

Your Purkal Journal

December 2025



“We can light up the world, with the secret we're keeping”

Prerna Manch and Christmas Celebration

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others feel”



The annual in-house programme, Prerna Manch, continues to serve as a cherished occasion that nurtures and honours the blossoming talents of our students. Held on the final day before the holiday, it warmly welcomes parents who travel from afar, offering them the joy of witnessing their children's achievements before taking them home. The atmosphere is always filled with anticipation, pride and gentle affection.

This year's event unfolded like a finely woven tapestry of dance, music, yoga and theatre. The morning began with a serene Garhwali folk song sung by the vocal music students. Their harmonious voices carried the timeless tale of Rajula and Malushahi, filling the hall with a sense of heritage and quiet nostalgia. This was followed by an elegant fusion of Kathak and Bharatanatyam performed by thirty two dancers. Their movements flowed like ripples on still water to a seamless blend of Western and Carnatic music, keeping the audience completely enthralled. A short play inspired by the Mandukya Upanishad brought contemplative depth to the programme. The enactment depicted an individual's inner journey towards self awareness, clarity and wisdom. The gradual release of vices was portrayed with subtlety and restraint. Colourful masks, created in the spirit of the Ramanna Festival of Uttarakhand, added a vibrant regional flavour and enhanced the visual richness of the performance.

The yoga segment proved especially captivating. Students combined the poised strength of Kalaripayattu with the meditative discipline of yoga asanas. Each movement seemed like a conversation between body and breath, and every posture reflected balance, grace and control. The concluding presentation featured the resonant interplay of the tabla and pakhawaj set to Teen Taal, accompanied by an expressive Kathak performance. The synergy of rhythm and movement created a powerful and memorable finale.

Despite the biting cold and a sky heavy with grey clouds, the students' spirit remained bright and steadfast. Their enthusiasm brought warmth to the occasion and made the experience uplifting for all present. A small exhibition complemented the performances. It displayed artwork and crafts created from discarded materials.

Drawings, murals, painted pebbles, nail and thread designs, origami, paper grids and pottery together formed a vibrant gallery that showcased both imagination and responsible creativity.

As the day drew to a gentle close, students from Navjeevan batches seven and eight ushered in the Christmas spirit with cheerful carols. Their lively singing and dancing to favourites such as Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells were accompanied by live music on the keyboard, harmonium, dhol damau, tabla, clapbox and pakhawaj. A staff member dressed as Santa Claus added the final touch of delight by handing chocolates to the children. The celebration ended on a note of warmth, festivity and togetherness, bringing the year to a heartwarming close.

Class I Entrance Test

“Steps so small on a giant floor, eyes wide open at every door”



Each year, the school welcomes bright new faces through the Class I entrance process. The excitement was no different this year. The response was heartening, with one hundred and seven registrations received for only twenty five available seats, a reminder of the trust families continue to place in the institution.

On the morning of the examination, the campus carried a gentle buzz of anticipation. Parents were guided to the Sports Field where they completed the required forms, while the children, some curious and others slightly hesitant, were led to the classrooms for the written assessment. Addressing the assembled

parents, the School Principal, Ms Diana Luji, explained that although there were more applications from boys, the school would continue to uphold its policy of maintaining a two to one ratio in favour of girls. In keeping with this, sixteen girls and nine boys would be admitted.

Staff members supported parents with form filling and verified documents with calm efficiency. Meanwhile, teachers interacted with the children through written tasks, group activities and individual assessments. Their observations and impressions were noted meticulously on a master sheet to ensure fairness, accuracy and a smooth evaluation process. The classrooms echoed with the soft rustle of pencils and the gentle encouragement of teachers, creating an atmosphere where the children felt both supported and seen.

Following the assessments, home visits will be conducted based on the first list, using both the children's performance and the information shared by parents. This list will then be refined further. A second set of home visits will take place to re verify details and to ensure that nothing has been overlooked. The final results will be announced in February 2026, bringing clarity and closure to an important milestone in the lives of many young learners and their families.

Fete at Raphael Centre

"Disability is not a lack of ability; it is a different kind of strength"



Disability Week, observed each year from the third to the ninth of December, serves as a gentle reminder of the need for awareness, understanding and empathy towards persons with disabilities. As part of these observances, students of the

Navjeevan batch seven visited a vibrant fete organised by the Raphael Centre in Dehradun on the fifth of December.

The atmosphere at the Centre was cheerful and inclusive. Nearly twenty stalls lined the grounds, and more than one hundred children from the Raphael Centre took part, along with students from several schools across the city. Our students entered into the spirit of the occasion with enthusiasm. They enjoyed a variety of activities that included Drawing, Feed the Joker, Stick the Body Part, Tell a Story and Follow the Leader. The day was filled with laughter, colour and a quiet sense of shared purpose.

What touched our students most deeply was the warmth of the Raphael children. They welcomed visitors with open hearts, chatting freely, holding hands and making everyone feel instantly at ease. Their sense of responsibility was remarkable and left a lasting impression. One moment that stood out was when a child who had been entrusted with keeping the area clean noticed a small piece of paper on the ground while he was dancing. He paused only for a second, picked it up, placed it in the bin and returned to the dance floor with the same joy and energy. In another instance, a child who had borrowed a pencil for a few minutes returned it with such sincerity that it became a lesson in honesty for those who witnessed it.

On returning to campus, the students reflected on the visit with sincerity and gratitude. They shared that they had been amazed by the sense of duty shown by each child at the Raphael Centre. Every child had a role to play and carried it out with pride. Many of them spoke confidently in English, which touched our students even more. They explained that the visit had taught them not to compare themselves with others. They realised how often they complain about small inconveniences, while the children at Raphael live each day with cheerfulness, energy and hope. The experience taught them to be grateful, compassionate and open hearted.

The visit to the Raphael Centre became more than just an outing. It became a gentle lesson in humility and humanity, an experience the students will carry with them for a very long time.

Inter School Robotic Competition

“Learning happens best when curiosity meets innovation”



A team of our students proudly represented the school at the Inter School Robotic Competition hosted by Maa Anandmayee Memorial School in Haridwar. For every member of the team, this event marked their very first encounter with a tinkering based competition. Each student had been selected for a genuine interest in innovation and hands-on exploration. The experience was designed to build their confidence and extend their learning far beyond the classroom walls.

The competition drew participants from six other schools and offered four exciting categories: Robo Race, Robo War, Robo Soccer and LEGO Champ. In preparation, our students spent several days in the school's Tinkering Lab, assembling two robot cars with great care and testing them repeatedly on obstacle courses they had created themselves. Their efforts bore fruit as they competed in all four categories and secured the third position in both Robo Soccer and Robo War.

The event proved to be an enriching learning opportunity. It encouraged curiosity, strengthened their problem solving abilities and nurtured a growing passion for innovation. Many of the students had previously taken part in inter school competitions in Art, Dance, Music and Quiz. Robotics, however, opened an entirely new world to them. Through this experience, they gained a deeper understanding of how robots are designed for competitive environments. They learned not only about circuits and sensors but also about how a robot's structure, balance and weight can influence its speed, stability and overall performance.

What began as a competition gradually transformed into a journey of discovery. The students returned with a sense of pride, a renewed interest in exploring the mechanics of machines and a quiet confidence that they could achieve much more than they had imagined. The experience has sparked an excitement that will continue to shape their curiosity and learning in the months ahead.

Inter School Basketball Tournament

"When you are the anvil, bear; when you are the hammer, strike" - Edwin Markham



The spirit of competition was alive and vibrant as our Boys U14 and Girls U17 basketball teams took part in the Inter School Basketball Tournament hosted by Shri Ram Krishna Academy in Nehrugram on the 10th and 11th of December. The grounds echoed with excitement as teams from across the region gathered to test their skill, teamwork and resilience.

Among the 9 boys' teams, our players from PYDS rose to the occasion with admirable grit. Match after match, they displayed steady determination, swift coordination and calm precision. Their efforts culminated in a well deserved victory in the finals, where they defeated Subhash Chandra Bose Academy with a score of 12 to 5. The final whistle was met with cheers, proud smiles and a sense of triumph that lit up the court.

Our girls' team also gave a spirited performance as they competed among 6 strong teams. They played with focus and courage, moving the ball with grace and reading the game with intelligence. They reached the finals, where they faced St Mary's School in a closely contested match, ending with a score of 3 to 5. Although they finished as runners up, their perseverance and sportsmanship won the admiration of everyone present.

We are immensely proud of all our players. Their hard work, discipline and positive attitude reflect the true essence of sport. Warm congratulations to the teams and to their coaches whose guidance, patience and encouragement shaped these commendable performances.

The tournament became not only a celebration of skill but also a reminder of the character that sport helps build. Our students returned with renewed confidence, cherished memories and the quiet joy of having given their very best.

Sitar Recital

"Music is the language of the soul, speaking where words fall silent"



Under the aegis of SPIC MACAY Uttarakhand, PYDS had the honour of hosting a sitar recital by Pandit Gaurav Mazumdar on 5th December. A Grammy nominated virtuoso and one of the most distinguished figures in Indian and world music, Panditji holds the extraordinary distinction of being the only Indian musician to have performed at the Vatican. He was accompanied on the tabla by Shri Zaheen Khan, whose rhythmic finesse added depth and brilliance to the performance.

The recital captivated students from classes IV to VI and Navjeevan batches 7 and 8. Panditji spoke with warmth and simplicity about his childhood in a family of musicians and how that early environment nurtured his artistic journey. Engaging with the young audience, he explained the origin of the sitar, introduced its various parts and offered thoughtful insights into the foundations of Indian classical music. What followed was a spellbinding experience. Panditji unfolded the delicate beauty of raag Madhuvanti with remarkable subtlety, drawing the students into its emotional landscape. Each phrase he played seemed to shimmer with feeling. In seamless harmony with Zaheen Khan's tabla, he presented a mesmerising jugalbandi that

filled the hall with energy and earned resounding applause.

To delight and test the students, he played the tune of the beloved bhajan Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye and invited them to guess it. The response was instant and enthusiastic, and the hall echoed with excitement.

The session concluded with a lively question and answer segment, during which Panditji responded to the students' queries with patience and gentle humour. Before taking his leave, he shared a charming fact that left the children deeply intrigued. He revealed that the finest sitars in the world are crafted from pumpkins grown in the city of Miraj in Maharashtra. This unexpected detail added a final touch of wonder to an already unforgettable morning.

The recital became much more than a performance. It was an encounter with artistry, tradition and inspiration, one that will linger in the minds of the young listeners for a long time to come.



Astronomy Session and Sky Observation

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known" - Carl Sagan



Astronomy, the science devoted to understanding celestial objects and the mysteries of the cosmos, continues to inspire wonder among students. To nurture this fascination, the Astronomy Club was established. A new telescope lens, along with a solar filter, was recently procured to enhance the old telescope on campus.

On December 17th, eleven students of the Club assembled in the Tinkering Lab, where they were introduced to some of the world's most notable telescopes. Later, the group made their way to the rooftop, where the telescope was carefully set up with the assistance of their teacher. Under the clear night sky, the students learnt about prominent constellations, including the Summer Triangle and Cassiopeia. One by one, they gazed through the telescope, marvelling at the craters of the Moon, the delicate rings of Saturn, the steady glow of the Pole Star, and other celestial wonders.

The session stirred their curiosity so deeply that they lingered long after the scheduled time, eager to know more about telescopes, constellations, and the countless phenomena that adorn the heavens. They listened with shining eyes and asked question after question, reluctant to leave the rooftop. With a gentle smile, their teacher encouraged them to continue their research and assured them that many more such sessions awaited them in the future.

We are proud of ...

Omansh Kothari, PYDS batch 2019



Omansh's family lives in their own house in Ranipohkri village, at the outskirts of Dehradun, en route to Rishikesh. There are 4 members in his family: his parents and younger sister, Mansi. His father used to work as a fitter at Siemens, but lost his job in 2016. His mother is a homemaker. After losing his job, his father could not afford to send him to a good school. On the suggestion of his school Principal, Omansh appeared for the PYDS entrance exam.

Omansh, who once dreamed of being an engineer, was recruited by Hughes Systique Corporation, Gurgaon, during college placement. He joined the company in January 2023 as a Software Developer, a role that aligned perfectly with his interests and aspirations.

Omansh describes his blithe journey as follows...

"Life in my vibrant village was simple yet enriching. My early education there fostered my curiosity and built a strong foundation for learning. While opportunities were limited, my upbringing instilled in me resilience, determination and a passion for growth.

I joined PYDS in class XI as a resident student. Living in the hostel exposed me to a diverse group of peers, fostering collaboration, independence and a broader perspective on life. The structured environment, coupled with the mentorship of seniors and teachers, helped me grow academically and personally. I learned about

self-discipline, time management and the importance of community and shared learning. In the beginning, I was underconfident about things like public speaking, but through opportunities like the Gavel Club and more, I overcame my fears. After completing class XII, with the help of the school Career Cell, I got admission in BTech (CSE) at Shoolini University at 100% scholarship.

The three years at Shoolini were filled with mixed experiences. Not being able to go to campus during lockdown was sad, but learning how to attend online classes was equally exciting. Our college provided us with one of the best online learning experiences. I took the opportunity and enhanced my foundational skills in the field of Data Structures, Database, etc. I earned a professional certificate in Data Analytics offered by Google. By doing these courses, I gained knowledge on various topics and developed skills beyond my main course. I participated in a Hackathon organised by our college, in which I achieved the 3rd position. I also participated in a workshop on AR - Augmented Reality, organised by Facebook and got a certificate for submitting my project. I performed well in college and scored a 9.05 GPA in my sixth semester."

At PYDS, among the many empowering lessons that continue to shape my journey are: the belief in the power of education, the importance of mentorship and the inspiring motto, 'Life is for Giving'. The values I gained along the way have instilled in me a desire to give back and make a meaningful difference in the world. I have no words to thank PYDS and Shoolini University for giving me this opportunity to pursue my career course."

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Wish you all a happy festive season. 🎁



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