

Your Purkal Journal November 2023

The small steps we take today are the strides of tomorrow



11th ANNUAL DAY

"Doing your best isn't an activity; it's a mindset" - Frank Sonnenberg



We celebrated our 11th Annual Day on the 23rd and 24th of November. Ms Shrutee Khurana, Director, Infosys Foundation and Mr Romesh Sobti, Eminent Banker and Philanthropist were our Chief Guests for the 2 days respectively.

Students presented the different facets of our mother state of Uttarakhand' through models of its temples, institutions, scenes of villages, crafts, language, means of livelihood and most importantly challenges faced by its people.

Primary students made models of the Char Dham temples, village houses, and Nanda Devi Raj Jat yatra with the help of their teachers. They dressed up in traditional attires and explained their displays to visitors in Hindi, English and Garhwali.



Middle School students built a model of a futuristic stadium in Uttarakhand. They also made and displayed a resin lamp and an interesting computer aided program to create *sand art*. The devastating effects of landslides and methods of prevention, along with a drone to identify the vegetation on hills were also exhibited. The role of 'recharge pits' in forests, the *aipan* art, jewellery, musical instruments, sweets etc. were displayed through models. Of special interest to visitors was the traditional board game '*Bagh Bakri*', which they enjoyed playing.



Senior students focussed on the challenges of Uttarakhand, their causes and solutions. The psychological reasons for migration from villages were shown on charts and models and explained by students. Educational institutes of significance were shown on a large map to emphasise the status of the state's eminence as being a major educational hub. Science students had built an elliptical carrom board and a working model of the International Liquid Mirror Telescope. The problem of illegal mining and ways to detect the same were also exhibited.



The **Navjeevan** (NJ) 5 students displayed the Buransh tree, Bagnath temple, Mahasu Devta temple, Dobra Chanti bridge, a Primary school and so on to display one feature of the district they come from. All students of NJ 6 batch performed a Garhwali dance for the guests, some of whom danced with the children.

The **Career Cell** displayed the many aspects involved in preparing students passing out from PYDS for securing sustainable employment, which is our stated ambition. Colourful paintings, mosaics, tie & dye dupattas and a variety of art, craft work by students adorned the **Art exhibition**.



After an interesting time spent viewing the exhibitions, our guests moved to the auditorium where prizes were distributed to deserving students of various categories. This was followed by a series of stage performances that began with the *Ganesh vandana* and was followed by the 'Purkulian' version of Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion'. Through this musical play, students showed how opportunity can transform the life of a young individual. The concluding presentation was a musical ensemble by 14 students playing the *tabla* and 2 playing the *pakhawaj*.

We are gratified by the words of praise and encouragement our students received from our guests.

Capacity Building Seminars

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows"

- Sydney J Harris



Quality in school education is a priority concern of CBSE. The Board initiates various training programmes for teachers and principals to enhance understanding of curriculum, instruction mechanism and other professional qualities. A series of such Capacity Building Seminars (CBS) were attended by our teachers:

Art Integration CBS: Ms. Ambika Solanki and Ms. Parul Bisht participated in the seminar for 'Art Integration' at Grace Academy, Dehradun. Participants were encouraged to use Art in the form of singing, dancing, theatre and drawing as tools for teaching. Our teachers together with teachers from other schools, performed a skit on 'Female Foeticide'.

Online AI CBS: A 3 day online workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was held with a view to enhance teaching skills in this area. Ms. Shiva Kukreti, our Computer teacher, participated in this workshop which covered topics like introduction to AI, AI project cycle and Natural language processing alongwith ways of making AI theory interesting.

Python CBS: The first skill enhancing workshop for teachers focusing on CBSE syllabus for classes XI and XII was attended by Ms. Geetanjali Jaggi, our Senior School Computer Science teacher. The workshop empowered participants to instruct *Python* with clearer concepts, varied terminology and diverse teaching approaches.

Geo Map Quiz - State Level

"Knowledge has to be improved, challenged and increased constantly, or it vanishes" - Peter Drucker



Map Quiz 2023 Uttarakhand state finals were conducted at Survey of India, Dehradun on 3rd November. This competition aims to create awareness among students about maps, geo-facts and their importance. Our school sent 2 teams in each of the 3 categories - Sub Junior, Junior and Senior.

Despite competition from 16 participating schools, our students won the following prizes:

Sub Junior category: Manvi and Aryan - 2nd position, Abha and Arti - consolation prize

Junior category: Aryan Pundir and Amrit Yadav - consolation prize

Senior category: Dhruv Om Sharma and Labinder Singh - 1st position and the Navigation award, Amaan and Ambika - 3rd prize

Class I visits eLab

"Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning" - William Ward



The teachers of class I took their students for their first visit to the school eLab. (Our eLab has 38 computer systems, which are available to students for online study and research) The young students were excited about their first interaction with computers and eagerly learnt about the differences between desktops and laptops and basic working of computers. They listened keenly and answered questions put to them by their teachers. All of them are looking forward to their next visit.

Visual Art Competitions

"Don't wait for inspiration. It comes while working" - Henri Matisse



Our Visual Art department organised competitions just ahead of the Diwali break. Diya decoration was undertaken as an intra-class competition for students of class IV to VIII and Navjeevan 5 & 6. Diwali decoration was held as an inter-house competition for students of class IX and XI, with students decorating their allocated corridors. The Rangoli competition was conducted as an inter house competition for students of Class XII on the theme of 'India and Space'. All competitions were a huge success with high quality entries and much fun for the participants and spectators.

Children's Day Celebration

"Childhood is the most beautiful of all life's seasons" - Anonymous



Children's Day was celebrated on the 10th of November, just before the Diwali break. Movie screenings and potluck parties were organised within classrooms. Post lunch, teachers presented a variety program for students on the sports field. They sang and danced to folk tunes with great enthusiasm to entertain students. They also performed a hilarious skit that made the children roll with laughter. Towards the end, the dance floor was opened for all and students and teachers had a happy time dancing together. The day was fun and left everyone with good memories to cherish.

Alumni Speak

"Learn continually - there is always 'one more thing' to learn" - Steve Jobs



Alumni of PYDS currently pursuing their academic journeys at BML Munjal University and Shoolini University, visited the campus and shared their experiences with students of class XII. While welcoming the group, our Secretary said that curiosity, active listening and posing thoughtful questions are important aspects of a student's life and exhorted them to make the most of this opportunity.

The alumni expressed their gratitude for the education and values they received while at PYDS. They spoke about the discipline of balancing academics and co-curriculars and also about their Universities and courses. The seniors advised their juniors on the importance of managing their pocket money and the importance of securing on campus part-time work. Our students were happy to reconnect with their seniors and were positive about following their advice. The alumni bid farewell with a promise of being available whenever needed by PYDS.

Khel Mahakumbh



With an aim to nurture a culture of sports in the state, Khel Mahakumbh was started in 2010 and has been organised every year since then. This year, our students participated in the U-14 and U-17 events in both girls and boys categories. Results were outstanding with:

In the **U14 category** Girls Kabaddi team won gold, Bhawna Mehra won gold for Shot Put, Anchal won silver for Long Jump and Ritik won bronze for the 600m race

In the **U17 category** Renu Rana secured bronze for the 400m race

The **U-14** Girls Kabaddi team and Bhawna Mehra have been selected for the district level meet which will be held in the coming weeks. We are proud of our students!

Basketball Tournaments



Our team participated in the U-18 category basketball matches held at Doon Girls' School. Its members were from classes VII to XII. One team each of 12 boys and 12 girls participated. Both of our teams put up a fierce competition and reached the quarter-finals. Three of our players have been selected to play for the Uttarakhand Junior State Basketball Championship, which was held at Haridwar.

Ashita Penouli and Riya Dhiman played for the Dehradun Girls team that bagged the Gold medal. Devansh Kala played for the Mussoorie Boys team, which reached the semi finals. On returning from Haridwar, students narrated their experience of playing as a team with players from different parts of Uttarakhand and how much they had learnt in the process. We are proud of our players for qualifying for the State team and wish them the best for the future.

New Stage for the Auditorium.



The school stage had been built in 2008 out of leftover scaffolding poles and wooden planks from construction of the school building. Its surface was uneven and would shake during use.

Recognizing the imperative need for an improvement, the stage was dismantled and the uneven floor on which it stood was levelled. Thereafter a structure for the new stage was made out of cast iron, on which wooden boards were fixed in order to get a seamless surface. A layer of foam sheet was spread on top for insulation and covered by soft matting for a smooth surface. The stage backdrop and side curtains were changed as the old ones had worn out. Curtains and their rods over the auditorium windows too were replaced.

As a consequence of this effort, our stage looks attractive, students are able to perform with ease, the acoustics are better and the auditorium looks neater.

We are proud of...
Muskan Godiyal, batch 2019



Muskan and her elder sister Kamini were both students of PYDS. Her father works as a gardener and together with her mother takes care of a farmhouse, in which the owner has provided them with accomodation.

It is a pleasure to hear Muskan's journey in her words...

"From the moment I stepped into PYDS in 2010, I sensed my beliefs, values and goals taking a very transformative turn. I was part of the sports team, dance and theatre group. I even experimented with different musical instruments. I went to several state level dance competitions and also participated twice in tGELF harmony fest for theatre and leadership respectively while at PYDS. I still remember the first essay I wrote for a state level essay competition, which I won. The pride on my parents' and teachers' faces can never be forgotten. Even today, when I am on a self

transformative journey, my feelings are always a version of the feeling on that particular day.

I remember writing my SOP for Brown University. My principal would just not give up on me. I wrote that essay almost ten times. That one gesture taught me the biggest lesson of my life. I was selected to attend a two week summer program at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

I dreamed and I dreamed big. I applied to several colleges abroad as per my interests in English Literature and Creative Writing. However, I was not able to receive the required scholarship. I applied to Ashoka University, and I received a full financial aid package. I graduated with a major in English Literature and Performing Arts along with a minor in Philosophy and concentration in Creative Writing. Yes, I explored as I was taught!

“Life is for giving!” Swamy Sir’s words and his smiling, proud face is all that motivated me to do what I am currently doing. I am a fellow at ‘Teach for India’ that works towards educational equity for all children. In simple words, for children like me who come from an underprivileged background, who just need that one smiling face to look at every morning and tell them, ‘You can do this and so can your parents!’. With this, I plan to continue my education in performing arts in future and combine my forte with the art of education.

PYDS has given me the foundation to become the person I am today, as well as who I will be tomorrow. It is a place for those who dare to dream and have the courage to seek help to transform their dreams into reality. PYDS is my home!”

A humble funding request...

Taking the thread of holistic education forward, we organise outstation trips for students every year. So far, our students have visited Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, North East India, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. These trips teach them about the history, culture, geography, people, cuisine and much more. This year we have planned to send a group of students on a 7 day trip to Agra and Jaipur. Our children are most excited about the trip as many of them will be stepping out of Dehradun for the first time.

52 students of class IX, accompanied by 6 staff members will be going for the trip. The estimated cost of the entire trip is: Meals - ₹ 1,10,000, Transport - ₹

1,05,000 and Entrance fees ₹ 30,000.

We humbly request you to support us in this endeavour in part or full. All contributions will be sincerely appreciated and attract tax exemption under section 80G.

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