



## **August 2021**

*"Believing that you can get what you want is an extremely powerful tool! Children are believers. They believe that they can accomplish whatever they set out to do. You need to take a page from their book. In fact, the power of belief was proven in a recent study. People were asked to wear white coats, and comparisons were drawn on their cognitive ability to solve problems. Surprisingly, the people who wore white coats actually came up with conclusions easier and faster than those who didn't. The white coat simply made them feel smarter like doctors. Those results were astounding!" (from "Becoming Sherlock: The Power of Observation and Deduction" by Stefan Cain)*

Dear Parents,

August has been an action packed month for children and teachers alike, settling into virtual classroom routines and establishing new relationships as communities of learners. We are pleased with how the children have adjusted back after the holidays and how happy and excited they are to begin a new school year.

### **Independence Day**

Students and staff at Indus celebrated India's 75th Independence Day on the 15th of August. It was lovely to visit the Centre during these times. We missed our children very much at school.



## **Indus Vision and Mission**

**Vision:** To create global citizens and leaders of tomorrow through the traditional values of love, empathy, discipline and respect – 21st century citizens who think globally and act locally.

**Mission:** To create thoughtful leaders through holistic education and lifelong learning.

## **Educating the Head, Heart and Mind**

At Indus we believe that every child is altruistic and has the potential to change the world, for the better. We strongly emphasize on the holistic development of the child. This journey begins in the early years by nurturing competencies and skills, that will equip children for life.

**Play based learning** : Children learn best when they are experimenting and using their imagination, creativity and tactile senses to experience the world. We use the play-based approach, to ensure children learn even complex concepts, easily.

**Tikkun Olam** : Children don't simply observe the world, they also imagine how it could be different hence the concept of Tikkun Olam or heal the world nurtures empathy and also gives them a personal vision. The vision is decided by the child and facilitated by teachers and parents. At a young age children learn to set goals towards the attainment of that vision.

**Deep Reading** : Is an approach that helps develop perspective thinking, builds character, morals, and values; and also fosters moral imagination. Reflecting on fictional or non-fictional stories, can be a powerful force to get children to engage with a character's life and emotions, cultivating empathy. Essentially, developing a moral compass through their experience of the tale.

**Junk Yard Philosophy** : Einstein said, "*Imagination is more important than knowledge*", because imagination opens the door to creativity and innovation. This can be achieved through the Israeli concept of a Junkyard. In Israel, instead of toys, EY schools often furnish their play areas with junk. When 2+ year old children play with each other with junk, household items and scrap materials; they manipulate materials, express themselves verbally and non-verbally, plan, act, interact, react, and try different roles. Thus encouraging them to become independent thinkers, risk takers, decision makers and also conflict resolvers. You can read more about Junkyard on the link below:

<https://www.israel21c.org/can-playing-with-junk-lead-to-creativity-and-innovation/>

**Biophilia** : With the advent of technology, students are spending too much time indoors and are experiencing a nature deficit disorder. Reconnecting with nature (Biophilia) is another way to foster empathy, a sense of responsibility, resilience and also creativity. The benefits of connecting with nature are immense - it fosters their intellect through inquiry and experimentation - bringing out the scientist in them. It has emotional benefits as well as such sensorial play decreases restlessness, increases concentration, decreases anxiety, and makes children more mindful. In order to raise adults who are passionate about protecting the environment, is it not critical that they first develop a deep love for it? And of course, the fresh air and physical activity, in turn, builds strong bodies with a better immune system.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zKTE3JCOuc>

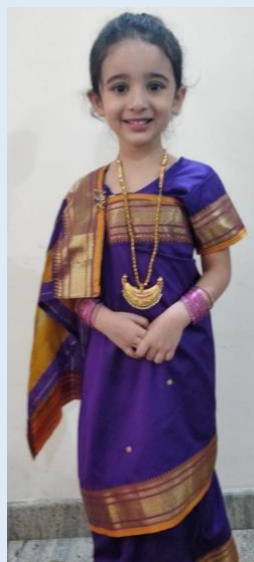
## **Glimpses of Asynchronous Learning at IELC**

### **Grade 1**

Grade 1 students have settled well in their first year of primary school. They began their academic year in 'Getting to know each other' activities that were 'all about me', hand print activities on feelings and games. Students enjoyed their fireless cooking salads and Yoghurt parfait and dress up day! Students have been introduced to number sense activities, place value, skip counting in 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s and 10s and number names in Math classes through play based activities. In Language, students were introduced to sentence rules and punctuation, nouns and describing words, alongwith the first set of tricky words. Students looked forward to the I-spy games for nouns and hunting for naming words that were spooky, slippery, smooth etc.

We have introduced in Grade 1 discussions on current topics for students to build their knowledge and awareness on what's happening around the world. Students talked about the athletes who won medals for their country. Further, students were invited to present in their Show and Tell, news articles which were of interest to them. We will continue the practice for students to present a current topic of interest to enrich their learning.

As our students explored our first Unit of Inquiry 'Treasures of the Past' they discovered how things have evolved from past to present. They also visited the British Museum, United Kingdom virtually and understood how different the objects used in the past were across the world. Students shared their family treasures with their peers and teachers that were passed on in their families from one generation to another. We also witnessed our students' creativity as they made stick families that were unique and different, after reading the book 'Stick man' in Biophilia class which was done in integration with our UOI.





## Prep 2

Children in Prep-2 have had a wonderful first month at school. They have started exploring Math concepts of numbers and 2D shapes through Biophilia. In Unit of Inquiry children have been introduced to our first Unit of Inquiry “Relationships can have an impact on well-being” where they are building up their vocabulary, learning new feelings. Children have also been learning tools and techniques on how to identify and handle different emotions. In our SEL class children not only enjoyed talking to their friends but also learnt importance of a routine and rule in life. In Language children were introduced to the concept of tall/short/fall letters. They enjoyed learning letter names and reading CVC words. Children were enthusiastic about presenting their junkyard creations during “Show and Tell” and they enjoyed reflecting on books read on emotions and feelings.





## Prep 1

Prep 1 students have settled in well in class. They have bonded with their teachers and gotten to know their peers in the class.

In Language class students have been introduced to a, i and o and they are learning associating words with the starting sound through fun play based craft activities.

In Math students have started learning about different shapes, numbers from 1-4 and also learnt the concept of big and small through sensorial and play based activities.

Students presented about their family through the family tree project as part of the 1st Line of Inquiry- Roles and Responsibilities of their family members as part of the unit Family. They included their extended family, friends and pets in their family tree too. They also understood the responsibilities of each of the family members.

Students loved creating games and stories through their Junkyard playground. They came up with amazing stories and presented them in class. Children also came up with beautiful reflections in the deep reading class for stories like The Very Lonely Firefly, Stuck, The big Umbrella, Corduroy etc.





## Reception and Nursery

The first two weeks of August was the settling-in period for the children. They will be engaged in exploring their senses, art, outdoor play, connecting with nature, music and dance and storytelling sessions. Learnings in Nursery & Reception will happen in small groups with focus on the child's needs SEL and Play Based learning style. Children explored through Biophilia (nature based learning), junkyard play, deep reading, sensory play. Children will develop language and expand their vocabulary. They will learn to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas in short phrases through the six foundational units planned throughout the year. In Math children will learn colors, shapes, positional words, opposites and number correspondence.

August we started by meeting & greeting new friends & teachers, framing our class essential agreements, daily rituals, appreciating the world around us. Children learnt 2 letter sounds-'a' & 'i' through the Jolly Phonic Method, Number 1, Manmade & Nature made things, making fish puppets, we also started the Transdisciplinary Theme- Marvelous Me- All about likes & dislikes. We had a fun filled Independence Day Online Celebration where children were decorating the Indian Flag.

Children made Self Portraits with things from Nature-Biophilia and puppets as Junkyard Creativity activities. Children showed creativity by making new homes for the 3 Little Pigs .





## **Guidelines for E- Learning Online- Parental Support**

- Set a daily routine for your child to ensure transitioning to online learning is easy, For example waking up on time, Breakfast, Ready for class, followed by working on assigned tasks, play time and then bed time.
- Have a conversation with your child in advance giving emotional support.
- Login to scheduled classes 5 minutes early to check for audio and visual clarity.
- Set up a comfortable and designated spot where there are no other external disturbances so that your child is able to focus. Preferably seated at a table with chair at the level of the child.
- Students are expected to be neatly groomed and ready with all materials required for the specified lesson online
- Washroom breaks and eating must be done before or after the online classes
- Encourage your child to wait for his/her turn to speak while sharing ideas and thoughts.
- Encourage students to use materials creatively that are available and can be recycled.
- A positive attitude is the best way to gain confidence.

## **Important dates in September**

September 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> – Goal settling week

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Teacher’s Day celebration in school

September 7<sup>th</sup> – PAC Meeting with HOC

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Ganesha Chaturthi - Holiday

September 21<sup>st</sup> – Peace Day Celebration

September 24<sup>th</sup> – Mufti Day (Theme will be shared closer to the date)

## **Parental Involvement:**

We look forward to your participation in upcoming school events and getting to know each of you better.

Parental involvement is something we value greatly at our Centre as it helps us to see things from multiple perspectives, enriches the environment and creates important links between school and home. We encourage you to feel free to approach us either with any concerns or suggestions for ways to better the school.

Thank you for working together with us to create a happy and safe haven where our students can thrive and develop to their full potential.

Regards,



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