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Harmony Fest 2022

The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (tGELF)

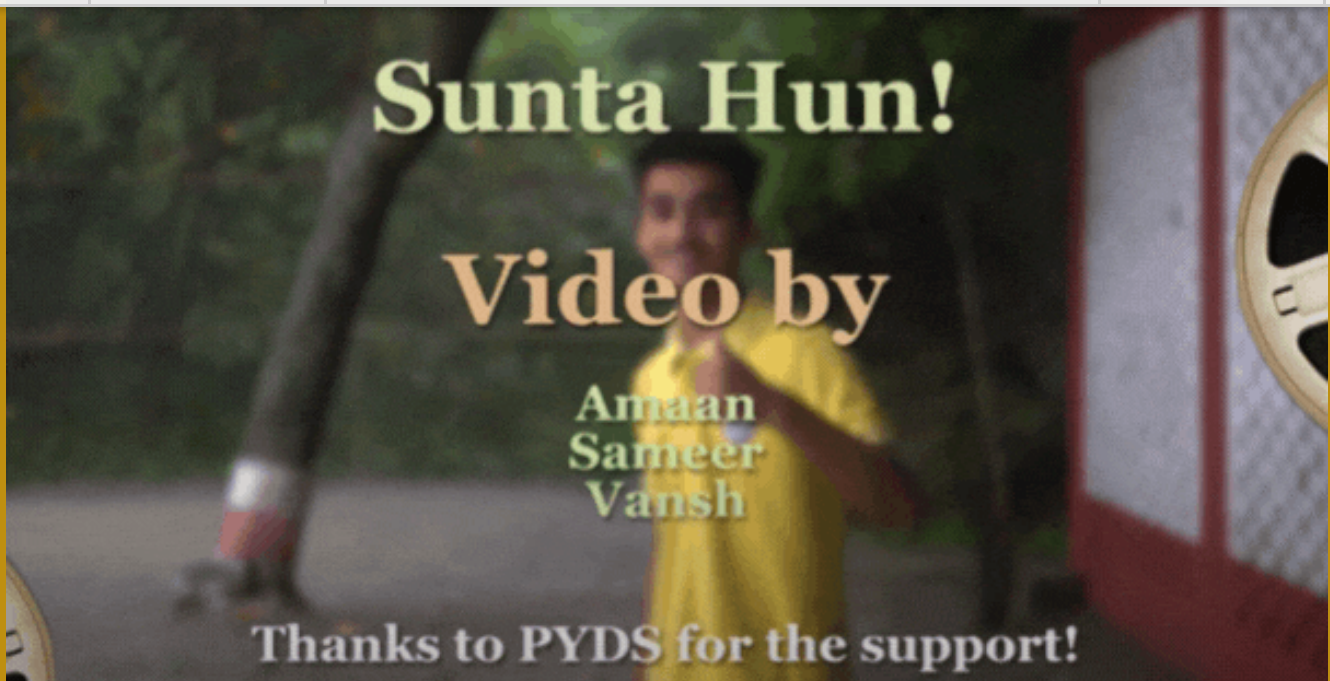
'Competition is the best form of motivation'

tGELF, organises an annual school level international youth festival named 'Harmony Fest'. While our students have been regular participants, this year they performed a 'hat trick' by winning awards in three events.



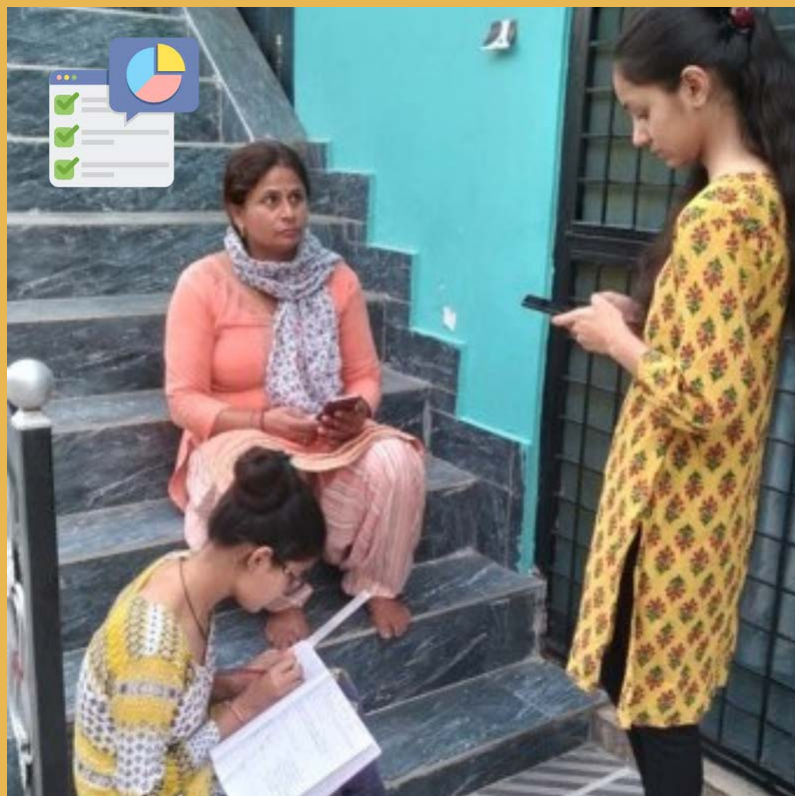
**AYUSHI SHARMA'S PAINTING
THAT RECEIVED FIRST PRIZE**

i) *Magic with Colors* is a national level competition where students convey a social message through the medium of Art. The theme for this virtual event was '*Freedom*', in which three of our students participated with their paintings. They were required to give a one minute oral presentation on the concept of their artwork and answer questions on the inspiration behind it. Ayushi Sharma of Class VII, reached the National level and made us proud by bagging the 1st position.



ii) Reel to Real is a national filmmaking competition for school students. This year a total of 175 schools across the country participated, of which films of twelve schools were shortlisted. In the final round, each team's movie was screened followed by a two minute presentation and Q&A round on the concept, preparation and planning of the film.

'*Sunta Hun*', a film produced by Class XI students Amaan Ullah, Sameer Pundir and Vansh Pandey reached the finals. Their 4:59 minute film signifying 'social breakthrough' encourages young people to heed their inner voices. It bagged the award for 'Best Editing' in the final round.



iii) Youth Leader - In keeping with goals adopted by tGELF to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all, Simran Joshi and Riya Baluni of Class X developed a tool to help the youth manage their health issues. Their project, '*Shubharambh*', qualified for the Youth Leader National Finals 2022.

The 10 students that qualified for the final round were required to give a three-minute presentation on their project. Team PYDS received the "Encouragement Award", one of the four special mentions in the event.



IAYP Bronze and Gold levels Achieved

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future" - Franklin D Roosevelt

Learning cannot be confined to the classroom and needs to form a seamless continuum with experience. In keeping with the spirit of holistic learning, our students are encouraged to enrol for the International Award for Young People (IAYP) which comprises three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. This is a non-competitive programme that promotes personal growth, self-reliance, perseverance and responsibility towards the community.

We currently have more than 100 students enrolled. It is a matter of great pride for us that two students - Anjali Dhiman and Siddharth Rawat of Class XII, have accomplished the Gold Level while another twenty one have completed the Bronze. To reach their Gold level, Siddharth and Anjali completed four sections of community service, physical recreation, skill and adventurous journey. They undertook cleaning within and around the school, played volleyball and practised Yoga. For the adventurous journey section Anjali trekked to Nag Tibba, a peak north of Mussoorie with an altitude of 3022m and Siddharth undertook a trek to the remote Kalap village in the Tons Valley in western fringes of Uttarakhand.



Career Guidance Workshop

“The best way to predict a future is to create it” - Abraham Lincoln

As a consequence of rapidly diversifying and expanding education systems, the creation of new opportunities and courses have picked up pace. These are making selection of college courses by students a daunting process. A career guidance workshop was conducted for students of Class XII to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead.

The session initiated the students to the career options available post pandemic and other unexplored avenues. They were told about the important stages of the decision making process and various vocational courses. Scholarships play a vital role in the higher education of our students, hence they were familiarised with scholarship options and steps to apply for them. Valuable inputs, such as the importance of acquiring skills that enhance employability, were given by our Secretary, Mr. Anoop Seth and Principal, Mrs. Arati Nagaraj.



Practice Group Discussion

"I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand" - Confucius

A practice group discussion was organised for students of Class XII to prepare them for the assessment process of upcoming admissions to colleges. The aim was to familiarise them with techniques with which to present themselves, polish their communication skills and assume correct body language. This would also help increase their confidence and reduce stress in the real life situation. Students were divided in groups of five and they discussed topics such as, 'It's important to begin', 'Deal gently with the bird you want to catch', 'It's smart to be a little dumb', following which all members of the group gave individual oral presentations. Each discussion was concluded with a Q&A session by the judges who assessed the groups on their coordination, creative skills and overall impact of their presentation.



"We cannot see our reflection in running water. It is only in still water that we can see" - Zen Saying

Mr. Shantum Seth is an ordained Dharmacharya in the tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh for the last 20 years, and one of the foremost guides to Buddhist sites in India. His mission is to make the world a better place and help people awaken to their fuller potential by exposing them to mindful ways of living and thinking.

It was a privilege to welcome Mr. Seth on campus to speak to the students of Class IX. He held the students in rapt attention while taking them on an abstract trip to 'Kathmandu', an excerpt from his brother Vikram Seth's book, 'From Heaven Lake', differentiating the scenes at the Pashupatinath and the Boudhanath temples.

He laid emphasis on education through travel and subtly illuminated the attributes of being present in the moment and observing keenly. The audience was gently prodded to be *present*, in daily life and during travels. He concluded by conducting a brief session of conscious breathing and meditation.



Taking in our fold

"Education is the key to unlocking the world. It is the passport to freedom" - Oprah Winfrey

Continuing with our resolve to provide quality education to deserving children from the underprivileged sections of Uttarakhand, entrance tests for Classes I and VI were conducted on campus on December 10 and 11. This year we received 97 applications for the 25 seats of Class I and 83 for the 12 vacancies in Class VI.

To ensure that we take only the most needy and deserving children into our fold, we follow a unique, detailed process of assessment that comprises a written test, home survey (to assess the socio economic status of the family), in person assessment of both parents and the child as well as a second home visit. This is to make doubly certain that only the most needy and deserving children with potential are admitted. The entire process takes almost three months to complete.

The guiding principle for this rigorous selection process is the firm commitment to our cause. To the communities and our donors. To the candidates selected, we have a commitment to provide holistic care and quality education up to Class XII, without any cost to their families. We continue to hold their hand after school education and support them for enrolment to college courses best suited to them.



Navjeevan 5 Classroom Construction

‘Children believe they are capable of everything and we should give them space’

For the first time we are running two Navjeevan batches, 4 and 5, simultaneously. In order to accommodate the incoming fifth batch, space was reclaimed from the old pottery workshop. The semi enclosed area was transformed into a vibrant room by erecting walls, building large windows and installing a false ceiling. Electrical gadgets such as the television, camera, wifi etc. were fitted and the freshly repainted furniture placed on the new insulated floor matting, completed the look of the classroom. And just as the exuberant students took their place behind desks, the classroom sprang to life like magic.



Medical Camp

‘As we cannot fashion our inner bodies we need to learn a few skills to fathom our tissues and organs’

Extending their concern for the well being of our students and staff, the District Homeopathy Department together with Ayush Department conducted a medical camp in our school auditorium.

The Homoeopathy team consisted of one doctor and two pharmacists. They administered an initial dose for dengue prevention and distributed follow up doses to all students and staff members present on campus. They also checked blood pressure, random blood sugar and haemoglobin levels of adults.

The Ayush team consisted of one doctor, one pharmacist and one helper. They distributed kits of chyawanprash and tonics to students of Classes I to III. The rest of the students were given a kit each of immunity booster tablets and the teachers received immunity booster concoction kits. The team also informed school staff about how and where to receive treatments for various ailments.



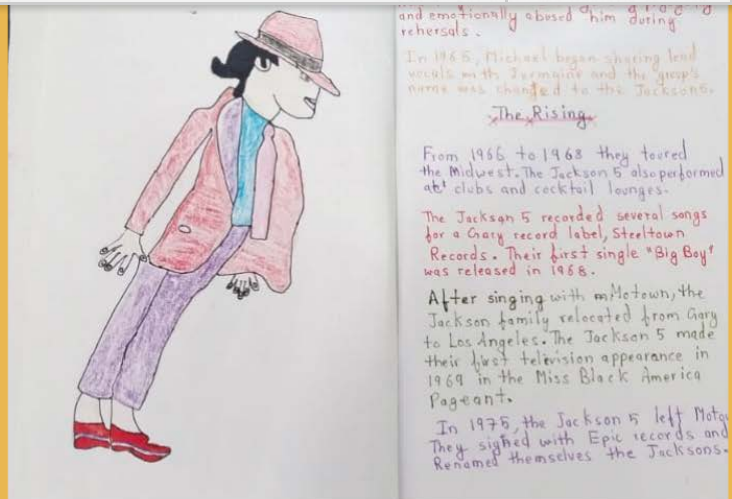
Revamping the Sports Field

“Winners never quit, and quitters never win” - Vince Lombardi

The school sports field has our basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts as well as some open areas and spectator seating. It is used by all students thrice weekly for their sports sessions and by resident students everyday to play games after school. It is also the place where the school assembly, intra and inter school sporting events, Republic Day and Independence Day parades are conducted. All school gatherings and outdoor functions are also hosted here.

Owing to the heavy rains at Purkal, the field was waterlogged and could not be used through the entire monsoon season. To solve this issue and enhance its usability, a revamp plan was devised and implemented. As a part of this the courts were levelled and their sides tiled, with a drainage system built underneath. The boys' washroom was repaired and the room above it refurbished to store sports equipment and serve as a changing room. Dysfunctional embankments and water tanks at the peripheries of the field were demolished to free space and reduce chances of injury to players. The retaining wall and platforms around trees were repaired to provide seating space and a surface for painting sports related images. The entire effort was completed efficiently within the three weeks of winter vacation and is back in use.

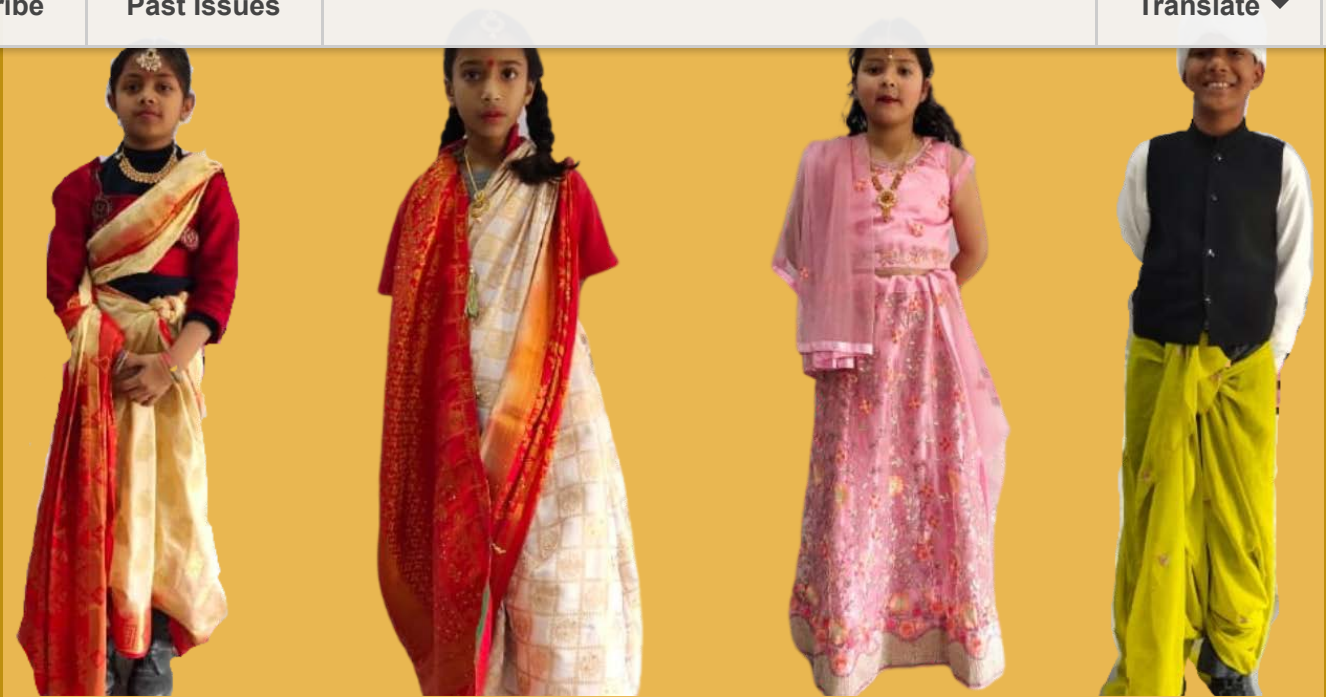
Class Activities



Class VII was asked to write the biography of Michael Jackson, in connection to his song 'Heal The World', which is a part of their English curriculum. The students keenly researched the life of the 'King of Pop' and wrote beautiful biographies.



Class IV: As part of their Math lesson, the students were asked to observe currency notes and coins of India. They learnt about the value of currency and became aware of the famous monuments of the country, such as the Sun Temple, Ellora Caves, Hampi, Sanchi Stupa, Red Fort, etc. printed on them.



Class III: Students dressed up in the traditional attire of different states and gave presentations on traditional cuisines and languages. This enhanced their communication skills and made them aware of the diversity of Indian culture.



We Are Proud of: Jyoti Dangwal, PYDS Batch 2017

‘Jyoti’ or luminescence, is indeed the light for her family. Passionate about taking teaching as a career she wanted to pursue higher studies, but the economic condition of her family was far from favourable. Her father’s income as a folk singer was low and sporadic and her mother, a homemaker, kept indifferent health. The family of five, though living in their own house, had no other source of income. Standing at a crossroad after Class XII, Jyoti stepped forward with resolve to provide for her family and study simultaneously. Till date, she hands over all her salary in support of family expenses.

school. This was her wake up call that made her sit down and study earnestly. By the end of the session, she was awarded for being the student who had shown the most improvement.

In future, Jyoti aspires to pursue a B.Ed course, as she loves teaching children. Indeed, she exemplifies one of the most tangible results of the mission we embarked on two decades ago.

Jyoti likes to put it in her words as below:

“I joined PYDS in 2011 and was a shy and introverted student till Class X. It was when I was appointed as the Dhaak House Captain in Class XI for two consecutive years, that something changed in me. The responsibility I was entrusted with, improved my confidence and motivated me to do better in all spheres. While in Class XI, I bagged the third position in Commerce stream and was exempted from paying fees for Class XII. I also won the Best Captain Award in Class XII.

Teaching was my aspiration, but due to the financially weak condition of my family I could not attend regular college. At Swami Sir’s suggestion I joined PYDS in 2017 and simultaneously pursued graduation from IGNOU. This way I supported my family financially while also pursuing graduation.

I began as a remedial teacher for English and became a part of the Navjeevan program for eighteen months. I also taught SST to Classes IV to VI for two years. This motivated me to pursue my post-graduation in History. During lockdown I taught Hindi, English and Science. Ever since the school has reopened, I am a part of the team implementing the new curriculum in the Primary section.

There has been no looking back and I am extremely grateful to my school for moulding me into the person I am today.”



part of our school timetable from Class I onwards. So far due to lack of space we had no room specifically allocated for the Dance sessions. Now that the school 'store' has shifted to a new building, we can convert it as 'The Dance Room'.

In order to do so, we need to lay new flooring, smoothen the walls, paint them, install a false ceiling and build an elevated space for the musicians. Electrical fittings such as lights, a music system, a Smart TV too need to be installed.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 90,000 (ninety thousand). We humbly appeal to our well wishers to contribute towards this cause in part or in full. All contributions will be tax exempt under section 80G.

We close with heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for a bright 2023.

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