



## **Your Purkal Journal**

*March 2023*

*'We like to work hard and play hard'*



## **End of Academic Year Celebrations**

*'Let us remember till eternity, the times spent together in peace and amity...'*



The end of the Academic Year was celebrated with students and staff immersing themselves in fun filled rejuvenating activities. They visited the Dehradun Zoo, had picnics at a farm at Purkal and had movie sessions. They also indulged in beatboxing, tinkering, craft, storytelling and fireless cooking sessions. Students stepped forward with zeal to clean the campus and the nearby river area and invigorated themselves by swimming and splashing in the nearby Tons stream. Classes VIII, IX and XI trekked through the scenic Devalsari valley and climbed Nag Tibba (elevation 3,022m) as well as to Rikholi (farthest village from School for our day students) and Jharipaani on the walking path to Mussourie. On the last day, children revelled in having potluck meals but remembered to clean up their classrooms before leaving for home.

## Student Council Elections

*'The youth are the leaders of today and tomorrow'*



The Student Council of PYDS serves as a bridge between the School and its students. Elections were held for its members - Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, Sports Captain and Vice Captains on the 29th of March. An election committee of three teachers invited nominations from classes XI & XII for these positions. Nominated students delivered electrifying speeches, displaying their leadership qualities, before their voters - an excited group of students of classes VI-XII and teachers during the morning assembly. The intensity of applause was a noticeable parameter to gauge the popularity of the contesting candidates. Later in the day, votes were cast digitally in the Computer Lab, through a secret ballot and the results were declared the next day. Our congratulations to all winners, we are confident that they will serve in their roles with responsibility and distinction.

### **Let's Pitch our Business Ideas**

*'An enterprising person is one who sees opportunity in all areas of life'*



The 'Magnates' Pool', was organised on 31st March, where groups of class XI students pitched their startup ideas before prospective investors. The panel of eminent investors consisted of Mr Romesh Sobti, an eminent banker and patron of PYDS; Mr Narendra Varma, co-founder & executive director of 'Our Table Cooperative' and Ms. Vishi Joshi, Senior School Librarian.

Groups of budding entrepreneurs from class XI presented innovative business models related to grocery service, fashion, medicine reminder tool, care facilities for babies, senior citizens and pets. The experienced investors listened carefully and asked probing questions regarding cash flow, logistics, sustainability etc. They also gave the participants valuable

advice based on their own experience and applauded their enterprising spirit.

The winning team was the presenter of 'Smart Medicine Access Reminder Tool', that would help patients take medicines and replenish their supplies on time. Their proposal was unanimously accepted by the investors.

## Orientations

*'The good thing about learning is that no one can take it away'*

These are conducted with the intent of familiarising attendees with the 'what, why and how' of the purpose it is called for. They also introduce attendees to the rules and policies of the institution. The following orientation meetings were organised to facilitate smooth activities during the new Academic Year.



### Orientation for new admissions

Based on the written admission tests for classes I and VI in which 180 students appeared, 70 were shortlisted, their homes surveyed and in person assessments conducted in school. Second home surveys were conducted for students making the cut. The final admission list was published on March 1 and parents of selected candidates were called on campus for an orientation meeting on 7th March. The session was lively with lots of questions being asked. The new students also looked around their soon to be home with curiosity and excitement.



### Clubs Orientation

An orientation session was held for classes VI-XII and Navjeevan to acquaint students about the 15 activities that would be offered in the Saturday Club sessions. The activities for the new session are - vocal music, instrumental music, dance, debate, nature, art, tinkering, yoga, sports, drama, knitting, magazine publication, competitive exams preparation and fun Math and Math. Forms were handed out to students to fill out three activities/clubs of their choice. These forms were reviewed and activities were allocated accordingly. Club activities begun on 15th April.



### Subject Selection Orientation

An orientation session was organised for students going to class XI along with their parents to help with the 'subject selection' process. They were briefed about the course combinations being offered and possible career options in respect of each. The importance of choosing subjects wisely was emphasised. Parents were counselled on their role in supporting their

children in this crucial decision. Students also appeared for the 'Cogito Hub Test', a platform that provides assessment based subject recommendations for best suited careers. This assessment is an aid to subjects and career selection and its results provide useful pointers at the time of final subject selection.

### **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)**

"Mathematics is the music of reason" — James Joseph Sylvester



The IMO is one of the most prestigious two-level Mathematics based competitive exams organised by the Science Olympiad Foundation. It is a platform to help students develop their problem-solving skills by ascertaining and developing their analytical abilities and helps boost their confidence for future competitive exams. 21 students of class XI participated in this exam, of which 3 have been awarded gold medals. In the 2nd level, Anuska Dhiman has attained the 22nd zonal position. We are proud of our students for the dedication displayed and results achieved.

## Let the colours shower the Joy

'The best way to pay for a lovely moment is to enjoy it'



Holi, the festival of colours, was celebrated on campus with fun and frolic. Festival eve was celebrated by a program of dance, drama, singing and poetry by our Hostel students. Next morning, the festival was celebrated by the students, teachers and Principal on the sports field with full enthusiasm and bold splashes of colour.

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## Respect and Gratitude

*"When you drop a pebble in the pond, you never know how far the ripples go".*



At the beginning of their time at Purkal, the Navjeevan 3 students were invited by Swamy Sir to his home. He spoke to them about 'respect and gratitude', which transformed the young students' perspective towards the school, entirely.

A recording of this meeting was shown to the new Navjeevan 4 students and they too felt highly inspired. One day when these students accidentally broke the wall clock of their classroom, it was repaired and put back and the incident was soon forgotten. However, towards the end of the academic session, students remembered Swamy Sir's talk and realised that it would be disrespectful to leave a broken clock for the next batch. They contributed from their pocket money and requested their warden to replace the clock. This heartwarming gesture touched all of us. Thankyou Swamy Sir, for planting seeds of priceless values into these young minds. You will always continue to inspire us.

### **The Navjeevan 4 PTM**

'History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday of children' - Nelson Mandela



On the last day of the school year, parents of the Navjeevan 4 batch were invited for their concluding PTM. They were given complete reports of their children's academic and non academic performance over the year. This included health records and remarks by teachers and wardens to help the parents understand the holistic development of their child over the year. Thereafter, parents were led to the sports field, where hostel students presented an entertainment program to mark the end of the academic year.

It was a heartening blend of song, dance, beat boxing, skit, complete with professional style anchoring. Parents were visibly moved to see the transformation in their children. At the end of day, when about a dozen parents and their children could not find any means of transport to return home, a PYDS school bus dropped them at the railway station.

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### **Saving the Crow**

'Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant'

- R L Stevenson



One day, while sitting in the hostel balcony, Rajan noticed a crow struggling to free its leg entangled in a plastic bag. He ran out to rescue the bird and took it to the school infirmary, where it was discovered that one of its wings was injured. Worried that the cat may get to it, Rajan housed the crow in a cardboard box and put it in a safe place. He cared for the crow, giving it food and water, twice a day for about ten days and was happy to see it fly away.

To protect other birds that frequent the area in search of food, the hostel boys have pledged to keep the area clear of plastic bags. The boys now enjoy a pleasant view of flocks of birds amongst green surroundings from their hostel.

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### **The PYDS Book of Tenses**

'Innovation is the calling card of the future' - Anna Eshoo



While learning 'tenses' students of Class V, decided to write a book on the past, present and future of PYDS. They interviewed the school alumni working on campus about the journey of PYDS from four students in Swamy Sir's dining room into a flourishing CBSE school of more than 500 students.

Teams of writers, artists, and helping hands got down to work and created a big book that had sections dedicated to the *past*, *present* and *future*. The artists decorated the margins of each page and drew Swamy Sir's portrait on the cover and the scribes took turns in writing. It was a fun activity that the students enjoyed immensely while learning about tenses and the history of their school all at the same time.

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**We are proud of... Kamini Godiyal, PYDS Batch 2016**



Kamini, her parents and younger sister, live in a farmhouse close to PYDS. Her parents take care of the farmhouse. Kamini narrates her story as follows:

*"As a child I had lofty dreams and aspirations; but with time, I realised that consistent, focussed hard work was requisite to fulfil dreams.*

*Coming from a difficult financial background, life was full of ups and downs. My benefactor was my school, where I spent seven wonderful years, learning, exploring and growing. Had it not been for PYDS, studying in a good English medium school would have remained a dream for me. Academics and sports, nutrition and medical facilities, competitions and trips, the school provided all. Today I am a proud, confident and grounded human being because of the multiple opportunities provided in school.*

*After class XII, when financial constraints became a barrier to college education, the school stepped in and helped me secure the 'Vahani' scholarship for graduation. Subsequently, in 2016, I joined Sardar Bhagwan Singh University at Balawala, Dehradun, for a Bachelors program in Physiotherapy. Today I am happily working as a paediatric Physiotherapist at Sunshine Child Development Center, Gurgaon. I love working with children as they are a perennial inspiration for me to smile.*

*I consider myself most fortunate to have grown up amongst kind people with strong determination. Their will to work selflessly towards the betterment of the society is a constant source of motivation for me.*

*I am extremely grateful to my alma mater and consider its motto, 'LIFE IS FOR GIVING', as the guiding principle of my life."*

As we surge ahead into a new academic year, wish us good luck and take good care of yourself, till we meet again!

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