



Purkal Summer Journal 2021

Tribute to Our Founder

Our Founder and Patron, Mr. G K Swamy passed away peacefully on 11th June 2021 after a brief illness. He was 84.

Taking PYDS to greater heights of service to our communities and our children would be our best and most lasting tribute to our selfless and noble, Swamy Sir. To this, we remain fully committed.

We are happy to present a video on him prepared by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation as a part of its series on Pioneer in Development and Social Change.



[Click to watch Swamy Sir's interview](#)

Welcoming Students' Home as Grandparents

In March this year, our third Batch of Navjeevan had an opportunity to visit the home of Swamy Sir. He and his wife, Chinni Ma'am, welcomed the children who learnt from them first-hand the intent and story behind the founding of PYDS.

Mr. Swamy shared with them his wisdom on the importance of 'focus and how it helps in achieving goals. His words of advice and his loving heart have left behind a beacon of light for not only these children but for all of us in the PYDS family.



[Click to watch Gratitude](#) ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Welcoming Mrs. Ranjana Rawat and Mr. Vikas Gambhir to Our Board



Ranjana Rawat

Mrs. Rawat is a qualified family therapist and a certified practitioner of Solution Focused Brief Therapy. She has worked as a parenting coach for parents of children with learning disabilities and behavioral issues.



Vikas Gambhir

Mr. Gambhir leads the social sector practice at Grant Thornton Bharat LLP. With experience of over 25 years, Mr. Gambhir has worked with social entrepreneurs and not-for-profit vertical across several themes like healthcare, education, environment and consultation.

Final Assessments for 2020-21

After a long year of distance learning, we had separate final assessments for our Primary, Middle and Senior Classes

Primary Classes

The assessment for our little ones (Classes I-V) was a combination of a) hands-on projects done throughout the year b) final integrated project and c) an oral presentation.

Below, we share links to the final assessment (integrated project and an oral presentation) for students of Classes I, II and III

1. [Prateek Kumar – Class I](#)
2. [Pihu Joshi – Class II](#)

Middle and Senior Classes

As we were allowed to reopen school physically for Classes VI – XII in March 2021, we decided to conduct final assessments on campus for these classes. These were a combination of a) single-subject projects b) multi-subject projects and c) written assessments

Parent-Teacher Meeting

We addressed attendance, engagement and performance of students for Classes VI-XII at an on campus PTM. Due to distance learning for most of the year, we identified a) three children with significant learning losses, who had to be held back and b) fifty-three borderline students with varying degrees of learning losses. They have been placed on probation for a period of two months. We are keeping a close eye on all these students and monitoring their progress.

Parents have appreciated the manner in which the school adopted various activities throughout the year. They also showed readiness to become partners with the teachers for the academic growth of their children.



Adverse Impact of COVID-19 during Early 2021

Six of our students have lost one of their parents who were also the only earning member of their families. Several others have lost their immediate family members. We are making all efforts to provide these children with additional attention and counselling. Hostel accommodation will also be offered once their physical reopening is permitted.

With several of our staff members testing positive in April at the height of the pandemic, we also suffered a direct impact on our operations. This, together with continuing lockdown in Dehradun, impeded our ability to maintain Donor communication efficiently. Fortunately, all of us have recovered and are back at work after an absence of a few weeks. The lockdown restrictions have also eased. Consequently, we are back to full strength and working diligently ever since. We remain optimistic that these favorable trends will continue.

We have been extremely fortunate so far in that cases of the virus amongst our teaching staff and students have been minimal. Consequently, we have been able to maintain our online learning efforts at very high levels of attendance and delivery.

Awareness, Timely Treatment and Vaccination



As most of our students and their families have limited access to information, a webinar to create awareness about COVID-19, its timely treatment and the need for vaccination was organized on 28 May for them. The webinar was presided over by Dr. Satish Reddy (Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and MD) and Dr. Rohit Shetty (Dental Surgeon).

COVID-19 Vaccination

Looking after our staff has always been an area of priority for us. Our Board of Directors and the Principal decided to contribute personally to get our lesser paid and on-campus staff vaccinated. 43 staff members were provided with the first dose of vaccination.



Creative Timetable for Distance Learning

Given the current spread and intensity of the pandemic, we are girding ourselves for another long bout of distance/online learning by our students. We have amended the timetable so that students have the option to attend either morning or evening (or both) sessions. Teachers teach the same course content at both sessions.

This flexibility has produced the desired result of securing very high attendance and engagement from the students. This will remain our focus for this year.



Testimonial from Our Teacher, Shrabana Chakraborty

The online class schedule has helped overcome certain challenges faced last year, some of the positive outcomes are

1. The attendance has gone up. Families with more than one child in the school could assign the morning slot of classes for one child and the evening slot for the other. Or,

if the parent needs to go out for work during the day and hence the mobile phone is not available at home, the child could attend classes in the evening.

2. Many students availed themselves of the opportunity to do a class for the second time in the day to get a stronger hold over a concept they wished to understand better.

Distribution of Mobile Devices



We have been able to raise funds and distribute mobile devices to a large number of children, who were unable to attend classes owing to lack of devices at home. It's our belief that we will be able to see better outcomes as a result of these steps during the current academic year.

Impact Story

For this academic session two siblings, Shaad Abbasi and Kashish Abbasi from Kotdwar – a city in a hilly district of Pauri Garhwal, joined us in Class VI and VIII respectively. Unfortunately, they lost their parents several years ago and are being brought up by their aunt, who is herself a person of very meagre means.

Upon assessing their family situation, we decided to bring them to our school hostel. However, this has been delayed due to COVID shutdown. Perturbed about their loss of distance learning due to the unavailability of a smartphone, we sent one to them in Kotdwar. They have since joined the online classes and are showing good progress.

Shalini Sharma Represented India in 'A Global Celebration'

International Award for Young People organized 'A Global Celebration' to mark 100th birth anniversary and extraordinary legacy of their Founder, 'HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh'. Along with HRH Prince Edward, a group of 10 Award participants from Barbados, China, Canada, Kenya, Gibraltar, India, UAE, UK Slovakia, and Zambia joined the event virtually.

It was a proud moment for PYDS when one of our former students, Shalini Sharma, was selected to represent the Award in India. She is a Gold Awardee of the program and currently pursuing BA in Economics and Political Science from Delhi University.



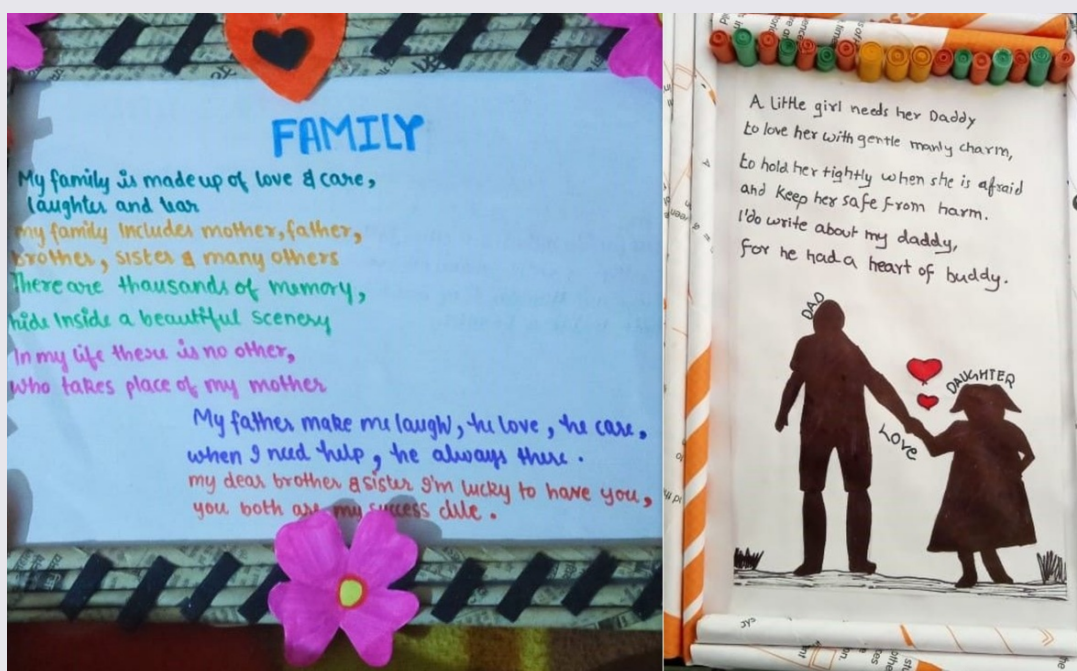


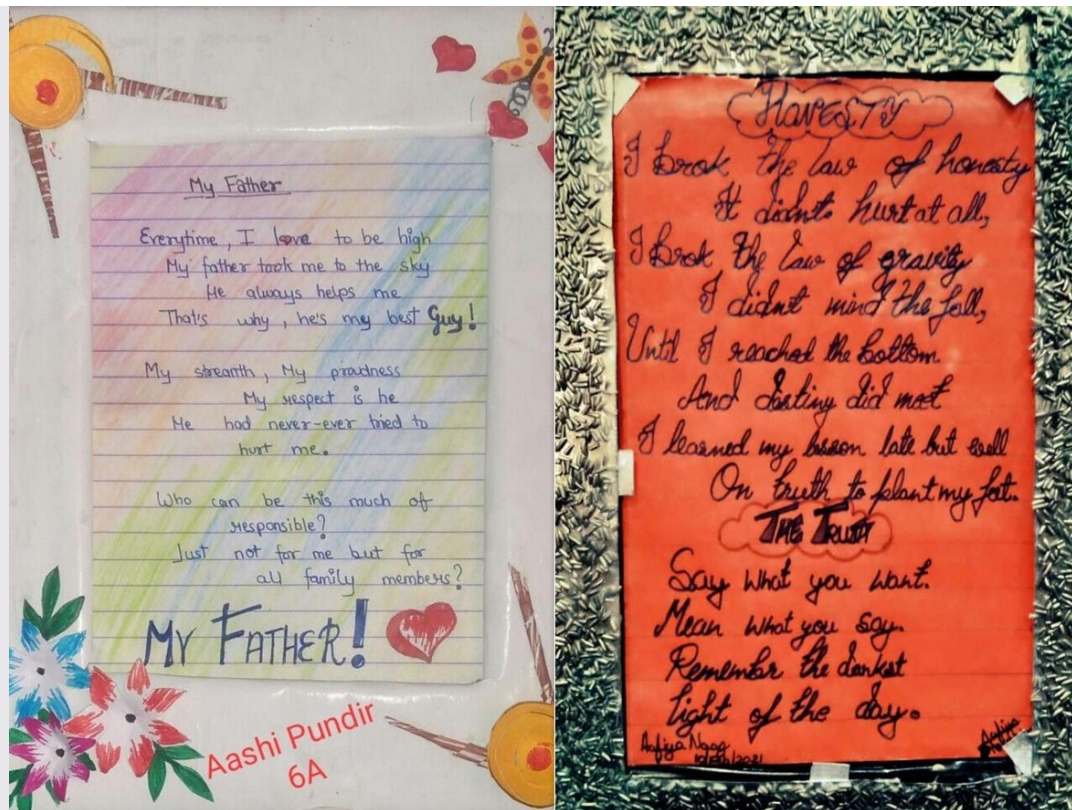
Whirlwind of Activities

Our students were engaged through various co-curricular activities

Putting Pen to Frame

A special poetry composition contest themed 'Family' and 'Honesty' was held for students of Classes IV-VI in which young minds confessed their sentiments for their families. Some even wrote about their PYDS family!





Thoughts That Rhyme

Neha Nautiyal of Class XI Science is one of those students who has been making the best use of this time. Over the past year, she proved herself to be a prolific poet in the Hindi language. Her work radiates versatility and explores various themes like introspection, mysticism, national pride and political satire. Here is a glimpse of her artistic fervor.

विधायक

1

बनूं यदि मैं एक बार विधायक
दिखाऊं सबको कैसा होता है नायक ।
युवा हूं विचारों का नवाचार हूं,
विधायक के कलम का दावेदार हूं,
जनता विकास के चमत्कारों का संसार हूं,
बनूं यदि मैं एक बार विधायक

2

असली राजनीति का पाठ पड़ाऊ
जनता कल्याण वाली सता बनाऊ
भ्रष्टाचार का अंत, शिक्षा का क्षेत्र फैलाऊं
अंत में बस एक अच्छा विधायक कहलाऊं।

3

है वक्त अब हमारे हाथों में
अब होगा गौर जनता के बातों में।
जनता ने चुना जनता के हित में होगा
फिर से अब कानून किसी के जेब में नहीं होगा।

राहगीर हूं.....

राहगीर हूं.....तू खुद रोकेगा
तो कुछ पल शायद तेरे शहर में ठहर जाऊं ।
वरना मैं खुद ही मुसाफिर हूं।
तेरे शहर से भी गुजर जाऊंगा।
सफर बहुत है रास्ता जानता नहीं ।
चला गया तो फिर लौटकर आऊंगा नहीं।
ठहरूं तेरे पास मेरी किस्मत में कहां
तो जहां तु भला कैसे रह सकुं मैं वहां।
राहगीर हूं.... तू खुद रोकेगा
तो कुछ पल शायद तेरे शहर में ठहर जाऊं ।

Veggies Come to Life

Imagination was truly at work when our students from Class II participated in the Food-Art Activity and transformed fruits and vegetables into these brilliant surreal creations. See if you can spot Chilli-Man and Toma-toise. Try spotting more!



Sending Love and Greeting to All Our Readers!



For donations, please visit - <https://www.purkal.org/donate.html>

For queries, please write to us at - society@purkal.org



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