

Your Purkal Journal

November 2025



“We can light up the world, with the secret we're keeping”

Educational Trips

“The world's an inn, and I her guest. I eat; I drink; I take my rest” - Francis Quarles

Educational trips play an important role in providing holistic education to our students. Every year, several groups are taken on trips beyond Dehradun to enhance their learning experiences and expand their view of the world. Students of classes VI and IX were taken for outstation trips in November.

Class VI Delhi Trip



On November 10th, forty-nine eager students set off on a six-day adventure to Delhi. For most, this was their first time leaving the city, and their excitement was palpable. All the way to Delhi, students and teachers sang and danced together. They shared food and happily waved at passing vehicles, excitedly taking note of the big flashy cars. By evening, when they arrived at their accommodation in the Army Camp in Delhi Cantonment, their energy was the same as in the morning. After a hearty dinner, they were briefed by teachers about the days ahead.

The enthusiasm displayed by students was remarkable. Each morning, they would wake well before dawn, go for a run, tidy their living space and be ready for breakfast ahead of schedule. The city's exploration began at the Qutub Minar, where students learned about the monument's history and marvelled at the Iron Pillar in its complex. At the Bahai Temple, they learnt about both its unique architecture and the principles of the Bahai faith. After browsing a nearby market for small gifts, the students experienced their first ride on the Delhi Metro, a highlight for most. At the metro stations, they learnt about colour-coded route maps, delighted in riding escalators, and enjoyed the novelty of using metro tokens to enter and exit.

The National Museum captivated them with ancient sculptures and artefacts, particularly the 5,000-year-old skeleton from the Harappan period. While visiting the India Gate, they proudly shouted patriotic slogans like "*Bharat Mata ki jai*" before

picnicking in a nearby park. At Mahatma Gandhi's memorial, Raj Ghat, they saw exhibits that connected with their lessons. The Crafts Museum showcased diverse traditional crafts, and students watched artists from various states creating artwork in Varali, Tanjore, and Kalamkari styles.

The Rail Museum was another favourite, where students climbed aboard engines and bogies from different eras. The toy train ride, however, stole the show. At the National Science Centre, they explored enthralling galleries covering topics from prehistoric times to human biology, fun science experiments, and water conservation. Many students declared the Akshardham Temple their favourite destination, enchanted by the water show, beautiful gardens, boat ride, and various exhibits. The Planetarium offered virtual tours of the solar system and deep space, along with fascinating explanations of eclipses and black holes. The National Zoo rounded out their educational journey, allowing them to observe many creatures of the animal kingdom up close. Besides all of the above, the group also visited the Prime Minister's museum and Humayun's tomb.

Throughout their stay, the students impressed their hosts by maintaining impeccable standards - making their beds, cleaning their dormitories and displaying exemplary manners and discipline. The camp personnel commended their conduct wholeheartedly. Before departing, the students created thank you cards for the Colonel in charge and the staff who had cared for them.

The trip was truly an excellent learning experience, during which students saw firsthand the places and artefacts they had only read about, grasped new concepts, and made meaningful connections with classroom learning. The bus journey from Dehradun, the metro ride, the toy train, and the boat ride were all novel adventures for them. They played and learned together, eagerly absorbing every experience in their own unique way. Most importantly, as they worked and looked after one another, bonds were strengthened, and memories were etched forever.

Class IX Agra Jaipur Trip



Similarly, 50 students and six teachers from class IX embarked on an exciting six-day journey on 1st November, to Agra and Jaipur, singing and dancing throughout the first leg of their journey to Agra. Upon reaching Agra Cantonment, the girls stayed at 60 Para Field Ambulance while the boys lodged at 50 Para Signal Camp, stays which gave them insights into army life.

The group explored Agra's magnificent monuments, beginning with the Taj Mahal. Guides pointed out the unique features of Mughal architecture and garden layouts as students marvelled at the flawless semi-precious stone inlay work and the mausoleum's breathtaking beauty. At Agra Fort, they learned about its historical importance while appreciating intricate designs and Persian calligraphy carved in red sandstone. Fatehpur Sikri revealed structures like the Buland Darwaza, Jodha Bai's Palace, and Salim Chisti's Dargah. Students also visited a nearby workshop and watched artisans carving marble. They also visited Akbar's tomb at Sikandara, and went for a heritage walk through the bustling streets of the old city, up to Jama Masjid.

After exploring Agra for two days, the group proceeded to Jaipur, where they stayed at the Youth Hostel. Students were split into two guided groups to explore Amer Fort, City Palace, and Hawa Mahal. Having appreciated Mughal architecture at Agra, they were encouraged to draw comparisons between Mughal and Rajput architectural styles. They found Jantar Mantar most interesting as it had 19

astronomical instruments, while the Albert Hall Museum showcased paintings, jewellery, carpets, sculptures, coins, and even an Egyptian mummy. The Anokhee museum displayed artisans hand-printing fabrics and traditional Rajasthani handicrafts. Their final evening was spent at Babu Bazar, buying gifts for families.

A student shared his experience about the trip as, *"We were excited and curious as it was the first time that history came alive for us. We were amazed at the symmetry and detailed carvings on stone and at the skill of artisans of that era"*.



Subjects Selection Orientation

"At crossroads we stand, in the right choice our future lies"



After class X, students are required to choose subjects they wish to study in class XI and beyond. While it is prudent to select with one's interests, capability and career in perspective, it is not an easy task. Our career guidance cell and teachers, who regularly map students' strengths and weaknesses, guide them in choosing suitable subjects.

A session was organised for the class X students to help them select their preferred subject choices. Students were told to take their time and choose subjects after carefully pondering questions like, "*Do I have the capacity to pursue this career?*" Teachers cautioned students about the significant increase in the difficulty level of subjects from class X to XI. They were informed about the significance and scope of each stream and had to choose one of the three streams: Commerce, Humanities or Science.

Teachers reminded students that to study at a good college, they needed scholarships, for which securing a good score was a prerequisite. Hence, they should choose subjects they liked and had a strong aptitude for. Before concluding, they were told about the Vahani Scholarship that supports students after class XII, who have been high achievers through classes X, XI and XII.

Teachers will review subject preferences indicated by students to ensure they have the capacity to study the subjects they have chosen. If teachers feel a student should have chosen differently, he/she is counselled to make changes. In cases where students opt for subjects beyond their capacity, under pressure from parents, teachers counsel parents, too. Subjects will ultimately be decided through a

consultative process, keeping the students' abilities and prospects as the uppermost consideration.

Tinkering Workshop by Niti Aayog

"In tech's embrace, blueprints start to dance"



Professor Anant Bhasker of DBS College, Dehradun, conducted a workshop on Design Thinking for students of classes VII and VIII on our campus. Prof Bhaskar is a volunteer with Niti Aayog, who encourages collaboration among schools to promote innovative skills among students. To create an ecosystem where schools share knowledge and skills, he discussed the need to establish a link between the ATL (Atal Tinkering Lab) and non-ATL schools.

During the 90 minute workshop, he detailed the four steps involved in constructing a model: i) the process of problem finding, ii) finding a solution, iii) designing a prototype and iv) building it. He shared the example of sustainable development and its challenges with students. He outlined the SDG goals and asked students to identify a problem, choosing from the 30 SDG goals and share a unique solution. They enthusiastically came up with innovative ideas such as smart taps and water vapour conservation to mitigate the global clean water crisis. Before concluding, he emphasised the need to connect with other schools to expand knowledge through collaborations.

Fire Safety Awareness

“Awareness, without action, is appalling”



In response to CBSE's Fire Safety Advisory, the school invited local firefighters to conduct a fire safety workshop for our school. The entire school gathered on the sports field to hear a senior officer, who began by explaining the nature of fire - breaking down its chemical reaction into three critical components: fuel, oxygen, and heat. "Eliminate any one element," she explained, "and the flames die." She gave a clear message: "A minor mishap can spiral into catastrophe without swift intervention. But, smoke poses the greatest threat, as it spreads with alarming speed, clouding visibility and suffocating victims".

Her colleague then introduced the five classes of fire - solids, liquids, gases, metals, and electrical - each demanding its own approach to extinguishing. He added that fires can be put out by either cooling, starving, or smothering flames. He then introduced everyone to the PASS (Pull the pin, Aim low, Squeeze the handle, Sweep side to side) technique for using extinguishers. He identified electrical short circuits and LPG leaks as the primary causes of domestic fires, advising to turn off LPG knobs and electrical appliances when away from home. He gave a live demonstration of snuffing out fire from a leaking gas cylinder using a wet blanket. A female teacher volunteered to demonstrate the smothering of burning solids, using a fire extinguisher, to show that the process was simple and that anyone could do it. Questions came quickly from eager students who had never seen firefighters in action up so close. Beyond the excitement, students and staff learned about practical skills and the composure needed when seconds count. The workshop delivered both knowledge and confidence - two elements as vital as any fire extinguisher.

Kathak Performance

"Kathak is poetry in motion; every step tells a story"



As part of its ongoing effort to bring performing arts to young audiences, SPIC MACAY Uttarakhand hosted eminent Kathak exponent Vishal Krishna at our School on 27th November. Over the years, he has been honoured with several prestigious national and international awards. It was an honour to see the great artist perform on our campus. On stage, he was accompanied by Ustad Shuheb Hasan on vocals, Uday Shankar Mishra on tabla, and Ustad Gulam Waris on sarangi.

The maestro introduced students to the origin of Kathak, initiated by the travelling bards of ancient India known as Kathakaars, who communicated stories from the Hindu epics through dance, song, and music. He enthralled the audience by his exquisite, illustrative performance on Surdas' composition, *Hey Govind, Hey Gopal*, in which Gajodhar the elephant calls out to Krishna to save him from the crocodile's jaws as it drags him into deep waters. Depicting the ghat bhav, he mimicked animals with minimal gestures, portraying the gait of the snake, elephant, peacock, and deer. He also performed the impressive paran, teen taal variations and rhythmic ball-play techniques, much to the delight of students.

Students broke into spontaneous applause when he performed a jugalbandi, matching dance steps with tabla beats. Concluding his performance, the dancer encouraged students to learn the dance form, praising them for watching the performance with attention and discipline.

Workshop on Organ Donation

"You can live after you die"



When Vansh Vadhwa, an alumnus of PYDS, reached out to MOHAN (Multi-Organ Harvesting Aid Network) Foundation to fulfil the last wish of her grandmother, it set an important precedent for awareness of the organ donation process. Upon successfully donating his grandmother's eyes, he reached out to the school to arrange an Organ Donation workshop for the students of PYDS Academy. The workshop was held on 17 December for students in classes IX to XI.

Conducted by a volunteer from MOHAN Foundation, students were introduced to the concept of Organ Donation, its meaning and the myths surrounding it. He spoke about the current scenario of organ donations in India, which is surprisingly low at one in a million. He said 10 patients die every day waiting for an organ transplant. He informed the audience that although anyone can pledge their organs, only people who are declared brain dead can donate organs. Those who die a natural death can donate their cornea, which can be collected within 6 hours.

He addressed students' doubts regarding rules and regulations, governing bodies and donors' consent. Citing the success of the blood donation drive in India, which was once considered taboo, he was certain that the organ donation drive would catch up soon.

Dental Hygiene

"Listen to the wisdom of the toothless ones" - Fijian proverb



Teeth are the superheroes that help us to eat, smile and talk. Dr Ridhhima Batta, a dentist and former lecturer, conducted a dental hygiene workshop for our Primary and Navjeevan students on 21st November. She spoke to the students about the importance of teeth, their types and composition.

She began by asking questions and was pleasantly surprised to get prompt, correct answers. The children even knew about flossing teeth and the process. She told students about the two main parts of the tooth - the Crown and the Root, and the four types of teeth in humans. Students were told about the two sets of human dentition – the primary, which start erupting in babies at 6 months old and the permanent teeth, which begin at age 6. Dr Batta lovingly reminded students to brush their teeth twice a day, especially at night before bed, to avoid cavities. Using a dental model, she demonstrated the correct way of brushing teeth.

At the end of the workshop, she distributed colourful toothbrushes and toothpaste, which students accepted gleefully. A happy group photo with children showing their teeth concluded the workshop.

We are proud of ...

Sapna Maurya PYDS batch 2021



Sapna, an alumna of the 2021 batch, is a resident of Thani village. Her family comprises her parents and an elder brother. Her father is a gardner and her mother is a homemaker. After completing school, Sapna studied Journalism & Mass

Communication at Shoolini University on a 100% scholarship including hostel accommodation.

Sapna recounts her years as a schoolgirl in PYDS to the present as follows:

"Every year that I spent in school was memorable, teaching me many important life lessons. I joined PYDS in class II, as a shy, introvert girl who slowly opened up, playing sports and exploring a few co-curricular activities. I had many good friends amongst juniors and seniors in school, and I continue to share a great bond with my batchmates.

In school, I enjoyed my stint with the Gardening and the Art club. The school trips to Gaumukh, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Chopta and many more places are etched on my mind forever. Even the day trips to various schools, museums, and even hospitals were so much fun.

When I came to know of the award for reading books, I began to read earnestly and bagged the award. For essay competitions, creative writing competitions and exhibitions, I used to make models and research extensively. And though I don't remember the awards or positions I won, the process was always more rewarding. One of the best moments was winning the national-level tGELF Reel to Real competition.

My favourite memories were made while living in the school hostel, and some of my best lessons were learnt while serving as the house captain. It was through school trips that I discovered my love for the mountains and travelling. Surrounded by wonderful people, the 10 years I spent at PYDS never felt long, but were surely the most enriching ones.

After school, I was fortunate to join Shoolini University in Solan, where I chose to study Journalism and Mass Communication. For some time, I was the editor for the Shoolini newsletter and wrote weekly news bulletins for it. I also interned during college with 'A Lotus in the Mud' and The Indian Express. I worked with some of the best journalists in the country and got several bylines published. Interviewing the DSP and the Mayor of Panchkula remains one of the most memorable parts of my time there.

I joined my 1st job in September 2024 with Trek the Himalayas, a trekking company in Dehradun, as a content writer and had a great time working with trekking experts. Presently, I'm pursuing my passion for travel by writing for the travel MNC, Anex Tour. In future, I aspire to continue working as a travel journalist."

To my juniors in school, I want to say that you are lucky to study in a school like PYDS, it is like a home that teaches you what you will follow all your life. Don't stick to subject studies only; PYDS gives you ample opportunities to find your talent, participate in activities and discover yourself. Once you leave the school, you would

hardly remember anything as an embarrassing moment. It will all be good memories and lessons, so do not let embarrassment be an excuse to miss out on learning something new.

Donate to spread smiles!

While savouring warm sunshine that bathes our campus, we are grateful to all our patrons for their love and care.
Wish you all a happy festive season. 🎁



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