

"We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all"



Inter School Junior Science Quiz Competition

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination"

- Albert Einstein



Quest' 16th Inter-School Junior Science Quiz Competition was held at Doon Girls School on 21st February. Our school registered for both the Quiz competition as well as the 'ChangeMaker' campaign.

Tanvi and Aradhya of class VI prepared a working model of a Smart Dustbin for waste segregation in the tinkering lab. The nature of the waste was automatically identified with the help of a webcam and segregated into three categories. While working on this model, students applied the concepts of both machine learning and artificial intelligence. They presented their model before the jury, explaining its components and functions in detail. When a jury member asked them how the model could be upgraded, without batting an eyelid, our girls replied, "By inculcating renewable energy". It is a matter of pride that Team PYDS was declared winner of the ChangeMakers campaign.

The quiz team comprised Suhani, Aaradhya and Sonakshi of classes IV, V and VI, respectively. Battling tough competition, they cleared the first three rounds to reach the finals in which qualifying teams had to make a simple machine model. Our girls made a lever and were declared runners up for the Quiz competition.

Basketball Tournaments

"Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play"

- Mike Singletary



The All India Invitational Inter School W C Kashyap Memorial Basketball Tournament for U12 & U14 boys was held at Pestle Weed School, Dehradun, between 14th and 16th March. Our school participated in both categories with enthusiasm.

The U14 team defeated the Doon International School, Dehradun 23-6 in the semi finals. Facing the host school in the finals, PYDS lost 31-12, emerging as runners

up for the tournament. Suraj, the captain of our U14 team, was awarded the Best Player trophy. The U12 team was unable to qualify for the semifinals.

All of our players were given certificates and prizes at the school assembly with a view to recognizing and applauding their efforts.

The Global Women's Breakfast Conference

"The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me"

- Ayn Rand



Held in conjunction with the U.N. Day of Women and Girls in Science, the goal of the Global Women's Breakfast (GWB) series is to establish an active network to overcome the barriers to gender equality in science. Five girls from our school attended the GWB at Unison World School on 11th February.

The program began with a brief presentation on revolutionary women in science and their contributions. Thereafter, participants were divided in eight teams, with only one student from each school, while teachers accompanying them were sent for an art craft workshop.

The teams were asked to design a rocket landing pad using materials provided. It is a matter of pride that all of our five students were part of the six teams called for the presentation. In the next activity, the teams had to design a policy framework on a given problem. It was heartening to see PYDS students actively presenting for their teams.

The most significant part of the event was an open discussion on gender equity and equality with reference to women in science. Students and teachers spoke freely about the challenges they face in and outside the home. The healthy discussion and overall exposure at the conference helped sensitise our girls about gender disparity and will significantly contribute in promoting their confidence.

Pushkin Chandra Memorial Competition

"Let's clap and have some fun, my learning journey has just begun"



The Pushkin Chandra Memorial Poem Recitation and Story Narration Competition was started by our patron Late Mr Anil Chandra, in the memory of his son, Pushkin. A strong advocate of reading, he helped set up our first school library in 2007 by providing for the infrastructure, books, furniture, etc.

The intra class competition is organised annually for classes I to V and Navjeevan. Teachers chose poems and stories and helped children with oration, pronunciation and practice. In the process, students were able to enhance both their memorising skills and diction along with hearing new poems and stories recited by fellow students. It was an endearing experience to witness the wide eyed little ones deliver their parts in sing song tones.

The Hindi poems were themed around patriotism and environment, while English poems were descriptive and funny in tone, including a couple of classics. Hindi stories were mostly based on friendship and courage, whereas the English stories featured animals and humour. Most importantly, all stories had strong moral undertones.

The last section was collaborative, in which a short play was performed by students from various classes. It was about a boy who had migrated from the village to the city. His father sold his land to send him to a good school. The boy, who first felt out of place among the city kids, studied with dedication and topped his class, thus making his parents proud.

Prizes and certificates were awarded to all participants. Watching prideful expressions on innocent faces was a pleasure for the grown ups in the audience. Students who had prepared the props and the anchors were especially acknowledged. The teachers were thanked for their diligence by the Principal. The Society Secretary closed the event by saying, "The foundation of 12 years of holistic school education is laid in primary classes, for which the role of our primary teachers is above and beyond applause".



Musical Collaboration

"In the long history of humankind, those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed" - Charles Darwin



Music is the balm that soothes the soul and connects people. From times immemorial, cultures all over the world have sung together to celebrate occasions and festivals. Our school was invited by the OASIS school, Dehradun, for a Musical Collaboration event between the students of the two schools. 16 of our students and two music teachers participated in the program on the 9th of February.

Our students performed first, drawing a melodious scene of the famous *Braj ki Holi* in which Krishna's childhood, adolescence and youth were presented through a blend of three styles of Indian classical music. Beginning with *Dhrupad*, students sang '*Lal jhulawan aiya*', where the folks of Vrindavan gather to gaze and gently swing the cradle of baby Krishna. They then progressed to *Thumari*, in which friends of adolescent Krishna play Holi with him singing, '*Aaj khelo Shyam sang hori*'. The composition concluded with '*Rasiya ko naar banao ri*', sung in the folk style. Here in the mirthful mood of Holi, lasses surround Krishna, apply coloured powders on him while teasing that he looks like a woman. He too plays along in glee, filling the air with mirthful laughter.

The PYDS team consisted of 7 instrumentalists whose skilful renditions added to the beauty of the composition. The pakhawaj was the lead instrument for *Dhrupad*, and the *Thumri* was led by tabla. Beats got faster and the pitch was changed from A sharp to F, for the folk style.

In the next performance, the OASIS students presented an instrumental composition of the tabla, congo, bongo, clapbox and plastic tumblers. The last presentation was an English song by their Music Captain. He was accompanied by fellow students playing the guitar, synthesiser and drums.

All performances were applauded by the 150 strong audience of OASIS students and staff. The presentation of our students was praised and it was proposed that we

collaborate more often on each others' campus and elsewhere too. PYDS is extremely thankful to the OASIS school for the wonderful collaboration and their warm reception. Our students admired their Western rendition and are quite keen to learn the same.

National Science Day

"The essence of the scientific spirit is to realize what a wonderful world it is that we live in" - Sir CV Raman



National Science Day is celebrated every year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir CV Raman on 28th February 1928. The day is marked by numerous events conducted by schools and colleges across India. At PYDS, students put together efforts to commemorate the occasion during morning assembly.

Students read out 'Amazing Facts of the Day', 'Significance of the Day' and the 'Achievements of Indian Scientists'. Science students of class XI demonstrated simple experiments to demonstrate tricks performed by magicians and how firecrackers change colours, using chemicals.

Certificates and medals were distributed to the participants of an inter school competition, in which our students bagged 1st position in the ChangeMaker campaign and 2nd in the Quiz competition. The winning team of the ChangeMakers campaign demonstrated their prize winning project, the Smart Dustbin, which segregates organic and inorganic waste using machine learning and AI.

SPIC MACAY

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life" - Anonymous



In furtherance of the mission of SPIC MACAY to take Indian heritage to every child in the country, Ms Arupa Lahiry, performed at our campus on 3rd February. A celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer, Ms Lahiry has toured the world as a performer, teacher, choreographer and artistic director. An M Phil in English Literature, she is currently serving as the Regional Director of the Vadodara centre of IGNCA. Shri Satish Venkatesh accompanied her for vocals, Shri Satish Sheshadari on the violin and Shri Aditya Rajagopalan on the mridangam.

Ms Lahiry's opening performance was '*Pushpanjali*' (offering flowers) in obeisance to Lord Shiva. She then elaborated about the eight dance forms of India and introduced Bharatanatyam as the integration of facial expressions, hand movements and body postures to narrate stories artistically. Her next performance, based on *Raag Charukeshi*, was a visual delight that showcased her brilliance in dance and expression. Before embarking on her final performance on the *Ardhanareeswara* (half-male and half-female), she represented Shiva through her right side and Parvati by the left. The dance that followed held the audience captive as she vividly alternated between *Shiv-Shakti*, destruction-creation, relentless-delicate and so on.

At the end of her mesmerising performance, the artiste took the mike and asked students to give her short sentences, which she would convey through expressions,

movement of hands and body postures. Students came up with unique phrases like 'mile sur mera tumhara', 'I did not cheat in exams', 'welcome to Uttarakhand'; which she performed flawlessly. She summarised the event by saying, 'The art of dance teaches us to be sensitive and to connect with abandon. She provided some food for thought when she asked, 'Have you ever wondered who came first, the dancer or the musician?' For the finale, she gave a quick, graceful performance on 'Vande Mataram' in gratitude for our Motherland.

Our Society Secretary thanked Ms Lahiry and her troupe for visiting us and for their outstanding performance. Students presented the visitors with mementos before bidding them goodbye.



Tender Roots

*When music sounds, gone is the earth I know, And all her lovely things
even lovelier grow” - Walter de la Mare*



Tender Roots Academy of Performing Arts is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 2014. It has been conceptualized to introduce the vast treasure of performing arts from India and the World amongst the younger generation. Collaborating with Tender Roots, PYDS was happy to welcome South African artistes Dumza Maswana and Volley Nchabelengon on 11th February. The intent of this initiative was to familiarise our students with music from South Africa, a country and culture not familiar to them.

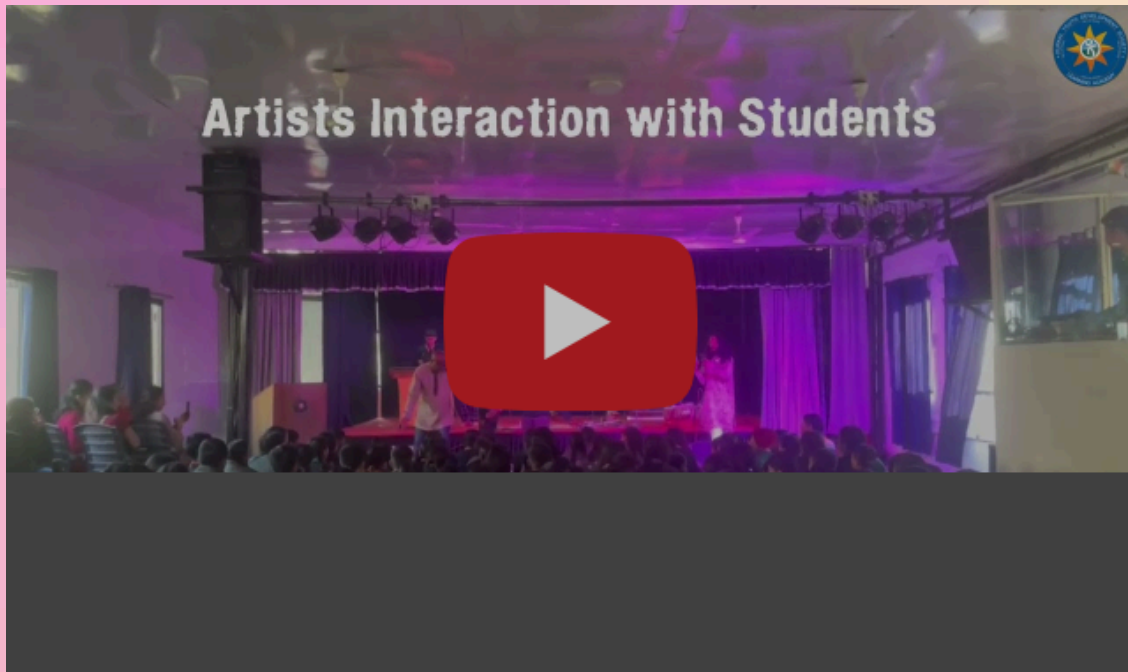
Dumza Maswana, who is popular for fusing tradition, spirituality and jazz to create uplifting sonic experiences, introduced the audience to the African philosophy of 'Ubuntu', which translates as, "I am because we are". Volley Nchabeleng, a versatile multi-instrumentalist, composer and percussionist, added that "Dumza is an Afro Jazz artist, while I am a percussionist and specialist in African indigenous instruments, together, we encourage unity and peace around the world."

To begin with, Dumza sang a soothing lullaby, gently weaving the story of a grandmother putting her baby to sleep, repeating beautiful affirmations for the child. Volley introduced his instrument, the *marimba*, which resembled a xylophone made out of wood, along with other instruments such as one built out of a PVC pipe, a mouth harp and many more. The performers invited two students from the audience to play the tabla while they performed. Volley accompanied them on the marimba, and while Dumza sat next to the students and sang. During the performance, spontaneously both artists got on their feet and began dancing, imploring the audience to clap to the beats. Volley produced calls of various creatures of the Savannah using a variety of instruments, playing their reverb recordings, and creating a mellifluous composition. To acknowledge the skill of our tabla players, Dumza gave a solo dance performance on their beats.

Two more students were invited to play the marimba. They quickly followed instructions and played the instrument well, while the artistes danced with students

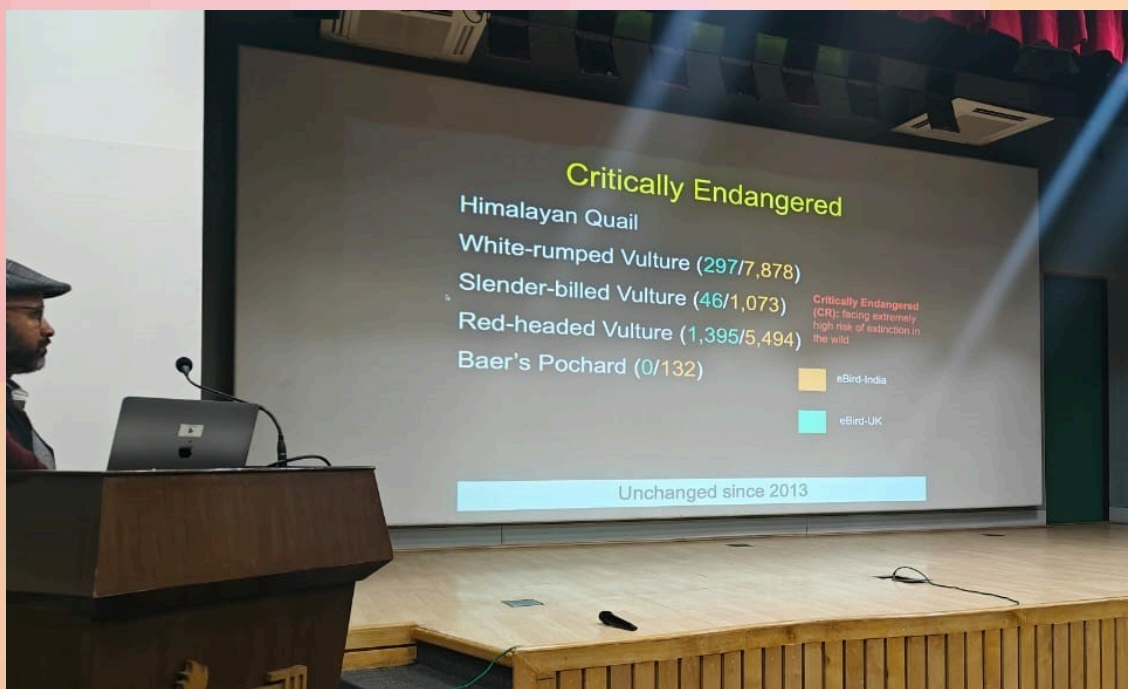
forming a chain. The artists said that while in India, they felt at home and learnt the beautiful concept of 'Vasudhaiv Kumbhakam'. They even sang 'Thaiyya thaiyya', much to the delight of students.

The artists were thanked by our Society Secretary and Principal Ma'am for bringing the vibes of African culture to our campus. They were presented with tokens of gratitude and happily posed for a group photograph with our students.



Ornithology Session

"Birds are the most important predictors of climate change. Our existence depends on them"



On 17 February 2025, biology students of class XI attended an Ornithology session organized by The Doon School. Students were made aware of the species of endangered birds of Uttarakhand and the dangers to their habitat. Presenters spoke about the significant contribution of these birds in balancing our ecosystem. Students were all ears when the speaker told them about the tricks and techniques of bird watching. Sensing the keen interest displayed by our students, the teacher accompanying them proposed a collaboration with The Doon School NEST Society in future.

Having thoroughly enjoyed the session, students returned to campus armed with interesting information about the birds they saw daily. They were, at the same time, equally concerned about the grave situation of endangered birds.

Voices from the Field

"Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best."

- Bob Talbert.



Two teachers from our school were invited by The Doon School to attend a lecture by Mrs Jyotsna Brar, retired Principal of Welham Girls School. It was titled "Voices from the Field" and was themed to capture the journey of teachers through classrooms along with their feelings.

Mrs Brar, who has many years of teaching experience, spoke explicitly, presenting hues of her thoughts, emotions, values, motivations, perspectives and beliefs. She elaborated in detail how these shaped her view and influenced her teaching over the years. Elaborating on the elements of classroom teaching, she spoke about learning theories, curriculum design, expertise of subject, fostering empathy, building rapport with students and understanding the diverse backgrounds of students.

Mrs Brar enumerated common challenges faced by teachers and offered suggestions to address them in a positive and supportive manner. She stressed the importance of avoiding comparison among students and focusing on student's unique qualities. Encouraging teachers to invest in themselves, she implored them to cultivate a love for reading and broaden their knowledge beyond their subject. She summed up her talk by saying, "If a plant does not grow, we don't beat the plant, we change the environment". This analogy reminds us as educators, to adapt to support the growth of students rather than focus on their shortcomings.

We are proud of....
Esha Sharma, PYDS Batch 2021



Esha lives with her parents and two sisters in Bhagwantpur village, close to PYDS. Her father is the school electrician, and her mother runs a small shop near their home. Esha joined PYDS in 2015. After passing out from class XII in 2021, she went on to pursue B.Com + NCC at MKP (PG) College Dehradun. When asked to come to campus and speak to our students, she readily agreed and spoke with the students narrating her school and college journey as follows:

"I appeared for the PYDS entrance exam as my parents could not afford the fees of high end schools and felt incredibly lucky when I was selected to join class VII. In school, I was welcomed by teachers and students as a family member, and this was a turning point in my life.

With the encouragement of teachers, I began participating in school activities and developed an interest in sports. As time passed, I balanced studies and sports, receiving several medals in inter house competitions. When I was in class XI, I received the award of the 'Most Promising Player' at an inter school basketball

competition at Unison World School. In class XII, I was chosen as the Sports Captain of the school.

In class VIII, I began playing the tabla and received the 'Instrumental Player Award' of our school. One of my proudest moments was when I, along with two friends, won the first prize in a national level movie making competition, for the movie 'Smart City', organised by tGELF. While in school, I also got the opportunity to explore many parts of India, when our batch was taken for educational trips to Gujarat, Kedarnath, Badrinath, and Delhi.

As I was passionate about the National Cadet Corps (NCC), I was guided by my teachers to take admission in MKP (PG) college to fulfill my aspiration. Through NCC, I got the opportunity to represent Uttarakhand at the national level in the Thal Sainik Camp, the second-highest camp in India for NCC cadets. I also participated in other camps like the Basic Leadership Camp, Advanced Leadership Camp, and Service Selection Board Camp. I represented my university in a national level basketball tournament. While pursuing my physical training, I scored 7 CGPA in my final year in academics.

Now, having completed graduation, I am preparing for the Combined Defence Services exam, together with teaching at Agrani India Foundation, an NGO in Dehradun. Teaching for three hours a day fulfills my dream of giving back to society, just like PYDS once supported me. I would like to emphasise that all that I have achieved is because of the numerous opportunities I got in school. The confidence I carry today is a reflection of the guidance and support I received from my teachers. I hold the valuable morals and life lessons they taught, close to my heart. I am deeply grateful to my parents, who believed in me and always encouraged me to do better.

My aspiration is to serve the nation by joining the Indian Army and working in a disciplined and structured environment. I look forward to shouldering responsibilities, developing leadership qualities and serving in key positions to make a meaningful impact. I am keen to encourage my juniors to join the armed forces and want to say to them, "Always believe in yourself and follow your passion because you are no less than anyone".



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