

Aaghaz-e-Dosti Runner Up Entry by Julie Hemram

"The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace."

-Carlos Santana

**We keep our hopes high for a peaceful, sustainable and equitable world.
The cover art, created by Julie Hemram (Class X), is reflective of this**

great quote. With her work, Julie secured the First Runner Up position in the 10th Indo-Pak Peace Calendar painting competition organized by Aaghaz-E-Dosti. The twelve best paintings (six from India and Pakistan each) of the competition are featured in this calendar. Let's read Julie's thoughts that led her to create this masterpiece.

“The painting depicts peace between two countries. The sun depicts the dawn and the first sun rays after countries agree to live peacefully. The children who are flying kites show the happiness and joy that comes after peace because there won't be wars anymore”.

Julie's views are consistent with the needs of our current times and we wholeheartedly hope that people around the world will resonate with her beautiful message of love and peace.

Welcome Aboard

Under strict COVID protocols, we successfully carried out the admission process for Classes I and VI with children from places in our vicinity and afar, such as Uttarkashi, Bagheshwar and Tehri.



A child appearing for the assessment

A total of 99 students wrote the admission test for the 25 seats in Class I, and 97 students for the 11 seats in Class VI. Of these, 45 students were shortlisted on the basis of their test performance and learning potential for further, in-depth assessment. As a first step, their homes and neighborhoods were visited by our staff to get a first-hand picture of their socio-economic conditions. Basis this, a shorter list was compiled of students whose families met the need-based admission criteria. These families and their children were then invited to the school for an in-person assessment. Based on this, the list was pruned further and a second visit was made to their homes to ensure nothing had been overlooked.

We are happy to report that we have selected 35 children (24 for Class I and 11 for Class VI) for admission into PYDS. Completion of admission

formalities is underway and we will welcome them into our fold when our new academic session begins on April 19, 2022.

Our staff who went on these home visits have conveyed that their visits to the children's homes have helped deepen their understanding of PYDS's aims and objectives.

The PYDS Spirit Ignites Again



Children greeting each other after full school reopening

We enter the next Academic Year with an unshakeable resolve of continuing our journey with the same vigor and look forward to resuming our full-day program after an unanticipated two years of online learning. Despite the dedicated efforts of our teachers and students to effectively implement online learning during the pandemic and a collective attendance of 99%, many activities that children need for their holistic development, such as peer-to-peer learning, eating together and co-scholastic activities remained virtually suspended. As we gladly resume our full school schedule, we look forward to expanding our horizons and reintegrating various activities into the curriculum of all our children.



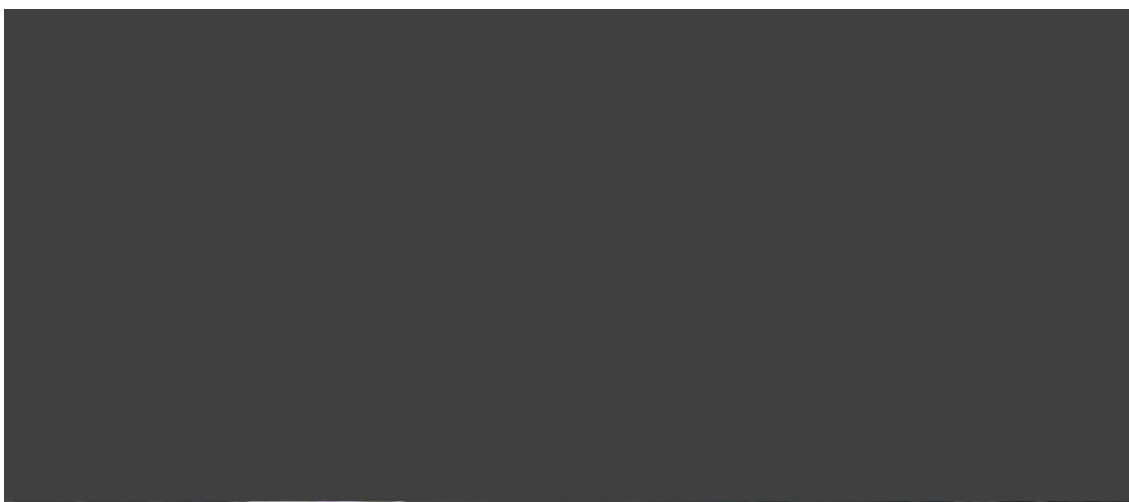
Children enacting 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' as a cross-curricular exercise

The buzz is at its peak with all our children back on campus. We enjoy having our meals together and the look of delight on our little one's faces is priceless. Our halls are once again gilded with the reflections of our children's smiles. Students of Class I and II who are new to the campus were nervous at first, but the joy of sharing spaces with their classmates gradually forged new friendships and the spirit of PYDS ignited again!

Rakhi of Class I recalls, "This campus was new for me but I got attached to my teachers on day 1, I did not want to leave them, I did not want to board the bus, because I knew it was time to leave. I like looking at my teachers and I follow their dressing and speaking style."

There are many students like Rakhi who are as excited to join our campus as we are to have them.

A Hymn of Gratitude





After the silence of almost two years, our morning assembly found its voice again on the morning of February 21, 2022. A palpable sense of gratitude is evident in the excitement of our children. Click on the image to watch the glimpses of the morning assembly.

Safeguarding Our Children



Our student getting vaccinated at our campus

When schools were closed for winter break in January, there was a surge in the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus in the country which once again impacted many lives. Meanwhile, with the assistance of the state government, our campus became one of the vaccination centers for the city. We allocated separate areas for waiting,

vaccination and observation. We were compliant with all the safety protocols and successfully vaccinated 62 students (15 years old and above) with the first dose of the Covid vaccine on January 14. The remaining students got vaccinated through their local primary health care centers. Once the school reopened, we conducted a second vaccination drive on February 21 for our 150 students. Consequently, all of our students who are 15 and above are vaccinated with the first dose while the second vaccination is remaining for only a few.

73rd Republic Day



Our Principal hoisting the flag

We kept attendance low and adhered to all COVID-19 protocols on our annual Republic Day celebration. Our principal, Mrs. Arati Nagaraj, unfurled the national flag commemorating the eventful day our Constitution came into effect.

Getting to Know the Wider UN System



Children representing South Africa in an MUN session

As part of our experiential learning exercise, an engaged learning process where students learn by doing and develop a deeper understanding of concepts through experience, our Class VII students organized a session of Model United Nations to learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.

They represented 10 countries as delegates and spoke about pressing issues faced by the countries such as health, poverty, gender equality, climate change, terrorism and education. Students displayed comprehensive knowledge of the countries they were representing.

Juggling the Motion

An Intra Class Round Table Discussion was held on February 26. This was organized for Class XII students to expose them to a competitive environment and equip them with the skills of handling deviations assertively. Some of the topics that were covered were 'Life without a smartphone', 'Is technology making us less human', etc.



Dr. Roma Saklani, senior Psychology and English Teacher at Welham Girls' School, Dehradun, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. She shared valuable insights and life lessons with our children. This event was an experience of a lifetime for our students.

World NGO Day

We played host to Liberal Art students of IMS Unison University, who visited our campus on February 26 to commemorate the upcoming World NGO Day. They were delighted to interact with our students and enjoyed exploring the activities on our campus. Their visit concluded with a message on drug abuse where, through a short skit, they advised students and staff to steer clear of drugs.



An IMS student interacting with our student

Mayur, one of the IMS students, applauded our students, saying, “It was an amazing experience interacting with these lovely kids. They hold the potential to carry forward the legacy of Purkal and will surely soar to greater heights.”

A Friendly Face-Off



Match in Progress

Our students played a friendly Volleyball game at Him Jyoti School, Dehradun. Their visit started with a warm welcome by Mrs. Ruma Malhotra, the Principal. It was heartening to see both the teams bonding well and playing the match in the true spirit of sportsmanship. We will make all efforts to deepen this bond in the coming times.

National Science Day

The Science Department of PYDS celebrated National Science Day on February 28 by organizing a special Assembly. Class XII students shared stories of renowned Indian scientists such as Sir C. V. Raman (Indian Physicist) and Dr. Janki Ammal (Indian Botanist), followed by a Quiz Competition that was held for Classes VI, VII, VIII and IX.



Students participating in the science quiz

All participants displayed a deep understanding of the topics that were covered. The audience also greatly enjoyed the quiz as it helped them learn various interesting facts.

'STEM Adventures' Continue



Children assembling 3D Scanner

We have strengthened and enhanced our STEM initiative and we have been able to equip our Science and Tinkering laboratories with some of

the latest equipment. Many of our tools and devices required replacement as they were either outdated or defective and presented a major hurdle in our children's intuitive learning. We were also able to procure a few extra tools which go beyond the prescribed curriculum and have proved essential for hands-on learning and encouraging students to pursue these subjects as areas of interest. These tools can be used to demonstrate several experiments and principles of science.



Electromagnetic Wave Transmitter
and Quadcopter



Centrifuge



Discharge Tube

We have observed a significant change in the learning levels of our students with the introduction of these devices. Some of these devices that we procured for our Science laboratories are - Electromagnetic Wave Transmitter and Receiver (with a quadcopter), Discharge Tube, Digital Electroscope, Kipp's Apparatus, Centrifuge, etc. We have also been able to equip our Tinkering laboratory with a 3D Scanner, additional 3D printers, and a Laser Cutter/Engraver.

Success Story

Our students keep making us proud and we feel so excited every time we bring these stories to you. Let's hear it from Sahil Kumar who has recently been placed as a Software Development Engineer.



Sahil Kumar

"I clearly remember the day, 1st December 2008. Yes, you can mark it as a turning point in my life because this was the day when I joined PYDS. With time, I gained professional knowledge, but the way I developed co-scholastically and ethically makes me even prouder. When I look back in time and connect the dots, I understand it's not my work alone but people like my teachers, mentors and donors who have helped me reach here. Coming from a family of meager earnings, it was very difficult for my parents to send me to a good school. PYDS took this burden off their shoulders when I joined it.

Studying here broadened my thinking, taught me incredible lessons and a different perspective. I believe our knowledge matters but the good impact we make on others' lives counts more. The lesson, 'Life is for Giving', the motto of my School has always motivated me to work harder every day and do something different in life.

It was in 2018 when I completed class XII, but the journey with PYDS continues.

In August 2018, I joined DIT University to pursue my undergraduate course in BTech CSE (IBM specialization in Cloud Computing and virtualization). During the lockdown, I started solving coding questions and started learning JavaScript from online platforms like Youtube, Udemyl, and Coursera. I completed four courses on MERN Stack, which improved my skills and in-depth knowledge of this field. I made an online shopping web application as my college project. At the beginning of the fourth year of my college, I got placed as a Software Development Engineer at PlaySimple Games, a gaming startup located in Bengaluru. Now it has been 9 months since my internship started and it will complete in May 2022. I am eagerly looking forward to this new phase in my life. Overall it has been a roller coaster ride, filled with ups and downs and the journey continues."

Thanks,

Sahil Kumar

Thank you for taking the time to read the stories of our children and the goings-on at Purkal. We look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. We wish you a happy and colorful Holi!



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