



The New Academic Year Begins

'Every new session is a reset from the past. It is an opportunity to better our best'

Our new academic year began on the 10th of April with students and teachers returning to campus after a brief break and looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

At the morning assembly on April 13th, members of the Students Council were sworn in at a solemn Investiture Ceremony. They were presented with their ceremonial sashes and badges by the school Principal. They pledged to uphold the values and traditions of the school, promising to take it to greater heights. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem.



New Admissions for Class XI

“Genius without education is like silver in the mine” - Benjamin Franklin

An orientation meeting was held for students and parents seeking admission in class XI. It was addressed by Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth, who spoke to them about the institution's principles of hard work and discipline, and emphasised the quality of opportunity PYDS strives to provide its students. They were also explained about the available subject combinations and details of the entrance exam.

In response 37 aspirants from Dehradun, Rishikesh and districts like Tehri, and Uttarkashi appeared for the test on 29th of April. The three hour written exam tested their knowledge of English, Math, Physics and Chemistry. The parents were simultaneously interviewed to ascertain their socio-economic status and commitment to their children's education in alignment with PYDS principles.

Subsequently surveys were conducted by school staff of the homes of 10 shortlisted applicants to reaffirm their needy socio-economic status. The exercise led to 8 bright young minds (4 girls and 4 boys) joining our PYDS family.



SAATHIYA

'Everyone is bright in their own way, we just have to find what it is'

SAATHIYA, is a Shibulal Family Philanthropic Initiative in Bangalore. It offers a unique combination of 'Short Term Skill Training' and 'Long Term Career Support' to help underprivileged youth with employment opportunities in the Hospitality industry. It awards Industry recognized certificates to successful candidates and placement support to them for up to 5 years.

2 boys from Class XII and 4 girls from Class X cleared SAATHIYA's multi step admission process and were asked to join classes commencing on the 17th of April. The children were escorted and settled in the academy at Bangalore by our ever dependable Society Executive, Mr Ashwani Sharma, who is himself a PYDS alumni.

We are happy to share that till date our students have received appreciation for their overall performance. Gautam and Mehendi have already been assured of 'On Job Training' at Hyatt Regency, Dehradun.



The STEAM Festival

*"Creativity is the imaginative process whereby something new springs to life" -
Michaela Cristallo*

The STEAM Festival is organised annually to celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. This year it was hosted by The Indian Public School, Dehradun. Teams of PYDS students participated in multiple events.

Saniya Thapli of Class X, took part in the 'On the Spot Painting Competition', while Anjali Bharadwaj and Ayesha Pharasi of Class XII participated in the 'Face Painting Competition'. All three students received certificates of appreciation for their entries. Labinder Singh of Class IX and Sameer Pundir of Class XII represented the school as a team in the Quiz Competition. Amongst the sixteen schools that participated in the event, team PYDS stood in the first five.

Three teams from our school entered the 'Shark Tank Competition', in which they presented their business ideas before a panel of prospective investors viz. - i) The 'S.M.A.R.T Medicine Reminder for senior citizens, ii) 'Safety Mate' an application for women's safety and iii) 'Cos-o-Care', pocket portable organic cosmetic products. Of the 15 participating teams, the 'Safety Mate' application developed by our students bagged the first prize and the efforts of the remaining two teams were appreciated.



Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) Collab Day

"Everything is theoretically impossible until it is done" - Robert Heinlein

Our Tinkering Lab organised 'Collab Day' to share knowledge, propagate ATL awareness and promote an entrepreneurial temperament among students. In addition to our own students, teams of 5 students and two teachers each, from Him Jyoti School and Manav Bharti School of Dehradun participated in the event. Our school Principal, Mrs Arati Nagaraj, welcomed the participants and reminded all students that the primary objective was to *understand* and *learn* the process. She also encouraged them to have fun and to learn from each other.

The visiting students were trained by our students on the use of 'Quarky', a device that guides a toy car through a maze using the 'Picto Block' software. Thereafter all teams took turns to run their cars through the maze. A train track with obstacles was also laid in the Yoga Room, where the participating teams ran their 4 wheel vehicle (using the DPDT device) between the tracks.

Our longer term intent is to organise the event regularly at schools having the ATL, to propagate knowledge and train more students.



PYDS Principal's visit to Ministry of Education

*"Education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think" -
Albert Einstein*

Our school Principal, Mrs Arati Nagaraj was a member of the 12-member team of educators from across the country to be in audience with Mr Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, School Education & Literacy; Addl Secy Lamchonghoi Sweety Changsan; Joint Secy NCTE, Kesang Yangzom Sherpa; and Dr. Saklani, NCERT Director. The topic of discussion was 'Teacher Education and Training' and the venue was Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Mr Sanjay Kumar set the tone of the meeting by asking that the discussion be around schools and school education, focusing on the government-private sector split. He emphasised the need for dedicated and excellent teachers across the sector and went on to declare the need to design and set up an institutional platform for collaboration, so that all schools (private and public) can be part of the framework and design.

During the 3 hour discussion, each person at the table presented his view on challenges faced with Teacher Education and Training today, along with possible solutions.



Nurture Nature

“Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we’ve known” - Carl Sagan

Punaha Aranya, is a voluntary organisation of citizens that works towards environmental sustainability. It celebrated World Earth Day by organising a workshop for children at the Dehradun Zoo in collaboration with the Forest Department of Uttarakhand. Our students and students from several other Dehradun schools participated enthusiastically in the storytelling, theatre and poster making workshop. The Chief guest, Dr. Rajiv Bhartari, Principal Chief Conservator Forests, spoke to the children about environmental conservation.

The participants gave titles to stories and mimed them. Mixed groups of students from all schools made posters on ‘Save Earth’, which were so attractive that the Forest Department personnel expressed their wish to keep them. The judges admitted to the difficulty in determining final results. PYDS students were in all groups that were chosen for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions.



Toastmaster Club Meeting

“Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity” - Nat Turner

The 400th meeting of the Dehradun WIC Toastmasters Club was held at Cafe Laata, Jakhan. It was attended by 10 students of PYDS and Bajaj Institute of Learning, senior Toastmasters, distinguished guests and members of the Club. It was an excellent opportunity for the attendees to hear eminent speakers and learn strategies to improve public speaking skills.

Dhruv Om Sharma of our school took the floor and spoke about the 'Gavel Toastmasters Club' at PYDS. Amit Thapa, our budding singer, enthralled the audience by singing live, towards the end of the event.



Terry Fox Marathon

'We are stronger together'

The Terry Fox run is organised annually by the Indo Canadian Cancer Research Foundation to promote cancer awareness. It was hosted this year by The Doon School, Dehradun on

the 14th of April. 50 of our students from classes IX to XII participated in the event. The event increased our students' awareness towards cancer and its causes.



Dental Workshop

"Every tooth in a man's head is more valuable than a diamond" - Miguel de Cervantes

A dental workshop was organised by Spiti Ecosphere, a Himachal Pradesh based NGO for our Navjeevan and primary classes. They educated the students about the correct manner of brushing and flossing teeth, the harmful effects of sugary foods and the benefits of eating healthy foods. The children enjoyed the interactive presentations during the workshop and sang along while learning.



A Rendezvous with Jazz

"Music is the language of the heart without words" - Shinichi Suzuki

It was our pleasure to welcome Baer Traa, Ellisterr Van der Moolen, Alexander Beets and Rolf Delfos, a posse of jazz musicians from the Netherlands, to the PYDS auditorium on the 26th of April.

They presented a show that the students of classes NJ 5, VI, VII, VIII and staff of our school enjoyed thoroughly. The group introduced themselves in a jovial, musical manner that drew instant participation from the audience. They educated the spectators about the varied functions of their instruments and differentiated between the alto & tenor saxophones and the trumpet.

The artists also demonstrated the *call and response* pattern of Jazz by inducing audience participation. Our Navjeevan Coordinator, Mr Ankit Chamoli, charmed everyone with his exuberant '*jugalbandi*' (fusion) with the visiting artists.

The '*funeducation*' session so mesmerised our students that they didn't want it to end. The artists bid us farewell, entreating all to make music as often as possible and to give a shout out to '*Jaaaazzzz*'. We are grateful to our patron Mrs Anita Sobti for arranging this beautiful event for all of us.



We are proud of ...
Swati Tiwari (PYDS Batch 2021-22)

Swati joined PYDS in 2016 in Class VI. Her family lives in their ancestral house of two bedrooms in Rajpur, Dehradun. They have been facing a difficult time ever since Swati's father died of a heart attack in 2021. Her elder sister is physically challenged and recently her mother was diagnosed with gallbladder stones. Her brother Dhruv has been admitted to PYDS this year in Navjeevan batch 5.

Swati narrates her story in the following words:

"Presently I am studying to be a General Nursing Midwife (GNM) at Sai Institutions, Dehradun. When I joined PYDS, I was pessimistic about life. My teachers helped me change my outlook by listening to my problems and motivating me to face them. Till date, I bank on them for emotional support.

My father was the sole breadwinner of our family. Ever since his death, the responsibility of looking after my handicapped sister, the studies of my younger brother and me are all borne by my mother. She sells vegetables and a few fast-food items from the small rented shop, formerly run by my father. Our expenses often exceed our income, and we have to depend on relatives for help.

Even though my mother is weak and keeps unwell, she has no option but to keep working in order to provide for the three of us. Sometimes I think of dropping my course to help her, but I know that by completing my course in a couple of years, I will be able to support my family financially. It is my aspiration to ease my mother's burden and avail good treatment for my sister.

I am extremely thankful to PYDS for giving me good school education, something my parents could not afford. No words are enough to express my heartfelt gratitude to my alma mater for supporting my college fees, guiding me and holding my hand all along the way, without which it would not have been possible."

***A big shout out to our well-wishers, you mean the world to us.
Keep in touch, till we meet again!***

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