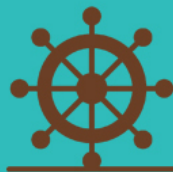




Purkal Bulletin - June 2020

We, Who Overcome The Rough Seas



Working Together for Sailing Success

We are happy to report that our efforts at distance learning continue unabated. Lessons are being well received by the students who are participating in them diligently, interacting well, and even submitting homework in a timely manner.

Several students, of course, remain hampered by having to share phones with family members/siblings and a lack of connectivity. We are making a careful note of all such cases and will ensure they get extra classes to catch up before full physical classes begin. This would have not been

possible without the generosity of our Donors like yourselves and your commitment to the Society.

Your support has helped us further our ability to succeed during these difficult times. We would also like to appreciate our teachers and staff, who are playing an important role in the functioning of the Society. Despite significant salary cuts which were imposed since April and are continuing, our staff have not let adverse personal situations come in the way of their commitment and efforts towards the Society and students, maintaining the momentum of their efforts.



Learning as We Sail

The lockdown helped elicit the hidden potential, talents and creativity of both our teachers and students. There has been a lot of reflection and experimentation by both, helping to devise newer methods of learning/teaching processes that will leave an enduring impression on our students.

Teachers

1. Teachers have acknowledged that apart from the conventional 'chalk and talk' method of teaching, there are methods which transfer the control of teaching from teachers to students, thus promoting lifelong learning. They have incorporated some of these methods and are determined to continue using them once the school reopens.
2. Teachers got a chance to interact with students on a one-on-one basis. They discovered that each student is unique and has a different way of learning. Equipped with different teaching methods, they are now aware that there is sufficient scope to address these by using customized teaching methods in parallel.
3. Encouraged by the above, teachers have also learnt that it is imperative to keep modifying and upgrading their lesson plans. While using different teaching methods, there have been 'eureka' moments which they immediately captured in their lesson plans, improving their quality of teaching-learning.
4. Teachers have become proficient in utilizing modern technology. Earlier they used to utilize it only for general purposes like data entry, preparing lesson plans and question banks. Now they are using technology as an active pedagogical tool and to procure learning resources.

- Learning Resources:
5. Intra-department teamwork was present and has now extended to inter-department teamwork. Teachers have shared their best practices and guided each other to overcome their common challenges.



Students

1. Students have become self-reliant and independent learners. They carry out self-study through research and experiment. This has also led them to extended learning and become aware of the value of an inter-disciplinary approach to education. This novel approach is being supported and encouraged by their teachers.
2. The above learning has ignited their higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) which, in due course of time, will enable them to apply the knowledge gained to real life situations.
3. Since our students have limited access to the digital world and other similar tools of learning, their young minds have devised ways and means to overcome this limitation, thus honing their problem solving skills.
4. Learnings from 3 above has led to a lot of team-work and sharing of best practices among students.



Battening Down the Hatches

Distance does not prevent us from tracking the wellbeing of our students and their families, and helping them in their times of

students and their families, and helping them in their times of need above and beyond the normal. This, after all, is our ethos as a family-centered and community-based institution and in line with our motto, "Life is for Giving".



In our own small way, we undertook COVID-19 relief for the families of our needy children. Supported by some generous donors, our staff identified thirty families of such students in our neighbouring villages, bought and packed ration kits, and delivered them to each home. Most of these families get their income from daily wages, so their need is likely to continue for some time. We are committed to maintaining our relief efforts for this duration.



Sailing Close to the Wind

Despite being an enthusiastic student, Payal Negi of Class XI (Commerce) didn't respond to the online classes. Strenuous efforts by her teachers to connect and teach failed. A visit by our staff to check on matters revealed that the family of five was in dire straits owing to a fall in their already low income. This was resulting in acute hardship including lack of electricity and clean water in their one katcha room hutment.



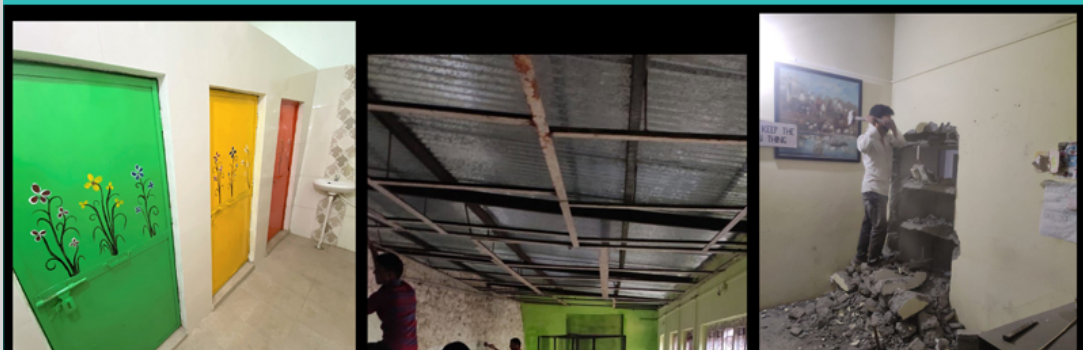


We immediately provided essentials to them but felt that the impact of this support would not be long-lasting. Both parents being day labourers were out all day, leaving Payal with the responsibility of washing, cleaning and looking after her young siblings, since their schools were shut as well. Adverse impact on her studies was inevitable. We have therefore moved her, along with her two younger siblings, who are not our students, into our hostel for the immediate term. They have been provided with new clothes and are being fed and cared for.

Freed from the burdens of home chores and caring for her siblings, Payal is now studying regularly. Under the guidance of her subject teachers and warden, she is busy catching up with the syllabus which she missed out on previously. Our staff is making sure that her siblings spend quality time reading and writing. Her parents are constantly in touch and are provided with essentials whenever needed.



Keeping the Port Clean





As the campus stood empty without its students, it sure seemed like a good time to maintain its old infrastructure and initiate a few new ones. A new set of toilets for our Primary children were completed during this period. Going forward, these will save our little ones from a long walk to Main Toilet Block located in the playground in exposed conditions. Providing healthy nutrition is at the very core of our efforts, which were being hampered all these years by a lack of adequate space. We have started the work of expanding our kitchen, remodelling the food store and completely revamping the washing area. Going forward this will enable us to better cater to the needs of our students and staff. All this while our own support staff continue to clean, fix, and paint our stores, premises, and furniture, and a new look awaits our students when they return to Purkal.



Activities Onboard

The shutdown has not come in the way of all the interesting activities our children do while at School. World Environment Day





We celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, 2020 with an Art Competition that created some amazing art work. Let us all congratulate the winners of the competition!

Art Competition – Classes XI and XII

Mahek Singh, Class XI (Commerce) – First

Neha Nautiyal, Class XI (Science) – Second

Ifrah Naz and Suniti Thapa, Class XII (Science) – Third

Saniya Bhandari, Class XI (Science) - Consolation Prize

Art Competition – Classes VII - X

Kajal Maurya, Class IX (B) – First

Sakshi Joshi, Class IX (B) – Second

Riya Baloni, Class VIII (B) – Third

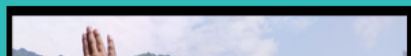
Pranjal Bhatt, Class VIII (B) – Consolation Prize

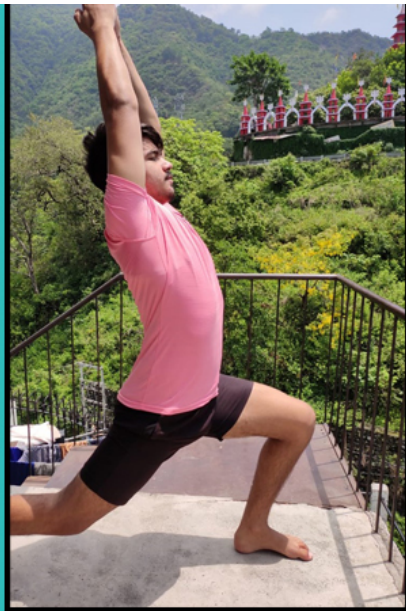
Radhika Baluni, Class IX (A), Consolation Prize

Inter-School Best Out of Waste Competition



Sakshi Joshi of Class IX (B) participated in an Inter-School Best Out of Waste Competition, Green Gurukul Education Program, organised by NGO, Waste Warriors. The idea was to encourage students to use 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) through hands-on activities. Her creative article stood Fifth in the competition among many students from 8 different schools.





International Day of Yoga

On the occasion of International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2020 students participated by submitting their videos and pictures performing different Yoga Asanas.

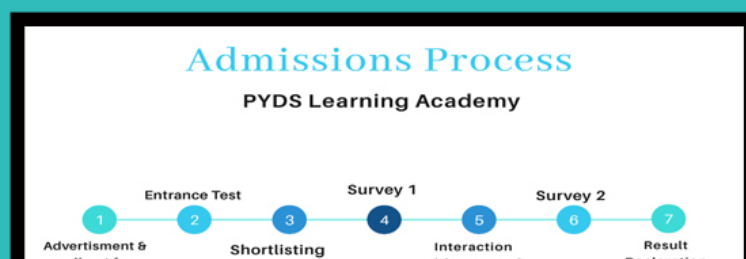
Pencil Shaving and Sharing

Creating new art everyday has become an eternal part of this period! Our students recently learned the craft of pencil shaving and shading work shared below.



Onboarding Students in Class XI

We carried out the admission process for vacant seats in June. A number of deserving students, including some from remote places beyond Uttarkashi and Tehri-Garhwal, appeared for the test.



Based on this assessment, interaction and survey, 11 neediest children having a decent academic record and social skills were finally chosen. Of which 5 children have opted for Commerce and the other 6 have opted for Science stream. The classes have since commenced and the students have joined their distance learning classes without losing time. With the permission of the State Government and obeying with all social-distancing norms, we carried out the admission process to extend the benefit of education to these 11 children.

Our Very New Onboarder

Belonging to a family of six members, Shubham Bisht hails from the remote village of Badeth, located in Raimur which is 56 km from Uttarkashi city. His father is a driver and a sole earner in the family.

He appeared for our entrance test and stood 5th among 25 children. He opted for Commerce stream and will be staying in our hostel facility to embark on a new learning journey. His move from a small School in Uttarkashi to PYDS Learning Academy has expanded his universe of opportunity. With us, apart from receiving supreme education he will be able to play sports like Kabaddi where his interest lies and also, brush up his skills in Basketball. With his zealous and relentless approach to learning, he wants to set his sight high.



Chronicles by Our Young Sailors



We are happy to share that two of our students, Meenakshi Bahuguna - Class XI (Commerce) and Prachi Chauhan – Class XII (Science) had their articles published in Times of India – NIE Edition in the month of June!



complete lockdown in the country which helped in making citizens realize that this is not a drill. The government took significant steps to control the spread of the deadly virus that shook the world and still does not have any cure. Due to the lockdown, there is an economic fall with the virus, and I am proud of this. The Uttarakhand government announced a compensation of one lakh to the relative of those who dies of Corona. This shows how concerned the government is for the people of its state. away from their families for a long time, however, it also directly affected the number of cases in the state. It is extremely important to understand that government alone is not responsible for our safety. We, as citizens, also have some responsibility. the spread of coronavirus as well. Secondly, the common public must maintain social distancing to save themselves from the deadly virus. What I feel is that if people want to keep their life, they will of course not go outside unnecessarily. People should also understand

Academy, Purkal Village



Bon Voyage!

As we sail through big waves and stormy weather of COVID-19, each one of us at PYDS wish to learn, adapt, and develop in better ways of ourselves in these times with the support of your benevolence. We wish to continue on this journey of learning together that you all make possible!

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