



Your Purkal Journal

October 2023

We are the ones who brighten the world



SCAMPER Competition

"Take chances, make mistakes. That's how you grow"



An activity, 'Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Purpose, Eliminate, and Rearrange' (SCAMPER) was organised for the students of class XI. They were divided into eight groups.

One member from each group had to pick seven pieces of waste material and construct a model of a useful product. Each student played a specific role in his/her group. The utility and working mechanism, marketing strategies, advertising campaign etc. of products were explained through presentations by each group. A panel of four judges evaluated the groups for their innovation, feasibility, presentation and persuasion skills.

Products such as - a Double Decker Ambulance, Water Reservoir, Jiggly Wiggly Bag, Mars Rover, Kalyug Pramaan, Purify Life, Spass and Garbo Sail were created, which displayed creativity and thinking skills of students.

Wildlife Week

"No wildlife - no human life"



Empathy Towards Wildlife

To celebrate Wildlife Week, a workshop on "Empathy Towards Wildlife" was organised by Punaha Aranya at Dehradun Zoo. It was attended by 20 of our students from classes VII & VIII.

Painting and story telling competitions were held to bring out the creativity in students. Three students in each category were awarded for their outstanding creativity. All participants received certificates of appreciation, eatables and goodies. They were also shown a documentary on wildlife to promote empathy towards animals. Students enjoyed learning and contributing to the cause of wildlife conservation and look forward to more of such experiences. In keeping with their good social ethos, they cleaned the area outside the Zoo.



Nest Building

5 students participated in the Nest Building workshop held at The Doon School as part of the 'National Wildlife Week' celebrations. The workshop was led by Mr. Rakesh Khatri, better known as the "Nest Man of India". He shared his passion for our feathered friends and taught students to make nests, especially for the beloved House Sparrow. The workshop served as a great lesson for our children on the importance of birds and ways to increase their dwindling count.

Cleanliness Drive

"The future depends on what we do in the present" - M K Gandhi



On the occasion of *Gandhi Jayanti*, 25 students and 2 teachers participated in a village cleaning drive with local residents. They picked garbage from around the Jaspur and Purkal villages while singing Gandhi's favourite hymn '*Raghupati raghav raja ram*', to commemorate the occasion.

All participants pledged to work towards keeping their surroundings clean and preserve the natural beauty of their surroundings. We look forward to more such activities that promote a sense of fraternity in the community.

Navjeevan Batch 6

"If we want to reach real peace in this world, we should start educating children" - M K Gandhi



With a view to enhancing the geographic outreach of our Navjeevan program, we decided to scour the districts Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Pauri, Nainital, Tehri and Uttarkashi for admitting students for the sixth batch.

A five member team visited these districts between June and September to identify and assess needy and deserving children capable of fully exploiting the opportunities offered by PYDS. Children were shortlisted based on these assessments and home surveys conducted to ascertain their socio economic backgrounds.

25 students (17 girls and 8 boys) were selected for admission to the Program. They were asked to reach the school on the 9th of October and settle into their new home. Their 18 month program started the next morning with a tour of the school and introductions. Our new little ones were received with warmth by the students and staff, making them feel wanted and belonged to. We are happy to advise that the batch has settled in well and is making rapid all round progress.

Sports Week



The Annual Sports week was kicked off by the Marathon in which all students and a large number of staff participated. The Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth flagged off the senior event, for students of classes XI, XII and willing teachers from the Mussoorie crossing, a distance of 5.5 kilometres from school. Starting points for younger students were closer to school based on their age and physical capability.

Other events followed and all through the week the campus was alive with intense competition amongst the four school houses over various events and categories. The primary and Navjeevan students had an entire day to themselves for the jalebi, balloon, lemon, 3-legged, sack and 200m races. Students of middle and senior sections competed in volleyball, basketball, badminton and table tennis matches on the school campus. Events that required a large field, such as the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, relay race, *Kabaddi* and shot-put were held on the playground of a nearby school.

The best three sportspersons in each event and category were awarded medals and certificates.

Military History Seminar

"Freedom is not free"



The seventh edition of the prestigious Military History Seminar (MHS) took place at Welham Boys' School on 5th and 6th October. The theme, "Stones of Silence: Myth & Reality," was explored through six main sessions spread over two days. The sessions covered a range of historical periods, from early empires like Magadh, the Mauryas, and the Guptas to the colonial impact on India and the post-independence era.

Ambika Negi, of class IX, delivered a speech titled 'A Journey of Ending Myths' that clarified myths regarding the Buddhism and Jainism faiths. Tanishka Das of class XI, contributed one of her paintings for the exhibition.

Students received certificates of participation for attending the seminar. It taught them about significant events that have shaped our recent history and introduced them to critical thinking, which will serve them well in the future.

Virāsat Festival

"Sometimes music is the only medicine the heart and soul needs"



Six students from our school participated in the Virāsāt festival this year. The festival, conducted over a fortnight every year in Dehradun, presents the culture, art, folklife and heritage of India to the local population. Legends of Indian classical music, maestros of dance and ace craftsmen from all over the country are invited to perform here. School students are also invited to perform in the festival, thereby providing them an opportunity to enhance their skills and confidence.

PYDS students have been invited to perform at the festival for the last several years. This favourable trend continued this year. Arpita Thapli, a class XII student, presented the *Shiv Tandav* through *Kathak*. Amit Thapa, of class XII, performed *Raag Patdeep* and a *bhajan*. Shivam Lohia of class X played *Teen Taal* on the tabla. Riya Rawat of class IX and Mayank Dhiman from Class VIII presented *Raag Yaman* on the flute accompanied by Shivam Lohia and Shishir Guniyal of class X, respectively, on the tabla.

Their performances were well received by the audiences and they received certificates of participation from the organisers.

Concert by Pt Debashish Bhattacharya



It was a privilege for us to welcome Pandit Debashish Bhattacharya (2-Time Grammy nominee) to our campus. Pt. Debashish has performed all over the world – winning significant recognition for his work and music including two nominations for the prestigious Grammy awards.

In anticipation of a great performance, the whole school was already seated when he arrived with tabla expert Pt Mithilesh Kumar Jha. They were welcomed warmly with a standing ovation and presented with a shawl by Mrs Shefali Ray, one of our patrons.

The maestro began the performance by introducing the slide guitar, recounting how at the age of 15 he had designed the first edition of the instrument, which was named *Chaturangui Slide guitar*. He opened his performance with *Raag Jaunpuri* and gracefully moved to his mellifluous self composition - '*Reflection of Love*'. Both Pt Debashish and Pt Mithilesh, mesmerised the audience with perfect *Jugalbandi*. None in the audience wanted the performance to conclude when it did. He posed for photographs with children and guests and bid us adieu saying how happy he was to have performed on our campus.

Garba and Dandiya Evening

"Enjoy the festivities and let your spirit soar high with happiness"



For the third consecutive year, we celebrated the Garba and Dandiya Evening during the Navratri week. This annual event has become a cherished tradition that, much to the cheer of our students, embellishes the campus with festive aura. Staff members joined the students with their family, adding gaiety to the festival. The evening commenced with a ceremonial 'puja' to invoke blessings of Goddess Durga. It was followed by a well practised performance of Garba and Dandiya by students and staff members. This performance set the tone, and the floor was soon full of virtually all of our students and staff who danced in celebration, thus creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

We were happy to see our hostel students experience the great sense of love and affection to counter their sense of being away from their homes and families on a festive occasion.

We are proud of...
Sanjana Koli batch 2022



Sanjana joined PYDS when she was eight years old, which according to her was the best decision of her life. Sanjana's family lives in Malsi, Dehradun. Her father was a cleaner in a taxi stand before he met with an accident a few years ago. He is paralyzed now and can not work. Her mother works as a house help. Her brother too was a student of our school.

She narrates her experience as follows:

"I was living a sheltered life and had little idea of the world. The school opened my eyes to the wonder of travel, exploring, being part of a team, playing sports and so on, thus making memories that I will cherish forever.

I was happy studying and playing with friends in school, when quite unexpectedly one day, I was asked to fill forms for the Kennedy Lugar- Youth Exchange & Study scholarship, to go abroad on an exchange program. Never in my wildest dreams had I thought of studying abroad; but now it was actually possible. My teachers helped me and I was selected. In 2019, after class X, I left for the USA. During the exchange program, my host family encouraged me to study further and promised to support me financially through school and college after the program.

On returning home, I rejoined PYDS in class XI and began researching the college admission process along with preparing for upcoming admission tests. I appeared for the IELTS exam and cleared both the written and speaking tests. Anoop Sir wrote my recommendation letter and our school advisor helped me send all required documents.

When one of my transcripts missed the deadline, I gave up hope. However, one fine morning, I was overjoyed to receive the email of acceptance. It was now time for me to pack, book tickets, get vaccinated, apply for a visa and so on. Uncle Chris (my host in the US) and Dr. Painuly (my mom's employer) helped me immensely with the paperwork and other preparations.

Now I am in the College of Engineering and Physical Science, University of New Hampshire, for a course in Computer Science with a major in Cybersecurity. I will do my best and make my family and school proud. I look forward to the day when I will return and meet all my friends and teachers on campus.

I am extremely grateful to my teachers, without whose help I would not have had the courage to step out of my comfort zone."

There is music in the air and the bright sun rays dance and prance in glee. We send warm regards to all our well wishers till we meet again!

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