



Purkal Journal February 2021

***"We make our world significant by the courage of our questions
and the depth of our answers"
-Carl Sagan***

Training and learning with an attitude of mindfulness can help us achieve almost anything. The act of allowing feelings and the mind to have an equal role in our lives is what leads us to be effective and peaceful at the same time.

With mindfulness, we aim to progress and come out with better outcomes as a team. Through these learnings, we bring you Purkal's highlights for February and the efforts put in by every one of us working towards our common goals.


The Beginning of Mindfulness



Our Navjeevan Batch 3 (13 girls and 3 boys) reached Purkal from the remote villages of district Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand on 8 February to a caring welcome from their wardens and senior hostel mates. Their journey as our new family members began with an orientation program for them and their parents the next morning. In line

with our conviction that parents are equal stakeholders on the beautiful journey that lies ahead for their children, every effort was made to make them both aware of and comfortable with the path that lies ahead.





As they left behind their children, mixed flows of feelings were witnessed. Though children appeared to be happy in their new surroundings, it was a bittersweet experience for parents as they bid farewell to their children.

A first-round medical check-up has revealed that most of these children are underweight, have weak eyesight and suffer from Protein Energy Malnutrition. We are hopeful that their health and immunity will improve rapidly, now that they are being provided all-round care including nutrition. A generous donor has already sent us a small shipment of Chyawanprash for them!



Guided Learnings

a) Teacher Training

Scholastic Training

Led by Mrs. Sanjala Wazir (Senior Education Advisor), the session focused on the skill of asking the right questions to learners and how effective question-making can turn around any classroom learning. The focus was mainly on four types of questions - Convergent, Divergent,

Factual and Evaluative.

Co-scholastic Training

Led by Mrs. Shefali Ray, an English Language Teaching consultant, children's writer and Patron of the Society, the session focused on identifying different needs of the learners using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and classroom management techniques.

b) Students as our new Guides

Becoming guides, our students conducted two training workshops



Gayatri Rawat, Niruta Chaudhary and Renu Rana of Class VI conducted Google Drive training for Principal and Society office staff. It helped our staff gain a better understanding of the features and uses of Google Docs, Sheets and Slides so they can be more productive in their office work going forward. The session was well received and concluded

forward. The session was well received and concluded with an interactive quiz session and distribution of participation token by the young trainers!

Aafiya Naaz from Class VI and Parvati Shah from Class VIII presented a webinar on APP Development Journey for the students of Classes III, VI and VIII through an app, 'Kidfitgo'. The session was focused on the physical and mental wellbeing of a student.



Strongly Aware

a) To make Purkal village a plastic-free zone, our students have been creating awareness among its residents as well as undertaking cleaning drives. To begin with, students from the hostel and Purkal village undertook a plastic waste collecting drive in the non-perennial stream that flows alongside the village and our campus.



b) Students of Class - III participated in a project on 'Health and Cleanliness'. They made exciting videos, displaying their feelings about its importance in our lives.

Click the link at the footer to watch the video.



Commemoration

a) Visit by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- CSR Delegation

IOCL had recently organised an 'All India Conclave – Opportunities Beyond Business' in Dehradun. As they decided to visit one NGO to witness the efforts and impact first hand, we were selected by them for this visit as a Model for creating tangible impact. Twenty-one senior members of IOCL visited our campus on 12 February.

They were welcomed with a song prepared by our hostel students of Classes VI and VII.

This was followed by a visit to PYDS Atal Tinkering Laboratory, which gave an opportunity to our young tinkerers to present some of their

most recent projects like GST Calculator APP, Vaccine Injector App and 3D Printed Math Puzzle. A short movie on PYDS Journey was also screened for them.



Speaking on the occasion, Mr. S. K. Bose, Executive Director I/c HR stated, “Excellent work is being done by PYDS to create an inclusive society. We were touched deeply and humbled when we met and interacted with the children of PYDS.

We believe all children deserve early childhood experiences that help them achieve their fullest potential and appreciate PYDS in ensuring high-quality early education and care for children from low-income families to help them become lifelong learners.”



As a token of our appreciation, our tinkerers presented to them a 3D Bus model which was designed and made in our own PYDS, Tinkering Lab!

We are grateful to Mr. Bose for his kind words and the delegation for making the time and effort to visit us.

b) Bid and Support Initiative by Swarovski India

Swarovski India conducted an online charity auction for their employees to contribute to our cause.

The event has supported us in a new way and helped initiate a significant long-term relationship with a reputable name.

C) Saraswati Puja

On 15 February, Saraswati Puja was organised to celebrate the goddess of knowledge, music, art, wisdom, and learning. Students also expressed their devotion by singing beautiful Saraswati Vandana.



We successfully carried out the admission process for Classes 1 and VI for children from our neighbouring villages and suburbs as well as more distant locations such as Kotdwar, Rishikesh and Uttarkashi. Our team members assessed 60 children from 35 areas/villages for Class 1 and 42 children from 37 areas/villages for Class VI for their family status and learning potential.

Based on this assessment, which included both a detailed in person evaluation and separate home survey, 43 children (20 for Class 1 and 13 for Class VI) were selected. Their classes will commence in April 2021.



Practising and Progressing



I am lucky enough to have many great teachers, but one in particular, shaped the person I am today. I have met many teachers so far, and each one of them has uniquely affected my attitude towards education. I have developed different relationships with each one of them, and of course, I reminisce about some of my teachers more than others. A teacher never knows which student he or she will inspire to achieve his or her goals. Sometimes a teacher might feel that he/she has not done much for a student, but that particular teacher has positively contributed to his or her attitude about education in a positive way.



One of the greatest and unforgettable memories that stands above all my experiences as a student was the time spent with one of my school teacher Kanchan Rawat. I never once saw her lose patience with us. She motivated me to wake up six days a week with a "ready for school" mentality. She tried her best to motivate me to complete all the assignments on time. I used to have a problem speaking clearly in public. One day she saw me getting shy and embarrassed in public and took it upon herself to teach me. Now I am able to speak English very well and have become confident. She used to teach us just one subject, but her motivation and inspiration made her my favourite all-time teacher. I haven't met her since lockdown, but the way she puts efforts to teach is what makes her so special in our lives.

Finally, I would like to thank all the teachers in my life for giving us inspiration, support and continuous encouragement.

NIRUTA CHAUDHARY, VI-A, PYDS Learning Academy, Purkal Village



a) By creating strong relationships, teachers are able to successfully impact every aspect of their students' lives. One such bond is of Niruta Chaudhary now in Class VI and her teacher in Class III, Kanchan Rawat. The long-lasting impact created on her by Kanchan is reminisced by Niruta in her article, 'the Most Inspiring Teacher in My Life' of Times of India – Newspaper in Education, January Edition.

"I felt so surprised and blessed to know that I have left a beautiful mark in her life. I remember her



as a girl full of diligence
and grace.”

– Kanchan Rawat, Ex-Teacher,
PYDS-Learning Academy



b) A drawing competition, Magic with Colours,
was organised for students of Classes I, II and III
by the student stationery brand Classmate.
Three of them won the competition and received
certificates and Classmate pencil colours to encourage
their creative imagination.

First – Garima Saini of Class III
Second – Manvi Kumari of Class III
Third – Nisha Reshmi of Class III



- c) An Inter-Class Dance Competition was organised to help students mark the occasion of Basant Panchmi, a festival that celebrates the arrival of spring. They participated in two categories
a) Classes 1 - IV and b) Classes V – IX

Category Class 1 - IV

First – Manvi Kumari of Class III
Second – Pihu Dhiman of Class III
Third – Nisha Reshmi of Class III

Category Class V – IX

First – Sneha of Class IX
Second – Tamanna Singh
and Radhika Kothari of Class VI
Third – Sneha Kumari of Class VI
and Ayushi Sharma Class V

Follow the link at the footer to watch the video

Celebrating Womanhood





...And, as we celebrate womanhood on Women's Day,
we would like to take this opportunity
to thank all the women for empowering their families,
workplaces and the society.

and today we are glad to share the video
of one of such proud lady, Shalini Sharma,
our alumni.

Follow the link at the footer.



Important Information for Non-Indian Passport holding Donors

As mandated by the Government of India,
we have successfully shifted our FCRA Account
from Kotak Mahindra Bank to State Bank of India.
All donors bearing Non-Indian Passports could resume
their contributions through the Payment Gateway
or other channels.

We request you to update our FCRA Account
Particulars as under -

Name of Account: Punjab Youth Development

Name of Account: Purkal Youth Development Society
Account Number: 39972621004
Type of Account: FCRA Savings Account
Branch Code: 00691
IFSC: SBIN0000691
SWIFT: SBININBB104
Branch Address: FCRA Cell, 4th Floor,
State Bank of India, New Delhi
Main Branch, 11, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110001

All Indian Passport holders would continue to contribute to our Indian accounts as there is no change in these account details.

We wish all our donors and Purkal family best of health and mindfulness!



Click on the text to watch the respective video:

[Project on 'Health and Cleanliness](#)

[Inter-Class Dance Competition Class III](#)

[Inter-Class Dance Competition Class VI and IX](#)

[Words of Gratitude by Shalini Sharma](#)

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