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DON BOSCO
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Strenna for this year

“MOVED BY HOPE”



From the
DIRECTOR'S
DESK



Dear Friends,

Diwali 2021 seemed to be more promising than last year with the slow but sure opening up of schools and most other places. Let us give thanks to all that we hold dear- our health, our family, our friends and God's grace.

Returning from a happy and restful Diwali break, we are not only looking forward to return to physical school but are also all set for our second term in school. Offline class for students from the eighth to the twelfth grade has begun while we patiently yet eagerly await permission for the other grades as well.

Meanwhile, let me apprise you on the developments in infra-structure at DBIS. We have completed two projects in the school. We now have a state-of-the-art recording studio to help us with hybrid learning and four of our PYP classrooms have been redesigned to create a bright and cheerful ambiance for our tiny tots. Two other projects are in progress - the roof on the terrace which will accommodate the IBDP and A levels classrooms and the six-lane athletic track on the playground. Hopefully, these too will be completed before the term ends.

Normally, the second term is filled with activities and celebrations - Sports Day, Christmas, Annual Day and much more. With the shadow of the pandemic still looming over us, we will have to limit many of our programs. However, if we get the required permission, we will definitely go ahead with our scheduled plans.

I am sincerely grateful to all our stakeholders - parents, staff and students who have collaborated together to see that the teaching-learning process was in no way affected by the pandemic. Many have walked that extra mile and reached out to those in need of help. It was inspiring to see everyone coming together to achieve one goal. It is no surprise, then, that our Principal, Ms. Meena Saldanha received an award for excellence, the Values Champion Award for exemplifying values in action for the betterment of others in the field of education on World Values Day, 21st October 2021.

In conclusion, I pray that this second term will go on smoothly and as the days go by, we will have all our children back in school. May our father and founder, Don Bosco, continue to protect us and inspire us to learn, innovate and transform.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Crispino Dsouza



From the **PRINCIPAL'S** DESK



“Profound joy of the heart is like a magnet that indicates the path of life.” – Mother Teresa

The feeling of being alive is listening to the laughter of children, their obliviousness to the long shadows, inspiring faith and hope all around. It was a very special moment for me, standing at the entrance, greeting “my” children, for whom my eyes and heart had ached during the entire lockdown period. They are the Diwali gift to DBIS.

Schools are meant to ring with peals of laughter, not echo the footsteps of staff. The animated discussion without inhibition recreates their world within a world. We were happy with the overwhelming response by the parents in sending their children to school. Close to 95% of students attended the physical classroom and we are hopeful others too exercise their option to attend.

At the moment, students from grade 1 to grade 7 have been held back as per government directives. DBIS is continuously monitoring the situation for the safety of our children as well as their happiness. We look forward to welcoming them, hopefully before Christmas.

Heartening to note that despite the rigors of online studies, the children fared very well at the IGCSE 2020 examinations. This year we have awarded scholarships to 3 toppers, who tied for the first spot and continued their learning journey at DBIS in the IBDP programme in grade 11 & 12. Our school policy awards a scholarship to the first two rankers but the management decided that all 3 should be recognized for their performance and should be duly rewarded. They were granted scholarship of 25% reduction in school fees besides a Certificate of Merit. Their names are **Manya Bhatia, Hersh Doshi and Francesco Fernandes.**

Two others students who got scholarships in category 2 for their all-round performance were **Tejas Tagra** and **Sanjana Sridhar.** We have continued our scholarship for **Vritee Muni** for her IBDP grade 12 who was our topper in Grade 10 IGCSE.

Wishing our learners a great journey through the DP years at DBIS and hoping that many more students continue to journey with us in the DP program and A and AS level starting in July 2022.

Warm wishes,
Ms Meena Saldanha



*We are proud and pleased
to inform you that*



Don Bosco International School
is ranked



Category :

**‘India’s Top 20 International Board’
in a survey conducted by Education Today.**

When **VALUES** are in the right place...

DBIS stood the test of a plethora of challenges during the pandemic and subsequent lockdown period, (post March 2020) as did almost all schools. What set DBIS apart was the fact that we went beyond the peripheral. Like other schools, we too, adapted to the new normal- online teaching and learning with teachers keeping their students enthused and engaged, adopting new skill sets and students, who were already quite tech savvy with their virtual devices, much before the pandemic struck, took to this new mode like ducks to water.

So what is it that we, at DBIS, do differently? It all started when 'Education Today' ranked DBIS at the 9th position in Mumbai, 10th position in Maharashtra and 18th in India for the academic year 2020-21 in the Category- "India's Top 20 International schools". Our IBDP and CAIE coordinators, on behalf of Don Bosco International School, received the trophy in Bangalore in January 2021. At the awards ceremony, there were many new projects introduced to schools to overcome a never-seen-before crisis situation that Covid-19 had wrought. Among them was one that immediately captured the attention of our coordinators who in turn introduced the prospectus to the head of our counselling cell who was as fascinated as the coordinators with Saksham- a Val-Ed initiative, the Saksham Values, Life - Skills Program.

The moment the program was presented to our dynamic Director, Rev. Fr. Crispino Dsouza and our phenomenal Principal, Mrs. Meena Saldanha, by Saksham founder



member, Mr. Mayank Solanki, there was no doubt that the values program would be neatly embedded in the school curriculum. The Val-Ed Initiative program was completely in sync with our own D B Way and with that perfect fit, it became a significant part of the secondary school curriculum. Little wonder then that out of 40 school Principals and a series of questions in an interview round, our extremely dedicated and committed Principal, Ms. Meena Saldanha who stood like a rock right through the pandemic crisis, received the much-coveted award of excellence, the Values Champion Award, in recognition of her contribution to consistently exemplifying values in action for the betterment of others in the field of education on the occasion of World Value Day, in an event organised by Val-Ed Initiatives called 'We Value You'.

Ms Anita Antao

CAIE Coordinator & HOD of English.

CAS at DBIS

Community has always been at the heart of Don Bosco International School. The student, parents, teachers, support staff, the admin department play an important role in the functioning of the school and what brings them all together is a common purpose; helping and serving the community around us.

All the stakeholders of Don Bosco International School come together on various occasions to cater to the immediate needs of the people around. The indomitable spirit of DBIS was brought to the fore last year when neither the pandemic nor the lockdown could stop us from reaching out to those in need. Gupt Daan, a food distribution campaign was organised where funds and dry ration was collected and distributed to communities and villages in and around Maharashtra.

The limitations and restrictions did not stop our altruistic and enterprising students to use their creativity to raise funds for a cause close to their heart. Trishit Dedhia and Writree Muni



Support Staff Day @ DBIS



Support Staff Day @ DBIS



Support Staff Day @ DBIS

of Grade 12 IBDP with the assistance of Aradhya Rohatgi and Mehek Mehta organised Learn Something In 30 minutes (LSI 30) where they organised various workshops where participants could learn a skill in 30 minutes. The funds collected during the course of LSI 30 will go towards a cause of their choice. LSI 30 is a perfect example of creativity and innovation and adapting it to a social cause.

At Mistletoe Magic, DBIS raises funds to support a community cause that the school wishes to support. In the year 2019, we had raised funds for the

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CAS at DBIS

Computer Lab at the Zilla parishad school in Jawhar and it is an extremely proud feeling to see the Lab being used by the students and teachers of the ZP school. Last year at Xmas time we raised funds to construct the bathrooms for the students of the school.

Our CAS team of Ms. Reema Vora, Mr. Vaibhav Chinchalkar and Ms. Nupoor Valia visited the school and gathered the necessary information to take this project forward.

The funds raised by DBIS will be used to construct the boys' washroom of the ZP school. This project shall commence by the end of December. The strength of the Zilla parishad school has now become 400 from 170 because it is one of the few schools which has computer lab for students.

All the stakeholders of DBIS are a part of a big family and this Diwali the teachers contributed for our ever so hardworking and warm Support Staff. They are our support system without which DBIS would not be able to function as effectively as it does. 22nd October was celebrated as Support Staff Day at DBIS where the students came together to organise an assembly expressing their heartfelt gratitude and the teachers organised games and offered them a token of love and appreciation in the form of Diwali Gifts.



-Visit to Zilla Parishad School

All of these efforts are an attempt by DBIS to ensure we go beyond just books and knowledge and allow the various stakeholders of our school to play an important and an active role in community service. It empowers us as an institution and as individuals to see ourselves as those who can make a difference and always look at those around us with empathy. We thank you all for extending your support, always.

Ms Reema Vora
CAS coordinator



-Visit to Zilla Parishad School



A journey from Awareness, to Conceptualization to Implementation to Mindful Awareness

Eumind -where it all started

DBIS has been associated with Eumind for over a year now. Eumind is a non-profit school network that creates and supervises virtual exchange projects in which Indian and European students work together on real-life issues such as sustainability, human rights and arts and culture. European schools are matched with a suitable Indian school and ensure a direct line of communication. This process truly empowers them to be global citizens as they understand cultural diversity in a more in-depth manner and build respect for people and environment all around them.

Values 20-21- Our first project

The Strenna of 2020-21 as presented by the Salesian Society of Don Bosco was 'Good Human Beings and Upright Citizens'. This was set into practice by the students of DBIS on the global platform in the Eumind Exchange Programme - Values 2020. When the entire world was hit hard by the pandemic and values were on the threshold of stagnation from society, students of Don Bosco International Schools worked on the project 'Values 2020', which was the need of the hour.

The Eumind platform allows students to explore these value systems with their European partner school situated in the South Holland province of Netherlands named 'The Helinium High School'. Our countries are culturally diverse yet share a similar and distinct set of values which were surveyed through areas of **'Women empowerment'**, **'Multi-cultural school'**, **'Student-teacher relations'**, **'Celebrations'** and **'Friendship'**. using their own cultural background as their basis. With the main focus being exploration of values in our home country, students interviewed various people to answer their research questions and write a report based on their findings. A written reflection and comparison report were part of this project - Values 2020.



*Mentor sessions
with our students*

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The Process

The pandemic made life harder to coordinate freely but the online interactions via Zoom and Discord* made learning a blessing to successfully explore this cultural diversity despite the distance. Eumind recommended weebly.com, an easy-to-use website.

Our student participants in collaboration with the ICT department created a website to showcase their valuable research work.

<https://eumindvalues2020dbos.weebly.com/> .

**Kindly note Zoom and Discord were used only after taking parent consent and under the supervision of the school management and cyber security rules.*

All the five groups worked under the timely guidance of their mentors Ms Hemangini Gupta and Mr Vaibhav Chinchalkar and received certificates of excellence after completing their research. The research was assessed under a three tier system - the self-evaluation by students, evaluation by Teacher-Mentor and the International Panel of Eumind.

Out of 46 schools of India, Don Bosco International School's project was appreciated and looking at the quality research by students, the Director of Eumind Mr Ludo Mateusen recommended Don Bosco International School to take up a new challenge in the 2021-22 Eumind Project, namely "Creative Entrepreneurship".



*Interaction with our partner school
Helinium International in Netherlands*

Creative Entrepreneurship 21-22- through a lens of sustainability

Every year 25 children participate and contribute their ideas towards a chosen theme of environment, values etc. This year DBIS has had the privilege to work with the chairperson of Eumind Mr Ludo Mateusen and Ms. Noa de Zeeuw on a pilot project involving 'Creative Entrepreneurship'. With the start-up segment being red hot in India currently, our students grabbed this opportunity with open arms to channelize their inner Elon Musks and Steve Jobs.

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The thought of creating a sustainable product or innovating an idea that could change the landscape of the business world or disrupt an existing system by itself is very exciting. Our students went through a multi-layered process of brainstorming with their mentors and heads where they came up with products they wanted to create. A myriad of ideas ranging from AI to solar paint that could act as a source of renewable energy to an app that could collate the transport problem within the commercial capital of India, to finding alternate uses of stone paper for gifting and sustainable school- books for rural regions to taking up a recycling project that could support their school, cutting costs by utilizing cardboard waste, making note books thus helping the school take these small initiatives to make it a more sustainable one to even creating a trekking bag out of plastic – a segment yet unexplored could help explore their own passion.

This process in itself sharpens their mind as they decipher various options to study feasibility of these ideas as some may be too expensive while some look good on paper and some truly hard to implement because of social and economic factors. This year our students will deep dive into 'Design Thinking' a process often used by multinationals like Apple, Samsung, Google and more which helps to solve problems (environmental, human, social etc) in a quick and creative manner.

Once their idea for a product/ service is finalized they brainstorm their thoughts with the partner school in Europe or Netherlands. This helps them empathize with the problems faced by their counterpart and helps them offer effective solutions where this has been successfully tackled in their own country and vice versa. This also helps students analyse the problems based on country size, target population, economic growth, manufactured products and sources of income and incorporation of environmental standards and policies to tackle climate change- a much needed requirement of the future.

Empathising with an existing problem leads to defining what can be done to solve it which helps our students to brainstorm and finally create a prototype to check if the process is actually worthy of implementation. This may sound tedious but this is what 'Design thinking' is all about as it forces students to reanalyse, modify and improvise their own prototypes to suit their target audience and yet be profitable.

At every stage in this process, exchange of ideas with the partner school via video conference or other digital channels boosts their confidence or helps them delve deeper into a research that can help them resolve the issue in their home country.

Our learnings-

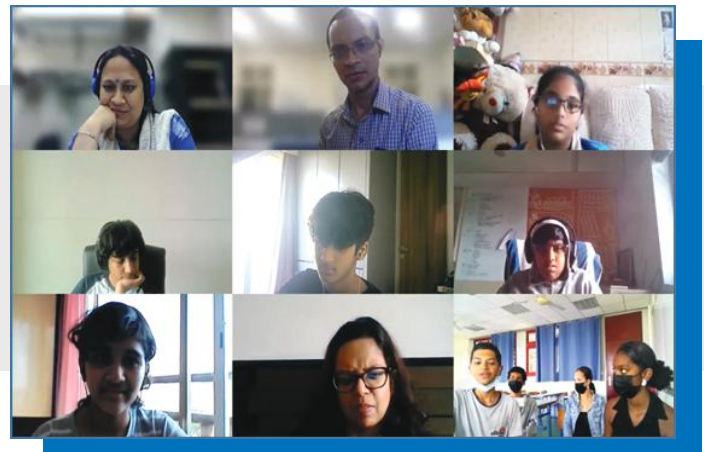
unravelling and discovering something new everyday

In conclusion, as Steve Jobs once said “**Design is a funny word. Some people think design means how it looks. But of course, if you dig deeper, it’s really how it works.**” and this is exactly what we want our young minds to acknowledge that it is not the destination but the journey that teaches you more about life – well in this case their products. Through design thinking, ideation of a concept is clear but the obstacles in the form of social, economic challenges help them question their own learnings. This process may be emotionally draining for some entrepreneurs, since as humans we are always attached to the outcome just like or young students fiercely defend their ideas but the failure and multiple reworking’s help them emerge stronger and sharper to take on bigger challenges and equip them to handle a more technologically advanced world blended with a good dose of social responsibility and sustenance thus empowering them to be truly global change makers. The constant exchange of ideas and information and suggestions among the partner schools is what truly makes Eumind the best initiative to converge the cultural divide through learning and innovation.

Our Hope

Two years into this project and Eumind has already made us appreciate and welcome cultural changes that form the very basis of a globally growing world which has shrunk due to student travel, tourism and global trade. Thus acknowledging the fact that this change will lead our young global changemakers to a good 'Exchange' of knowledge that will empower them to look at a sustainable future, but we sincerely hope that it will happen in person from next year as our students travel to Netherlands to meet their friends and vice versa as part of the Eumind exchange program.

First meeting with the French school in Reunion



Mr Vaibhav Chinchalkar & Ms Hemangni Gupta
Eumind Coordinators



CHILDREN'S DAY *Celebration*

