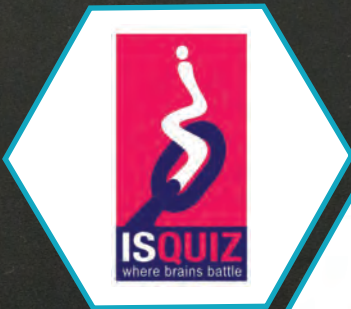




BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDIAN SCHOOLS OMAN

NEWSLETTER III

Building towards Vision 2020





INTER SCHOOL DEBATE: The debate was themed on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Indian School Wadi Kabir hosts debate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: This year, the Indian School Oman Board's annual inter-school debate competition was held at Indian School Wadi Kabir. The debate was themed on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

and the other against the motion. The debate was adjudicated by Luis Silveiro, Sunil Sadasivan, and John Moshy.

In his address to the gathering, Mahawar lauded the role of Indian schools in Oman.



Indian School Board and Ministry of Education host cultural exchange event

The Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, organised a mega Cultural Exchange Programme to mark the National Day celebrations of Oman, at Indian School Wadi Kabir (Primary Grounds).

The Cultural Programme, a novel initiative, named 'Al Ta'ayush al Silmi - Beyond Boundaries' showcased indigenous cultural programmes from different communities.

world where peace and harmony prevails.

H E Dr Hamoud bin Khalifa Al Harthy, Undersecretary of Education and Curricula, Ministry of Education, was the chief guest. H E Shri Muna Mahawar, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, was also present.

the cultural diversity and fellowship we are so privileged to witness in this nation. By bringing together various schools of different nationalities under one roof, we are hoping to sow the seeds of acceptance and love in our schools and our children.

the occasion. Students from Omani, Indian, Pakistani, Egyptian, Bangladesh, Sri Lankan Schools participated in the cultural evening with rich traditional number. special children of Indian School Muscat won every

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018 MUSCAT DAILY

A number of expatriate schools in celebration of Oman's 48th

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Schools representing several expatriate communities in Oman united on Thursday evening to present a joint cultural show to mark the Sultanate's 48th National Day.



Indian schoolkids win T FM quiz trophy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Quiz Time, the highly rated inter-school quiz competition T FM 98.4, culminated on December 11 with Indian School Wadi Kabir (ISW) walking away with coveted Champions League trophy from among the host and guest schools.

The red-hot final was presided over by the school Principal, D. N. Rao, and attended by students who vied for their favorite teams, many of whom also won McDonald's meal vouchers for their participation in the audience rounds.

The challenging knockout round saw six schools emerging on top of the leader board to make it to the Champions League finale. According to quizmaster Hajinul Basim, it was a spectacular finale with students demonstrating great knowledge of general knowledge, sports, and what he called 'trivia'. The decisive episode of Champions League, with MCQs and Rapid Round, was TFM 98.4.

Quiz Time, which follows its footsteps of the popular Times Oman School Quiz, which began in early 2018, has now become a big dose of excitement every week. The decision episode of Champions League, with MCQs and Rapid Round, was TFM 98.4.

Unique Talent Recognition programme organised for students of Indian schools in sultanate

'Unique Talent Recognition 2018' - a programme organised by Indian School Muladha under the auspices of the Board of Directors showcased an array of multifarious and unique talents of students from across the various Indian schools in the sultanate.

Unique Talent Recognition is an initiative meant to harness the inherent talents of students from the various Indian schools in Oman. Unlike other platforms which focus on conventional academic, cultural and sports



composition of poems; doodling; beat box, acrobatic postures; juggling; incredible memory challenges.

the guests of honour. Members of the Board of Directors, Management Committee, principals of Indian schools, parents and students attended the function.

Dr Baby Sam Saarni commended the august gathering and underscored the significance of the event. He said, "Unique Talent Recognition as an initiative will hopefully gradually overcome the current limited definition of talent as perceived in our schools."

Indian schools board launches interactive portal for students

Our Correspondent

The Board of Indian Schools in Oman has launched a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) portal. This is to enable its members to have a state-of-the-art Learning Management System and network to share learning resources and develop interactive content, including videos.



The portal, which is now inaugurated by H E Dr Hamoud bin Khalifa Al Harthy (center) and other officials.

This is expected to empower teachers to create virtual classrooms by allowing students to access learning resources and interactive videos 24x7. The portal, which is now inaugurated by H E Dr Hamoud bin Khalifa Al Harthy, Undersecretary for Education and Curricula, Ministry of Education, H E Dr. Haniffa congratulated the Board of Directors of Indian Schools for initiating such an innovative and student-centric approach to education.

The learning resources and videos of lessons are developed by highly experienced and skilled subject teachers selected from various Indian schools. A VLE coordinator is appointed for every school to coordinate access to the portal for staff and students. Workshops and hands-on training sessions were organised for the subject

coordinators, VLE coordinators and the principals of Indian schools. This is expected to bring about revolutionary changes to the pattern of curricular transactions currently prevalent in Indian schools by making it more innovative, student-centric, interactive and adaptive. The portal is hosted on a powerful virtual private server that can allow multiple concurrent users. As the portal is fully responsive, it can also be accessed via different devices like smartphones, tablets or PCs. Hundreds of videos and learning resources are available for

boundaries' showcased various cultural programmes from different communities, by Omani and international schools in Oman. Each school presented a programme which was unique to its culture and

from the time-honored Filipino, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were the special guests on the occasion. In his welcome address, Dr Baby Sam Saarni, chairman, Board of Directors - Indian Schools in Oman, said the

wish to create. Mahmood Yahya Al Husaini, director general assistant for Administration and Financial Affairs, Ministry of Education, gave a presentation on the glimpses of cultural exchange

of the. Alishah Jor board member of Indian School Wadi Kabir, proposed thanks. He thanked the Ministry of Education for

DATE: 30-12-



Chairman's Message

Dear All,

It is my pleasure to introduce to our community the third edition of the newsletter from the Board.

The present age has been called the age of information. However, if we think about it, it is rather an age of disruptive information. We have an almost infinite amount of data, right on our fingertips. Daily, we are bombarded with more data than we know what to do with. So given this, introspective questions such as 'what is that students should be learning in our schools? What should we teach? What makes a human being relevant?' appear to be quite relevant. Our students, this generation – what they need is the ability to interconnect the information, to comprehend it, to make sense of it, to be able to apply it, to add their own creativity to it, and to actualize their potential.

Just some years ago, success was defined as having attained graduation/post-graduation in a trendy subject or obtaining a well-paying job, and was considered more or less permanent. However, now, these age-old definitions of success are no longer accurate or lasting. To be successful now, one has to prove their merit constantly. Such sustained success is possible only by continuous up-skilling and by keeping up-to-date on the rapid changes in the chosen field of education/ career. In the World Economic Forum in Davos this year, the CEO of IBM talked about the need to employ people based on skills instead of college degrees.

The global academia is actively discussing the urgent measures to be taken to differentiate the next generation of humans from sentient computers & prepare them for life, career & future in a highly unpredictable world. The only way ahead is to teach our children to pursue life-long learning. This is especially hard when the stress of academics takes away the joy of learning.

For schools, teachers and parents, the emphasis should be on making sure our children are ready with multi-dimensional skills like Creativity,

Critical thinking, Communication, and Leadership. Therefore, teaching children to focus only on academic performance is, in reality, poor preparation for a successful career and life.

Education is a shared responsibility between us all – governments, schools, teachers, parents and students – as UNESCO highlights from time to time. We, Indian schools in Oman, are on this journey together with you all the way – as an equal partner. We aspire to make our schools a transformative place and our children happy, healthy and empowered life-long learners. Our aim is, therefore, to present opportunities and learning methodologies that equip our children with the skills needed to be confident, resilient, and to take ownership of their life, in addition to obtaining academic competence. This includes their intellectual, emotional, psychological, physical wellbeing and growth.

The past newsletter explained about the introduction of initiatives, activities & events such as Avenir, Academic Cell, Academic Advisory Council, Counseling Manual, 24*7*365 Tele-Counseling Services, Blood Donation Drives, and Murals & Graffiti. In this edition, you will learn about our recent projects such as ISO-VLE, the online portal for students & teachers, Video-recorded lessons by our Grade X & XII experts that are available online through the learning portal, Remedial Classes and Sports Manual. We have also implemented measures to strengthen our resources – be it our faculty, our infrastructure & our management committees. This year, we also celebrated the joy of teaching through recognition of teachers with the Navin Asher Kazi Award for Excellence in Teaching.

I believe we still have a long way to go. Individually and collectively, our ultimate aim is - To ensure that every child from our schools will undergo transformative learning and be equipped with the knowledge, skills and well-being to find their identity and purpose in life.

As the Board, we are keen to build a relationship of trust & engagement with all our stakeholders. It is with the view of promoting transparency & reach that we have initiated this BOD newsletter to apprise the community of the developments and activities being undertaken by the Indian Schools.

Let us work in unity and in symbiosis to support the Indian Schools system as and where they require our support. Together, let's think outside the box and strategize ways and means for making sure our children get the best they deserve.

With thanks,
Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel
Chairman



Educational Advisor's Message

Dear All,

There is nothing in this universe without a purpose. Every child is born with an inherent potential to accomplish greatness in any field in his/her life. Realization of one's own potential is the key to transform the greatness possessed within into action.

Every child is a hidden treasure box, with incomparable wealth. Consciousness of one's own natural habits, thoughts and emotions helps the child to realize his/her hidden potential. It requires an intense and perpetual understanding of the child's potential to match with his/her functioning.

Who better understands a child than his/her Teachers and Parents? A student with an exceptionally good taste in music may not become a musician, rather he/she chooses to pursue Electronics or Psychology. Many young professionals in the recent are not happy with their achievements as a professional, only because of the lack of consciousness or enlightenment at the right age about their own hidden potential.

Parents and teachers play a significant role in identifying the child's hidden treasure and approach them without any prejudice. They should only be an observer of the child's habits, interests and its developments.

"Your purpose in life is to find your purpose and give your whole heart and soul to it" – Gautama Buddha.

Our role is merely restricted to only to facilitate every child to think independently and letting them respond to the likes and dislikes of their heart and mind. Nurture their likes and transform into passion so that their likes become their habit. It is unfair to impose our judgements on them which may curb their hidden potential.

Exposing Children to Holistic Education is predominant. Holistic education is as old as ancient education system prevailed in India, called 'Gurukula' where the Shishyas lived with Guru for

years. During this period the wise Guru identifies each of his Shishyas talents by exposing him to practical life, which made the shishyas to know the purpose of life.

Today, the education system doesn't leave much scope for children to think independently and realize their true purpose of existence in this world. Often they are wrongly motivated to take up a career by telling them the success story of many without realizing that every child is unique. There is little done today to get oneself enlightened. This is one of the reasons why there are rarely any inventions and discoveries today compared to the olden times. We show our kids the path through which we want them to walk and not the real one through which they should have walked through, otherwise.

Education has digressed students from gaining knowledge to gaining grades. The one who scores centum by cramming is labelled as genius today. The score of marks should never become the benchmark for labelling children good or bad; by doing so, unfortunately the multitalented pupils are not recognized as they deserve. Today examination is a nightmare for many. We need to bring ease in our approach towards exams. In fact, exam should be used as a tool to test the level of learning taken place.

We have witnessed the success stories of many great leaders and entrepreneurs, who were never identified and recognized for their hidden talents during their school and college days.

Revolutionary changes are required in our education system to get the best out of children, as Gandhiji contemplates, "By Education I mean all-round development, drawing out of the best in the child-man body, mind and spirit."

We as parents and teachers should begin the unprejudiced nurturing of a child's talent and assist in his/her holistic development. Schools shall have a flexible approach for transaction of curriculum from kindergarten up to the middle school as advised by CBSE as it is the right time to identify the inborn talents that lie latent in every child and nurture them.

Together let us create an environment for the new generation to think independent and get enlightened. Let's allow them to grow independent. Let us do not draw 'lakshman rekha' in their thought process at least. Through holistic education let us help them accomplish the purpose of their lives and enjoy the treasure that they are!

With thanks,
M P Vinoba
Sr.Principal & Edn. Advisor

VISION 2020

We, the Board of Directors began our term with a vision – Vision 2020, of transforming our children through holistic education where there is equal emphasis on Academic, Extra-Curricular, Psychological/emotional development and Physical Development of our children. This includes children-oriented activities, resource developments, infrastructural changes and more. Some of these have been covered in our previous newsletters Vol I-2018 & Vol II-2018.

Since the recent months have been a period of final examinations, most of our initiatives in the past months have been directed towards academic & psychological support for our children. The ultimate aim of the Board being the provision of learning that is transformative and empowering for every child of Indian Schools, these initiatives would no doubt add to their confidence and resilience and help to chart their path as the future unfolds before them.

Described below are the recent initiatives rolled out by the Board.

Al Ta'ayush Al Silmi

'Al Ta'ayush Al Silmi – Bonding Beyond Boundaries' is a novel initiative of the Board of Directors in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, to bring together different communities living in the Sultanate to showcase their cultural talent that conveys the message of unity in diversity.

The first edition of this mega Cultural Exchange Programme was organized by the Board of Directors to mark the National Day celebrations of Oman, on Thursday, 06th December 2018 at Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Participants from various International Schools in the Sultanate presented a wide spectrum of cultural diversities so unique to their own culture and tradition. The ultimate objective of the programme was to educate the young minds that they need to stand united to build up a new world where peace and harmony prevails.

The event inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Hamoud bin Khalfan Al Harthy, Undersecretary of Education and Curricula, Ministry of Education on in the presence of His Excellency Shri Munu Mahawar, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate, His Excellency Nour Ettean Al Rray, Ambassador of Tunisia to the Sultanate of Oman and other Consular Officials from the Embassies of Egypt, Philippine, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.



Tele-Tutoring for Board Students

In light of the exam season, the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, came up with another novel initiative of providing tele-tutoring facilities to the students who appeared for the Board Examinations, as a means of extended support beyond the classrooms.

Starting from 20th January 2019 until the end of the examinations, experienced and competent teachers in different subjects of Class X and XII were available on phone, between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on all days to clarify doubts & answer queries. Students had also access to them on WhatsApp with their queries. Subjects that required more assistance by the teachers were considered in this regard; these included Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Accountancy and Economics.

There were two teachers at a time in each of the classes who were handling the mobile devices by responding to the WhatsApp messages and answering to the queries by the students. The teachers of different subjects had their own WhatsApp group and they were sharing the queries in the group for hastening their responses.

STAI – A Galore of Scientific Enterprises

Nurturing talents in the field of science & technology with an innovative framework will always be a boost to those young minds who would love to choose this mode of excellence. With this view in mind, the Board of Directors took the initiative to organize a tech-fest titled 'Science, Technology & Innovation (STAI)', a first of its kind pioneering initiative, and the biggest Tech event ever for the Indian Schools in the Sultanate that promotes scientific approach and innovative culture among students.

This mega event on Science, Technology and Innovation, featuring the tagline "Dream-Create-Inspire", upholds the objective of providing a stage and showcasing the talents of young minds adept in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation spurring them to investigate into their passion and assess their ingenious ideas.

The first edition of STAI was organized on 23-24 January 2019 at Indian School Muscat where around 650 students from 16 Indian Schools in the Sultanate tested their acumen in the field of Science & Technology to explore their passion and assess their ingenious ideas. Across 15 venues, more than 25 diverse programs, activities and contests were held under 3 categories of age groups – Ignitors, Innovators & Inventors in this collaborative, interschool event. The innovative programs included Planetarium, Youth Conclave, Augmented Reality Room, Concept Rooms, Game Rooms and Contests like Paper presentations, Debates, Street Plays, Website Designing, Mobile Application Development.

A STAI Aptitude Test was held in November 2018 for students of classes 6 to 10 to evaluate the scientific flair of the participants where around 7000 students from 18 Indian Schools underwent the test.



'Teach to Reach' – Care & Special Education Exhibition

It is always a matter of pride when our knowledge and skills empower children who require special assistance. In Care and Special Education, every faculty strives hard to ensure that every bit of their efforts is aimed at improving the lives of 100 odd children who are under their fold. Care and Special Education conducted an exhibition of various such methodologies through a digital exhibition on 19th January 2019.

The two-day event, the first Annual Exhibition titled "Teach to Reach", was formally inaugurated by Mrs. Siddiqa Abdul Majeed Al Lawatiya, Director, International Schools, Ministry of Education. It was a spectacular event which witnessed visitors from various sections of the community which included parents, SEN children and teaching fraternity.

A first of its kind at CSE, "Teach to Reach" truly brought out the essence of the theme which was to portray how assistive and adaptive technology can promote independent living skills in children with special needs that are critical to life participation and satisfaction. Various exhibits made by the CSE students were also showcased and it revealed the multifaceted talents and skills of the differently abled children.



Unique Talent Recognition Programme (Utar 2018)

"Unique Talent Recognition" (UTaR) is a new annual initiative meant to harness the inherent talents of students from the various Indian schools in Oman. Unlike other platforms which focus on conventional academic, cultural and sports talents, this program intends to give impetus to identify, showcase & hone the unusual and rare talents in children, in front of conglomeration of Indian School students.

The first edition of UTaR was organized at Indian School Maabela on 17th November 2018 wherein 72 students showcased their extraordinary talents. Mrs. Maryam Mohammed Al Zadjali, Director, Oman Society for Fine Arts, graced the occasion, as the Chief Guest and former Chairmen of the Board Mr. Kiran Asher, Mr. Yusuf Nalwala, Mr. Tonny George Alexander and Mr. Wilson V. George were the Guests of Honour.

This event was truly unique in bringing to the fore, unusual and rare talents such as addition and subtraction of four-digit numbers without calculator or paper; mesmerizing magic shows; mimicking sounds with precision; instant composition of poems; incredible memory challenges and many more.



Inter School Mega Quiz Contest (ISQUIZ)

Quiz competitions offer a fun medium to instill knowledge, embellish imagination while also invigorating the reasoning skills. It provides an enriching learning experience to the audience too as it offers sufficient possibilities of learning and exploration of new ideas and facts. With this view, Indian School Darsait under the directives of the Board of Directors launched a new collaborative event, inter-school mega quiz contest, called ISQUIZ, for the students of Indian Schools in Oman on 12th April 2019. In this first edition of ISQUIZ, Lael Alva and Abhay Raaj Mishra of Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir won the Junior title while Krithivaas Vijay and Aanvik Singh of Indian school Muscat were the winners in the Senior Division. The next edition of ISQUIZ will be hosted by Indian School Al Ghubra.



Physical Education Manual

Yet another initiative of Board of Directors has been to streamline the Physical Education syllabi. In order to streamline the various Physical Education & sports activities carried out across the different schools in a structured and progressive manner, the Board has developed & released a Physical Education Manual which will act as a framework for prioritizing & promoting physical health in our schools.

The Manual provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the theoretical and practical aspects of physical education and sport, enabling students to know about, understand and analyze the major concepts and principles underlying in sport and physical education. This manual ensures that the students will acquire technical /tactical knowledge and the valuable contributions and support rendered by the NCERT. Activities have also been suggested which can be assigned to the students in the form of projects and give opportunity to children to learn by doing.

The teaching course based on this syllabus, are –

- To develop an understanding of human performance based on the study of the selection of sports, and the rules related to those games.
- To develop an understanding of the physiological, socio-cultural and psychological function and the structure of the human body
- To foster the ability to relate theory and practice, through analyzing concrete factors which influence physical activity and sport.
- To acquire knowledge of the structure, roles and responsibilities
- To provide an experience which is valuable both as a means of personal development
- To ensure that the students achieve a required level of fitness and as a foundation for employment or more advanced study.

It is expected that these annual e-magazines inspire both the writers and the readers equally to find & hone their independent thinking & self-expression.

CSE Champions Club

Care & Special Education, launched a new initiative titled "CSE Champions Club" on 26th January 2019 which is open to all the staff members irrespective of their qualifications or designations. The staff members could choose an area of skill in the field of special education and hone it for the next six months. They have been given 32 skills to choose from and they could also decide to opt for skills from outside of these 32 skills. The staff would read and understand more about their chosen skill area and implement the same to make a difference in the life of child/children under their care. They can read, attend online courses, webinars and interact with professionals in the field of special education. They would give an update at least once in a month. At the end of the programme, the C2B (Champions to Be) will find entry into the coveted CSE Champions Club and would be part of Care & Special Education Champions Club till March 2020.

E-Magazines

In an effort to boost creativity while simultaneously enhancing communication competencies in various national & international languages, the Board has set forth a new initiative, e-magazines - a collection of stories, poems & articles written by our children & curated and edited by our school resources, in different languages.

The Board has recently released the first edition of the annual Indian School e-magazines. A total of 6 e-magazines have been released this year across 6 different languages – English, Hindi; Sanskrit; Malayalam; French and Arabic.

It is expected that these annual e-magazines inspire both the writers and the readers equally to find & hone their independent thinking & self-expression.

Virtual Learning Environment Portal for Students

The Board of Indian Schools in Oman has launched a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) portal to enable its schools to have state-of-the-art Learning Management System and network to share learning resources and develop interactive contents, including videos. This is expected to empower teachers to create virtual classrooms by allowing students to access learning resources and interactive videos 24/7. The portal is hosted on a powerful virtual private server that can allow multiple concurrent users. As the portal is fully responsive, it can also be accessed via different devices like smartphones (Android or iPhones), tablets or PCs. Hundreds of videos and learning resources are available for the students' access from their home.



Downloads (Top 10)					
	Downloads: 475	Hits	206 Hits	Bandwidth	Average size
/pluginfile.php/11261/mod_label/intro/X-Geo-Ch-07-Lifelines-No.1...	12	49	198.07 MB	3.25 MB	
/pluginfile.php/3186/mod_resource/content/0/30-1%20SET-1%20%28Ma...	11	0	9.71 MB	903.83 KB	
/pluginfile.php/1247/mod_resource/content/1/Kutty_Print1.mp4	10	32	114.90 MB	3.59 MB	
/pluginfile.php/3187/mod_resource/content/0/30-3%20SET-3%20%28Ma...	10	0	8.83 MB	904.19 KB	
/pluginfile.php/3185/mod_resource/content/0/cbse-class-10-mathem...	8	0	773.32 KB	96.67 KB	
/pluginfile.php/3180/mod_resource/content/0/31-1%20%28Science%29...	8	0	6.21 MB	794.97 KB	
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/pluginfile.php/3183/mod_resource/content/0/cbse-class-10-scienc...	7	32	5.03 MB	132.19 KB	
/pluginfile.php/4303/mod_resource/content/0/X-2017-MATHEMATICS-F...	7	0	1.61 MB	236.10 KB	

Young Communitarians of Indian Schools – Activities

YCIS (Young Communitarians of Indian Schools) is a voluntary social service organization of students of Indian schools in Oman under the guidance of Board of Directors, Indian schools in Oman. Its main objective is to connect the school with the community and enhance learning through practical experiences. It also develops passion for selfless service among students.

Members of YCIS Wing in Indian School Muladha, actively took part in a beach cleaning activity at Wudam Beach on the 24th of November, 2018 to show their commitment to the environment. The project was monitored by the officials from the Municipality (in charge of Wudam area) who were very impressed and grateful to the YCIS members from ISML for the dedicated service which they rendered.



Members of YCIS wing of Indian School Nizwa visited Paediatric ward at Nizwa Hospital. They spent time with in-patients and interacted with them. They distributed gifts to the patients and wished them a very speedy recovery.



Members of YCIS Wing of Indian School Maabela showed their commitment towards environmental preservation by cleaning the beach on 16 Feb 2019. The team led by the Principal and SMC members guided the student volunteers to clear the beach of waste.



In an effort to inculcate the habit of being with the nature, Indian School Al Seeb initiated the program to prepare young students not only just to write a good exam, but also to live a good life by starting a garden maintained by the students in the school. School garden is a wonderful way to make students aware of the value of gardening and agricultural concepts through proper usage of schoolyard that help students to reconnect with natural world and the true source of their food. The school staff is encouraging and supporting the students to develop life skills and increase environmental awareness.



A Personality Development Camp for Young Communarians of Indian Schools, Anugraha and Scouts & Guides members was conducted on 16th Nov 2018 at Indian School Darsait. Session on 'Cyber Safety' was conducted by Mr. Naveen Sudhakaran, Head - Transport Sub Committee, Session on Health & Safety by Mr. Sebastian Chungath, Vice President & Head - HSE Sub Committee and Hospitality & Table Etiquette by Mr. Thomas George, Head - Infrastructure Sub Committee.

Indian School Al Buraimi established an organic farm with the cooperation of some nature lovers in Buraimi called Karshaka Kootayam. Young Communitarian of Indian Schools at Buraimi took care of the farm by watering, weeding and arranging support for climbers etc. Finally, their hard work paid off and they had a wonderful harvest day.



Members of YCIS wing of Indian School Jalan visited Jalan Autism Centre on 14 February, 2019. They interacted with the children and spent their quality time with them. They also conducted a short cultural program for them and presented gifts.



Indian School Salalah organized a labour camp visit as a part of YCIS social service programme on 30th November, 2018. The inmates of the camp were happy and excited to interact with students and narrated about their hardships in life. The students donated cloth and food items collected by the member students to the inmates of the camp.



School Initiatives

'Innovation Unleashed' – Exhibition at Indian School Al Seeb

It is not enough for the kids to learn the lessons from the textbooks only, they should also be given an adequate space and time for letting the inner talents get a platform to be showcased. This can help them in sharpening their speaking skills by instilling confidence. In the annual exhibition "INNOVATION UNLEASHED", primary children created an intriguing array, highlighting with different exhibits based on different themes like flora and fauna, future earth, creative corner, ancient technology, 5 R's, best out of waste, people who help us, Fun with numbers, math in daily life, Mathematical solutions, culture of India, I love my India, old is gold, Indo Oman, fun with words along with Hindi and Malayalam exhibits.



IT Club Programme Organized at Indian School Salalah

The IT club of the senior section (IX and X) organized IT Club programme on 23rd January 2019 at Indian School Salalah Auditorium, with an array of intriguing programs. The objective of the programme was to provide a platform for the young inquisitive minds of Indian School Salalah to extrapolate the nuances of Information Technology.



Students' Development Programs at Indian School Sur

Students of Indian School Sur took part in the Hand wash and Hygiene programme organized by the Ministry of Health on 9th December. Students also took part in the Environment Day celebration and the cleanliness campaign on 13th Jan 2019.



Awareness Program on Dental Health & Hygiene

Dental health & Hygiene Awareness session was conducted for Students of Classes IV & V on 7th Jan and for Classes VI to VIII on 9th Jan 2019 at Indian School Darsait. Dr. Manu Selvaraj, Dental Surgeon, Abeer Hospital, Ruwi was the resource person. Awareness programme for adolescent girls (exclusively for of Classes VI to IX will be held on 23 Jan 2019 at our Senior School Auditorium. Dr. Roshina Anees Khan, Sr. Specialist, Obstetrics & Gynecology of Abeer Hospital, Ruwi was the resource person.



Director's Corner



Director's Message

My Greetings to dear Members of Indian School Family,

Currently, our world is experiencing continuous transformations through technology and globalization. Embracing innovation in education system will enable education to reach greater heights that will enable students and teachers to improve for the better. We can achieve it only by winning the confidence of the stakeholders through openness to good changes and transparency in our initiatives. Current example of innovations in education is the setting up of online classes in the Internet whereas, previously, attending school meant being confined to the four walls of the classroom. The present Board of Directors has already initiated e-learning systems which will help our children round the clock. Even video lessons are available for our children, starting with senior classes in the first phase. The entire children community of our schooling system will be benefited through materials provided by the best available faculty in the concerned topic. The transformative experience of a truly liberating education requires a faculty member and a student engaged in learning together. This commitment does not prevent the use of technology; online learning tools can provide new sources of supplementary education.

A liberating education fosters the ability to distinguish between what is true and what is false and it involves a number of different analytical perspectives. It helps our students to understand what needs to be objected and what requires to be supported. This curriculum should be a program for global citizenship. It should not only target to teach one how to earn a living, but also how to live. This must be offering instruction and experience in both technique and vision—the ultimate combination in education to become a

perfect human being. Thereby our students can gain the confidence needed to take initiative, solve problems, and formulate ideas. They can develop skills in language, learning, and leadership.

A liberating education aspires to teach students to be cultured people; to develop in students the capacity to check assumptions; to understand the value-laden choices as decision makers, and arbiters of ethical choices at home, at school; and to help students understand and build a civilization compatible with the nature. Such a curriculum does not just happen however; it must be intentionally designed. Simplicity must be foremost; humane values must transcend technological values, and democratic values must overcome the desire for exclusivity. Students should know about other cultures and be competent in communicating with other people. The goal is to provide an education that leads to global understanding and competence. Such a program would acknowledge that, while we cannot teach everything, we can prepare students to learn almost anything and everything. This is the way we should be preparing our students for the world. We want them to study what they are passionate about, as that is most likely to lead to success.

After all, our mission is to develop a promising generation.

LIBERATING EDUCATION:-

To liberate our children from Castism, Communalism and Regional differences.

With thanks,
Mr. Selvichen Jacob
Member – Board of Directors
Indian Schools in Oman

Director's Corner

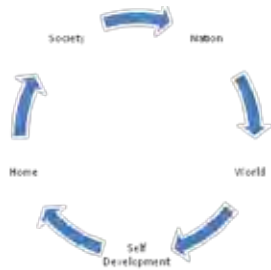


Director's Message

Namaste!

I would like to first congratulate the Board of Directors Office for the successful issue of the 3rd Edition of Newsletter which gives a 360 degree bird's eye view about the activities in and around the 21 Indian schools in Oman.

When a child enters our system, we ensure his/her transformation in development cycle benefits the world. The Cycle of a Child's transition to Responsible Citizen with use of Education as a tool:



India was once pioneers in Science, Mathematics, Astronomy and other various fields while in recent years we seem to have lost that edge in innovation and technology.

Even now our kids still have spark in them which we need to ignite. We, as the Board, will ensure to give best support by providing the facilities to explore their capabilities through which they would be able to be solution providers for the future challenges.

The current education system is more focused on Learning Outcomes by developing Inquisitiveness and curiosity among the students by the faculties about the topics and to ensure that the concepts of syllabus are clear to each student. An exam-centric approach by students need a change and this can be achieved through clarity on fundamentals.

The Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman with a strong 'Child first' approach in the system, has implemented a lot of new initiatives like:

- 24x7x365 Counselling Service
- Equal focus towards Co-scholastics
- Entrepreneurship and Skill development
- Life learning Skills

This reflects our vision and our commitment in transforming a child to be a responsible youth.

I would request that parents also give equal importance to areas other than academics by supporting and guiding children in basic life skills like, self-defense, first aid, Housekeeping, cooking, grocery shopping, money management and value of money, time management etc., so that they would be able to manage their house as equal as their workplace.

We need to inculcate the culture of responsibility towards the utilization of natural resources by exploring the opportunities for them through education and road mapping towards importance of converting of waste into wealth.

Once a question been raised by a student to our Rocket Man Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam about strength and weakness of India and the great scientist replied "Strength is you the highly populated Youth and weakness is lack of Vision".

I am sure that our children are having great vision and they build a 'Nation First' approach while using their knowledge and we can expect more energetic visionary leaders from among them in the coming future.

With the below message of peace, I would like to pause my pen until the next future edition.

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Nir-Aamayaah |

Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu, Maa Kashcid-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet |

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

May everyone be happy, may everyone be free from all diseases

May everyone see goodness and auspiciousness in everything, may none be unhappy or distressed

Om peace, peace, peace!

"Education is the Manifestation of the Perfection already in Man" -Swami Vivekananda

With thanks,

Mr. Nitheesh Sundaresan
Member – Board of Directors
Indian Schools in Oman

Resource Development

Indian School Teachers Win Awards for Excellence

The prestigious 'Navin Asher-Kazi Awards for Excellence in Teaching' instituted by the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman, were conferred on twelve teachers from Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman at a ceremonious function organized on 27 February 2019 at Indian School Al Maabela in the presence of His Excellency Shri Munu Mahawar, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, Sheikh Kanaksi Gokaladas Khimji, and Mr. Gopinath Muthukad, renowned motivational speaker and Celebrity UNICEF Advocate for Child Welfare delivered the keynote address. The awardees for this year are Mrs. Padmavathy Sampath (Kindergarten-ISAM), Mrs. Bindu John (Primary – ISWK), Mrs. Felcy Zeena Fernandes (Middle – ISM), Mr. Vikram Singh Yaduvanshi (Secondary / Senior Secondary – ISM), Mr. Sajit Kumar (Co-scholastic – ISAM), Mrs. Hema Mohanasundaram (Care and Special Education) and Mrs. Geetha Kanthappan (Special Educator – ISAM).



Leadership Development Program – Principals

Under the academic initiatives of the Board, a six-day leadership training programme was organized for the Principals of Secondary and Senior secondary Indian Schools in Oman in collaboration with Dallas Baptist University, Texas, USA from 3rd June to 8th June 2019. 14 Principals along with Education Advisor and Assistant Education Advisor attended the programme. Topics such as Leadership and Management, Future of School Education and the Key Challenges of School Administrators on a Global Perspective, Financial Management by School Administrators, Strategic Planning, Inclusive Education, and Interpersonal Skill Development were covered during this workshop. In addition to the discussions on the abovementioned topics by the eminent professors, the University arranged visits to different kinds of schools in and around the region – public school, private school and charter school (schools established by non-profit organizations).



NEWS CORNER

21st Indian School (Bousher) Project Handover Ceremony

The Board of Directors of the Indian Schools in Oman conducted a formal ceremony for marking the handover of Indian School Bousher, the seventh Indian School in the capital area and the twenty-first in the Sultanate of Oman. Mrs. Fatma Noorani, Director General of Private Schools, Ministry of Education presided over the function as the Chief Guest for the event, held on 15 January 2019 at Indian School Muscat. Mrs. Siddiqa Abdul Majeed Al Lawatiya, Director of International Schools, Ministry of Education and Mr. Rakesh Adlekha, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India were the Guests of Honour. Mr. Khaled Hamad Al Ghazzali, General Manager (Investment) of M/s Al Omaniya Al Nahdha LLC handed over the miniature replica of the School building to the Board of Directors.



Regional Round Square Conference in Himachal Pradesh- An Enriching Experience

The conference provided an incredible opportunity as the delegates were exposed to the thoughts and ideas of the renowned leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama who emphasized education was the key factor to train future generations to be more compassionate and to use their intelligence properly.



Round Square International Conference at Canada – Bring Your Difference

Students from Indian School Al Ghubra attended the Round Square International Conference at Canada. The inspiring speeches by eminent keynote speakers on the loss of languages, cultural diversity, gender discrimination and struggle for women empowerment generated intense discussions as delegates from different parts of the world expressed their views on these pressing issues which challenge the world.



Ambassador's Polemic Challenge – 2018

In order to hone the debating skills of the Indian students studying in Oman, an inter-school debate competition is held every year under the aegis of the Board of Directors, Indian schools in Oman. This year it was hosted by the Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir on 19th November 2018. The debate was themed on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the topic was 'Has India Been Successful in its Adherence to The Principles of Self Reliance'. His Excellency Munu Mahawar, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman was the Chief Guest. Also present on this occasion were Dr. Baby Sam Samuel, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian schools in Oman; Mr. Rajendra Ved, Executive Director of ISWK as well as ISWK international; Mr. Alkesh Joshi, Honorary President of ISWK management committee, Mr. Vinoba M.P., Senior Principal and Educational Advisor and members of the School Management Committee.



Major Events In Indian Schools

Indian School Muscat



ISM team on Republic day at Delhi



48th National Day Celebration



Republic Day Celebration

Indian School Al Wadi Kabir International



Sleep-over Program



Cycling Expedition



Annual Sports Meet

Indian School Darsait



Kite Flying



Annual Athletic Meet



Annual Day Celebration

Indian School Al Ghubra



At Round Square Conference,
Mumbai



Interhouse One Act Play
Competition



Republic Day Celebration

Indian School Al Maabala



Annual Day Celebration



Annual Sports Champions



Graduation Day

Indian School Al Seeb



Yoga Sessions



Annual Exhibition



Children at Craft Work

Indian School Muladha



National Day Celebration



Charity by YCIS



Kids Fest

Indian School Sohar



Annual Sports Day



Inauguration of
Recreation Hall



Republic Day Celebration

Indian School Sur



Annual Sports Day



Family Carnival



Annual Day

Indian School Ibra



Annual Athletic Meet



Scout & Guides Camp



Republic Day Celebration

Indian School Salalah



Blood Donation Camp



CCA Fest



Teachers' Day Celebration

Indian School Rustaq



Annual Day Celebration



Annual Exhibition



Blood Donation Drive

Indian School Nizwa



Republic Day Celebration



Kids Fest



National Day Celebration

Indian School Buraimi



Annual Exhibition 2019



Republic Day Celebration



National Day Celebration

Indian School Khasab



School Garden



Annual Arts Day



Republic Day Quiz Program

Indian School Ibri



General Exhibition



Graduation Day



PT Display during Sports Meet

Indian School Jalan



Annual Sports Day



Cultural Fiesta



Republic Day Function

Indian School Masirah



Children's Day Celebration



Republic Day Celebration



Martyr's Day

Indian School Thumrait



Annual Sports Meet



Children's Day Celebration



Republic Day Celebration

Indian School Saham



'Allegro' Cultural Fest



Republic Day Celebration



Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel

Statistics at a glance



High Achievers

Polemic Challenge Trophy

Indian School Al Ghubra boasts a record of winning the Ambassador's Polemic Challenge Trophy for the fourth year in succession. This annual Inter-School Debate Competition for The Ambassador's Cup hosted by Indian School Wadi Kabir was a standout performance by team ISG represented by Ritu Andrews Machilath and Anirudh Govil defeating the 15 Indian Schools that engaged in a hotly contested debate. Ritu Andrews was declared the Best Speaker and Anirudh Govil was adjudged the Second Best Speaker and won the award for the Best Rebuttal too. Both the speakers exhibited tremendous confidence with their convincing arguments that helped them steal the limelight.



International Sports Fiesta Held in Mumbai

Indian School Ghubra bagged the Overall Runners Up Trophy and the Runners Up Trophy for Athletics at the International Sports Festival 2018 organised by the Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, India. This gave an opportunity for the students to pit their sporting prowess with their peers from countries such as France, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Oman, South Korea, Sri Lanka and the UAE.



Indian School Ghubra - The TTM-94.3 Champions Cup 2018

Indian School Al Ghubra feels proud of the success achieved by their whizkids, Aditya Harish and Anirudh Govil who after a fair amount of quizzing for months together, made a clean sweep at the finals to win the TFM-94.3 Champions Cup 2018 as they were comfortably ahead of their counterparts.



Indian School Ghubra bags trophy at CBSE National Swimming Championship

Students of Indian School Al Ghubra bagged medals aplenty held at Delhi Public School, Ranchi in India. The Under 19 Girls Swimming Team won the First Runners Up trophy. K.S. Pooja clinched five individual medals at the CBSE National Swimming Championship. She won two Gold Medals in 50m Breast stroke and 50 m Butterfly stroke, two Silver Medals for 50m Freestyle and 100m Freestyle and Bronze Medal for 200m Individual Medley. She was also a part of the relay team that won the Bronze Medals for 4x 100 m Freestyle Relay and 4 x 100m Medley Relay. The other relay team members were Vaishnavi Arunodaya Gujjar, Aidaphi Uppal, Ira Bharadwaj and Bhavya Kapoor.



Tech Savvy Students Excel at NBO Hackathon 2018

Indian School Al Ghubra team that comprised Dev Thakkar, Sadiq Dohadwala , Aaron Lobo, Ishan Date, Saya Chana and Rishab Mohanty bagged the 1st Runners Up winning a cash prize of RO 1000 in the NBO Hackathon. The 2nd Runners Up position was clinched by the team with Mohit Kalekar, Faiz Ibrahim, Vibhu Adhikari, Tony Benny George, Pearl Bipin and Mohamed Abbas Kazmi who won the prize money of RO 500.



Collection of Poems by Student of Indian School Nizwa

Geethu Peter, Head girl of ISN and a budding poet, a student of class XII, released her book "Unveiled" which is a collection of poems. She believes that words are her key to freedom of expressing her thoughts, feelings and imagination. Through her poems she has tried to touch the inner feelings hidden deep inside which otherwise would have remained dormant.



Journey as a Special Mother

Ms. Shanthi
Mother, Care & Special Education

"Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder".

The journey began with my gifted Autistic child.

"The journey where long hours of days met flying minutes of nights".

"The journey of our tough pasts, ongoing presents and our bright futures".

Through this write-up, I share with you all this special journey of our lives.

Introduction:

- What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?
- Early Signs
- Children with ASD have difficulty in three areas
- Characteristics of ASD

Autism:

- A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction, usually evident before age 3 that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
- Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotypical movement; resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines; and unusual sensory experience.

Early Signs:

- Does not babble or coo by 12 months.
- Does not gesture (point, wave or grasp) by 12 months.
- Does not respond to his or her name.
- Does not know how to play with toys appropriately.
- Toe walking/ hand flapping.
- Sleep disorders.
- Regular constipation or diarrhea.

Children with ASD have difficulty in three areas:

- Communication
- Social skills
- Flexible thinking, leading difficulties in areas like imaginative play.

Characteristics of ASD:

- Visual thinkers
- Laser beam attention (too much to one thing)
- Limited interest
- Deeper interest
- Dependence on prompt
- Less recall memory (this is the reason for lack of language).
- Difficulty to understand social expressions.
- Logical sequential processing.
- They always need a choice to answer.
- They do not adapt to a social situation.
- Transition difficulties.

Types of Autism Spectrum Disorder:

There are three different types of Autism Spectrum Disorder:

- Autistic Disorder (also called "classic" autism)
- Asperger Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS; also called "atypical autism")

After 14 years of commitment, restless efforts, courage and dedication, I would say that childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, and count. But it's a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child.

I would now speak of my journey with a special child that made my family special.

Journey starts now:

On 23rd September 1994 my son Sai Vikneswaran was born in a private hospital in Chennai, India. The delivery was by caesarean section. As parents, both of us - my husband and I were full of happiness. There were no words to describe our happiness. We thought that the entire world was within our fist.

Initially, all the milestones were normal except speech. At the age of 8 months Viknes was not responding to his name when called. He would prefer sitting on a sofa, ideally with rocking. We thought he would speak at the age of 1 year but it didn't happen. Before the walking stage, Viknes used to say the word "APPA" but when he started to walk this one word too stopped.

By the time Viknes was 1 ½ year old:



We took him to a Psychiatric Doctor; she looked at my son; did an initial assessment and wrote some tests which had to be taken - CT scan (Computer Tomography), BAEP test (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Potential), and Inborn Errors of Metabolism Test. We went and took all the tests with great difficulty; finally, all the results were found to be normal.

The Doctor went through all the reports and told us, "You are very lucky. Everything seems to be normal and your son is having ASD."

A big question mark rose in front of us. It was the 90's and we had never come across children having autism. Never thought that we would have to face it every day....for the rest of our life.

Questions that I felt & faced initially...

- Why my child is a special?
- What caused my child to be special?
- Why this happened to us?
- Whether to have another child?
- Will his presence affect the wellbeing of other normal children?
- Will the other normal children imitate the problem behaviors exhibited by him?
- How to introduce our special child to our friends and neighbors?
- Will medication be the cause for it?
- Should I expect my child to become like us?
- Can't he cope with regular school system?
- Would leaving him in a hostel be useful?
- Will he ever get married and lead a happy life?

What did I do next?

We got a detailed assessment to know the abilities and disabilities of my child. We put him in a special school Madhuram Narayan Centre (Bala Mandhir Trust) in Chennai. I was there with Viknes for 3 years in an early intervention group where the mothers were allowed to accompany the children and were trained together.

Speech Therapy and Occupation Therapy were given in the school. I did not have much idea about these sessions but whatever the therapist would say, I, as a parent, would follow.

We then tried educating him in an inclusion set-up but it didn't benefit him.

Finally, we got him admitted in a special school 'We Can' (We Challenge Autism now) formed by a parent support group started with 12 children. Viknes studied in this school for the next 3 years.



Therapies outside school & at home:

Following the same therapy methods at home was a challenge but turned out to be very effective. Apart from this, I was taking Viknes for Speech Therapy Sessions and to a Special Educator for one-on-one sessions.

There, I used to sit with Viknes and observe so that I was able to inculcate these lessons in the daily life. Different suggestions were given by these professionals, e.g. Special educator suggested me to put him in tennis class through which his pent-up physically energy will be exhausted. I used to accompany with Viknes and go for tennis classes. It was a new learning experience for me.

Memorable experience:

I was so proud to be his mother when, in 2000, at the age of six years, he got a chance to act in the Tamil movie "Mughavari".

One day, when both of us were walking towards the road, a film agent caught sight of us. As Viknes used to look very cute and handsome, the agent kept asking us for Viknes to act with the "ultimate star" Ajith Kumar.

He said "Ma'm, we need your son for a school role", and immediately took us to AVM studio in Vadapalani, Chennai. We met the director; he looked at my son, confirmed and said, "Tomorrow will be the shooting. Bring your son". A tailor then came and took the measurement for school uniform.

Next day morning we went to the studio, my son was in school uniform. They took my son to the AVM garden, along with other children who came for the shooting. We had to wait until evening to have the shooting with Ajith Kumar. We were very excited. Finally the shooting happened; I told him that my son can't speak. Ajith Kumar was very much attached to my son. Looking at Viknes, he called him as "Sai" and lifted him. I took some pictures with him. He said to me "Ma'am, please give treatment to Sai".

It was an amazing experience for us and in that age of six years, my son earned 300 rupees. My son created a record in our family where no one could do...



Dealing with Emotional stress and how I coped with it

In the beginning, when I came to know that my son had a problem, I couldn't digest and accept it. After meeting therapists and doctors I got some hope.

As God gave me my little Princess, I hoped that there will be bonding between both of them and she would take care of him. By meeting other special mothers and providing volunteer services at CSE I was mentally and emotionally satisfied.

When I was teaching and training the other children, I found happiness in myself. This happiness dragged me out of stress. I did my B.Ed., (Eng. & Social studies), B.Ed., (SED) MR., and M.SC., (Psychology) while before marriage I had completed M.Com degree.

Now I am working as a Special Educator and "trying to light a lamp on each child's life to whom I am teaching".

Vocational training:

- At present focusing on elementary stage of vocational training.
- Healthy habits
- Right attitudes and
- Desirable values
- Some of the qualities worth inculcating were:
- Good eye- hand coordination
- Systematic and orderly work habits
- Cooperation and sharing.

A new beginning:

My life was hazy, but still happy with Viknes. But my family became complete after having my lovely daughter. And suddenly my life took the fast gear and the next thing I knew, I was with my whole family in Muscat. In 2005 August, I was lucky to join Center for Special Education Indian School Muscat as a volunteer, along with my son who enrolled there as student.



I share with you my attitude:

Because of the lessons I learned raising a child with Autism, I truly believe I'm now happier than I've ever been. In my family, we all love the company of Viknes. We enjoy just being together. We have routine activities (like shopping, cooking, household chores, going to restaurant during weekends) lined up for him and we are happy executing them together with Viknes.

Love makes giving up unthinkable. For me, he is still my child and I am "Autism a strong mom".

- Understand Childs difficulties
- Praise your child
- Be comfortable and be consistent.
- Enjoy your life - don't think God has given you a burden.
- Each one has their own life to enjoy
- Love brings in peace and strengthens our mind and body.
- Laughter reduces stress, smile for reason or without reason



"Smile spreads happiness". I am happy when my child is happy. Seeing a smile on his face is my ultimate goal.



We believe:

All throughout our life we received support at each point - whenever we thought we would not be able to cross the hurdles.

People came into our lives who supported and lifted us up.

In future too – we believe –we will receive such support always.

Conclusion:

After getting a child assessed by a psychologist, we can come to know at what stage/ level the child is.

- Mild
- Moderate
- Severe level

Mild level children can be educated and be employed to lead a normal life with minimal support.

Moderate level children can be trained on functional day-to-day skills to lead their life and can be 50% independent with support.

Severe level children need lifelong support throughout their life span.

Early diagnosis for a child which helps to cross the hurdles through remedial interventions to come up with flying colors in life.

A message I would like to give is that if you are sad, a hug from these children will make an ocean of difference in your life.

I would like to conclude my article conveying to everyone throughout the world that a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder is a living human being with the same longing to be loved as the rest of us. We still face situations where people look at my son differently, but it does not bother us, since we as a family believe Viknes is a blessing in our lives and cannot imagine a life without him.

CBSE begins annual pre-exam psychological counselling

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is providing pre-examination psychological counselling services to students and parents.

The programme, in its 22nd consecutive year is designed as part of the board's outreach programme which caters to the heterogeneous students' and parents' population and vast geographical network of schools.

The psychological counselling will continue up to April 4, to help students overcome exam related anxiety.



TELE-COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR INDIAN SCHOOLS IN OMAN

Principal/Counsellor	School	Timing	Mobile number
Dr Sridevi P Thushnath (Principal)	Indian School Darsait	8am to 10pm	99432243
Rajl Gommen (Principal)	Indian School Ira	12pm to 4pm	94662231
Freshov V (Counsellor)	Indian School Muscat	4pm to 8pm	9581954
Dr Benny Varghese Paduvan (Counsellor)	Indian School Muscat	8am to 10pm	928429
Bobby Devarajan (Counsellor)	Indian School Muscat	12pm to 4pm	93547
Taruja Sharma (Counsellor)	Indian School Muscat	12pm to 8pm	9266
Rincy M Ezhac (Counsellor)	Indian School Muscat	4pm to 8pm	978

CBSE tele-counselling is offered by principals and trained counsellors from within CBSE affiliated schools located in and outside India.

It is a voluntary, free of cost service provided by the participants.

For the first time, a comprehensive audio-visual presentation titled, 'Knowing Children

Better' has been prepared and uploaded on the CBSE website. The various topics deal with real-time experiences and problems of adolescents with suggestive measures as coping strategies.

The viewers can access the option 'counselling' on www.cbse.nic.in.

Another initiative of the CBSE is the 'Question-Answer

Columns', which answer queries weekly columns national monthly.

The 'Section' is a

regularly stocked with

Indian schools see big jump in applications for admission

noon shifts in the Indian Schools from this year. "We are planning to eradicate the afternoon shifts from this year. If numbers require then we can have afternoon shifts in one school" he said.

More than 4,000 students attend school in the afternoon shifts at present.

The numbers account for admission of students from KG 1 to Class IX standards. "The online application portal will again be activated for fresh admissions to all classes from 24 March 2019. Parents need to take a print out of the completed on line application form and approach the school where admission is required."

"Admission will be granted subject to availability of seats. Indian School Bausher will include Class VIII in the new application portal," the Board said.

Due to a large number of parents seeking admission for their chil-



EDUCATION

Women who have strengthened the education system with new ideas, new techniques for learning and holistic approaches.

WHO IS YOUR WOMAN OF THE YEAR?

NOMINATE NOW

Go to www.muscatsdaily.com

FROM A1 Smart classes

"Indian School Bausher believes in nurturing young minds from day one through advanced learning interventions and a hi-tech learning environment," said a school official. "Our smart laboratories are highly personalised to ensure the future readiness of our students, to prepare them for a dynamic world."

He added, "The psychological well-being of our students will be ensured through a systematic development of their cognitive skills."

Muscat gets seventh Indian school



Dr Baby Sam Saamuel (extreme right) receives the scale-model of the school building

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman conducted a formal ceremony to mark the handover of Indian School Bausher - the seventh Indian school in the capital area and the 29th in Oman.

Fatma Nasrini, director general of private schools, Ministry of Education, presided over the func-

Majeed Al Lawatiya, director of International Schools, Ministry of Education, and Rakesh Adalitha, Deputy chief of mission, Embassy of India, were the guests of honour.

Khaled Mansad al Ghazzali, general manager (Investment) of Al Omkariya al Nahdha, handed over a scale-model of the school building to the Board of Directors. The function was attended by

persons of the board, Kiran Asher, Sandeep Arora, Tonny George, Alexander and Wilson V George, members of the Board of Directors, presidents and members of the management, committees, principals, vice principals, assistant vice principals and members of the esteemed business communities in Oman.

"The Indian School Bausher envisions holistic approach to edu-

Indian Schools in Oman and is the realisation of the board's vision that every child of Indian diaspora in Oman be provided with world-class education," said Dr Baby Sam Saamuel, chairman, Board of Directors - Indian Schools in Oman.

The school is equipped with swimming and splash pool, health & wellness centre, world-standard synthetic athletic tracks, cycling track, football ground, basketball court, cricket pitch and kabaddi play area.

The school has one of the best libraries with modern amenities art and music room with finest instruments and exclusive kindergarten classrooms.

The school, under the leadership of Principal Rakesh Singh Tomar, an academican with decades of experience, is ready to take off with full-fledged classes from the beginning of the forthcoming academic year.

The school will initially be a commodating children of Kindergarten to Class VIII and add more

Indian school board allays concerns over fewer seats

M Najmuz Zafar
Muscat

The Board of Directors (BoD) for Indian Schools in Oman has allayed concerns regarding fewer number of seats in the capital area schools for the 2019-20 academic year.

With the online registration for admissions in seven Indian schools in Muscat starting on January 15, many parents voiced concern after the initial number



Each and every applicant will be accepted

Dr Baby Sam Saamuel

shown on record, a total of 211 for all seven schools.

rectified the seats went to 211 for in Mus-

However, the number of seats currently advertised by the board falls short of the prospective candidates waiting to be admitted, specially in KG II and Class I. The seats have dropped this year with the board deciding to dis-

Indian School Board organises 'Ambassador's Polemic Challenge'

in order to give the budding talents of the Indian students a platform to showcase their writing skills. The contest was held on the 15th of January 2019 at the Board of Directors' office in Muscat, Oman.

The contest was held on the 15th of January 2019 at the Board of Directors' office in Muscat, Oman. The contest was held on the 15th of January 2019 at the Board of Directors' office in Muscat, Oman.



Sami Saamuel, chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, presided over the inauguration of the contest. He was accompanied by the Director of Education, Ministry of Education, and other officials.

H.E. Mansoor Al-Jabri, Director of Education, Ministry of Education, presided over the inauguration of the contest. He was accompanied by the Director of Education, Ministry of Education, and other officials.

Fifteen Indian schools across the Sultanate participated in the competition, with each team comprising six members, one representing each member, one representing the school and one representing the institution. The details were adjudicated by the School Management Committee.



INDIAN SCHOOL BOUSHER

latest addition to Indian Schools

