

Director's Report
AGM - Board of Trustees Meeting April 2020

Overview

The 2019- 2020 academic year has been a year of transition for me as Director of ISPP. This year has also seen the school's highest ever enrolment, passing the 900 mark for the first time. I would like to thank all members of the community who have assisted and support me and ISPP through this transition.

The Administration and Board of Trustees have focussed on the alignment, consistency and continuity of our strategic and operational planning, and consistency with the requirements of the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Western Association of School and Colleges (WASC) accreditation processes, as well as the International Baccalaureate Organisation re-authorisation process.

In September, we held a Board retreat, to build early understanding and consensus around processes and intended outcomes. With a preparatory visit early in 2020-21 and the year of self-study to follow, we are now preparing the report that initiates the process. We have sought feedback on our Guiding Statements, and received further insights through our annual CIS survey. Feedback was very positive and aligned well with our philosophy, with only small changes needed to reflect our intentions of greater inclusion and well-being.

Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the course of the second semester and our response has focussed on continuity of student education online, and will remain so until we reopen the campus.

Learning

In preparing for our re-accreditation, we have initiated reviews of our academic policies and child protection protocols. In addition, a major focus has been building the scope of learning diversity across ISPP. During our professional development activities this year, we have worked towards building greater capacity in differentiation strategies and auditing our current programme. As a result, we are updating both our philosophy and approach to encompass a flexible co-teaching model. We have added two more specialised positions for 2020-21 and have submitted a paper to the Board proposing an approach for future years.

This year, ISPP hosted a regional EARCOS Outdoor Learning Spaces Workshop, provided professional development for local teachers, and offered a plethora of workshops for parents. More conferences were planned but these were unfortunately cancelled. Moving forward, we intend to offer more opportunities and have appointed Jonathan Smedes as ISPP Director of Learning, Teaching Innovation and Impact.

This year we moved the International School Assessments to February and the results should be available before the end of the year. In recent years, our students have achieved similar results to Grade 10 students in national systems by Grade 8. Sadly, the 2020 IB Diploma exams were cancelled and students' results will be calculated against a number of factors, including coursework submissions. Historically, our students have performed well in these exams, with a 5 year average of 34 points, compared to a five year world average of 29.89. Our students go on to many competitive universities around the globe (12 countries this year so far). There are already some firm offers and acceptances, while other universities wait for the IB Diploma results before confirming places.

Significantly, we have transitioned to ISPP online schooling. Teachers, students and families have adjusted very rapidly and incredibly well. We have reflected upon suggestions for improvement in order to ensure ISPP Online School continues to deliver a quality programme in difficult circumstances. When we return to 'normal', we will have learned a great deal that will enhance our on-campus education.

Environment & Well-being

As the strategic planning process evolved this year, it was recommended that 'Environment and Well-being' should be broadened and separated into two separate areas of focus.

Environmentally, we have nurtured initiatives that are already embedded in the school's culture and ethos. Meatless Mondays started this year, and the Environmental Action Committees have addressed ways to reduce waste, such as snack packaging, effective recycling and raising awareness of one's own carbon footprint. Catwalks were added to roofs to ensure safer cleaning and optimum performance of solar panels. In recognition of our initiatives, we received an award from the Ministry of the Environment. Our future challenge will be to maintain momentum with these initiatives and develop opportunities at ISPP and beyond.

In the area of wellbeing, the ISPP Wellness Committee worked towards understanding the factors that contribute to or detract from wellness within our school environment, and also hosted activities for staff. In Secondary, advisory programmes were supplemented to encompass elements of well-being, and improvements were made to enable more privacy in student access to the counsellors. As part of the review of our child protection protocols, we have purchased a suite of online accredited courses so that our faculty can participate in continuous learning in this area. Handwashing and general hygiene practice has been strongly reinforced, in response COVID-19 and our focus on this will continue even after the pandemic ends.

In the future, we plan to develop an all-encompassing, whole school approach to well-being and this has been added as an objective to both our strategic and operational planning process.

Community

This year we completed two community surveys: our regular CIS climate survey and a one-off survey by the Community strategic planning sub committee. Participation in the CIS survey was much higher than in previous years. The results were positive overall, but provided a number of areas for reflection to be incorporated into both our strategic and operational plans. The sub-committee survey sought opinion on campus community usage, which was helpful in developing strategic goals and actions in this area.

Student and community events were many and varied, including but not limited to Admin/PCO/Parent meetings, Spotlights on the Arts, ISTA, Elementary Choir, Beauty and the Beast, ISAPP, MRISA and House sports, the Angkor Wat Bike Race and Fun Run, ISPP Talks, MYP Personal Project, Extended Essay and CAS evenings, and various Student Council events. We hosted our annual Love of Reading/Book Week and our largest ISPP MUN with over 300 delegates from 20+ schools. We also launched new Falcons and PE uniforms this year.

Our scholarship programme grew, with 6 new students, bringing the total to 12 under the new programme. All students are progressing well, with good support networks in place, ensuring a positive experience for them. The Board re-emphasised its commitment to supporting up to 20 students, and a further commitment allocating application and entrance fees to support service and philanthropic projects at ISPP. This year's selection process has begun, with students from both ISF and CCF considered for the 2020-21 cohort. It is on hold as we deal with COVID-19, but hope to continue the process soon. Moving forward, our challenge will be to consolidate these programmes, strengthen the community use of the ISPP campus and connect with host country and broader nationality groups.

Respectfully submitted GLJ For April AGM