



A Hero was born, he arrived here and he stayed...

June 11 marked the first anniversary of the passing away of our much-respected founder, Mr. G.K Swamy. He will always remain our beacon and the soul of our Institution. Our day began with a Special Assembly led by Mrs Swamy. All of us students, staff and guests expressed our love and respect by offering prayers and flowers. Thereafter, three proud PYDSians, students of Swamy Sir, took center stage and shared their moving stories about the rare and precious lessons he had taught them.

As Mr. Swamy's motto was "Life is for Giving", we dedicated this day to community service. This started with a cleaning drive both at the School and in nearby areas. This was followed by a Blood Donation Camp where several staff members, alumni and locals participated enthusiastically.

With the blessings of Mrs Swamy and the efforts of our students, the event truly met its purpose.

The Playground for Activity

Our Founder once said, "PYDS has always had receding goalposts. The future

objectives of PYDS can be to go and invent, so that we better benefit this hilly state. We need to enable learning for kids in school and many others outside, delivering excellence remotely, using integrated technology.”



In pursuance of his vision, our Tinkering Lab, a makerspace dedicated to technology, computing and science, is constantly bringing innovation into our School. With STEM being the cornerstone of our pedagogy, our Lab serves as a fostering ground for the skills and solutions of tomorrow. For this academic session, we have assigned a set of themes to teams of students from classes VI to IX. These themes are ‘Education’, ‘Energy and Transportation’, and ‘Health and Nutrition’, and issues related to each theme could be addressed. Once a problem is identified and defined, each team will work upon a problem statement. Following this, they will first explore feasible solutions and then work on prototyping and product development.

Mr. Rajiv Narang, CEO of Erehwon Consultancy, an associated partner of Atal Innovation Mission, conducted an online session on identification of problem statement. This session helped our students in learning methods of conceptualizing a given problem and analyzing it from various perspectives.

Our journey to reach the prototyping stage will be a challenging one. Nonetheless, we are optimistic about the outcomes of conceptual learning and will keep you posted on ongoing developments. Watch the video to learn more.



Next to Excellence is the Appreciation of It

We are pleased to share with you the highlights of the monthly newsletter of the 'ATL Innovation Catalyst Teachers' Program.



PYDS has received a special mention for being one of the eight schools in

India to cross the first milestone of becoming a role model ATL school. All students from the selected classes enrolled into ATL Mission Innovation Project through the formation of teams consisting of 5-6 students each. We are proud to have achieved this with the enthusiastic participation of our students.

Making Every Role Count

After the Board Examinations were conducted, a few of our teachers were required by CBSE for evaluation duties. This resulted in shortages in our academic workforce but proved to be a blessing in disguise, rather than a problem. Students of Class X, fresh from completing their own Board exams, assumed teaching substitution roles across classes. Initially, they faced challenges in conducting these classes and keeping students engaged. However, in a few days, they mastered the skills required and were able to teach with conviction and deliver content comfortably.



These students later spoke about how this experience helped them realize how each class prefers unique learning methods and styles. This required them to be prompt, flexible and creative in their approaches to teach effectively.

Bringing home the House of Representatives

As part of our aim of fostering Experiential Learning, Class VIII students simulated a mock parliament session so as to effectively grasp the significance of a parliament.



They simulated Question Hour which allows Members of Parliament to question Government Ministers regarding different aspects of administrative work. Two teams were set up, one acting as Cabinet Ministers and the second as Opposition. Students were quite probing in their questions and passionate in their answers, opinions and perspectives as they enacted the Question Hour. All of them came well-prepared, presented themselves professionally and remained faithful to their assigned roles.

It was evident that children learn more effectively through activity-based methods rather than traditional methods.

Hindi Handwriting Competition

In parallel to all the good things that digital learning and increased use of

gadgets have brought forth, the decline in handwriting skills has also become apparent among students. This decline is even more pronounced in Hindi as students do not get the level of exposure to it as compared to English. Evidence suggests that the brain engages differently when we write something as opposed to typing it on a keyboard or by touching a screen. Studies also show that writing improves memory, learning prowess, and the ability to grasp new ideas.



Keeping these in mind, we organized an Inter-School Hindi Handwriting Competition which received active participation from all students. Certificates were awarded to stand-out participants.

No Tobacco Please

On May 31, on the occasion of “World No Tobacco Day”, Class X students performed a street play during the morning assembly which emphasized the perils of tobacco consumption. They went on to elaborate on tobacco’s adverse impact on families and health.

Together, they advised all attendees to steer clear of it, as well as educate their families about these issues.

Embracing AI

On June 1, we welcomed Mrs. Shalini Kapoor, Innovator and Chief Technologist with 25 years of industry experience to our campus. She counseled our senior students on career opportunities in Artificial Intelligence.



With her experience of over 2 decades in the Tech industry, she helped students understand the several options for a career in Artificial Intelligence. She also explained the manner in which Artificial Intelligence can help them in their chosen domains. Mrs Kapoor shared with students a list of renowned universities for Design and AI that they could consider for applying to. The students made the best of the session by asking plenty of questions and found it to be deeply interesting and informative.

Newest Additions to our Family

Our hunt for zealous students for Class XI started with 23 students appearing for the entrance exams on May 26. Two assessments of 50 marks each were

conducted to evaluate their proficiency in English and Mathematics. In keeping with our principle of offering seats only to needy children, our teachers also surveyed the socio-economic profile of the families of shortlisted candidates. The purpose of the survey was to ensure that seats go only to the most needy and deserving candidates.



After a multi step evaluation, seven students were selected for admission. We now have a full complement of 50 students in Class XI with 25 students in each section, of whom 16 are girls and 9 boys. The new academic session of Class XI will begin on July 4, when we will welcome our new students to PYDS.

Build Upon Your Strengths

With the objective of enhancing awareness of class X students and their parents on career opportunities linked to respective subject combinations to be selected for Class XI, we conducted an orientation session on May 31. During the session, we apprised students of new courses being introduced such as Dance, History and Psychology.



Teachers gave detailed overviews of their respective subjects and future prospects. A number of subjects were discussed including Accountancy, Arts, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English, Entrepreneurship, Hindi, Maths, Music (Instrumental/Vocal), Physical Education and Physics. Several queries were raised in respect of the subject combinations and were addressed. This, coupled with the orientation, helped students make informed decisions on their subject selection based on their aptitude, interest, personality and prospects.

Cover Story

We are happy to bring you a story that tangibly demonstrates the impact of the generous support that you have bestowed upon our children over the years. It is a proud moment for us that Elin Kerketta, a PYDS alumnus from the batch of 2019 has been selected as a Guest Experience Hostess at Hotel Andaz (a part of the reputable Hyatt group) Aerocity, New Delhi. She joined our Learning Academy in 2009. Hailing from a very humble background, she always showed a zeal to fight every battle and constantly outperform expectations. From becoming the Head Girl to winning a full scholarship at her University and to getting placed immediately upon graduation, she has made everyone proud. We are even more gratified that she will be the primary breadwinner for her family at the young age of twenty-one,

thereby lifting the family out of their difficult circumstances.

Elin has described her journey in her own words.



“At the age of eight, going to a different school was a major change in my life. With a deep sense of curiosity, I took my first step into PYDS in 2009. I come from a family of 5 members where my mother earns a living by selling corn by the roadside. My father’s alcoholic nature made him unable to contribute to family responsibilities. There was a time when my home did not have electricity because of which we were not able to study. The school provided us with study lamps and it was of great help. The situation at my home made me

realize the importance of realising my dreams. I began exploring my potential.

Before I joined this school, I was very shy and not proficient in English. However, the school built my self-confidence and helped me in conquering my fear of public speaking. I was given numerous opportunities to develop leadership qualities. I was an average student but I participated in all the events whether it would be sports, drama, or essay writing. They not only helped me in completing my school but also in my higher studies. I got an opportunity to study at Shoolini University with a full scholarship for academics as well as for hostel fees.

I am in the sixth semester of my course, BSc. Hospitality and Hotel Administration and am writing my final examinations at Shoolini University in Himachal Pradesh. The university is located amidst greenery & mountains. The curriculum is not just academics. We have a variety of activities, quizzes, assignments and the best facilities

During our 3-year course, we also got the opportunity to go for industrial training in top hotel brands like Oberoi hotels, Hyatt, ITC hotel group, etc. We also went for various industrial visits, exhibitions & trade fairs to enhance our knowledge, skills and therefore, be the next generation leaders. Being the batch topper for three consecutive years, I was selected as a proud "Guest Experience Hostess" in the Rooms Division of Andaz Aerocity New Delhi---a brand of the American Global Hospitality giant Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

This journey has been a long one. I am thankful to PYDS for helping me find my dream and guiding me to transform my dreams into reality. A minimal income is not sufficient to fulfill the needs of education, health, and other necessities of a family of five. Now I will be easing off the financial burden on my parents. My journey does not stop here; I will continue to learn and explore new opportunities and eventually grow with it."

Requesting Your Support

We would like to request your generous support for funding the upgrade of our auditorium stage and related equipment. We have a small hall which we use as an auditorium for events like plays, performances, debates, talks, workshops, quiz competitions, etc. These events play a vital role in the holistic learning of a child.

A simple raised wooden platform serves as the stage and plastic chairs are

used for seating. The quality of our sound equipment doesn't adequately support the acoustics of the hall. Further, it does not do justice to the hard work our children and staff put in for the preparation of events and performances. With your support, we could upgrade our stage and add some basic amenities such as collar mikes, border mikes, stage curtains to enhance the sound and visual effects.

We estimate that this upgrade will cost us Rs. 2,35,000 (Two lakh thirty-five thousand). We humbly solicit donations for the above project, in part or full, from all of our generous supporters.

Donate Any Amount

We thank you for taking the time to be a part of our journey. We will be back soon with the next edition with new stories. Do encourage us with your suggestions and ideas. Stay Awesome!

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