



BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDIAN SCHOOLS OMAN

NEWSLETTER VOLUME II



VISION 2020

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be the largest edition of J...
the annual cultural show...
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their creative talents.
To be held on November...
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Muscat to take part in the sh...
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spectrum and programme...
Indian School Muscat. Twen...
eight events will be held at...
different venues," said Moha...
med Faizi, finance directo...

FROM A1 Counselling is of critical importance

"The Board and our schools are...
this counselling hotline...
which will ensure that at...
time all day, throughout...
relevant help and a listen...
just a call away for ou...

FREE EXTRA CLASSES FOR INDIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS



Earlier, the principals of Indian schools were...
told to stop private tuitions...
to students in the Sultanate...
The move comes just a few...
days after the board's...
pressions of interest be...

ISM teachers take evaluation test

MUSCAT: Teachers setting question papers, invigilating tests and evaluating answer scripts of students are a common sight in any educational institution.
But recently at ISM, it was the teachers who took a test in subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology as part of ASSET - TAT, Assessment of Scholastic Skills through Educational Testing - Teacher Assessment Tool, a test meant to assess teachers on their content knowledge and pedagogical skills, designed and conducted by "Educational Initiatives".
A total of 125 teachers across primary, middle and senior schools took up this online Teacher Evaluation tool at ISM, an educational institution that gives due importance to teacher training.
The September 26 test was for teachers handling students from classes three to nine. Based on the scores obtained by the teachers in these tests, the areas where they need support will be identified and training programmes will be conducted to strengthen those areas.
Questions in pedagogical skills are designed to check the understanding of common pedagogical...

helpline for Indian school students

Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman said, "Our school counsellors have a lot more to offer when it comes to the emotional health of our children. Under this programme, they go the extra mile in supporting the students, reflecting their dedication to their profession and children. The Board and our schools are proud to get this counselling hotline running, which will ensure that at any point of time all day, throughout the year, relevant help and a listening ear is just a call away for our children."
"This is now more critical than ever as children seem to be not able to cope with their surroundings. They are facing a lot of stress, depression and a small section of students may even consider self-harm. Such negative thoughts are more likely when a student feels that nothing will help them."

Children and adolescents with depression experience significant academic and social difficulties. Depressed children are more likely to be withdrawn and derive less enjoyment from their surroundings. They lack motivation and a small section of such students may even consider committing self-harm. Such negative thoughts are more likely when a student feels that nothing will help them.



ISD organises 5th Nikon Inter-school Photography Competition, Exhibition

Indian School Darsait (ISD) organised the 5th Nikon Inter-school Photography Competition, Exhibition and Award Ceremony on Saturday, October 27, 2018, at the school premises. The event was inaugurated by the school principal, Dr. Pradeep P. Thashnath, who delivered an introductory speech and elaborated on the procedures followed in the identification and selection of the entries by an eminent panel of judges and the details of the On the Spot Photography Competition. He recalled the benevolence and magnanimity of Khimji Ramdas in providing the school with advanced DSLR cameras and a beautiful support desk. Khimji announced the top three winners of the 'On the Spot Photography Competition' and presented them DSLR cameras with advanced features by Nikon. Khimji also presented a certificate of appreciation to the school staff for their efforts in organising such an event.

Indian Schools in Oman launch special 24x7 tele-counselling service for students

Indian school students in Oman now have the option to pick up the phone anytime of the day and speak their heart out to a counsellor, relieving themselves of any stress that has been burdening them.
In a move aimed at ensuring a stress-free academic environment, the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman has launched a round-the-clock tele-counselling service for all students and teachers of Indian schools across the sultanate.
The hotline counselling service, developed in response to the rising emotional and psychological challenges prevalent in society, can be availed by students as well. The number to call is 90990444 for tele-counselling 24x7 all year round.



Students can call on 90990444 for tele-counselling 24x7 all year round

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018

OMAN

2,000 students to take part in Indian school cultural fest

MUSCAT: Two-thousand students and 1,000 teachers from 16 Indian schools across Oman will participate in what promises to be the largest edition of Jhankaar, the annual cultural show organised for students to showcase their creative talents.
To be held on November 1, the event will see students from as far as Buraimi and Salalah come to Muscat to take part in the show.
"Jhankaar is a very respected spectrum and programme of Indian School Muscat. Twenty-eight events will be held at 19 different venues," said Mohammed Faizi, finance director of the Board of Directors for Indian Schools in Oman.
"More than 2,000 participants are there, along with 1,000 teachers, so it is a big event for ISM and for all the schools here. A total of 16 schools will be participating in this."
This is the 12th edition of Jhankaar, and will showcase events such as dance, graffiti making, music, miming, stand-up comedy, short movies and ad film-making.



CULTURAL PROGRAMME: The 12th edition of Jhankaar will showcase events such as dance, graffiti making, music, miming, stand-up comedy, short movies and ad film-making.

ESS RELEASES

MUSCAT DAILY | MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

ISM students excel at Oman Cluster Table Tennis Tournament

Indian School Muscat (ISM) students have excelled at the Oman Cluster Table Tennis Tournament held in Muscat. The team, consisting of boys and girls, secured several medals in various categories. The tournament was held at the Oman Club and was attended by students and teachers from various schools across Oman. The ISM team was led by their school coaches and performed exceptionally well throughout the competition. The school principal, Dr. Pradeep P. Thashnath, congratulated the team for their hard work and dedication. The tournament was a great success for ISM and showcased the school's commitment to sports and extracurricular activities.



ISM students excel at Oman Cluster Table Tennis Tournament



Congratulations to His Majesty **Sultan Qaboos Bin Said**
& the people of Oman on the occasion of **48th National Day**



Chairman's Message

Dear All,

We are pleased to release the second edition of the Board newsletter. We believe we are joint stakeholders & caretakers of our children; this newsletter is therefore an attempt to connect, to apprise and to express our commitment in actions.

Every Indian School in Oman was founded to meet one primary objective – of assuring our Indian community access to affordable, high quality education as per approved Indian syllabus. Now we have grown to 20 Indian Schools spread across the Sultanate catering to a diverse regions of Oman and diverse communities of India. In fact, some of our schools are also alma maters to children from other nationalities.

Over these years our objectives & scope too have grown. After having steadily grown in existence and experience the next milestone for our schools is to guarantee the holistic development of every child who enters our grounds. In the past edition, we had expressed our overarching vision for the schools & the system. Our ultimate aim, as captured by our Vision 2020 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.

This is not a fantastical or an irrelevant goal. In the current global atmosphere of rapid changes in the way we learn, the way we work and the way we live, our children, in order to find themselves still competent decades after they leave their schooling, need a strong foundation that is built not just on academics but also on the implementation of the academics. Most of all, we need to impart the love for learning, the competency for self-learning and the drive for life-long learning.

While our aims may sound idealistic, our approach is realistic, with practical solutions that are multi-pronged. The concept of holistic education underscores the necessity of all-round development of a child – academic, physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological. Academic competence comes not just from the grasp of subjects but from the application of these knowledge in social, societal settings. We have in the recent months brought to life many initiatives that together supports the academic, physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological needs of our children. Several more are in the various stages of implementations.

The past newsletter explained about two such initiatives, Gift a Book scheme – that promotes the reuse of text books & YCIS – a voluntary platform that promotes the values of community service and self-less giving. This edition highlights many more activities implemented, of which the most important is the introduction of 24 x 7 x 365 tele-counseling services.

According to the last data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2015, statistics showed that every hour, one student commits suicide in India. In this journey towards wholesome education, we recognize the impact and necessity of counsellors and special educators as mentors & pillars of strength for our children. While school teachers offer academic knowledge and expertise, it is the student counsellors and special educators who can offer insights into the psyche of the child. Within our school system, these specially trained resources are already the first responders to all kinds of mental, psychological, physical and other issues that concern our children. Apart from offering guidance, they play a critical role in building self-concept, self-image, acceptability, ability to withstand pressures, sense of enterprise, and sportsmanship among our children. And they can do so much more. The recently introduced 24-7 tele-counseling service is but one example of the way our dedicated resources can add more value to our children.

Abraham Harold Maslow, the famous American psychologist said, "Our life is about becoming more and more what one is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming." In simple terms, "What a man can be, he must be." Together, let us build a school system which inspires & teaches our children to achieve their full potential.

With thanks,
Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel
Chairman



Educational Advisor Message

Dear All,

The Newsletter-VISION 2020, one of the new initiatives of the Board became a reality with the release of its very first edition in the month of August 2018. The response received from various sections of stakeholders was overwhelming! I am sure, the second edition will be embraced by one and all.

The second volume of VISION-2020 covers an overview of activities carried out in all twenty Indian Schools across the Sultanate, right from August to October 2018. Besides CBSE –Oman Cluster Sports events, there have been a lot of other activities held in the Schools. The main focus of education in Indian Schools in Oman is on the holistic development of every single student studying in these schools and therefore, equal emphasis has also been placed on extra- curricular activities along with academic activities. Each school strives it's best to organize various activities to meet this goal. Moreover, there are a lot of inter-school activities organized every year. The Board, the apex body of the Indian Schools in Oman, strongly feels that there could be a few inter-school events organized with collaborative efforts of various schools, which in turn will strengthen the bonding among them and also create a feeling of oneness. One such event was recently held at Indian School Maabela, the AVENIR-2018 was a huge success and received much accolades from every stakeholder for the magnificent way it was organized and also for the benefit gained by the participants. The success of AVENIR is the result of joint efforts.

The place of a teacher in the heart of children is very next to their parent and school is like second home for them. Like parents, teachers also know what kind of support children require from them. A true teacher would go to any extend to support

her/his students when they are in need! The recently started "Enrichment Classes" in various schools is just an example for this commitment, which will certainly make a big change in the lives of many. My big salute to all those teachers who are involved in conducting the extended classes.

I sign off with sincere thanks to all the readers and wishing everyone happy reading!

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

Statistics at a glance



VISION 2020

As highlighted in our previous newsletter Vol I-2018, the Board of Directors has charted a course for the term 2018-2020, keeping a simultaneous focus on the Academic, Extra-Curricular, Psychological/emotional development and Physical Development of our children, in a bid to achieve holistic education. This also means that every process and stakeholder who influences this outcome, like teachers, counselors, other resources, needs to be strengthened and enhanced. The ultimate aim of the Board and the schools at large is to ensure that every child from the Indian schools undergoes transformative learning and be equipped with the knowledge, skills and well-being to realize his/her identity and purpose in life.

Two major initiatives already implemented in this endeavor and covered in our previous newsletter were "Gift a Book, Help the Needy, Save the Environment" and "Young Communitarian of Indian Schools (YCIS)"

In the recent months, we have been able to kick-start and launch a few more initiatives which are described below.

Vision 2020 - New Initiatives



'Avenir 2018 – Be Future Ready' is an educational and career guidance programme organized under the auspices of the Board of Directors on 25th & 26th of October 2018. Avenir 2018. The event, aimed as a career guidance programme for providing students and their parents of the Indian diaspora the vistas of various prospective courses and career opportunities, was inaugurated on Friday, 26th October 2018 by Dr. Hassan Kashoob, Vice Chancellor of Dhofar University at Indian School Al Maabela (ISAM).

The major attraction of the event was the presence of Mr. Shiv Khera, the motivational speaker and renowned author of 15 books, including the international bestseller 'You Can Win' which has sold over 3.7 million copies in 21 languages. Mr. Khera, the founder of Qualified Learning Systems, delivered the keynote address which emphasized the transformations required in the attitude, approach and behavior in order to cultivate the emotional and cross-functional skills needed to survive in a rapidly changing world.

The first day's program included a key note address by Dr. Kiran G.R., Dean of Middle East College and culminated with a panel discussion on 'Imperatives of Digitalization', where His Excellency Shri Munu Mahawar, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman presided as the Chief Guest. The panelists consisted of industry experts from diverse domains

and included names such as – Sheikh Talal Said Marhoon Al Mamari (CEO, Omantel), Mr. Tariq Hilal Al Barwani (Founder, Knowledge Oman), Dr. Saleh Mohamed Al Khusaiby (Dean, College of Medicine and Health Science), Dr. Yasmin Al Balushi (Dean, Muscat College), Eng. Mohiuddin Mohamad Ali (Vice Chairman, Galfar), Mr. Faizal Mohammed Eledath (Chief Transformation Officer, NBO) and Ms Mohana Prabhakar (CEO & MD, Apex Press & Publishing). The panel discussion was moderated by Mrs. Papri Ghosh, Principal of Indian School Al Ghubra and touched upon the critical importance of keeping pace with digitalization in order to excel.

The event also had an array of sixteen career talks delivered by eminent professionals from different domains. The career talks focused on 21st century skills set, career opportunities, challenges and insights for future generation.



Academic Cell

For the ease and efficiency of our operations, the BOD has formed several sub-committees. One of the most important of these is the Academic Sub-Committee. Until this year, the academic initiatives of each school were developed and implemented individually by the schools themselves. In an effort to avoid reinventing the wheel, the BOD has taken it upon itself to bring about collaborated efforts across the schools in Oman such that the good practices at one school can be harmonised and emulated across all.

The Academic Cell consists of competent and experienced teachers who will be executing the initiatives of the Academic sub-committee. Some of the roles of the cell include preparation of common question paper, training of teachers, carrying out tasks envisaged by the academic committee of the board etc.

Common question paper for the second pre-board examinations of Classes X & XII was implemented last year. In addition to the above, the final examinations of IX & XI will also be made common from this academic year.

Academic Advisory Council

Academic Advisory Council has been formed to guide, assist & facilitate the Academic Sub-Committee of the Indian School BOD in our Academic development initiatives. The Advisory Council for the Academic Sub-Committee, Board of Directors comprises of a broad cross section of members of the external community, including industry experts, academic experts and other thought leaders and entrepreneurs and is designed to provide strategic guidance to the leadership of the Indian Schools in Oman, with respect to the academic initiatives taken up by the Board & the schools and bridge the gap between academia and the industry.

The roles & responsibilities of the Academic Advisory Council include:

Idea Generation

To act as a think tank for the generation of ideas and initiatives that will focus on the overall strengthening of the academic sector within the Indian Schools in Oman & bridge the gap between academia & industry.

Skill Identification

To provide Industry specific & Academic specific insights and suggestions to prepare students with the 21st century skillset and competence required for higher education & employment worldwide.

Academia Insights

To apprise the Academic Sub-committee/BoD of the developments and best practices in pedagogy, learning methodologies, technologies etc. in the global education systems and suggest practical measures to adapt and implement these within our system.

Industry Insights

To apprise the Academic Sub-committee/ BoD of the developments, challenges and best practices in the major global industry sectors and suggest measures to enhance the academic preparedness to meet these.

Counseling Service 24x7x365

The Board of Directors – Indian Schools in Oman launched a round-the-clock tele-counseling named “Here4U”, exclusively for the students of all 20 Indian Schools across the Sultanate. The primary aim of this initiative is to ensure a stress-free academic environment for our wards. The hotline counselling service, developed in response to the rising emotional and psychological challenges prevalent in society, reflects the Board’s focus on ensuring the dignity and diversity of all students.



Children and adolescents with depression experience significant academic and social difficulties. Depressed children are more likely to be withdrawn and derive less enjoyment from their surroundings. They lack motivation and a small section of such students may even consider committing self-harm. The initiative strives to offer free and confidential support to students in despair due to personal or academic concerns. It also aims to meet the unique needs of each student irrespective of age, gender, socio-economic status or culture. Parents can also have access to the line, but only in relation to the problems of their wards studying in Indian Schools.

A team of qualified counsellors with expertise in tele-counselling has already counseled a number of cases through the hotline number 90990444 that was launched on August 15, 2018.

Counseling Manual

Recognizing the critical roles played by counselors & special educators in addressing the unique and diverse challenges faced by children, the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman, on 01st September 2018, launched a Counselling and Special Education Manual which deals with the roles and responsibilities of Counsellors and Special Educators in the holistic development of students in Indian Schools. The inauguration took place at a special launch event attended by the Board Members, Presidents of School Management Committees and Principals of various schools where the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel presented the first copy of the Manual to Mr. P. Prabhakaran, Principal, Indian School Al Maabela.

The manual is founded on the concept of holistic education which underscores the necessity of all-round development of a child – academic, physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological. Academic competence comes not just from the grasp of subjects but from the application of knowledge in social, societal settings. The manual follows the Indian and international laws pertaining to the counselling and special education function. It outlines the best practices related to all the aspects of the functioning of a counselor and special educator. The document touches upon the operational procedures; the need for continual training; the relationship of counselors & special educators with their student/counselee and other stakeholders etc. It also sheds light on the administrative aspects such as job description, recruitment criteria, day to day functions, infrastructural requirement, reporting and referral procedures. The manual also features all the standardized forms to be used in the counselling and special education function such as documentation, referral forms, in-take interview forms, feedback forms, identification checklists and a list of service referral resources. A provision for periodic revision is also featured in it.

Blood Donation Drives

The Board of Directors of the Indian Schools in Oman has been initiating a number of initiatives which caters to the all-round development of students in Indian Schools. In this regard, to teach and practice humanitarian service, and to support the healthcare needs of the people of Oman, blood donation camps were held on the campuses of all the Indian Schools across the Sultanate between 15th August and 18th November, the dates signifying the nationally important days of India and Oman respectively.

The campaign kicked off at Indian Schools Muladha, Nizwa, Khasab, Saham, Ibri, Sur and Salalah who held their blood donation camp on the 15th of August, the 72nd Independence Day of India. In the subsequent months, camps have also been held at Indian Schools Buraimi, Rustaq and Seeb.



Murals & Graffiti

It is always a matter of remembrance in the years to come if students are provided with an opportunity to leave their indelible imprints on the walls of their Alma mater. This activity will not only add greater value to the aesthetic environment of school infrastructure but also will provide children with artistic talents an opportunity to derive immense satisfaction by letting them draw on the designated walls of the school or its compound. With this objective in mind, Board of Directors urged school administrators to identify suitable area in the school premises where artistically talented children could paint and leave their imprints on it with their signature.

In response to this initiative, Indian School Muscat, Indian School Ibra, Indian School Muladha, Indian School Buraimi, Indian School Ibri, Indian School Khasab and Indian School Seeb have already implemented this on their campus with a graffiti project by the Fine Arts Department. The walls of the school ground underwent an incredible metamorphosis into a panorama of artistic expression overnight. The graffiti involves themes that showcase the culture and heritage of Oman, picturesque landscapes and abstract ideas.



Latest on YCIS



The movement of Young Communitarian of Indian School (YCIS) has received tremendous response from the student fraternity, with a number of students joining this initiative from each school. This response shows the keenness on the part of Indian School students to be socially and environmentally oriented human beings who wish to serve the needy through sheer compassion and empathy.

As a first project under the newly inaugurated YCIS project, the students have taken up the timely and immediate cause of rehabilitation of flood-affected schools, following the disaster caused by the recent floods in Kerala.

Upcoming Initiatives

STAI

A two-day inter-school event on Science, Technology and Innovation will be held soon, at Indian School Muscat with the tagline "Dream-Create-Inspire". It is aimed to provide a platform for showcasing the talents of young minds in multifaceted fields of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Video lessons

Selected classroom sessions and subject components shall be video graphed and be made available to all students for reinforcement of learning. In the first phase, the lessons for classes 10 & 12 will be considered. The focus shall be on difficult subjects like Math, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Accountancy, etc.

Al Ta'ayush Al-Silmi – Bonding Beyond Boundaries

'Al Ta'ayush Al Silmi', the Arabic word explicitly signifies the harmonious co-existence of the distinct and diverse cultural communities in the Sultanate of Oman. The blending and unifying of the vibrant cultures and communities that co-exist in harmonious peace in this resplendent nation are likened to the hues of a rainbow that merge to create a vibrant display of colours – each unique to itself.

The Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman take this distinctive opportunity on the occasion of the Glorious National Day of Oman, to bring together the representatives of varied nationalities dwelling in Oman to share a platform, to display features of their cultures that are unique and singular only to each. The Ministry of Education in the Sultanate of Oman, attributes great importance and value to imparting education to its young minds with a view to establishing their robust presence in the present as well as the global future.

Learning Management System (LMS)

Further to the e-learning initiatives already in place, in order to facilitate the pedagogy & decrease the burden on teachers, a learning management system (LMS) shall be implemented across the schools. These systems will aid in collaborative lesson plan & content development, and also in its implementation and administration. They also offer solutions for hosting several learning contents in a safe, traceable, reusable, interactive multimedia with separate access to teachers and students.

School Initiatives

Happy Saturday at Indian School Al Buraimi

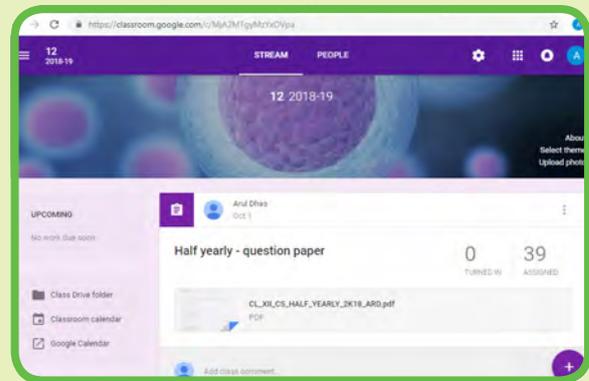
Indian School Al Buraimi introduces a new initiative named HAPPY SATURDAY. Students of selected classes will come to school on certain Saturdays and take part in various fun activities in the school premises, under the guidance of teachers for two hours.

These include free style dance (where music is played & the students get to make their own dance moves), fun games (musical chair, ball in the basket, etc.), and fun activities (paper flights, wooden dominoes etc.). This has been introduced not only to bring about a change in the learning environment but also to enable students to find their school environment warm, friendly & fun.

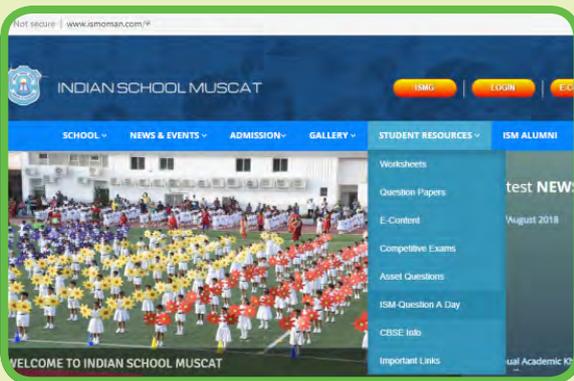


Google Classrooms at Indian School Ghubra

Indian School Ghubra has introduced GOOGLE CLASSROOMS for its Grade 12 computer science students. Google Classroom is a free web service for schools, non-profits, and anyone with a personal Google Account which makes it easy for learners and instructors to connect—inside and outside of school. This application was introduced to reduce the photocopying of worksheets, assignments, circulars, papers of the previous years etc. It contains no advertisements and most importantly, it does not use student data for advertising purposes.



Question A Day by Indian School Muscat



Indian School Muscat launched "ISM - Question a Day" on August 9, 2018. Every day, from Sunday through Thursday, a question each from various fields such as English, GK, Science and Maths is being posted on the school website www.ismoman.com to hone the students' thinking skills, General Knowledge, Vocabulary, Mental Maths and Scientific temper. These questions are specifically designed by the teachers to improve understanding and logical skills of the students.

Model United Nation Conference-2018 at Indian School Muscat

Indian School Muscat Model United Nation Conference-2018 (ISM-MUN) held on 9th and 10th August 2018 witnessed more than 400 delegates, 28 dais members, 23 topics and 13 committees. Secretary General, Ananya Venkatesan inaugurated the opening ceremony. The Chief Guest of the occasion, Principal Dr. Rajeev Kumar Chauhan encouraged the youth to strive to establish world peace. During the two days-long conference, organised by the Department of Social Science, Senior Section and the delegates showcased their skills in diplomacy and negotiation. Mr. Vikram Singh Yadhuvasni-HoD Social Science coordinated the conference.



'We Care' by Indian School Muscat



On the 72nd Independence Day celebrations held on 15th August, 2018, Indian School Muscat opened a new chapter in its history by inaugurating 'We Care' – an Indian School Muscat initiative for the care, safety and protection of children through one-on-one interaction with students. The Standard Operating Procedure Manual for this unique initiative, 'We Care' was jointly released by the Chief Guest, Mr. Rakesh Adhlakha and Mr. Ajay Kummer J, the President of the School Management Committee.

Free Medical Camp at Indian School Thumrait

A free medical camp was organized at Indian School Thumrait on 19th September 2018. The initiative was taken up by Al Zahir Medical Centre, Thumrait. A team of three doctors, Dr Nizar Abdul Hameed (Medical Director), Dr Sayed Mohammed Nabeel (Dental Surgeon), Dr Lalita (Optometrist) conducted the check-up assisted by Mrs Ranjini (Nurse), Mr Ashraf (Marketing Manager) and Mr Biju (Thumrait Branch Manager). Apart from the doctors, teachers also accompanied them. The camp included Dental Check-up and Eye Check-up. Almost all the students of the school availed the services.



Science & Maths Exhibition at Indian School Jalan

Indian School Jalan organized 'Eureka Fest 2018', a Science and Maths Exhibition on Tuesday, 28th August 2018. Students from middle and secondary level participated in the exhibition with great scientific temperament and exhibited their knowledge about the topics 'Innovative Ways of Producing Electricity', 'Mathematics for a Sustainable World' and 'Biotechnology or Nanotechnology in Medical Field'.



Launch of Parent Portal at Indian School Salalah



The school witnessed the launch of Parent portal (a part of the school ERP system) during the Teachers' Day celebration on 05 September 2018. The Parent Portal provides a way for parents to observe their wards sitting at home. This access also allows parents to keep track of the children in school, be it their attendance, assignments, assessment marks.

Donuts with Dads at Indian School Sur

A novel event titled Donuts with Dads was held for the students of KG-II during the first week of October 2018, with the aim of developing a strong bond between the students and their dads. The programme received tremendous appreciation from the parents.



Director's Corner



I am extremely happy that BoD brings out the second edition of the quarterly newsletter, "VISION-2020" which will definitely help to showcase the activities that are initiated by board. It is my great pleasure to serve the Indian schools in Oman and to be a part of a committed team, who has stepped up to assume the responsibility of achieving the vision and mission of board. We firmly believe that quality is never an accident, but the result of intelligent move towards the right direction, sincere efforts and skillful execution. We have lots of new initiatives lined up this year for all round development of our children.

Education must focus the child as a whole - which means, the pedagogy caters to the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development. The growth and development of any country depends on the quality of education system set for young ones in the schools and colleges. We believe that an outstanding education will open many doors of opportunities for our children. It shapes their character, moulds mental attitudes and builds the foundations for the basic principles of life. Our focus is to uplift our students as global citizens with tolerance, respect and appreciation of diverse cultures with a life-long committed learning attitude. They should be self-motivated, independent, and confident decision makers and be ready to take up a leadership roles in future.

The way we lived our childhood is not available anymore and is continuously transforming. Today our lives are completely entangled with technology in nearly all aspects of it. As technology has become increasingly central to all aspects of modern life, schools have to put more focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects. Educational field is also undergoing drastic changes because of different factors such as emerging technology innovations, student mobility,

Artificial Intelligence, predictive analytics, virtual class rooms etc. Uses of innovative technology in education can open doors to better learning experiences, discoveries, and new ways of learning and collaborating. Technology has the potential to enhance relationships between teachers and students. We are working together to provide all students with high-quality learning options, regardless of where they live or which school they attend. Technology can actually be a major tool, both in terms of pedagogical resources and in terms of connecting with the younger generations in meaningful ways.

And last, but not the least, I would like to express my admiration and gratitude for the conscientious efforts put forth by our respected principals, teachers and other staff of Indian schools in Oman. I also take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support without which the schools cannot function to its best.

Let the Almighty bless us all and guide us to succeed in our mission.

Sirajudeen Nhelat

Member – Board of Directors

Director-in-Charge: Indians School Darsait,
Muladha, Ibra, Khasab, Buraimi, Saham

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today"

~Malcolm X

Director's Corner



My greetings to all the stakeholders of Indian Schools in Oman.

I am grateful for this opportunity to share some of my views and concerns with you.

Over the centuries developments in science and technology have been improving quality of human life but the changes seen in the 21st century have drastically shaken and altered the equation. A large number of jobs and professions have disappeared. Today we spend time with friends mainly in cyberspace. Knowledge and instruction are widely available online and in the coming future we may send our children to school primarily to develop social and communication skills rather than gain knowledge. Gender roles have changed and institutions like marriage and family are transforming. Artificial intelligence is now recognised as a new life form rapidly replacing human skills. It is not too distant away when death will be a matter of choice and not an inevitability. It is a tectonic shift in the paradigms on which human life has been based.

As educators preparing the future generations to face these changes, are we really cognizant of the way forward? Our responsibility is by no means limited to delivering the CBSE curriculum only. The Board has been working hard to provide excellent solutions and education but it is important for all stakeholders to envision and assess the type of life these children will encounter after 20 years and then ask ourselves what we can do to make them capable of surviving and flourishing in the changed environment. This will need fundamental discussions and increased understanding among all concerned.

Around the world as well as in Oman, the Indian community has the added responsibility of ensuring

equal opportunities for differently-abled children. Every child is unique, with different personality, behaviour, emotional needs and intellectual development. It is our social responsibility to ensure that each child is given due care and has access to quality tools to ensure that they achieve a higher level of personal self-sufficiency and have the opportunity to lead a good and honourable life.

The Board has kept this in view and initiated many changes and events to facilitate holistic learning. We can grow tall and strong if our roots are balanced and deep. Good administrative processes, updating training and skills of our educators, team work, focus and determination will ensure that we will succeed. Our unique composition as community schools requires that all stakeholders not only do their part well but also with dedication.

May this journey be happy and successful.

Asawari Deoras

Member – Board of Directors
Director-in-charge IS Sohar, IS Muladha, IS Saham, CSE

“Education is not preparation for life;

education is life itself”

~John Dewey

Resource Development Initiatives

Indian School Ghubra teachers attended Skill Development work on Python & RaspberryPi



Teachers from Indian School Ghubra attended the Skill Camp at Faridabad on Python programming language and Raspberry Pi computer. Python is a wonderful and powerful programming language that is easy to read and write and with Raspberry Pi we can connect our project to the real world. Python is a versatile and relatively easy to learn programming language.

Indian School Darsait conducted Faculty Development Programme (FDP)

ISD conducted FDP on 'Early intervention, Study Skills and Multiple Intelligence in Selecting a Career' by Mrs Gayatri Narasimhan, Special Educator, ISD and 'Body Intelligence' by Mrs. T.S.Nagaarathi Counsellor and Therapist, ISD was held on 1st & 2nd Aug 2018 at our Senior School Auditorium.



Indian School Seeb conducted Faculty Development Programme (FDP)



Indian School AI Seeb conducted workshops for faculty and administrators. On 02nd August 2018, a workshop titled "how to be an excellent teacher" was conducted by Mrs. Leena Francis for the benefit of all teachers. On 4th August 2018 another workshop for administrators was conducted by Dr. Amsa Parambil on "how to provide negative feedback effectively to the faculties" and "how to provide effective feedback to the parents on their ward's academic performance".

Speech Craft Workshop 2018

Speech Craft Workshop 2018 was held at Indian School Darsait in September 2018, organized by the Board of Directors, jointly with the Oman Toastmasters Fraternity, for the Teaching Faculty of Indian Schools in Oman, to hone their communication and leadership skills. 45 Teachers of various Indian Schools on Oman, along with 30 members from the Oman Toastmasters Fraternity, headed by the Program Quality Director of District 105, DTM Robin Anand and the pioneer of the Speech Craft Workshop 2018, DTM Sunil Sadasivan, actively participated in this interactive workshop and explored the arena of Public Speaking. Speech Craft Workshop 2018 successfully catered to

enhance the quality of communication in teachers. It helped to improve the existing Gavel Clubs in Indian Schools and inspired to build more Gavel Clubs to establish mutual Teacher-Student learning to uphold their confidence in Public Speaking.



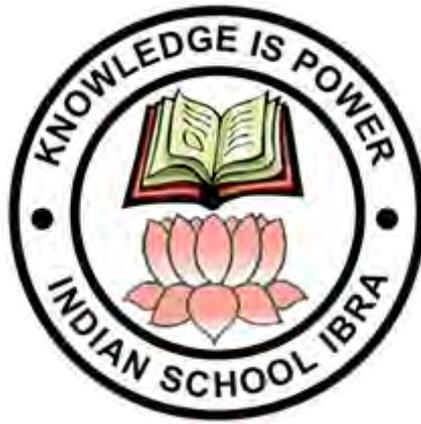
Infrastructural Developments





Indian School Al Maabela (Multipurpose Hall and additional classrooms)





Indian School Ibra (New School building)





Indian School Al Seeb (New Multi Purpose Hall and classrooms)





Indian School Muladha (New classrooms)





Indian School Ibri (New classrooms & Laboratories)



NEWS CORNER

ICAI Muscat Chapter Awards CBSE Commerce Toppers

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) – Muscat Chapter felicitated the students of Indian Schools who secured the top three positions in the Commerce stream in the CBSE Class XII examinations held early this year, at a ceremonious function held at Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir on 27 September 2018.

The recipients of the prestigious ICAI Muscat Chapter Award 2018 are Jobin Jacob (ISWK - 96.4%), Arya Sudheer & Suhana Mohammed (ISWK – 95.6%), Shravani G (ISM – 95.6%) and Praneel Malloli Meethal (ISWK – 95.2%). The Award consisted of a Certificate of Appreciation, memento and cash prize.

Mr. Alkesh Joshi, Director of the Indian School Board presided as the Chief Guest of the event and Mr. Bhavani Prasad, Chairman, ICAI Muscat Chapter, was the Guest of Honour. Members of the Indian School Board, Members of ICAI Management Committee, Principals, Teachers, students aspiring to pursue Chartered Accountancy as their career and their parents attended the function, which was organized under the auspices of the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman.

Representing the ICAI, CA Sajeev Surendran expatiated the course content of CA with its different levels. Jignesh Parekh, Jay Thanki, Rakshita Kalasagar and Srivalli Valeveti, ex-students of Indian Schools who completed CA in the last two years shared their success stories with the parents and students who were present on the occasion. Queries posed by the parents were answered by the ICAI Executive Committee.



Dr. Shiv Khera Keynote Speech at Avenir 2018

Mr. Shiv Khera, founder of Qualified Learning Systems USA, addressed teachers and students of Indian Schools in Oman in a special key note session on Saturday, 27 October 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Indian School Al Maabela. Mr. Shiv Khera is a renowned author of fifteen books including the international bestseller 'You Can Win' which has sold over 3.7 million copies in 21 languages. Tens of thousands of people have benefitted from his dynamic workshops held internationally in over 20 countries and millions have heard him as a Keynote speaker. He has appeared on numerous radio and television shows. Mr. Khera is the brand ambassador of Round Table Foundation. He has been recognized and honoured by various international organizations.

Second Phase of Leadership Training Programme for Indian School students by Majan College

As part of its CSR, Majan University College has initiated the Majan Youth Development Programme aimed at enabling the youth to identify and discover their true potential and developing leadership skills, primarily problem solving, team building, and communication. The programme, second of its kind, was held on Monday, 29th October 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Majan college. Thirty students from Indian Schools Ibri, Muladha, Nizwa, Sohar, Ibra and Salalah. Five students from each of these schools accompanied by a teacher attended the programme and their response was overwhelmingly impressive.

Dr. Tahseen Arshi and Dr. Tulika Mishra conducted sessions on topics such as 'Unlock your Leadership Potential', 'Solving Problems through Creative Thinking', 'The Art and Science of Team Building', 'The Language of Leadership' and 'Poetry Reinvented'. The sessions provided students with a deep awareness about their own leadership potential and style. They also learnt how to solve problems through creative thinking, apply emotional intelligence in designing and building teams. Students were also exposed to online psychometric testing and discussion in the Chromelab. Various activities such as quiz, forums, brain storming and collage making carried out in the Chromelab were highly appreciated by the students who attended the programme.



5th Inter School Nikon Photography Competition & Exhibition

Indian School Darsait (ISD) organised the Nikon Inter-school Photography Competition and Exhibition on October 4 at its premises. This year the event was conducted under the aegis of Board of Directors, Indian schools in Oman and supported by Khimji Ramdas & Lifestyle, the distributor of Nikon in Oman. Anil Khimji, director, Khimji Ramdas, has been supporting the event from the beginning and will offer Nikon cameras as first three prizes and ten consolation prizes this year. Nearly 500 students participated in the event.



Major Events In Indian Schools

Indian School Muscat



Professional Development Workshop for Teachers



ISM Honours Academically Meritorious Students



Independence Day

Indian School Al Wadi Kabir



Mother's Day



Good Manners Day



Science Festival

Indian School Darsait



Faculty Development Program



Cricket Net-Practice Facility



YCIS (Young Communitarian of Indian Schools) Inauguration

Indian School Al Ghubra



Independence Day Celebration



Teachers' Day Celebration



150th Birthday Celebration
of Mahatma Gandhiji

Indian School Al Maabela



English Fiesta



Inauguration - Avenir 2018



Kerala Piravi Celebration

Indian School Al Seeb



Fancy Dress Competition



Grandparents Day



Study of Plant Density
and Frequency

Indian School Muladha



Blood Donation Camp



Ozone Protection Day



KG Fest

Indian School Sohar



Industrial Visit



Rashtriya Ekta Diwas



UN Day Celebration

Indian School Sur



Educational Trip by Students



Teachers' Day Celebration



Science Week Celebration

Indian School Ibra



Teachers' Day Celebration



Independence Day Celebration



World Environment Day

Indian School Salalah



Blood Donation Camp



CCA Fest



Teachers' Day Celebration

Indian School Rustaq



Art Competition



Independence Day



Teachers Day

Indian School Nizwa



Arts Festival



Parents Day



Science Exhibition

Indian School Buraimi



Onam – Eid celebration



Investiture Ceremony



Medical Camp

Indian School Khasab



Teachers' Day Celebration



Blood Donation camp

Indian School Ibri



Independence Day Celebration



Blood Donation Camp



Debate Competition

Indian School Jalan



Professional Development Workshop for Teachers



ISM Honours Academically Meritorious Students



Independence Day

Indian School Masirah



Drawing Competition



Gandhi Jayanti Celebration



Independence Day Celebration

Indian School Thumrait



Hindi Divas Celebration



Teachers' Day Celebration



Gandhi Jayanti Celebration

Indian School Saham



Independence Day Celebration



World Literacy Day Celebration



150th Birthday Celebration of Mahatma Gandhiji

Congratulations



Mr. Rakesh S Tomar

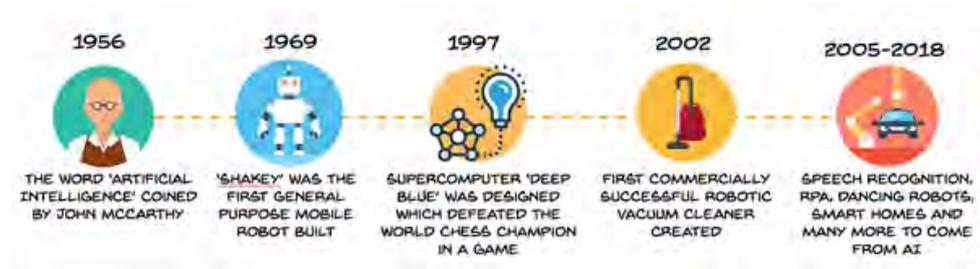
Mr. Rakesh S. Tomar has joined Indian Al Awabi as its Founder principal starting 1st October, 2018. He has held senior positions in many international and national schools of repute in the last 11 years including 2 years as an IB school Principal, One year as IGCSE school Principal with more than 50+ nationalities and 3 Years as CBSE International Curriculum School Principal. With over 23 years of mentoring and learning.

Artificial Intelligence: The future marvel

Dr. Reshmy Krishnan
Associate Professor, Muscat College, Sultanate of Oman

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a term we are hearing quite often nowadays. But what does it mean, in a practical, day-to-day sense? In the simplest of terms, Artificial Intelligence is when machines, especially computer systems, mimic human intelligence. AI allows smart machines to carry out human capabilities and activities by sensing, comprehending, acting and learning—thereby allowing people to achieve much more than what they already do.

AI is not a single technology. It is a wide range of technologies that include natural language-processing, intelligence-agents, computer-vision, machine-learning, expert systems, autonomous cars, chat-bots and voice recognition. At its core, these processes include learning (the acquisition of information and rules for using the information), reasoning (using the rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions) and self-correction.



Although the term Artificial Intelligence was coined in 1956, by an American computer scientist, John McCarthy, it is now in the past decade or two that the phrase has become ubiquitous. Advancements in computing, low-cost cloud services, new algorithms, data analytics and other technologies are now allowing AI to flourish.

Artificial Intelligence is slowly becoming an important part of our daily life as these technologies are gaining rapid use in a wide area of day-to-day services. It has the potential to transform & disrupt existing processes and life as we know it because it reduces the need for human effort. When AI technologies are integrated, they can take on a highly adaptable business capability.

Advantages

• Safety

One of the biggest advantages of artificial intelligence is that it can be employed to carry out tasks that would be dangerous for humans. From mining operations to disaster relief to pollution control, to nuclear industry, the implementation of AI offers humans enhanced efficiency at lower risk to people. Advances in unmanned explorations to deep sea and deep space shall depend on artificial intelligence.

• Efficiency & Consistency

Another advantage it offers is in enhanced efficiency. This is pertinent in the case of repetitive jobs that are monotonous in nature. As they are not limited by human concerns such as emotions, fatigue, time etc. they can produce consistent performance over extended periods of time, without significant downtime. Machines not only process faster than humans, but they can also be put to multi-tasking. They Moreover, their parameters, unlike that of humans, can be adjusted; their speed and time are only calculation-based parameters.

• Error reduction

One way AI can make life more convenient is through the elimination of mistakes and errors in tasks. A simple example of this is scheduling tasks and meetings. AI can bring about error reduction and better the chances of accuracy with a greater degree of precision. The complete absence of the emotional side makes the robots think logically and take decisions based on the right program.

- **New Job Creation**

According to the previous US Presidential administration, as many as 47 percent of jobs are going to be replaced by artificial intelligence. While this may sound counterintuitive to job creation, this can open up new fields and opportunities to humans where human intervention and skills are essential.

Few Applications of AI

- **Daily Applications**

Computed methods for automated reasoning, learning and perception have become a common phenomenon in our everyday lives. In utilities, we find that they can predict what we are going to type and correct the human errors in spellings; this is known as auto-correct, which is a function of AI. When we take a picture, the artificial intelligence-algorithm identifies and detects the person's face and tags the individuals when we are posting our photographs on a social media; this is auto-tag, which is also a function of AI. In these ways we can see AI at work. When we humans play a computer game or run a computer-controlled robot, we are actually interacting with artificial intelligence. Facebook's Facial Recognition, Apple's Siri, Amazon's Alexa are other examples of how we use artificial intelligence in our daily life.

- **Digital & operational Assistants**

Organizations use 'avatars' which are replicas or digital assistants who can actually interact with the users, thus avoiding the need of human resources. The more AI is used in research, the faster it will learn to find patterns and results for many of the questions that the world is formulating.

- **Manufacturing & Service Sector**

Major companies across the world are incorporating machine-learning based approaches into their operational processes. Manufacturing sector can utilize AI to automate manufacturing processes, effect 24/7 operation, implement machine-vision tools to find microscopic defects in products, enable predictive maintenance etc. These can save businesses valuable time and resources, including labor costs, while guaranteeing optimal manufacturing performance. Service sector uses AI technology to handle numerous activities like financial operations, customer relationship management, and much more.

- **HealthcWare**

Across healthcare sector, there are a number of applications in which AI is used that gives incredible value. In medical science AI is used to create virtual personal-healthcare assistants to give customer WWsupport. Healthcare Bots are used for scheduling appointments in hospitals, for providing 24/7 assistance, or analyzing health patterns.

AI technology brings a huge change to medical science where we find wide-ranged usage of AI. Doctors can assess the patients and their health risks with the help of artificial machine-intelligence. From aid in diagnosis to elucidation of treatment protocol, AI offers various levels of support. It can also educate doctors about the side effects of various medicines. They are also used for research and analytics and for monitoring data & predicting epidemics.

- **Transport & Logistics**

Self-driving cars are already in various stages of implementation across the world. According to the Association for Safe International Travel, self-driving cars can help reduce the number of accidents. Autonomous vehicles are expected to bring about increased efficiency and reliability.

At present, the use of AI in aviation industry, much like other industries is in nascent stage. Currently, it is usually limited to customer identification & handling, aircraft fuel optimization. But in the coming years it will play a larger role in flight automation and can greatly enhance flight safety through machine learning, machine vision etc.

Applications of AI in Education

AI in education is as a complement to traditional learning systems. Adaptive Learning is among the successful methods applied nowadays in the education based on AI. Thus, AI revolution is an opportunity for us to reimagine higher education-to transform both what and how we teach.

Moreover, while artificial intelligence benefits both the learner and the teacher, the experience of this technological innovation in the education sector can be applied to both K-12 and higher education. It must not be forgotten that as the world is witnessing the most important digital and technological revolution, the traditional standardized educational system for all students accompanied by standardized teaching and assessment would not be suitable for much longer to produce successful learning and knowledge transfer for the "Gen X" and beyond.

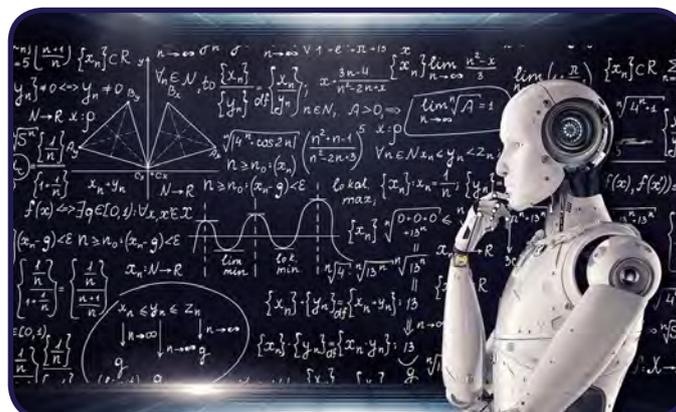
To sum it all up, education experts agree unanimously on the benefits of customized learning, which adjusts teaching according to the student's abilities and facilities and overcomes troubles and blockages. AI can automate grading, giving educators more time. AI can assess students and adapt to their needs, helping them work at their own pace. AI tutors can provide additional support to students, ensuring they stay on track. AI could change where and how students learn, perhaps even replacing some teachers. AI can revolutionize education in the following ways.

- Assessing and Addressing Students' Skills and Weaknesses
- Empowering Students with Crowd-sourced Learning
- Creating Customized Learning Materials
- Decreasing Time Spent Grading

How artificial intelligence is going to change the way you live, work and play in future?

The development of artificial intelligence will be the story of the coming generations. AI will soon be at the heart of every major technological system in the world in the following ways.

- Everybody will have a virtual assistant, and they're going to be pretty smart
- All your voice-based gadgets will work together (and may get confused)
- Facial recognition will be the new credit card
- Artificial intelligence will generate media specific to your personal preferences
- Artificial intelligence will write news and market reports tailored specifically for you
- Your computer will become empathetic





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