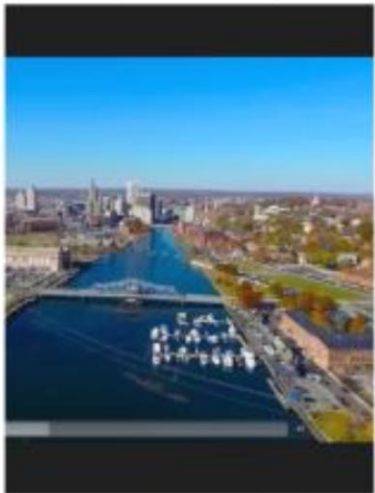
We also hosted a number of University presentation in the past month:

- Indian University Fair- 26th Nov 2021
- University of Toronto- 19th Nov 2021
- Brown University – 2nd Dec 2021
- UK University Fair- 4th Dec 2021

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Decision notification for ED & EA US Colleges starts - 15th Dec 2021
- Application deadline for Regular Decision US Universities - 1st Jan 2022
- TSA/ELAT/HAT/PAT/MAT results - 11th Jan 2022
- UCAS Application Deadline - 15th Jan 2022

CAREER AND GUIDANCE CELL



> 40
 PROGRAMMES

Minor programmes equip students with multiple skills and broader knowledge, beyond what their major disciplines may provide.

- Applied Physics
- Art History
- **Business**
- Chemistry and Biological Chemistry
- Chinese
- Chinese Creative Writing
- **Communication Studies**
- Computing and Data Analysis
- Creative Writing
- Digitalisation and Data Analytics
- Drama and Performance
- Early Childhood Education
- **Economics**
- Education Studies
- English Language
- English Literature
- **Entrepreneurship**
- Environmental Humanities
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Sustainability
- Film
- Finance
- Gender and Diversity Studies
- Geography and Urban Planning
- Global Asia

MINORS



- History
- International Trading
- Life Sciences
- Linguistics and Multilingual Studies
- **Mathematics**
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Physics
- **Psychology**
- **Public Policy and Global Affairs**
- Risk Management and Insurance
- Science of Learning
- Science, Technology and Society
- Sociology
- Special Needs Education
- Sport Science
- Strategic Communication
- Systems Management
- **Translation**
- Youth Work and Guidance

PROGRAMMES

LEE KONG CHIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



JOINT DEGREE

- **Medicine & Surgery (5-years)**

Interested students to **register for BMAT** in September and complete the test in November, in the year preceding the year of admission.



CAREER AND GUIDANCE CELL

Mr Ajay Tayade (Head of Placements) represented Indus International School Pune at an event held in Mumbai hosted by Cialfo, where he was invited as a panelist to share his thoughts and experience on the topic 'Future of Careers - Are we preparing our students for tomorrow? The theme of this event was 'Emerging Trends in Career and University Counselling'.



BOARDING

It has been an exciting November at the boarding. With the Festival of Lights being celebrated by students who stayed back, we had a month packed with enthralling activities. An early morning trip to the Mulshi dam involving a hike and breakfast set the tone to the rest of the month.

Students and boarding staff bonded while playing mixed soccer, cricket and volleyball matches.

While a few budding chefs in the boarding treated the boarding community to a sumptuous outdoor dinner with karaoke music, the boarding staff in turn treated the students to a meal along with a jam session for the students on Children's Day.



BOARDING

The MYP and PYP children were treated to a morning of unstructured sports in which they participated in fun activities like slow cycling-where the slowest cyclist wins the race. In addition they participated sack race, spoon and lemon and even breaking the pot, blindfolded in addition to many more. With all the joy and laughter in the air, students were involved in thought provoking sessions like exploring gaming - the pros and cons, handling exam stress and critical thinking activities conducted by the boarding counsellor.

The DP students along with their CAS Coordinator, Program Coordinator and Head of Boarding also participated in the Ram Nadi Parikrama organised by the Kirloskar Vasundhara Initiative, to gain insight into the river, its preservation and also how it impacts the Manas lake and where we can contribute through our climate action projects. The month ended with a bake sale conducted by the DP2 students and a breakfast cookout at the Mulshi dam with all the students and staff of the boarding.



SPORTS

The Physical Education (PE) team contributed in the I PLAY category of the I LEAD CUP. There were a variety of categories created for the students to participate - Plank tank, Hurdle jump with Push-ups, Skipping rope, Fitness and Endurance challenge, Football skill, Chess, Balancing act, etc.

The department continued with its regular interactions with students and helped them develop manipulative skills and engage with a variety of game based fitness activities.

Sports Training was initiated for Day Scholars in the evening. The programme started thrice a week with three major sports – Basketball, Football and Swimming. The Boarding students have a proper schedule planned which includes the above sports.



SPORTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

6th December to 14th December – MYP & DP Examinations

14th December – Extended Essay 1st subject session (DP1)
Christmas Party & Mufti Day

15th December to 4th January – Winter Break

5th January – School reopens after Winter break

Thanks and warm regards

Mr Sandeep Chhabra

Principal

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