

Purkal Journal May 2023



Remembering Swamy Sir

"You must never forget that we are merely conduits for the Divine Scheme" - G. K. Swamy, our Founder



A special assembly was organised to pay respects to our founder, Swamy Sir and to reinforce our commitment to the Vision with which he founded PYDS.

It began with a soul stirring prayer by the school choir, '*Tum mujhe dekho na dekho, Main tumhe sau baar dekhun...*' (You may not be present before me, but I draw inspiration from you). This was followed by an artistic tribute paid by students of class XII, who simultaneously painted on three canvases. While one painted Swamy Sir's portrait, another marked his journey on the map of India - from his birthplace, Chennai, to his workplace, Mumbai and finally to Dehradun. On the third canvas two

students drew the map of Uttarakhand and the School Logo to mark the location of PYDS. Meanwhile, the Head Girl narrated his bio.

Thereafter, Ashwani Sharma, the very first student to be coached by Swamy Sir and later the first student of PYDS, and later one of its staffers, who had grown up watching and assisting Swamy Sir during the formation of PYDS, spoke about the 'Samaritan' who worked tirelessly, unfazed by age, the paucity of funds and other constraints to establish a scholarship based institution for the 'have nots'. It was his conviction that good education was the catalyst to transform needy communities, as it would empower their children with skills required to stand at the same level as their privileged peers in the external world of employment and growth. Ashwani, who is also one the longest serving staffers of PYDS, could not conceal a tinge of emotion when he spoke about how Swamy Sir was the living example of the dictum 'Paropakaraya Jeevanam', *Life Is For Giving* and how even to this day, the PYDS community is guided by his uplifting legacy.

The Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth concluded the assembly by reminding all of us of the values on which PYDS has been built and to continually strive towards achieving them.

The VAPAS Team weekly program

"Art is a place for children to learn to trust their ideas, themselves, and to explore what is possible" - Mary Ann F. Kohl



Every Friday, students of the Visual And Performing Arts, Yoga and Sports (VAPAS) program make a five minute presentation at the morning assembly by way of a dance, song, instrumental piece, painting or yoga. The intent is to encourage student's participation and to build their confidence.

Groups of students have so far given graceful performances in dance, flute recital and Indian classical renditions. The birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was commemorated by '*speed painting*' his portrait in five minutes. These have met roaring applause from students and staff members.

Announcement of Class X and XII CBSE Result

*"Shoot for the moon and if you miss you will still be among the stars" -
Les Brown*



PURKAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY CBSE BOARD EXAM RESULTS 2022-23

CLASS X TOPPERS



DEV VERMA
92.20%



RIYA CHAUHAN
91%



SHAKSHI NEGI
90.2

CLASS XII TOPPERS



VINEET KUMAR
94.80%



NIKHIL THAPLI
93.40%



KHUSHI ADHIKARI
92.20%

Results for CBSE Board exams for Classes X & XII were declared on the 12th of May.

48 students (34 girls and 14 boys) appeared for the Class X examinations. Dev Kumar Verma topped his batch with an aggregate of 92.2%, followed by Riya Chauhan at 91% and Shakshi Negi at 90.2%.

51 students (33 girls and 18 boys) appeared for the Class XII examinations. Vineet Kumar topped the batch with 94.8% followed by Nikhil Thapli with 93.4% and Khushi Adhikari with 92.2%.

All of the students who have appeared for these examinations have passed.

We are equally proud of all of our students, not only the high rankers, for they have worked hard and in several cases, overcome very difficult circumstances at their homes and stayed focused on their goals.

A special lunch was hosted for the entire school by the Principal, Mrs. Arati Nagaraj to celebrate the good results.

Eye Checkup on Campus

"The eye is the jewel of the body" - Henry David Thoreau



As a part of our focus on prevention and early detection of our students' health issues, an annual eye checkup is conducted for all students. A six member team from the reputable charity Vivekananda Netralaya, Dehradun, comprising a doctor, an optometrist, two nurses, and two support staff members conducted this check up in our infirmary.

Students diagnosed with minor problems were given eye drops and medicines, while those with weak eyesight and other serious issues were recommended to visit Vivekananda Netralaya Hospital, for further investigation. This will be followed up on to ensure the complete treatment is taken by all these students.

Inter-School poem recitation competition at The OASIS

"Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful" - Rita Dove



Nineteen of our younger children participated in the Annual Inter School Poem Recitation Competition organised by The OASIS, Dehradun. A total of fourteen schools participated in this competition. Aradhya Bharadwaj of class IV stood 2nd for reciting the poem 'I can't Remember', while Tanvi Thapli of class V recited 'The Glove and the Lions' and stood 3rd. Class IV bagged the 2nd position in the Group category for the poem, 'Black Magic'.

Basketball Tournaments

"The lessons of competition are lessons for life" Ronda Rousey



Our basketball teams participated in four categories at the District level Basketball tournament held at Parade Ground, Dehradun during May 6-10 with outstanding results:

The under 14 girls' team - won the gold medal, emerging victorious over 12 teams
 The under 16 girls' team - won the silver medal emerging victorious over 16 teams
 The under 18 girls' team reached the semi finals over 16 participating teams
 The under 18 boys' team reached the semi final over 17 participating teams

Superior individual performances by Renu Rana (class IX), Neetu Rana (class XI) and Mohammad Rehan (class XI) led them to being selected for the State Basketball Championship which will be held in Haridwar in June.

Kalataru : Inter-School Visual and Arts Competition at The OASIS

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see" - Edgar Degas



Twelve students from classes V to XII participated in the annual Inter-School Visual Arts competition 'Kalataru' hosted by The OASIS, Dehradun. A total of 11 schools participated in this event. Our students took part in all ten categories which included - Sculpture Making, Play with coil patterns, Painting, Mark making, Rag wreath, Recycled bottles, Dream catcher, Typography and My logo. We are happy that Daksh Kukreti of class VIII won second place in sculpture making, while Ridhima Dhiman and Ishika Bhandari of Class VII stood third in the recycled bottle category.

Chintan Pravah Debate Competition at Shigally Hill International Academy

*"Free speech and debate are essential in our search for the truth" Frank
Sonnenberg*



Amaan Ullaah and Dhruv Om Sharma of class XII took part in the Chintan Pravah Debate organised at Shigally Hill International Academy, Dehradun. Topics of the debate were 'Should tradition be discarded?' and 'Is our tradition worth the sacrifice for the modern world?' The event drew participation from nine schools.

While Dhruv spoke against the motion, Amaan spoke for the motion. Both students presented their arguments with eloquence and confidence and were applauded by the audience. Dhruv was declared third best speaker of the competition while Amaan bagged the second position.

Uttarakhand Forest Department Visit

Don't let Mother Nature become a 'Once upon a time'



At our request, three officials of the Uttarakhand Forest Department visited our school on the 24th of May to speak to all of us about environmental conservation. Children learned about the importance of preserving their surroundings and pledged to play an active role to make a difference. Students of classes VI, VII and VIII took a simple but powerful oath with them to plant more trees and preserve the environment. We are committed to such initiatives since they are crucial in creating awareness and inculcating a sense of responsibility among children and nurturing a sustainable, clean and green environment.

Installation of New Generator



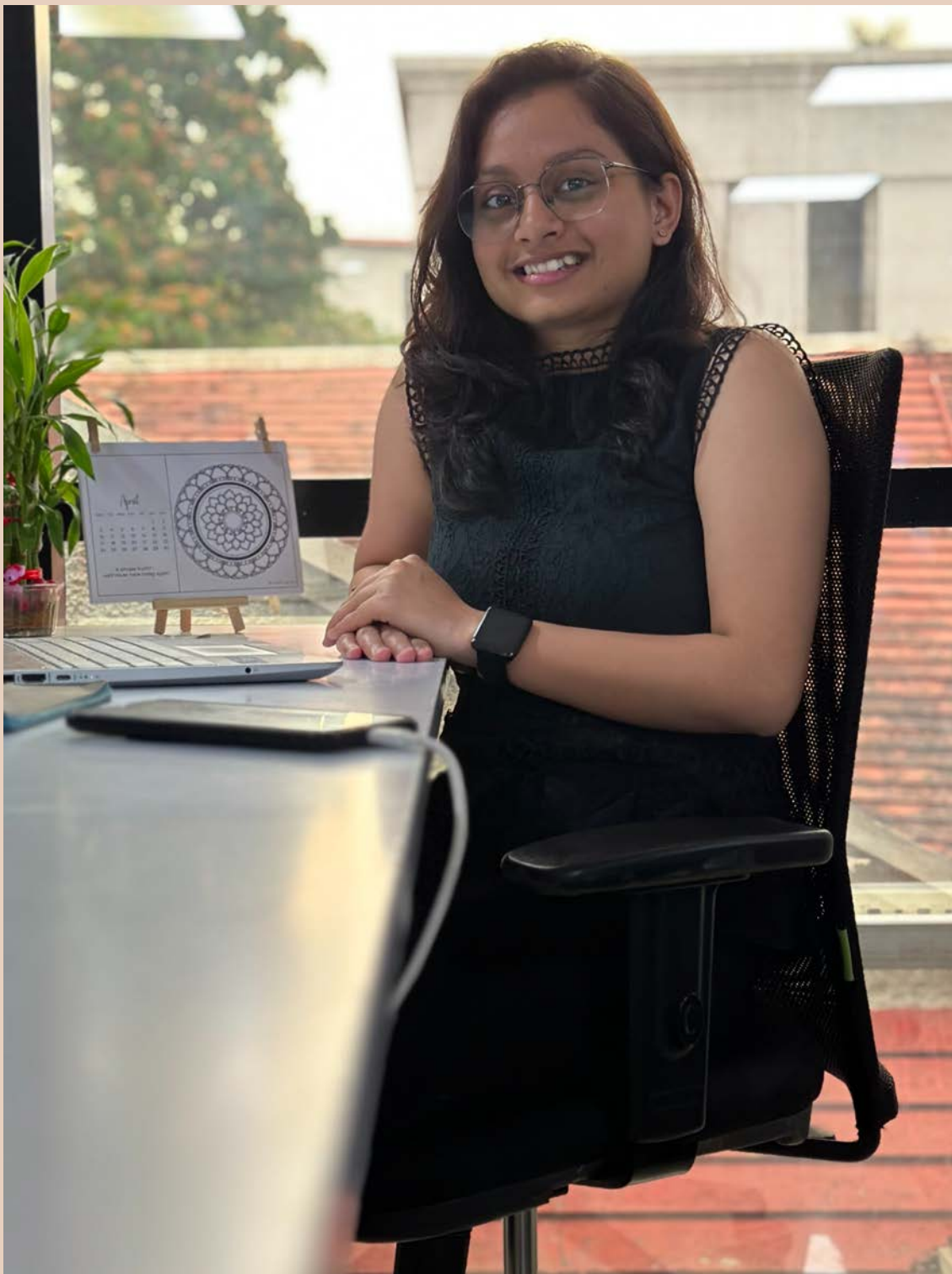
With an increasing thrust on use of technology all around - TVs in classrooms, computers by students and staff, and frequent power outages at Purkal, our existing 14 KVA generator was proving to be insufficient to cater to our needs. In recognition of the need to cover this shortfall, a new generator of 40 KVA capacity was installed at the northern end of the school, away from the main buildings. New, heavy duty cables were laid during the summer break as it required a complete shutdown of electrical supply on campus for more than a week. Our new genset is now functional, and with this, prolonged power outages are a thing of the past. Most importantly, lessons can continue uninterrupted. This will also ensure continued functioning of activities such as water supply, hot water in the hostels for bathing by students and such like despite any outages.

New Bus to Rikholi



Our 38 seater bus running on our remote western Rikholi route had completed more than eight years in service and was having issues with its engine. It has been recently replaced with a new 41 seater 'TATA City Ride' bus which is equipped with enhanced safety accessories as well as a security camera and GPS, which will be monitored by the Transport Executives of our school. The new bus will commence service when school reopens after summer vacations and provide safe and reliable transport for the steep, challenging route to Rikholi.

**We are proud of
Parul Bhatt,
PYDS Batch 2018**



Parul Bhatt joined PYDS from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dehradun in 2016 in class XI. Her mother and two brothers live in Banjarawala. Her father abandoned the family when she was in class VII. It was a difficult time for them. Her mother had started a tiffin service to run the household and then taken up a job, which was not easy for her. After completing her studies with PYDS, Parul did a B.A. (Hons) in Psychology from Ashoka University, Sonapat. She is currently working as a Senior Strategy Associate at CareerLab, Bangalore. This is how she related her story when she visited to speak to our students.

"PYDS for me was the stepping stone for growth and self-discovery. From participating in various competitions - to being elected as Head Girl of the school - to achieving a good score in XIIth boards, every achievement contributed to my growth. I was able to secure a full scholarship seat at Ashoka University under the guidance of our principal at that time, Mr. Harwant Singh, who helped me write the

Statement of Purpose and prepare for the interview. This scholarship covered the entire cost of tuition, boarding lodging, food, health, and medical facility fees. I was also provided a laptop and a monthly allowance of 3000 INR to manage my living expenses while studying at Ashoka.

As a psychology major and entrepreneurship minor at Ashoka University, I learnt from world class professors of top universities such as Harvard, Oxford, and MIT. Thanks to the versatile education at PYDS, I was able to balance my studies with the new culture on campus. The university's Ivy League-style curriculum made me write research papers of no less than 2000 words for most courses and develop prototype products for my entrepreneurship classes, which honed my creativity and critical thinking skills.

I participated in a range of extracurricular activities focused on entrepreneurship, theatre and business. I also served as a Resident Assistant and led the 'Haat' group that familiarised the Ashokan community with the culture of surrounding areas. I have interned with six organisations comprising - startups, an NGO and a government agency, thus gaining valuable experience across multiple departments. Presently I am the Senior Strategy Associate at CareerLabs, where I closely work with the leadership team on ideating strategies to enhance existing product lines and manage projects to drive the growth of the company. This job is a perfect fit for me as I have always been passionate about working in the education sector. I enjoy my work as it gives me insight into various aspects of the business.

Drawing on my experience in the education industry and interactions with working professionals, I can help students to select a suitable career path. I want to volunteer my time and skills, as a guest speaker, to organise events and offer my services for school initiatives. It is my endeavour to make a positive impact on the life of others and give back to the community that has helped me become the person I am today."

The PYDS family is proud of Parul and wishes her the best always. She is an embodiment of the dreams of Mr Swamy and a great role model for all of our students.

We thank all our readers for their unconditional support of all our endeavours. Together we will make a difference. Hurrah!

Click to spread smiles!



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Purkal Village

PO: Bhagwantpur

Dehradun, 248009

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