



Annual School Trips

"Travel is still the most intense mode of learning" - Kevin Kelly



Class XI Trek to Nag Tibba Peak

As soon as their exams got over, 44 students of class XI and five teachers embarked on a trek to Nag Tibba, situated at an elevation of 3,022 metres in the Garhwal Himalayas. They were dropped by 2 school buses at Almas near Thathyur village, after which they reached the base camp at Devalsari by jeeps, at a height of

1,722 m. Soon after reaching, excited students set out to explore the nearby trails to appreciate the landscape. The next day, they visited a honey bee farm and interacted with residents of nearby villages, Pujaldi and Bangsheer, where bee-keeping has been a traditional practice for many generations.

On the 3rd day, the group trekked for 15 kilometres to reach Nag Tibba base camp. Leaving their belongings in allocated tents, they climbed another 500m to reach the summit. The snow on the steep path was delightful to look at and step into, but it made the ascent slippery. Students enjoyed the challenge and said that the view from the summit was absolutely worth the effort. In the evening they gathered around a bonfire, played games, narrated stories, being mindful to speak in low tones, so as not to disturb the sleeping mountains and its inhabitants. As the embers cooled, tired but happy students crept into their camps and slept soundly. They woke up fresh next morning and began to trace their steps back to Dehradun; wistfully bidding adieu to the beautiful mountains. This was the first time that our students embarked on such an adventure. The positive impact on them has encouraged us to plan similar treks in future.



Class VI Experiential Learning Trip to Delhi

On 19th March, 48 students of class VI, accompanied by six teachers, left for a four day trip to Delhi. Everyone was super excited and for many, it was to be their first venture outside Dehradun. Their stay in Delhi was hosted by Apex Public School, who have always been generous to PYDS.

The group visited monuments of historical importance such as the Red Fort, Humayun's tomb, Qutub Minar and India Gate. While on site, students were educated about the historical importance, architectural style, construction materials and decorative motifs of these structures. They also visited institutions like the Nehru Planetarium, Science Centre and The National Zoological Park, where they enjoyed connecting their lessons in Science with the displays and exhibits. Students also visited the Akshardham and Baha'i temples, where their attention was drawn towards a comparison between contemporary and Mughal architecture.

Travel is a great form of learning and children absorb experiences like sponges. They made the most of the trip by learning about the ethos of India's great and historical capital city. They were also discerning of the differences between Dehradun and Delhi, being especially awed at the sight of its high rise buildings, the Metro and various models of cars on the road. Children enjoyed themselves thoroughly and learnt important lessons in discipline, teamwork, independence and adaptability, during their stay away from home, with friends in a new environment.

Poem Recitation and Story Narration Competition

"Let me fall, if I must fall. The one I become will catch me" - Bal Shem Tov



The Annual, Intra-class, Pushkin Chandra Memorial Competition was held on 2nd March. The competition is for poem recitation, story narration and plays in English and Hindi, for classes I - V. Students practised with enthusiasm under the guidance of their teachers. They were exposed to different hues of poetry while preparing, heard several stories and practised nuances of acting. They learnt new words, their

pronunciations and meanings and practised oration with sound modulation and expressions.

It was a pleasure to be in the audience watching little students reciting poems with their eyes wide and narrating stories with innocent expressions. The audience clapped for participants and cheered loudly for their own class. The English play, 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', transported us to storyland; and the Hindi play 'Seth ji', made everyone roll with laughter. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the best 3 in each category. The competition was fun for both the performers and their audience.

End of the Year Activities

"Ring out the old, Ring in the new" - Alfred Tennyson



The last week of the Academic Year was action filled with a plethora of activities for classes I to V and VII to IX. Students visited local attractions like the Zoo, Anand Van, Water purification plant, Sakya Monastery, Anchal Dairy, General Post Office, Buddha temple, Science City and the Forest Research Institute. In School, there were fun activities such as potluck parties, movie sessions, cooking without fire challenges and so on. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and look forward to the new Academic Year with renewed vigour and anticipation.

Parent Teacher Meeting

"Just take this step, the horizon will look after itself"



Following the week of fun and frolic, the final Parent Teacher Meeting of the year was held on March 28th, marking the culmination of the academic year 2023-24. During this meeting, parents engaged in one-on-one conversations with teachers, where parents received feedback on their child's academic performance and areas for improvement. The meeting provided an opportunity for open communication and collaboration between parents and teachers, ensuring the holistic development of students as they prepare to transition to the next class.

Uniform, Books and Stationery Distribution

"The year went by in the blink of an eye,"



Just before anyone realised, the Academic Year was over. Classes were cleaned and books returned, bringing the year to an orderly conclusion. Going to a new class is by far the best feeling of school time. It was time to distribute uniforms, books and stationery to all students. Newly admitted students were given their first set of uniforms, and those who had outgrown their old ones were asked to exchange them for new sets. Each student received a complete set of books and notebooks, with instructions to cover them and take good care so that they last throughout the year.

Software Orientation

"I am a learner first; then a teacher"



A workshop was conducted by the IT Executive of our school for 20 teachers from primary to senior wing. It aimed to familiarise them with 'Campus 365', a school resource planning software that seamlessly integrates multiple functions of schools by automating functions, integrating operations, generating reports and 360-degree tracking to help teachers make better and faster decisions.

This software has been used to maintain library records and certain aspects of student management, for the last two years. It is easy to access on mobile and laptops and Teachers plan to use it to mark class attendance and maintain student records in 2024-25.

CBSE Capacity Building Workshop

"The grass is greener where you water it" - Wolfgang Puck



On March 28, two teachers from our school participated in a CBSE Capacity Building Workshop on Value Education held at Happy Home Montessori School in Rishikesh. This workshop provided an opportunity for professional development and enrichment, equipping our teachers with valuable insights and strategies to enhance the value-based education imparted to our students.

We are proud of...
Shivam Negi, PYDS batch 2023



Shivam's mother and brother live in their ancestral house in Jhak village, Tehri-Garhwal. Unfortunately, he lost his father in April 2018. Although his family is supported by relatives, it is difficult for his mother to run the household. Shivam came to know about PYDS through his cousin, who was already studying here. Eager to take the opportunity, he appeared for the entrance test for class IX in 2019. He was selected and he joined school as a hostel resident. Owing to his rural background, he was weak in English and struggled with academics. It was then that Swamy Sir began giving him extra classes to help him get at par with his peers. His confidence improved and in class XI he chose Business Studies, Economics, History, Physical Education and English.

Shivam settled well on campus and considered PYDS as his family. He liked the food and held teachers and wardens in high respect. When we spoke to him, he was full of gratitude for the physical and mental growth he attained during school years. Looking back he recounted how Swamy Sir spoke kindly to him and always encouraged him to do better. As a student, Shivam was calm and respectful towards all. He did not speak much in class and rarely participated in classroom discussions. Whenever he spoke, he would speak briefly and to the point. He worked hard and always completed his work on time. He was fond of playing volleyball and practised every evening during game time.

After completing class XII he applied to SAATHIYA, a philanthropic initiative in Bengaluru, that offers 'Short Term Skill Training' and 'Long Term Career Support' to help underprivileged youth with employment opportunities in the Hospitality industry. He cleared the multi step admission process and joined on 17th April 2023. It did not take him long to adjust to the local cuisine and breaking ice with fellow students in Bengaluru. After two months of theory classes, he was chosen to do an internship with Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel. Due to good work attitude, he was given a job within 5 months, instead of the usual 6 months. He chose to work in the kitchen and is presently working as a trainee. He is happy with his progress and the fact that he is able to help his mother and brother financially.

We too are elated with his progress. Every student who steps out of PYDS and is able to support his family with dignity, is a role model for the many more who will follow his footsteps. We are extremely grateful to our donors who have made it possible. They are a very important link in the chain that fills many hearts with HOPE.

As we tread into a new year, we review the hues of the past, gently tending our garden as a harbinger of peace and happiness.

Donate to spread smiles!



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