

PYDS Tinker Fest

"If the WHY is powerful, the HOW is easy" - Jim Rohn

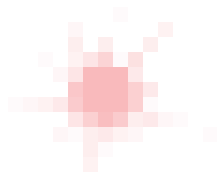


'Tinker Fest 2024', was hosted by PYDS on the 25th April, with participation from nine schools of Dehradun. The campus wore a festive look, with colourful buntings and a cardboard robot stationed at the school gate. PYDS students welcomed visiting students with a brief music recital, by playing notes on instruments fashioned out of a bucket, cold drink bottle, forks, tongs etc. Team PYDS put on its creative cap and innovated fashionable attires made out of bubble wrap, polythene bags, newspapers, discarded computer parts etc. Our Primary students donned the designer clothes and awed the audience with their ramp walk. Competitions were declared open after the welcome program.

Six teams participated in the first event, '*Glam & Gears: Exploring Fashion Through Tinkering*'. They displayed attires prepared in their own tinkering labs, embellished with LEDs and other tinkering products. Nine teams signed up for the second event, '*The Spark Storm Competition*'. Each team had to create a functional as well as fashionable accessory out of waste materials, to solve a given 'problem' related to students. The participants integrated innovation with tinkering skills and came up with interesting solutions. Judges pointed out mistakes made by students and suggested options. They applauded the efforts of students and said, "Considering the limited knowledge of Physics the children have, their designs are innovative and practical". The best 2 entries of both events were awarded. Principal, Ms Diana Luji, thanked the participating schools for attending the event and making it a grand success.

Student Council Investiture Ceremony

"What matters most is how well you walked through the fire" - Charles Bukowski





At the beginning of the new Academic session, a number of activities were initiated. Prominent among them was the Investiture ceremony of the new Student Council, which was held in the morning assembly of the first day of school. The Headboy, Headgirl, 2 Sports Captains and 2 Captains for each House took their oaths to serve as bridges between students and teachers. They pledged to use their skills to enhance communication and conduct, and in time, the overall culture among the students of PYDS. They were decorated with badges and sashes.

Class VI Baseline Assessment

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt



By way of background, Classes I to V have one section each. A second section is added to Class VI to accommodate students from Navjeevan as well as a few new faces from nearby primary schools. Given the diverse origins of students making their way into Class VI, (primary, Navjeevan and external) the need for a uniform test, to evaluate their capabilities has been felt for a while. The idea was implemented this year by giving the entire class a single test to assess their knowledge in English, Hindi, Science and Mathematics. Evaluation revealed that 12 students in Maths and 9 students in English need extra help in comprehending fundamental concepts. Remedial sessions of one hour each have been scheduled for these students - 3 for Mathematics and 2 for English, every week.

General Awareness Sessions

"We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn" - Mary Catherine Bateson



Weekly general awareness sessions were introduced for all classes, to keep them abreast of significant things happening in the country and around the globe. One session per week is scheduled to be conducted by monitors (selected from Class XI) under the supervision of a teacher. The monthly Global Awareness Program (GAP) magazine, and other sources will be used for reference. Out of the four sessions every month, three will be dedicated to learning and discussing current affairs, while the fourth will be for assessment.

Saturday Clubs

"It is a pleasure to learn new things and pursue a hobby"



Co-curricular activities have been an integral part of the PYDS education design since its inception. Students are exposed to these, both through Saturday Clubs as well as their weekly timetable. The intention is to balance academics and develop skills among students. Some new clubs were started this year, while a few were dropped. This year's clubs are - Clay Modelling, Art-Craft, Public Speaking, Literary, Nature, Creative Writing, Social Work, Debate, Drama, Photography, Video Editing, Collectors' Club, Diverse Design, Robotics and MUN. The clubs will meet for 2 hours on alternate Saturdays under the guidance of teachers. The first club day was conducted on 13th April and was received with great enthusiasm by students and teachers alike.

Volunteering to Teach

"The journey of a lifetime starts with the turning of a page" - Rachel Anders



As some teachers were away on CBSE paper checking duties and attending B.Ed classes, there was a shortage of teachers on campus. To fill the gap, Class XII students (who had just finished with exams) were asked to volunteer. The volunteers were assigned roles based on their strengths and skills and taught Social Studies and History and also led Dance and Art sessions. Some helped in conducting MUN sessions and assisting the debaters to prepare for an upcoming competition.

The substitute teachers struck quick rapport with their juniors and they were elated on the opportunity to teach in their own school. It elevated their sense of self esteem and can be considered a soft launch for them, to the world beyond school. For us, it was like handing over the baton, with a feeling of pleasure and pride.

Design Thinking Workshop

"The riskiest thing we can do is just maintain status quo" - Bob Iger



A workshop on 'Design Thinking' was held for students of classes IX and X, by Dr Kollath Jesudas George, professor of Practice & Associate of SRM Amaravati. During the workshop, students were introduced to the concept of design thinking. The professor explained the importance of defining the problem with clarity, the role of empathy, generating ideas, creating prototypes, testing and implementation for creating a successful design.

Post presentation, students were divided into groups and given a problem to solve. They were asked to list as many ideas as they could think of, to make writing in *braille* easier and less painful. He cautioned students to not jump to a solution, as by doing so, they could sabotage a potentially good idea. All ideas listed by students were read out and Dr George gave students constructive feedback. Groups were then instructed to follow the steps they had learned in the workshop to solve any given problem. The key learning of the session can be summed as, "*Explore all plausible ideas before jumping to a solution.*"

Visit to Indian Institute of Remote Sensing

"Time is not measured by the passing of years but by what one does, what one feels, and what one achieves." - J L Nehru



The Indian Institute of Remote Sensing is an institute for research, higher education and training in the field of remote sensing, geoinformatics and GPS technology for natural resources, environmental and disaster management. It was established in 1966 in Dehradun.

On 23rd April, 8 students of class XI (Science) visited IIRS to attend their Foundation Day. Besides PYDS, many other schools of the city also present at the event. The first prominent feature visible on entering the campus was a model of the GSLV Mk III on display. Next, the students were shown documentaries on satellites and their launching. Students saw prototypes of spacesuits and models of various satellites on display. They were allowed to visit the section where machines for weather forecasting, earthquake alert system, drones, GPS system and other remote sensing devices were kept.

After touring the campus, students were seated in an auditorium, to hear the experiences of two retired scientists. The scientists shared their experiences of working on different satellites during the 1980s and the nitty gritty of successfully launching those satellites. Our students came away, awestruck and enthused with their experience.

Capacity Building Programs by CBSE

“Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out.” – Robert Collier



i) Competency-Based Assessment in Science for the Secondary Level

CBSE held a workshop on 'Competency-Based Assessment in Science for the secondary level', at DAV Public School, Dehradun on 2nd and 3rd April. It was attended by two of our teachers. The Board has recently introduced some revisions to the assessment and evaluation framework for Classes XI and XII. These were initiated to elevate the importance of competency based questions, aiming to prepare students to apply their knowledge in the real world. Topics such as, what makes a good assessment, cognitive domains, understanding multiple-choice questions, how to present questions etc were discussed. Participants took an assessment test towards the end of the workshop.

ii) Use of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom

A workshop on "Use of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom" was organised by CBSE on 16th April at Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School, Dehradun. It was attended by a senior teacher of our school. The workshop focussed on the application of AI apps to assist teachers in creating lesson plans, initiate activities, frame assignments and to aid assessments. It familiarised them with pedagogical tools and resources to teach AI in the classroom. Special emphasis was laid on promoting hands-on learning experiences for students through project-based activities. The workshop simplified AI concepts and technologies for the attendees.

Inter School Competitions

"I am always hungry for the next thing. I'm never resting on my laurels" - Constance Wu



PYDS students participated in two Inter-school competitions in the month of April:

Chintan Pravah Debate

Dev Verma and Shakshi Negi of Class XII competed in the Chintan Pravah Debate held at Shigally International School, Dehradun. Eight schools participated in this competition. The topic was, 'Strong dictatorship is better than a weak democracy'.

While Shakshi spoke against the motion, Dev spoke for the motion. The bold and fine eloquence of both speakers impressed the judges and the audience. Their diligence in preparing for the event was recognised. Shakshi was declared 1st and was awarded a trophy with certificate. Dev was applauded for his strong arguments and received a certificate of participation.



Dance

Sixteen students from PYDS participated in an Inter-School Dance Competition organised by Maa Anandmayee Memorial School. Eight of our students participated in both categories of middle and senior school. The theme was "Save Ganga," for middle school and "Mythology" for senior school. Participants had to present 6-minute dance performances using props. In the middle school category, our students depicted the descent of the Ganga River, showing its current state and emphasised its importance in our lives. They used posters and banners as props. In the senior category, students performed the '*Sita haran*' scene from the Ramayana. The scene was brought to life by vivacious dance moves, expressions and props.

Team PYDS bagged the first position in both categories and were awarded trophies and certificates. Even more precious was the encouragement from the judges, who praised the clear footwork and incredible expressions of our dancers.

We are proud of...
Kiran Panwar PYDS batch 2019



Kiran's family lives in a rented accommodation at Kalidas Road, Dehradun. Her father is a receptionist at a hotel. Her mother works as a cook in a hostel to support the family.

When we approached Kiran to narrate her journey, this is what she told us...

"I joined PYDS in 2017 in class XI as a hostel resident as my family lived in a single room accommodation and studying there was a problem. The thought of staying away from home saddened me but at the same time I was excited about starting a new journey. Things began changing for me from the day I shifted to the girl's hostel. I shed my shy, demure garb and gradually transformed into a bold, confident girl. PYDS became my new family; everyone from Swamy Sir, to Principal Sir, teachers and wardens, was always there to help and guide. It never felt like being away from home.

School was fun, we had a Gavels Club meeting every Friday, in which we conducted activities like an official Toastmasters club meeting. It was during one such meeting that I gave a speech in the presence of about 50 people. In spite of my nervousness, I completed my speech and the appreciation I got afterwards was very encouraging. There has been no looking back since then; my stage fear vanished. Later, when I gave a speech about 'Life is all about choices', at a WIC Toastmasters meeting, I was awarded the best demo speaker of the meeting.

PYDS will always hold a special place in my heart throughout my life. For me it was

that magical place where I experienced life in a totally different perspective. By simply watching Swamy Sir work selflessly for children like me, my perceptions changed positively towards having the right attitude in life.

I completed school in 2019 and with the help of PYDS secured a seat and a 100% scholarship for a B. Tech (Computer & Engineering) from Shoolini University. I was fascinated by AI and began my engineering journey by enrolling in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. During my 4 year course, while working on projects, I found Web Development most interesting. To explore further, I started creating web pages and sample websites. Luckily during the 2nd year, I was able to join a four month internship that taught me much about client expectations and working professionally. My first real life project was a start-up called 'Peakpals', in which I created their official website as well as the CEOs webpage.

At Shoolini I enjoyed participating in activities such as, 'Janmashtami' celebrations (as a dancer), cancer awareness and cleaning drives. During our fourth semester, companies came to campus for placements. Being well prepared and was selected by Incedo Technology & Solutions. In January 2023, (while still in college) I was offered an internship by them, for which I shifted to Gurgaon. The six months of internship was full of learning and fun and by July 2023, I started my full time job as a Software Engineer. Presently, I am working with a US client, PNC Bank, which is one of the biggest clients of Incedo. I would like to say that the corporate world is not as bad as often portrayed. The environment and people at Incedo are nice and helpful. My first company is amazing and let's see what comes next. But whatever it may be, I am ready for the challenge.

I am thankful to every individual who has helped me in my journey. It is just the beginning of my career and I move ahead with reverence to Swamy Sir's ideology of 'Life is for Giving'. I want to give back to society in whatever way I can to bring smiles on faces, just like someone brought to mine."

Let's beat the heat with cool ideas to 'change the background', for those who need the change. Let us know your thoughts 🌻

Donate to spread smiles!



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