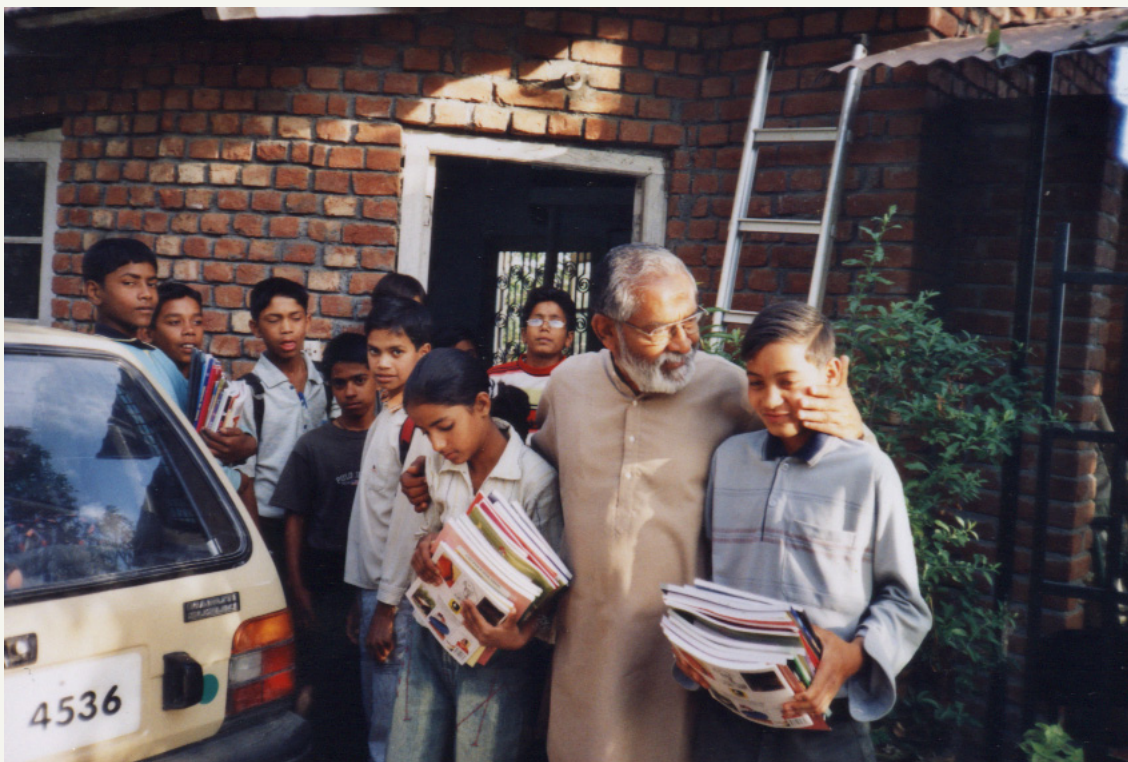


Your Purkal Journal August 2023



A Journey of Creating Change Makers

"PYDS belongs to all of us and it is our responsibility. I belong to PYDS but do not own it" - G.K. Swamy



Twenty years ago on 8th August, Purkal Youth Development Society was formally registered under the *Societies Registration Act, 1860* laying the formal framework for our institution. In these years, the 'after school' tutorials that

Swamy Sir began from his home has transformed into a CBSE affiliated school, comprising classes I to XII. From just 2-3 villages to begin with, we now serve 170 locations spread across 8 districts of Uttarakhand.

The hard work of like minded people who came together to provide quality education to the needy children has paid off. Till date 431 of our students have completed class XII, out of which, 198 are employed, 164 are pursuing graduation and 44 are doing a postgraduate course.

We are extremely grateful to our patrons and well wishers for supporting us throughout and reinforce our commitment to creating change agents within the communities of Uttarakhand.

77th Independence Day

“The preservation of freedom is not the soldier’s task alone. The whole Nation has to be strong” - Lal Bahadur Shastri



The 77th Independence Day was celebrated on campus with pride and exuberance. Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth, hoisted the National Flag and the students marched past gallantly, led by the School Head Boy and Head Girl.

A stage production of song, dance and a patriotic play portraying the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters was presented in the auditorium.

Hindi Speech and Essay Competition

"Language is the vessel that carries culture"



On 8th August, Niharika Pundir of class XII and Ishita Pundir of class X participated in a National-Level Hindi On the Spot Essay and Speech Competition, organised at The Indian Public School, Dehradun. A total of 30 schools participated in this competition from across India.

Ishita participated in extempore speech and reached the semi-finals. She received a certificate of participation. Niharika bagged the 2nd position in essay writing on the topic “भौतिक सुख की चाह में युवा वर्ग भटक रहा है”. She was awarded a trophy, a certificate and a cheque for Rs. 25,000. Niharika on being asked how she would use the money, answered, “For higher education”.

A Theatrical Experience

"Play is not frivolous; it is brain building"



Both sections of class IX competed on 11th August, over the theatrical production of their chapter, "The Little Girl" by Katherine Mansfield. The play was presented in the school auditorium.

The students were given a week to write the script, prepare props and rehearse their parts. Despite limited resources and time, they created impressive sets on stage to add depth to their portrayal. Such interactive platforms help nurture much needed skills of oration and creative thinking among our students and help polish their leadership skills.

National Sports Day Cleaning Drive

"It is not my country's duty to push me ahead. It is my duty to push my country ahead"- Major Dhyan Chand



On 29th August, we celebrated National Sports Day. In a special assembly, sports enthusiasts of our school took the stage and spoke about Major Dhyan Chand, who led India to three consecutive Olympic Hockey gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. A short sports quiz was also organised for the students in assembly.

Later in the afternoon, students of classes IX to XII went on a cleaning drive. They cleaned the sports field, all pathways of the school, working right up to the school bus parking area and trimmed overgrown bushes along the way as well.

The day's activities reminded us of the importance of sports and physical fitness and the value of community service.

Inter School Matches

"It is nice to have valid competition; it pushes you to do better" - Gianni Versace



Basketball Match at DPS Khala Gaon

Our school participated in the U18 Boys and Girls Inter-School Basketball Tournament, hosted by Delhi Public School in Khala Gaon, Dehradun, between 2nd and 9th August.

Among the 10 participating girls teams, our team reached the semi-finals. The boys team reached the quarter-finals, among the 15 participating teams.



Badminton Match at The OASIS

The U14 and U16 Inter-School Badminton matches were held at The Oberai School of Integrated Studies, Dehradun. Single matches for both boys and girls were held on the 16th and 17th August, in which 3 girls and 4 boys from our school took part.



U18 Girls Basketball Match at Ecole Globale

Our school participated in the U18 Inter-School Girls Basketball Tournament hosted by Ecole Globale School, Dehradun. A total of 16 teams from Mussoorie and Dehradun participated in this event. Our team played three matches, out of which they were victorious in one, but could not advance further in the competition.

We commend our girls for their sportsmanship and encourage them to practice harder!

MUN at The Doon School

"The earth is is but one country and mankind its citizens" - Baha 'u' llah



From 17th to 19th August 2023, The Doon School organised a Model United Nations (MUN) in which more than 400 students from 32 schools participated, including two international schools.

Our School was represented by Dhruv Om Sharma (acting as Lok Sabha member, Lallan Singh), Palak Rastogi (acting as Lok Sabha member, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat), Amaan Ullah (UNODC-delegate of Sri Lanka), and Ambika Negi (SOCHUM- delegate of Singapore). All of them made significant contributions to their respective committees. The panel was impressed by the extempore speech by Ambika Negi, which received a favourable mention in The Doon School MUN journal.

Rain Travails

"We are tougher than the problem"



The monsoon this year was severe and especially challenging for our students coming from the remote villages. After days of incessant rain, the only motorable road to Rikholi village got completely blocked by a landslide on August 4th. For several weeks students from Rikholi village had to walk 2 km

each way every day to board their school bus. Mercifully the road has since been repaired and bus normalcy restored.

Similarly, after heavy rainfall all through the night of August 7th, the road to Shigally village was washed away. The next morning onwards, for over a month, the school bus had to take a longer route to pick and drop children from the Shigally area. The same night a large tree at the periphery of the sports field fell inside, damaging the fence. The tree was so large that it had to be cut into pieces for clearance.

Fire Fighting Workshop

"Be prepared, not scared"



Campus wide Fire Fighting apparatus has been installed as an essential safety measure. After inspection, it has been duly approved by the Uttarakhand Fire and Emergency Services. The inspecting officers conducted a workshop to educate our students and staff members on fire hazards and preventive measures. Attendees were told about different 'types of fire' and the steps to be taken in case of a mishap. The officers also explained measures for fire prevention. The correct use of water hose reels and fire extinguishers was demonstrated and few staff members were given a practice session. The officers also demonstrated how a burning LPG cylinder should be turned off and ways to handle LPG related fires.

It was an eye opening workshop for all as it taught us new facts related to fire. Life saving measures such as the ones taught in this workshop are a must for all institutes.

Visit by the Future School Leaders

*"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere" -
Chinese Proverb*



Future School Leaders (FSL) is an organisation based in New Delhi, dedicated to nurturing, inspiring and connecting Indian School Leaders. A group of 20 leaders from FSL comprising Principals, Directors and Owners of schools and colleges from across the country visited us on the 22nd of August. The purpose was to learn about our school's philosophy, teaching methodologies and management structure.

The visitors were introduced to our Mission and education model and were taken for a guided tour around the campus. During their two-hour visit, the educators keenly interacted with our students, teachers, career cell executives and alumni working with us. They were impressed by our model of education and showed interest in working with us in future.

We look forward to more such visits through which we may exchange knowledge with the broader educational community of India.

Selection in the Uttarakhand Sub Junior U14 Basketball team



Manav Khatri of class VIII was chosen to be a part of the Uttarakhand U14 Basketball team to play the Nationals between 3rd to 9th August, in Pondicherry.

He attended a four-day training camp at Parade Ground, Dehradun for 2 hours every morning and evening, to hone his playing skills. It comprised of exercises, drills, practice matches and briefings on strategies of playing the game.

It was a proud moment for all of us when Manav received the State jersey and left for Puducherry with his state team mates and coaches. Team Uttarakhand played 7 matches and ended up as the second runners up in their own pool.

Manav enjoyed the experience of travelling more than 2,500 km to compete and interact with players from all over India, a first in his young life. Back at school, he is working to improve his playing acumen and looks forward to representing his School and State in more matches.

We are proud of....

Sandeep Joshi



Sandeep joined Swamy Sir's post-school tutorials in 2000. He never studied at PYDS, but was financially supported by the Society. A resident of Salan Gaon, his father worked on contract with an irregular income, while his mother was a helper at a school.

Fond of cooking and eager to start earning, Sandeep joined a bachelors course in Hospitality & Hotel Administration at the Institute of Hotel Management, Dehradun. He was initially placed in Kolkata, then as chef in a school in Gurgaon and thereafter worked in Dehradun for some time, after which he got a break to work with Carnival Cruise with whom he sailed and cooked for over a year. He is now working with Grand Hyatt, Nashville USA, as a *Sous Chef*. He helped his younger brother Arvind become a chef and the two now live and work together in the USA. Steady incomes of Sandeep and his brother have enabled their parents to retire.

While on a recent visit home, we requested Sandeep to come and speak to the students of class XII, to which he gladly agreed. He began by explaining his job title, '*sous chef*', which means '2nd in command' and then went back in time by recounting the pivotal role played by Swamy Sir in his life. He spoke about the challenging work environment in the kitchens of the hospitality industry and encouraged students to stay focused on their goal, no matter what. He dwelt on the importance of basic skills like cooking, doing laundry etc. emphasising that these were fundamental for survival in an alien country away from the family. He also threw light on the work culture in the USA and told students about dignity of labour in that country.

All through the talk, the eyes and ears of students remained glued to him. "*Life is a loop; if you do good, good will happen to you*", he told them before closing. We are so proud of Sandeep who expresses his deep sense of gratitude towards PYDS by regularly donating to the School.

As we look back, at the galaxy of our well wishers, who stood by us unconditionally over years, we bow with deep gratitude. Keep us in your prayers.

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