

## Your Purkal Journal January 2024

*Knowledge gained is an asset forever*



## Republic Day Celebration

*"True freedom is impossible without a mind made free by discipline"*

*- Mortimer J. Adler*



On 26th January, our Principal, Ms Diana Luji, unfurled the flag and saluted the march past led by the Head Boy and Head Girl. After the national anthem, spectators were treated to a yoga demonstration and a battery of patriotic speeches, poems & songs. Five students were awarded prizes and certificates for

their outstanding performance in recent state level basketball tournaments. Their parents had been invited to witness this proud moment.

A delightful program comprising a flute recital and song & folk dance ensemble by students followed. But the best was kept for the last; four tableaux, representing the states of Assam, Haryana, Kerala and Maharashtra - showcasing their culture, attire and energetic dances filled the atmosphere with cheer and patriotic fervour. Students had a lot of fun preparing for the Republic Day, learning about the diverse culture of India during the process.

## Heroes of Tomorrow Competition

*"Knowledge is the eye of desire and can become the pilot of the soul"*



Parvati Shah, a class XI student, bagged the first runner-up position in the online 'Heroes of Tomorrow Entrepreneurial Ideas Competition', conducted by BML Munjal University. She has been awarded ₹ 60,000 for her achievement. Parvati built a prototype of an IoT-based medicine reminder tool, S.M.A.R.T. It aims to help people who need to take medicines regularly by providing reminders to take their dosages and also to procure supplies ahead of time.

Parvati presented a detailed business plan outlining the development, launch and scalability of her prototype in the market. The competition was for students of classes XI and XII. Entries were judged for originality, innovation, creativity, quality



and presentation. Parvati's entry was one of the 10 best selected for online presentation. The jury was impressed with her innovative idea and praised her creativity and hard work.

## Young Creators League 2024

*"Change is the end result of all true learning" - Leo Buscaglia*



Plaksha University, Mohali organised a tech competition called the Young Creators League for students of classes VIII to XII from over 50 schools. The challenge was to identify a problem in the local community and create a solution through a working prototype.

On 26th January five class XI students and a teacher went to Mohali to participate in the competition. Our students presented their innovative water monitoring model, 'Revolutionising Rainwater Harvesting'. They demonstrated how the use of stored rainwater can be better utilised through real-time monitoring. During the day, students also participated in various workshops and were given a campus tour. They enjoyed the experience, made friends and learnt many new things.

## Unacademy National Scholarship Admission Test

*"No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why*



Unacademy, renowned for preparing students for competitive exams, organises the Unacademy National Scholarship Admission Test for school students of class IX and above. All students of classes IX, X and science students of classes XI and XII appeared for the exam which was held on our campus under supervision of Unacademy invigilators.

- Based on scores, scholarships ranging from 50% to 90% will be extended to qualifying students.
- All students who appeared for the exam are eligible for two months of free coaching
- All students were awarded certificates of participation

### **JEE and NEET Coaching**

4 students (3 NEET and 1 JEE) have been attending Unacademy coaching classes since last year, at 60% scholarship. These students leave school at 3 pm to attend classes that get over at 7:30 pm. The students are commended for balancing their responsibilities in school and their coaching sessions. We are optimistic that they will perform well in competitive exams as a consequence of this additional effort.

## **Vahani Scholarship Interview**

*“Today I will do what others won’t, so tomorrow I can accomplish what*



Vahani Scholarship Trust provides a full-financial scholarship to 50 eligible students across India for their studies post class XII. Fifteen students of class XII applied for this scholarship by submitting their Statement of Purpose (SOP) and required documents. Three students - Yashoda, Julie, and Palak were shortlisted for the preliminary round of interviews. They were conducted online and two students qualified for the final round of interviews, where they faced a panel of experts. Palak cleared the final round and clinched the scholarship.

Throughout the process, students were guided by their teachers and alumni scholarship holders. Though the screening process was rigorous, the scholarship is definitely worth the effort.

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## **Intra class Debate**

*"Last night I lost the world, and gained the universe" - C. JoyBell C*





Debating is the capability of expressing and defending a point of view before an audience, without offending anyone. Debates often deal with current issues, encouraging students to research and form their own views and develop their oratory skills.

An intra class debate competition was held for both sections of classes VIII and IX. Organised by the Social Studies and English departments, it featured thought provoking topics with social relevance. Each class was divided in four groups and each group was given a topic to speak 'for' or 'against' the motion. It was a pleasure listening to students present their viewpoints fervently and posing questions to their opponents.

## Socio Quest

*"There are so many life-changing experiences just waiting to be found out"*



A 'Socio Quest' activity was organised for the first time by the Social Studies department. Participation was compulsory for all students of classes V to XI. They had to attempt 30 multiple-choice questions in 30 minutes. Students were allowed 10 days time to prepare for the test and winners from each class will be given certificates.

The activity was an assessment tool aimed to promote the quest for knowledge. It has been decided to reintroduce the General Assessment Program in classes and encourage the habit of reading among students.

## CBSE Viva Voce and Practicals

*Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one"*

*- Malcolm Forbes*



Viva and practicals are an important component of the CBSE exams. These were held for the 17 subjects taken by students of the current Class XII, who had to present their project files. Assessments of these will contribute to the final scores of the subject together with written exams.

Earlier, to familiarise students, mock practicals on board outlines were conducted.

This gave students a gist of the type of questions they could be asked by external examiners and hence prepare accordingly.

## Pakhawaj Classes

*"The only way to do great work is to love what you do" - Steve Jobs*



The passion displayed by Manav Khatri (class VIII) and Deepanshu Gaur (class VI) during the 11th Annual Day and recent Republic Day musical performances was unmistakable. Sensing their passion and potential, our music teacher, Shri Deepak Bhardwaj, requested Shri Santosh Das of Shantikunj, Haridwar, to accept them as students. Shri Das, is a PhD in Hindustani Music-Pakhawaj, with a silver medal in Sangeet Praveen from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad.

Deepak Sir took Manav and Deepanshu for their first class at Shantikunj on 21st January. Henceforth they will go for 90 minute sessions on alternate Sundays. The boys are elated and Deepanshu intends to enrol for the 6-year Pakhawaj course.

## Teachers' Workshop

*"I did then, what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better" -*





Following the winter break, a two-day teachers' workshop was held in the school auditorium. Society Secretary Mr. Anoop Seth opened the workshop with a brief review of the School's Guiding Principles, discipline, conduct, values, development, austerity, responsibility, etc. Teachers exchanged pleasantries over warm up activities, and settled down department wise. They did a quick review of events, challenges, outcomes, and solutions for the past academic year. Goals were set for the upcoming academic year and all conclusions were recorded.

On the second day, Mrs Anita Maitra, a founding member of the team that established the reputable Shriram School in Delhi, with an experience of over three decades in the field of education, conducted a session on 'differentiated learning', a technique wherein teachers devise teaching methods to cater to individual needs of students. In the final section, teachers drafted a road map, set goals and developed the school calendar for the next academic year.

## **Selection in State Level U-17 Basketball Team**



Mohd Rihan, of class XI was selected by 'Khel Vibhag' of Uttarakhand for the Dehradun U-17 state level basketball team. An ecstatic Rihan reached Pithoragarh with his teammates for the tournament on 8th January. Over the next two days they defeated teams from Almora and Uddham Singh Nagar and qualified for the finals. Team Dehradun progressed to defeat Ram Nagar and were declared winners of the tournament. Rihan was awarded a certificate and a basketball for his participation in the team.

Rihan is delighted that he got a chance to represent his state and travel to Pithoragarh, where he visited the Fort and the local market with his teammates.

## The New Kitchen Store



The PYDS kitchen caters to the nutritional needs of 533 growing children and 121 staff members. The kitchen store was built more than 15 years ago, when the school strength was less than half of today, and desperately needed more space to store raw materials. It was expanded to double its size and the deep freezer was shifted outside for better ventilation. The expanded store was inaugurated on 30th January.

More space has enabled purchase of larger quantities of ration at bulk rates, thus saving on transportation costs and manpower. All materials can now be neatly arranged and labelled thus enabling better record keeping and utilisation.

**We are proud of...**

**Babita Joshi batch 2004**





Babita joined Swamy Sir's *after school classes* when she was a student of class VI at Scholars Home School. At that time she went straight from school to his free evening classes, to brush up her English, Hindi, Science and Mathematics. Everyday she would study there for three hours, enjoying healthy snacks served by Mrs Swamy, along with other students.

Babita, or the *little one* is the youngest of six siblings, but she considers herself luckiest, as she was the only one to get a chance to study in English medium schools. Giving her best, she worked hard to finance her own education and never allowed any hurdle to hinder her growth.

After completing her schooling, she joined PYDS as a kindergarten teacher, pursuing B.Com simultaneously. On graduating, she worked for an IT company together with tutoring children by evening. She worked as a lab assistant in a school near her home between 2017-21, during which she completed M.A. in English. In 2021, Babita returned to PYDS as a primary teacher and simultaneously enrolled for a B.Ed degree.

It was by no means easy, but determined to carry on her crusade for learning,

Babita worked diligently everyday as a school teacher till evening, tutored children after school and studied late into the night. Her efforts paid rich dividends when she completed her B.Ed with a 9.10 CGPA, for which she was awarded a gold medal.

Clearly, it is her indomitable spirit that drives her to keep climbing the ladder of learning. English being her favourite subject, Babita looks forward to teaching the subject and helping children in every possible way.

For her, Swamy Sir was the real hero; one who went out of his way to create a perennial source of education, catalysing growth within communities. *"His belief in me kept me moving, he was the towering guide I would look up to for inspiration. But for him, I would have been nowhere", she says.*

Babita's father, who was a peon in a school, was overjoyed that she was his only child to attend an English medium school. She remembers him fondly and reminisces how happy he used to feel on seeing her study, *"It was his dream, to see me as a teacher."*



As we gaze at the Milky Way, we absorb tranquil smiles of friends across realms who though apart are with us forever. Until next time, take good care of yourselves.

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