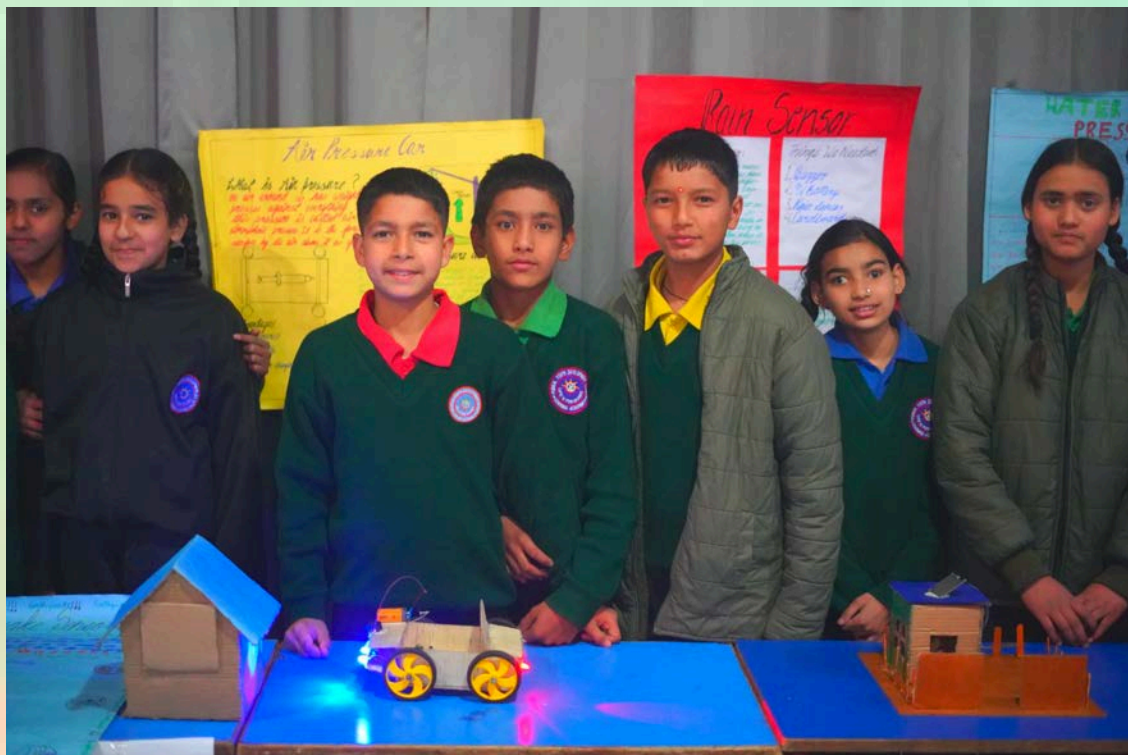




National Science Day

"Innovation is the future delivered" - Jorge Barba



We marked the National Science Day with enthusiasm. A special assembly was conducted, in which students spoke about myths and superstitions prevalent in our country such as the hanging lemon and chillies to ward off evil, not cutting nails after

sunset and so on. Additionally, famous personalities such as Janki Ammal, Anna Mani, Shruti Sangwan and others like them, who pursued unconventional careers in Science, were portrayed by students.

Preparations for the day had begun much earlier. Classes I to IX and XI were divided in two groups and every group was asked to innovate one model on a topic of their choice. The students used physics, chemistry, biology and the tinkering labs to work on their projects, which were displayed as models. The venue hall buzzed with excited students and teachers, who looked at displays with keen interest. Models such as the rain detector, blind curve vehicle detector, sunflower solar panel etc. have potential to be scaled up for wider application. The three best entries from each section - primary, middle and senior were recognised and awarded.

Basant Panchami

"O Mother! Wipe out the darkness and let the river of light flow in our minds"



A special assembly was conducted on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, a festival that heralds the onset of spring in India. On this day, students traditionally pay tribute to Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth and Principal, Ms Diana Luji, offered flowers before the portrait of Goddess Saraswati and lit the lamp in reverence. Students invoked her blessings by singing the hymn 'Hey Sharde Maa'. The rest of the assembly was led by class VII A, which featured a thought for the day, news, and an article on Basant Panchami. The choir sang, 'Saath Swaron Ka Sangam Hai' to conclude the assembly.

Admissions 2024-25

"Early childhood education is the key to the betterment of the society"

- Maria Montessori



Class I - A preliminary test was conducted in Dec 2023, based on which a short list of children to be assessed further was drawn up. After their homes were surveyed by our staff in January, thirty one of them were called to campus, with their parents for a detailed assessment. The children were evaluated through a combination of Hindi and English recitation, word creation, reading aloud and crafting stories based on pictures. Simultaneously, parents were interviewed by the School Principal to assess their commitment to their children's education and well being. Following this, twenty five children have been granted admission in class I for the forthcoming academic year. We look forward to welcoming the new little ones to our family.

Class VI - On 15th February, twelve aspirants and their parents were called for an entrance exam. Parents were asked to fill forms giving their family socio economic information, while the candidates wrote the entrance test. After filling forms, parents proceeded to the Principal's office for individual assessment interviews. Our Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth addressed the parents on the ethos of PYDS as well as its aims and objectives. He also emphasised the importance of their participation in the education, growth and well being of their children. As the final step, home surveys were conducted to verify the socio-economic condition of candidates. Six students (four girls and two boys) have been granted admission in class VI and will join us on April 1, 2024.

Inter-School Science Quest

"In the late hours of the night, we created our own galaxy"



On Feb 21, five students from classes IV to VI participated in the Inter-School Science Quest organised by The Doon Girls' School. Garima and Aryan presented their innovative Rain Detector model that automatically moves clothes to a shelter when it rains. Amongst the twelve teams participating in this category, they were placed third, receiving recognition certificates and badges.

Manvi, Aarti and Aradhya participated In the quiz category. Though they did not progress to the second round, they learned interesting facts about Science Day. Our students returned enriched by the experience, ready to embrace future challenges with renewed vigour.

INSPIRE Awards MANAK 2023-24

"Tomorrow, I may change the world"



Aashi Pundir IX A



Gayatri Rawat IX B

'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) is one of the flagship programmes of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. The INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge), aim to motivate students studying in classes VI to X. The objective is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training, Dehradun, organised the INSPIRE competition to promote research and innovative thinking among school students. Aashi Pundir and Gayatri Rawat of class IX participated and qualified for the INSPIRE Manak Awards 2023. Aashi presented a machine learning device for communicating with people with speech disabilities, using machine learning. Gayatri displayed a 'Fall detection and alert system' for elderly people. This system can alert neighbours and send distress messages to family members if a person falls. Both girls were awarded cash prizes of ₹10,000 each. They will also get an opportunity to present their project at the national competition in May 2024.

Musical Concert

"A cadence where everyone belongs, life's the melody of a song" - Mr Whimsy



On February 7th, the students and staff of our primary and Navjeevan classes were treated to a musical concert by the Huun Huur Tu group in the school auditorium. This is a four-member band from Tuva who specialize in throat singing, in which singers sing both a note and its overtones, thus producing two or three notes simultaneously.

Students welcomed them and they reciprocated with a back to back performance of 'Prayers' and 'Ancestors', from their renowned album *'The Orphans' Lament'*. The group members apprised students of nuances of their music, demonstrating the distinctiveness of their style by performing their riveting rendition, *'Chiraa Khood'*.

Students flooded them with questions, enquiring about the band's hometown, their musical journey, instruments used and so on. The members cheerfully doused the inquisitiveness of students. Their rendition, *"Aa shuu dekei-oo"* brought everyone together in joyous chorus, concluding the concert on a high note. The band members graciously posed for group pictures and accepted tokens of gratitude from us, leaving behind unforgettable memories of a rich musical experience.

We are very grateful to our patron Anita Sobti Ma'am and Tender Roots for bringing this band to our School.

Rudra Veena Recital

"Music is the universal language of mankind." - H W Longfellow



We are extremely grateful to SPIC MACAY for organising the Rudra Veena recital by Ustad Mohi Baha'ud-din Ji of the esteemed Dagar family of Dhrupad musicians at our School. Accompanied by Sanjay Agle Ji on Pakhawaj and Ipsita Bichkar Ji on Tanpura, he displayed his mastery over the Rudra Veena for us at an enriching performance for us on 16th February.

The performance began with *Shuddha Sarang*, the afternoon raag. Inspired by his mellisonant performance, students expressed keen interest in knowing more about the ragas and his instruments. Ustad Ji told them about the flexibility in playing beats on the Rudra Veena and spoke about the instrument's craftsmanship and the significance of each part. He elucidated on the SPIC MACAY logo as a depiction of Shiva's 3rd eye, explaining that it signifies that our rich musical heritage and culture can be instrumental in awakening of our inner third eye, thus releasing the infinite potential locked within us.

The event concluded with an expression of gratitude from the entire PYDS family for the artistes for their captivating performance, leaving all enriched by an hour of soul-stirring musical exploration.

Subject Selection for Class XI

"What you stay focussed on will grow" - Roy T Bennett



Before being sent on their winter vacations, Class X students were briefed by our Principal and Academic Counsellor on the subject combinations available in class XI. The intent was to give them adequate time to mull over the options and discuss them with their families ahead of more detailed discussions in School. On February 13th, these students and their parents were called for a meeting to discuss subjects chosen. During this meeting, some parents asserted their children opt for subjects suggested by them, and at a variance from those chosen by students. Teachers addressed parental concerns and resolved student - parent divergences by providing logical explanations and their own assessments.

Students and parents who were still undecided on their preferred subject combinations were counselled in further detail, and given another week in which to decide. These will be finalised in the coming days. The new academic session for class XI will begin on 1st April when they will begin studies per their selected subjects.

SOF Olympiads Second level

"I am better than what I was yesterday, but not as good as I will be tomorrow" - Anonymous



Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) conducted the second level of exams for Science, English and Mathematics. The eligibility for the second level is based on the student's rank and the school's zonal ranking. Among the 350 of our students who participated in the first level, thirteen have qualified for the second level.

The 2nd level exam is a pen and paper, multiple choice question format exam of one hour duration. Students prepared for the Olympiads using past papers and syllabi provided by the SOF, leveraging class teacher sessions and regular subject classes for practice. The exam was conducted at Doon International School, Dehradun on February 11th and the results are expected in March 2024.

We are proud of...
Vanshika Dhyani batch 2020



Vanshika grew up in a tight-knit family, with her grandmother, parents and two sisters. The family lives in Gandhigram, Dehradun. Her father has been working as a distributing agent of a local savoury shop and is the sole earner for a family of 6 members. Vanshika joined PYDS in 2017 as a class IX student. She has recently joined an online internship with Incture Technologies.

She describes her journey as follows

"When I was studying at Rose Mount School in class VIII, I had no idea what the future held for me. It was sheer good luck for me when representatives from PYDS visited our school and told us about their program of free quality education and transport for underprivileged students. I took the entrance test and was selected to study at PYDS. This was the turning point of my life, that opened doors to a world of possibilities.

When commencing my journey at PYDS in 2017, I had mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness. As I entered the campus, I found myself amidst a sea of new faces as well as opportunities. An introvert by temperament, the idea of interacting with new people seemed overwhelming. However, with time, I joined various activity clubs within school. My participation in the Instrument, Sports, and Biodiversity clubs not only necessitated interaction with fellow students, but also gave me the opportunity to explore my passions. Through the Biodiversity club I developed a

deep interest in nature, gaining insights about birds, butterflies, trees and much more.

I was conferred with the role as Kachnar House Captain for two consecutive years in class XI & XII. This proved to be a turning point in my life, as it helped me develop determination and confidence. It also paved the way for excellence in all my future endeavours. The supportive atmosphere created by teachers played a crucial role in shaping my academic journey. Their constant support and guidance assisted me to overcome academic obstacles, leading to impressive results in class X and XII.

Pursuing a career in engineering was a dream for me. My aspirations were supported by PYDS. The school arranged for my coaching at Aviral Classes for the JEE entrance exam. It was with the school's help that I got admission in DIT University, in Computer Science as a major.

The environment at DIT was nurturing which helped me develop my capabilities. I was part of the Google Developer Student Club, where I learned coding and mentored juniors on various programming languages. I also enrolled for a number of courses on platforms like Coursera to improve my coding skills.

During my 7th semester, I secured an internship with Salesforce. Working with them gave me practical experience and refined my skills in software engineering. I also attended seminars and workshops on soft skills and personal growth which prepared me for interviews. By applying all my learnings, I was able to secure the role of a Trainee - Associate Software Engineer at Incture Technologies.

I am extremely grateful to PYDS and DIT University for the lessons and opportunities they provided for my growth. These stepping stones have equipped me with the adeptness required for navigating the field of my choice. Guidance from teachers like Swamy Sir have instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility and desire to contribute to society as an engineer. In the long run, my goal is to give back to the community in the same way the community supported me in achieving my aspirations.”



As winter gives way to spring, setting the landscape ablaze in a kaleidoscope of

colours, we wish everyone, **Happy Holi!**

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