

An Embassy Group Education Initiative



STONEHILL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

BEYOND THE STONE STONEHILL ALUMNI E-MAGAZINE



MESSAGE
FROM THE
HEAD OF SCHOOL

10-YEAR
MILESTONES

STONEHILL NEWS:
SEMESTER-1
2018-2019



Our Vision

We are an internationally-minded community of spirited learners, dedicated to the development of knowledgeable, caring, confident and responsible global citizens.



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide stimulating, engaging academics integrated with enhanced opportunities for technological innovation, sports and the arts.

Message from the Head of School

Welcome to the very first edition of the Stonehill Alumni Newsletter!

You are part of a growing community of families and students who have been a part of the Stonehill family. We are a learning community dedicated to the development of knowledgeable, caring, confident and responsible global citizens. You are part of our history.



This year we celebrate our 10 Year Anniversary. We now have over over 500 students representing almost 40 nationalities. We completed the last academic year with a very pleasing set of IB Diploma examination results. Our average scores remained above the world average for the sixth consecutive year and we are delighted to have sent our graduating class to some excellent universities. Students from the graduating class of 2018 were accepted into universities that included Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), London School of Economics (LSE) and McGill University.

We are now an established three programme IB World School and our graduates are heading into life beyond school equipped with the skills needed for the rapidly evolving 21st century workplace.

Message from the Head of School

This year we improved our already impressive facilities with the addition of a purpose-built Sports Hall. Our students are all now enjoying the use of this fantastic addition to the Stonehill Campus.

This academic year we also hosted IB, CIS and NEASC evaluation teams for a Synchronised Evaluation Visit. This is a process that happens every five years. The International Baccalaureate Evaluation takes place to ensure that the standards and practices of IB programmes (PYP, MYP and DP) are being maintained. Accreditation with Council of International Schools and New England Association of Schools and Colleges show that a school has achieved high standards of professional performance in international education and has a commitment to continuous improvement. We were delighted with the outcome of the evaluations. We have been re-accredited by CIS and NEASC and we continue to be authorised to offer all three IB programmes. Below, you can read some of the highlights from the evaluation reports.

"The learning atmosphere is one of inclusiveness, openness to new ideas, and a sharing of perspectives that is welcome and appreciated. From the PYP classes through the MYP, interaction, feedback,

differentiation, and inclusiveness were observed as being truly inspirational." December 2018, NEASC Report.

"Students, teachers and parents all commented on the sense of community at the school, with a focus on 'learning, safety and happiness'. Individual differences are welcomed and celebrated." November 2018, IB Evaluation Report

"Relationships between students and teachers are characterised by respect and openness; students perceive teachers as readily available and approachable. Staff proactively reach out to students and there is a strong sense of community. Students stated that staff readily seek feedback from them to improve their teaching." November 2018, CIS Evaluation Report

We remain the school of choice for the internationally-minded community in Bangalore and are always committed to improving the quality of education for the children in our care. We are proud of what we have achieved in the past 10 years and look forward to a very bright future. As a member of the Stonehill Alumni, you are part of our story and part of our success. We hope you stay in touch!

Simon James McCloskey
Head of School



Directory of Key School Personnel



Mr. Stefano de Napoli
Chairperson,
Governing Council

Ms Shaina Ganapathy
Member,
Governing Council

Ms Preeti Sawhney
Member,
Governing Council

Ms Maureen Stewart
Member,
Governing Council

Mr. Simon McCloskey
Head of School

Ms Karen Crooke
Primary Principal

Mr Narendra Mehrotra
Secondary Principal

Mr Glen Johnson
Head of Boarding

Mr. Anthony Hamblin
PYP Coordinator

Mr Jitendra Pandey
MYP Coordinator

Ms Manpreet Kaur
DP Coordinator

Stonehill Story — 10-year Milestones



Ground Breaking and
Puja — September 2007



Construction of Admin
Block — April 2008



First Day of Class
in the Admin
Block — September 2008



IB DP
Authorisation — 2010



IB PYP
Authorisation — 2011



IB MYP
Authorisation — 2012



Accreditation by CIS and
NEASC — 2012



First batch of Stonehill
Graduates — 2012



Launch of Boarding
Programme — August 2014



First 500
Students — September 2018



Inauguration of New Sports
Hall — September 2018

Stonehill's Grade 12 Students get Excellent Scores Once Again

Stonehill International School, known for its diverse and inclusive culture, continues to move from strength to strength. With an average pass rate of 34 points and an overall average of 32.1 points, Stonehill's International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) score remains above the world average, for the sixth consecutive year.

Of the graduating Class of 2018, two of Stonehill's graduates received an excellent result of 42 out of a maximum score of 45 points.

This small cohort of 26 students have collectively earned scholarships worth over \$250,000.

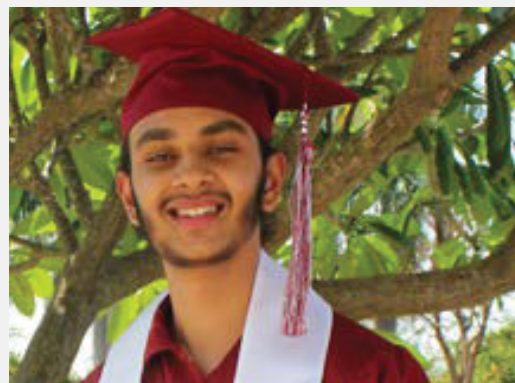
Simon McCloskey, the Head of School says, "As an inclusive school, striving to develop caring, confident and responsible global citizens, we are delighted that Stonehill's average IB Diploma results have now been consistently above the world average for the past six years. We are also extremely pleased that two of our students, Dilsher Singh and



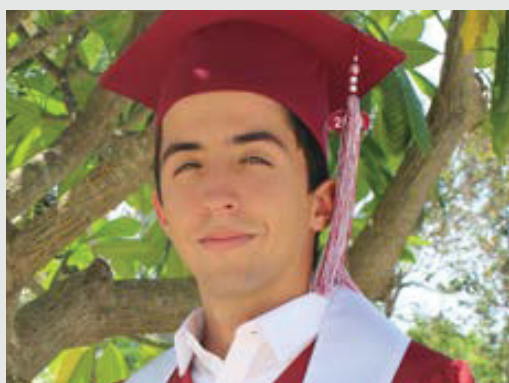
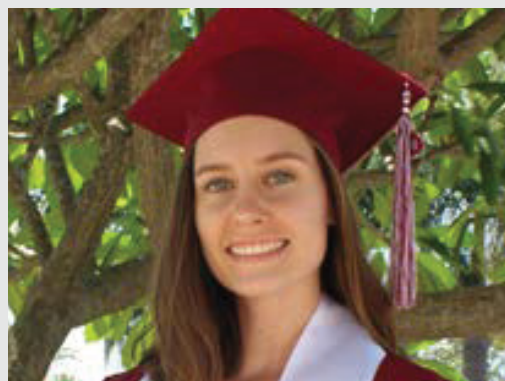
Vinicius De Paula Sousa, both achieved 42 points — our highest score this year. We are all extremely proud of the Stonehill Graduating Class of 2018. We know that our very special students will go on to achieve great things."

Here's what some of this year's graduates have to say about the IB Diploma Programme and the school:

Dilsher Singh, one of Stonehill's top scorers says, "Maths and Science have always been my areas of interest; the excellent teachers at Stonehill have provided me with wonderful opportunities to leverage these interests. Sports has been my passion and Stonehill has given me opportunities to excel in football, cricket and swimming. The school has helped me develop lifelong skills that make me feel better prepared for University life. The IB programme has provided me with a holistic environment for learning and made me a confident learner."



Ida Wardemark says, “The IB Diploma is a very tough programme that requires students to really think outside the box and work to their full potential. Throughout my experience, I was able to enhance communication and writing skills, gain a sense of international-mindedness and become a critical thinker. All of these are characteristics that I will now be able to apply in life. Stonehill has a very open environment and I was able to complete the IB Diploma Programme with support from our great staff and teachers – without whom we could not have done this!”



“Being a student at Stonehill provided me with the perfect environment to learn. I had the freedom and the space to follow my intuition, along with the necessary and strong support from teachers to fall back on when I needed guidance. These two elements made my experience in Stonehill a very valuable one – one I’ll remember forever.” says **Vinicius De Paula Sousa**, another top scorer.

Shashank Rammoorthy, Valedictorian for this year’s cohort says, “Studying at Stonehill has been a great, all-round experience. I’ve learnt so much from my teachers and friends at this diverse school. The students received great support from all of our teachers, especially as the final IB exams approached.”



Mr Narendra Mehrotra, the Principal of the Secondary School says, “We at Stonehill believe in providing a truly global education by providing challenging and diverse learning environments that promote international mindedness. Our students learn to be critical thinkers who apply concepts, both in familiar and unfamiliar situations. They are taught to think for themselves by driving the learning process, are competent problem solvers and can handle unexpected situations. Learning through practical real-world examples is unique and long lasting, enabling our students to be well prepared for the challenges of university learning, and to face life in the real world with confidence.”

Class of 2018 Graduation Ceremony

Take a walk down memory lane and relive the Graduation Ceremony of Stonehill's Class of 2018.

[Click here for the photos and video of this momentous day.](#)

Prakash Padukone Inaugurates World-class Sports Hall at Stonehill International School

On September 8th, 2018, Stonehill International School (SIS) celebrated 10 years of holistic international education in a collaborative, stimulating and caring environment. The day also marked the inauguration of the school's latest world class sports hall. The event was attended by Mr Prakash Padukone, former World Number 1 badminton champion; Ms Ashwini Nachappa, former international track athlete; and Ajeet and Deeya Bajaj, the first father-daughter duo to scale Mount Everest.



Mr Jitu Virwani, Founder-Stonehill International School said, "My belief for the need of an education system that prepares students to be successful in a constantly evolving and competitive environment was the driving force that led to the establishment Stonehill."



"Stonehill International School is now renowned globally as a centre for innovative teaching. We provide a quality IB education to students from almost 40 nationalities. We are an internationally minded community of spirited learners, dedicated to the development of knowledgeable, caring, confident and responsible global citizens. We have achieved great things in 10 years!", says Mr Simon McCloskey, the Head of School.

The day was a wonderful celebration for the entire Stonehill Community and everything we have achieved in the last 10 Years. It was great to have our Founding Governing Council Chairperson, Head of School and Primary Principal join us in the celebration and give us an understanding of how far we have come as a school through their experiences.



Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence at Stonehill — Video

Stonehill Celebrates 10 Years of Excellence with a 10k Run

On September 23rd, Stonehill International School hosted a 10K running event to celebrate the school's 10-year anniversary. The event was organised by Life is Calling Sports. Held at the 34-acre campus of Stonehill, the day saw close to 500 people participating in a variety of different events including 5K, 10K, 25K and 35K runs as well as a Huddle Relay.



Ms Deepa Bhat, the first Indian woman to successfully complete the tough Everest Marathon, participated in the 35K event. Mr Thomas Bobby Philip, the first runner to successfully complete the prestigious Boston Marathon by running barefoot, won the 35K run in the Men's category. Mr Raghunath Bylahalli, who successfully completed the 10K run, was the oldest participant at 85 years!



The event also saw Stonehill staff and students participate enthusiastically in the 10K and 5K runs. Mr Jitu Virwani, Founder of Stonehill International School, flagged off the run and attended the prize distribution ceremony along with Mr Simon McCloskey, Head of School.



Mr. McCloskey also participated and successfully completed the 10K run. "We encourage our students to live a balanced and healthy life. It was great to see students, parents and teachers participating in this fantastic event" he said.



ISTA Drama Festival in New Delhi

On the morning of September 26th, nineteen students from M1 up to M3 and two teachers travelled to New Delhi to Participate in the annual ISTA Drama Festival.



In the initial whole group warm ups, our students shone with enthusiasm and during an afternoon visit to the crafts museum, they proved themselves to be both keen observers of culture, as well as confident improvisers!

Over the three-day festival, our students learnt a broad range of theatrical techniques taught by renowned theatre artists. From puppetry to dance, ensemble to lifts, they persevered and applied these skills to their growing final performance. The festival also allowed our students to form friendships with students of other participating schools.

In the final performance our students exceeded all expectations with their confidence and focus. All of them performed with charm and swagger that spoke of how comfortable they all felt in their own skin. Mr Sanger, Secondary Drama Teacher says, "Teachers from other schools remarked how visible this self-esteem was in our students and were eager to know what caused it. I was proud to tell them that we have a community at Stonehill where all our students are encouraged and supported to be authentically themselves."



Google India Summit

The Stonehill International School learning community was proud to host India's first Google Summit in Bangalore with AppsEvents 17th and 18th November, 2018. This fantastic professional development opportunity included participants from ten schools across Bangalore, including our very own Stonehill staff. The first day was dedicated to three Bootcamps — Level 1 and 2 Certification for Educators and Level 1 Certification for Support Staff in Schools.



On 17th and 18th, teachers and trainers from around Asia came together to learn new things, share strategies for teaching and learning and find the inspiration to continually improve their practice. Participants visited The Great Barrier Reef through Virtual Reality and Google Expeditions, became data masters with Google Forms, Sheets, and Data Studio, explored their artistic sides with Google Drawings, and so much more. At the core of the sessions were the questions, "How do students learn best?" and "How can we use technology to make learning happen better?"

"The sessions and speakers brought tons of exciting and practical ideas that got my brain whirling with the possibilities. Teachers were buzzing all weekend about the new ideas they wanted to take back to their classrooms," explained Whole School Technology Coordinator and event organiser, Ms Katie Steen. "Providing this kind of experience for our teachers supports them to fulfil our school's stated mission of providing enhanced opportunities for technological innovation," added Head of School, Mr Simon McCloskey.



Five Year Evaluation Success!

In October, we had a synchronised evaluation visit from the IB, CIS and NEASC for our 5 Year Synchronised Evaluation Visit. During the visit, the Evaluation Team observed lessons and interviewed teachers, students, support staff, parents and members of the Governing Council.

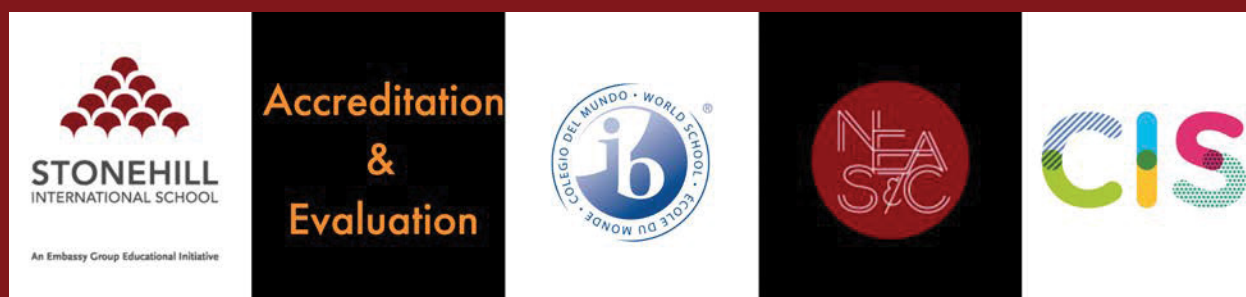
We are delighted to announce that we continue to be authorised to offer all three IB programmes and we have been re-accredited by both CIS and NEASC. The reports from all three organisations are extremely positive, reflect well on our learning community and are indicative of the hard work, talent and professionalism of Stonehill Staff and Faculty.

The IB report successfully identifies many of our strengths and accomplishments and also provides us with some useful recommendations to help us further focus on the growth and development of

our school as we move into our next cycle of reflection, review and action planning.

The award of the CIS accreditation shows that our school has achieved high standards of professional performance in international education and is committed to continuous improvement. The CIS Evaluation Report that we received is extremely positive and enables us to celebrate our achievements. It also provides useful recommendations that will help us to identify improvements that can be made to further support student learning and wellbeing.

The External Review Report that we received from NEASC enables us to highlight and celebrate our achievements. It also provides suggestions that will help us improve the quality of learning and teaching at our school.





Joint IB, CIS, NEASC Evaluation Team

Diwali Celebrations at Stonehill

The annual PTA Diwali Mela was a fantastic celebration for the entire Stonehill Community. The Primary and Secondary Diwali performances this year were outstanding! Both students and staff did a fabulous job of showcasing the diverse cultures and traditions of India through

dance and musical performances.

The Mela saw a variety of vendors selling everything from food to decor and accessories, as well as an activity stall for students. Thank you to our fabulous PTA for organising such a wonderful selection of products.



Alumni Reflections

Sneak Peak at Semester 1, 2018 - 2019

It has been a busy first semester at Stonehill with some excellent learning taking place right from PYP to DP. This last quarter has also witnessed a number of achievements and celebrations across the SIS community. You can read all about this at our [Tiger Archives](#) or relive some of these wonderful memories through our [Facebook albums](#).

