

**“Umbrella is comfort, rain is life.
You must often leave comfort to touch the life!”
*Mehmet Murat ildan***

After an uncharacteristically strong summer full of dust and heat, we wholeheartedly welcomed the arrival of monsoon. While the hills soaked up the gift of rain to replenish and rejuvenate their cloak of greenery, we too reinforced our commitment to preserving our environment in all its natural glory. This July, partnering with Swayamsiddha - a Personality Development Center for Women that undertakes constructive work in society, we organized a tree plantation drive. It was undertaken by thirty women from the center as well as students from our Navjeevan program.



We planted twenty-five saplings of ayurvedic plants which included Holy Basil, Kalanchoe Pinnata and Heart-leaved Moonseed across our campus.

Moving beyond our campus, we also actively participated in a two stage plantation drive organized by a Citizens' Group at Thano Range and Jhajhra Range on the outskirts of Dehradun. This effort was meticulously coordinated by Mrs. Shefali Ray, our donor and well wisher



These events were graced by Mr. Nitish Mani Tripathi (District Forest Officer, Dehradun), Mr. Jai Raj (Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of the Forest Force, Retired), and our patron Mrs. Chini Swamy. This drive also marked the celebration of Harela, a local festival that signals the onset of monsoon. Our students planted two hundred saplings and also extended logistical support to make this campaign successful.

Standing for Our Community



We understand our responsibility toward our community and take pleasure in supporting it through thick and thin. With the continued support of one of our generous donors, we constructed two more toilets for deeply disadvantaged families. Our team undertook an exhaustive task of identifying beneficiary families who, due to a series of unfortunate events, are living in difficult physical conditions and have spent years without a toilet facility. The construction of these toilets has come as a relief to these families. This was truly the fruition of our ongoing efforts at community upliftment.

Empowering Young People



We were recently nominated for the **Certificate of Appreciation** for valuable contribution toward empowering young people by the International Award for Young People (IAYP)! In the wonderful Annual Gold Award Ceremony arranged by IAYP on 5th July 2022 at India International Centre, New Delhi we proudly received our own commendation and met many more organizations committed to the rights and well-being of future change makers. The chief guest for the ceremony was General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Former Chief of the Army Staff (CAS). Mrs Sanjala Wazir, our Director and Senior Education Advisor, received the Certificate of appreciation on behalf of the School.

A Magic Maker



Cooking well, with love, is an art. It was two decades ago that Mrs. Anita Dangwal joined us as a cook as we started as a coaching facility of only four students in Swamy Sir's Cottage. She had been serving our children with love ever since. From four students to now more than 500, her journey has been our story.

It is hard to say goodbye to people who have been with us from the start of our journey. After more than 20 years of her engagement, we finally bid her farewell.

The Lasting Influence



It was a great honor for us to host the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Mr. Pankaj Mithal at Purkal. Deeply motivated by his presence, students and staff listened raptly as he delivered a talk on his responsibilities, bringing forth the need for uncompromising conduct even in his personal life. This was followed by a Q&A session during which he answered several questions which enhanced students' understanding of the law and the career opportunities associated with it.

Many students expressed their happiness with this session - let's read one of these.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for me to allay my doubts because I want to pursue a career in Law. He inspired me to excel in the Legal Sector. One thing that I will always remember is that he said, "start speaking up for yourself and believing in yourself".

I learned to share more opinions while being a good listener."

— Komal
Class 12 (Law aspirant)

Never Too Late to Set Another Goal



Dr. Varun Nagaraj, eminent academician and Dean of S P Jain Management Institute, Mumbai visited us on July 11. He spoke with our students of Classes IX, X, XI and XII about career options and the importance of career planning as a lifetime endeavor. He further emphasized that new possibilities arise at every stage of life and explained that while deciding a career path early on is good, it is also important to be flexible as it may lead you to better fulfillment of one's dreams. Dr. Nagaraj also shared experiences from his own academic and professional life, the challenges he faced and the manner in which he overcame these. The students felt reassured that research and hard work backed by instinct and intuition will definitely help them achieve success in their dream careers.

Empowering the Uttarakhand Cluster



On July 14 and 15, we hosted an “Innovative-Thinking-Workshop” for Tinkering Facilitators of Uttarakhand Cluster comprising 25 teachers from 11 schools. The workshop was organized by Erehwon Consultancy and focused on design thinking and deeper understanding of users' unmet or unarticulated needs. It was conducted by Mr. Rajeev Narang, CEO of Erehwon Consultancy with full enthusiasm.

We Can Learn Arts as well as Learn Through Arts

Learning is an ongoing process even for our teachers as they strive to enhance their teaching skills. On June 23 and 24, Ms. Hema Ramanathan, series editor and co-author of Weavers - an English textbook series focusing on Art and Technology for Grade I to VIII, conducted a two-day workshop for our teaching staff. It helped them learn to combine their current pedagogical practices with various branches of Arts.



The workshop was an invaluable learning experience for our teachers who have begun using art forms as mediums of teaching, which in turn is helping our students understand concepts easily.

In the wake of this workshop, we organized several events, some of which are described below, that allowed students to express themselves through theatrical plays and puppet shows.

The Famous Artist



As part of our 'Inter-section Theater Competition', our Class VII students performed a play on 'The Famous Artist', a chapter in their curriculum based on Michelangelo. Their aim was to understand the chapter holistically by

experiencing it in the form of a play. Performances were judged on multiple parameters including dialogue delivery, voice modulation and stage usage. Students themselves designed the set and props and, backed by fifteen days of committed practice, put up an exceptional performance.

Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let your hair down

Inspired by the Harry Potter play performed a couple of months ago, our students from the Navjeevan class performed their version of Rapunzel, a classic children's fairy tale story where a fair maiden is trapped in a tower which can only be accessed by the outside world by climbing up her very long hair.



Post the Harry Potter play, our students had many questions about acting and performing - such as 'how can a person learn so many dialogues', 'how much practice do we need to perform such an act', and many others. The best way to learn is through doing, and our inspired students discovered their answers while putting up their own performance which also helped them enhance their communication skills. After a rigorous week of practice, they staged a brilliant performance.

Pulling the Strings



All our students from Class VI came together to perform a short play, 'Kathputli', as part of their class activities. The exercise also had its roots in our Experiential Learning program. This activity encouraged students to dive deep into Rajasthani culture and, after writing the script, students learned how to make and decorate puppets using traditional Rajasthani attire and advanced forms.

The Arrival

Our very own Aditi Mangain was selected for this round of the Study Abroad Program implemented by AFS (American Field Service) - an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help young people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.



She left for California USA on August 29 2021, where she attended school and stayed with a local host family for 11 months. Let's read her story in her own words.

"Everything was exciting and fun for me since the start of the program. I was placed in Claremont, California and I think it's one of the perfect places to live in. On one side, you see mountains covered in snow and the sea; on the other, there is a desert. I was involved in different activities since the start of my journey like playing volleyball and other games.

I also volunteered in ushering and teaching Afghan refugees, beach cleanups and many more community service initiatives.

I am grateful to the people who helped me be a part of this adventure. My Exchange year was not perfect. I had ups and downs but they sure taught me a lot and I will always be grateful."

Monsoon Cover Story

We are proud to share the success of our alumnus, Ajeet Pundir, who got placed with Decathlon Sports India New Delhi, as an Omni Sports leader. The culmination of a difficult journey for Ajeet, his story is an inspiration for all of us.



“Time flies by quickly! Three years completed, and I am a graduate now. My college journey started on August 04 2019, when I, along with my school friends, joined Shoolini University to pursue my career course - B.Com (Hons). I was really happy to see the campus of Shoolini University. For one who is passionate about reading, Yogananda Library is the right place for them. It is a huge library and has a very good collection of books on almost any topic one can think about.

Talking about academics, the faculty is very helpful. In my first semester, I gave a presentation to the class that was appreciated by Professor Kamal Kant and my classmates. This was very encouraging.

I noticed a lot of change in myself starting the first semester itself. I started feeling more secure and I started taking on more responsibilities. PYDS gave me confidence and Shoolini built on it. There was also a lot of extra-curricular exposure, much like PYDS. I like playing different games like badminton, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, billiards, etc. I represented the Management Department in the badminton championships in the years 2019 and 2022. Pressure started building after completing the course, which I finished with a

7.67 CGPA. Companies that were coming for campus placement were offering positions in sales. I waited for an opportunity in my non-sales profile and finally got placed at Decathlon Sports India as an Omni Sports leader. I have moved to Delhi to join my office of duty. I am nervous and excited as this is my first job. I know life will be different now and I am ready to face all the challenges and hurdles with a smiling face.

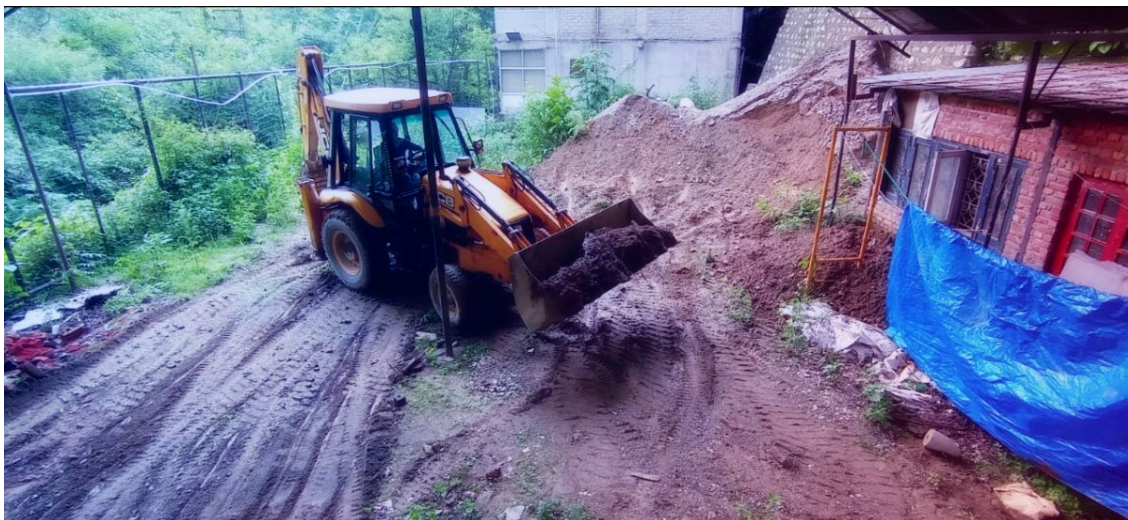
I would love to end this lovely note by thanking PYDS and SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY for giving opportunities to so many students who have a vision and want to do something unique in their lives. I would also thank Swamy Sir for giving us the motto '**LIFE IS FOR GIVING.**'"

Ajeet Pundir, Decathlon Sports India, Omni Sports leader

Rebuilding Our Structures

Our sanitation facilities, especially our toilets, were originally constructed twelve years ago when the strength of the school was only one hundred twenty against five hundred now. The existing toilet blocks for boys and girls comprise of 3 cubicles each. These blocks, meant to be used by students of Upper Primary, Middle and High School, are located down an uncovered flight of steps adjoining our Sports Field. Over time, our student strength has almost quadrupled, and our facilities, already suffering from wear and tear, have been inadequate to keep up with the demand.

Additionally, the toilets are located far from the Academic Block which costs students time and are difficult to access when it rains.



We have recently initiated the construction of a New Toilet Block which will be connected to the Eastern Academic Block, which will help students save time and protect them from rain and vagaries of weather. It will consist of four floors as follows:

Lower Ground floor: Store

Upper Ground Floor: 10 urinals and 5 toilets for boys.

First floor: 9 girls' and 3 ladies' staff toilets.

2nd floor: 9 girls' and 3 ladies' staff toilets.

The completion of this project in mid 2023 will bring about a much more secure, safe and hygienic campus for our students. While we have been able to raise 50% of the total project cost, which is estimated to be INR 1,51,65,000, we are looking for donations to meet remaining costs and complete the project on schedule. Donations are deeply welcome, and your support is keenly appreciated.

Support Our Project

We thank you for taking the time to be a part of our journey. We will be back soon with the next edition with new stories. Do encourage us with your suggestions and ideas. Stay Awesome!



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