



Concept Art by Kanishka Joshi

Class VIII

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It's coming up to that time of year again when winter turns colder and once again, we'll round up the Christmas decorations and our favorite festive tunes, and we cannot have that ultimate Christmas blast without wishing you some well-deserved time off to indulge in festive spirits. Echoing the same sentiments of gratitude for our donors, our students reveled in the spree of making Christmas cards.



These cards reflect their thoughts and acknowledgment of your efforts that keep our premises warm, cozy, and lit with joys.

## Bringing Back the Bustle

Juxtaposing with harsh winter, our campus activities are in full swing ever since we resumed our full-day program on December 1, 2021. Finally, we sense our walls emanating the old vibes which we missed for a long time.





**Our full-day program witnessed the unprecedented hiatus of 20 months after the announcement of the first nationwide lockdown. Therefore, the prearranged timetable was reduced to 4 hours but as we are back to the normal schedule, the teachers are utilizing extra time to address learning gaps and are working on verbal articulation with students.**

**We reopened the School in two phases. In the first phase, we brought 120 students (60 day-scholars, 60 residential) back to school whereas, in the second phase, all students from Class IV to XII were brought back to campus. Classes I to III would be on campus after winter break. The new school uniforms have been distributed to these students and all the important instructions have been conveyed to the parents. These young students are excited to join the campus back.**





All geared up for the bone-chilling winter, we initiated the distribution of puffer jackets to all our students. These jackets come with an insulated section stitched inside to keep our students from cold.

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## **The New Metric**

As per the new assessment pattern released by the CBSE Board, the class 10 and class 12 board examinations will be held in two terms. Our board students have finished their first semester of board exams and are preparing for their second semester which is expected to be held in March-April next year.

The new pattern consists of Multiple Choice Questions and the duration for solving them is 90 minutes. Every question has four options and the student has to encircle the correct one.

## **Celebrations, Passion and Purpose**

Diwali Celebration







On 30 October 2021, we organized the Rangoli, Diya decoration and Painting Competition on campus. Students enjoyed this Diwali celebration with their teachers and staff by sharing pastries and Vada sponsored by one of our generous donors.

#### Children's Day.. Spic Macay

After nearly two years of unprecedented detachment from a physical school, children of PYDS, who are now back, had a great fun time on Children's Day.



The Society for the promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth, (SPICMACAY) organized a cultural program for students. In which Shri Dhruv Bedi, the recipient of the government felicitation, Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar, enthralled the audience with his Sitar recital, accompanied on Tabla by Shri Shankar Shakya.

#### Christmas Celebration

Our students displayed great involvement in making these Christmas decorations. Every piece was carved out of waste cardboard and no adhesive was used. But what makes it truly special is that It has hand impressions of all the students from Class IV, V, and Navjeevan Program.









Students and staff sang Christmas carols, spent merry times, and captured lots of photographs. We would also take this opportunity to extend a shout-out to Mrs. Dipannita Biswas, our Art Teacher, for guiding students on designing these and Christmas Greetings.

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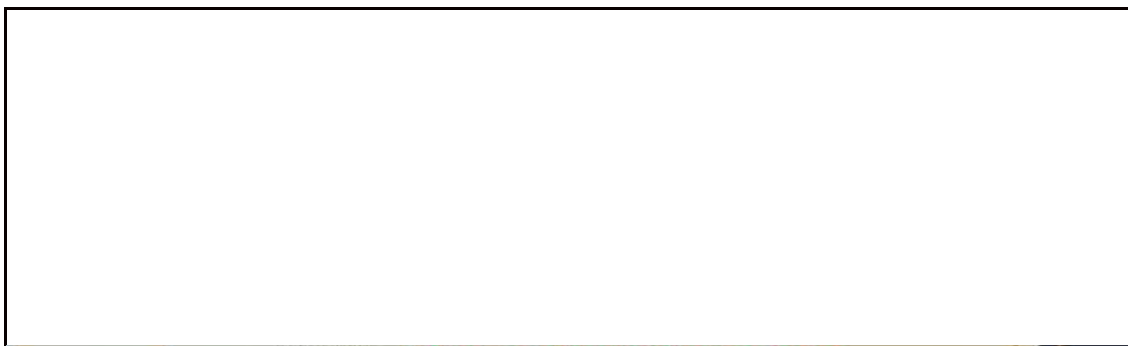
## Keeping Us Constantly Impressed

### Parvati Shah, Face of Sabera Award for 2021

Parvati joined PYDS in 2014 after the Uttarakhand flash floods of 2013. She had to face great odds at a very young age but despite all these challenges, she has conquered her fears and moved forward. She hosted the Social Enterprise Responsible Awards (SABERA) that was streamed live on December 9, 2021. It gives us immense joy and pride to see Parvati being recognized at this level.

Here is the full video of the Sabera Awards.

Skip to 35:20 on the timeline to watch Parvati's segment.





### Khel Mahakumbh

We are happy to share that in Khel Maha Kumbh an event organized by Bhagwantpur Nyaya Panchayat, our students made a remarkable impact. We won Gold in the following games:

1. Kabbadi (Girls)
2. Kabaddi (Boys)
3. Kho-Kho (Girls)
4. Kho-Kho (Boys)



In addition, Our students:

- a) Devraj Rana of Class VIII won second prize in the 400m race for boys.



b) Niruta Chaudhary of Class VIII won first prize in the 400m and 100m races.

c) Nikita Rana of Class VIII won first prize in the Long jump.

### Global Innovation Challenge - tGelf

Parvati Shah (Class 9), Riya Chauhan (Class 9) and Riya Sharma (Class 10) placed our school on the world map by winning the Global Innovation Challenge organized by The Global Education Leadership Foundation (tGELF). Their project, Smart Medicine Access Reminder Tool (S.M.A.R.T), was among 300+ entries, worldwide. It addressed the Sustainability and Development Goal (SDG) of Good Health and Wellbeing. Watch the video to learn more!



### Amandeep JNU

Our alumnus Amandeep has secured a seat in Jawaharlal Nehru University - JNU, Delhi. He would be pursuing an integrated course in Computer Science and Engineering (B.Tech and M.Tech). The physical reporting in the college is expected to start from the second week of December 2021.



**How did the friends of the Society help him in reaching his goal? Let's find out in his own words.**

**"All thanks to the support of PYDS and my donors for believing in me and supporting my education. After 5 years, I see myself working in tech companies like Google or Microsoft. I will always be indebted to all the help I have got and will take the legacy forward of helping the neediest."**

**My sincere thanks once again!"**



### Cadet Esha Sharma

Esha Sharma joined PYDS in class VII. Apart from being an excellent sportsperson, she has been a gold awardee from IAYP (International Award for Young People). Just after clearing her senior secondary education, she joined the National Cadet Corps to pursue a career as an army officer which she has always aspired to be. She is pursuing this program and Bachelor of Commerce in DAV PG College.



After this, she aims to clear the Combined Defence Services examination which will bring her closer to her goal. She believes in unity and discipline which is why she believes she is fit for the Indian Army.

## **Cultivating Mindfulness and Hygiene**

### Workshop on Mental Health:

On Saturday 20th November 2021, PYDS Staff attended a workshop on addressing mental health in adults and children by Dr. Veena Krishnan, a Senior Consultant Clinical Psychologist at



University of Petroleum & Energy Studies (UPES) with experience of over three decades in clinical psychology and in conducting workshops. Our children and staff returned to physical school after a gap of 18 months and with a range of experiences - personal loss, conflict, depression and also some amount of joy. Our staff has been struggling with tools and techniques to handle changed student behavior. So, this workshop was eagerly awaited and provided tools, techniques and resources for identifying, managing and supporting the adults and children on our campus.

### Hygiene workshop



In November, we arranged a special hygiene workshop that focused primarily on menstrual complications among young girls. The workshop was presided over by Dr. Manju Sachhan (Retired Gynaecologist Max hospital).

Our in-house nurse, Ms. Sonam Thakur, assisted Dr. Manju in getting acquainted with the problems the teenage girls were facing. Dr. Manju helped the children in getting familiarised with the proper aspects of feminine hygiene and all the kinds of physical changes a body goes through during puberty. She also inculcated positive harmony among students which boosted their self-confidence.

The workshop was a huge success, all the students had a genuine Q/A with the guest speaker and it was an informative workshop overall.

## **Extending Our Shelters and Means**

### Girls Hostel Extension Project

The project commenced on 5th July 2021. It was initiated to upgrade the capacity of our girls' hostel, which currently accommodates 70 girls and 3 mentors. We have completed the construction of two floors. Each floor consists of a dormitory,



which can accommodate 12 girls on 6 bunk beds along with a mentor accommodation and toilets.



We have also fixed chain-link fences for students' safety. With the completion of this building, now we can accommodate 94 girls and 5 mentors.

### Primary classes' renovation

The building that accommodates the primary classes is ten years old. With the kind assistance of a donor, we are upgrading all classes from 1 to 5. In January 2021, we are hoping to welcome students with renovated and painted classrooms equipped with new furniture, televisions and upgraded technology.

### c) Construction of Toilets

A generous donor is supporting us to build toilets in our students' homes. Our students' surveyor helped in the identification of these families.





**We have completed the construction of the two toilets and handed them over to needy families. We shall complete four more in the coming weeks.**

**We wish all our donors jolly holidays and a Merry Christmas!**

**As always, we are heartily grateful to all our donors for playing an important role in reshaping our students' lives.**



**Spread Holiday Cheer!**

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