

Purkal Bulletin - July 2020

“And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.” – Gilbert K. Chesterton

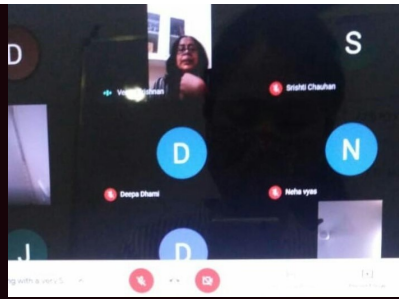


This year, summer hasn't just felt hot. It has been challenging amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Like everyone else, we too as a Society experienced numerous first-hand challenges in the past three months. It started with safely sending our students back to their homes, their emotional well-being, evolving creative ways to connect with them and even supporting some of their families with essentials.

As the monsoon arrived with rains of hope and regeneration of life, it brought a fresh air of initiatives and determination for us. By way of collaborative workshops, enriching our approach and techniques with experts, and encouraging engagement with parents who are our vital stakeholders, we are building a progressive ecosystem for our students.

Save for a Rainy Day

July was a month full of collaborative efforts to discover new ideas and ways to fulfil our role, duties and working towards common goals.



On 15th July, Dr. Veena Krishnan, Senior Consultant and Clinical Psychologist at University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun conducted a Mental Health Workshop for the School Staff and Teachers.

An interactive session with her on Mental Hygiene provided answers to many questions and increased awareness among all the teachers, who are often the first source of solace and counsel for our students. Dr. Krishnan's talk helped them understand issues likely to impact both them and their students in the current climate of uncertainty.



On 17th July, H T Parekh Foundation conducted a workshop on 'Continuous Learning for Students at Home'. We, along with four other similar organisations participated and shared our resources and experiences on Distance Learning. It was an honour to share our experience on 'Understanding Student Engagement', a teaching-learning Cross Curricular Connect that merges Scholastic and Co-Scholastic with other prominent NGOs' engaged in efforts similar to ours.

The workshop enabled its' participants to become familiar with strategies and resources that can be contextualised and implemented in the schools. It also helped build a great network of partners to jointly navigate challenges being thrown up in the current scenario. We are looking forward to collaborating with them with a view to enhancing distance learning for all of our students.



On 21st July, Shoolini University conducted a webinar on 'Finding Success Within'. The interaction, which was attended by all Society members and School staff, gave a detailed insight to reviving positive energies within and being self-reliant, especially in these times of uncertainty.

The main speakers at the webinar were

Mr. Atul Khosla, Founder and Pro Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University
Mr. Vivek Atray, Ex IAS Officer and Visiting Professor, Shoolini University
Mr. Reginald Missal, Principal, PYDS-Learning Academy

A Time to Plant and A Time to Reap

We imbibe values of environmental protection in our students and sensitize them towards preserving it. This, after all, is our ethos as a responsible social organisation. We are happy to share that we celebrated 'Harela – Day of Green' which marks the onset of the monsoon in Uttarakhand, by planting trees on our School campus and increasing awareness among our students about the best practices to protect our natural resources.



Predicting Rain Doesn't Count, Building an Ark Does!

Supported by some generous donors, we undertook a second round of COVID-19 relief, distributing essentials kits (inclusive of ration, personal hygiene and cleaning products) to the families of our needy children across twenty-two villages in our vicinity. Most of these families get their income from daily wages and several also work on our premises in odd jobs.

We are committed to maintaining our relief efforts in their times of need above and beyond the normal.



Rainbow of Activities

With a view to maintaining the morale of our students, and keeping their daily schedules complete, we continued with our efforts of engaging them in a range of non-academic activities.

Inter-School Competition



Our students participated in **Doon Citizens Online Talent Hunt Competition** and won all the First 3 positions in the craft category

First - Arpit Dhiman (Class VIII A), Arpita Thapli (Class IX A) and Kajol Maurya (Class IX B)

Second - Kritika Kori (Class V)

Third – Ayushi (Class VII B)

Intra-School Competition

Inter-House Senior Solo Dance Competition was organised virtually this month

First - Khushi Sharma, Kachnar House

Second - Sudiksha Khatri, Dhak House

Third - Vanshita Kothari, Amaltas House

General Awareness Program Inter House Quiz Competitions for both Senior and Junior Categories was organised virtually

Senior Quiz Competition

First - Gulmohar House

Junior Quiz Competition

First - Kachnar House

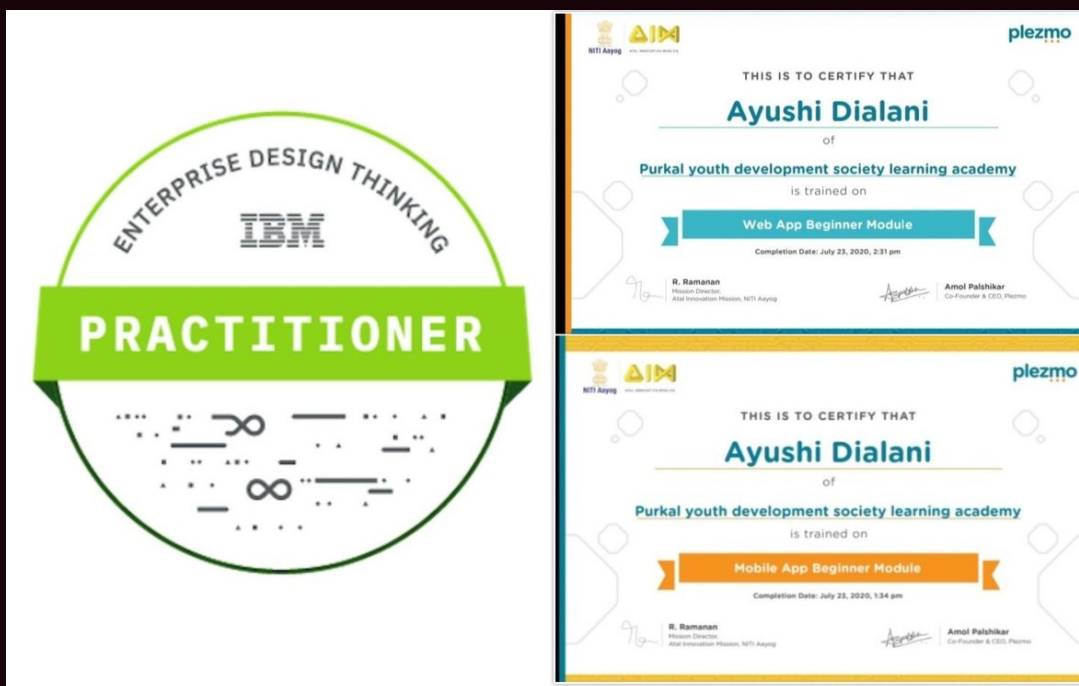


Challenging Limits

Our Tinkerers are determined to collect flags of achievement through various online courses

Vaibhav Aswal, Class XII (Science) is a Tinkering enthusiast who completed the Foundational Level course and received a badge as a **practitioner for Enterprise Design Thinking** under IBM STEM Skill Course. This is a platform where he can express his ideas, participate in design thinking activities and share it with other member practitioners.

Ayushi Dialani of Class IX completed two online courses '**Mobile App Beginner Module and Web App Beginner Module**' organised by Niti Aayog and Plezmo.



We congratulate, our Tinkering Mentor, **Mr. Akashdeep Thapa** who has been selected as **ATL Regional Teacher of Change** by Atal Innovation Mission. In this role, he is determined to drive the spirit of innovation into the mind-set of every student, teacher and the larger ATL community in the region and guide them into the essence of Atal Innovation Mission.

Monsoon Read of the Month

We are happy to share that Komal of Class X had her articles published in Times of India – NIE Edition in the month of July!

Precaution is better than cure

The whole world is fighting the deadly pandemic of COVID-19 today. The present situation of Uttarakhand in specific and country as a whole is daunting and alarming. Both the central and state the governments took various steps to fight the pandemic, to protect the citizens and to help them out.

Complete lockdown, movement restrictions, health care announcements are quite common, and people are well aware of them. So today we will talk about the lesser-known steps taken by the government.

Arogya setu app:

The Indian government introduced AROGYA SETU mobile app to help the citizens to know if there are any COVID-19 patient around them, but this app is not helpful for those who are poor and do not have a smartphone.

Ujjawala scheme:

Under Ujjawala scheme, the government is providing free LPG refills for three months to over 8.3 crore poor women. This is satisfactory because most of the houses in India



have women, but the people who were walking to reach their homes may not get this opportunity.

National social assistance programme:

Under this programme, Rs 1,400 crore has been distributed to about 2.82 crore old age people, widows and

disabled people. I am delighted with this programme because there are widows and disabled people who are mostly ignored. This is an excellent way to help them.

Jan Dhan account:

Earlier in April, it was announced that nearly 20 crore poor women Jan Dhan account holders would receive Rs 500 in their accounts for three months. This is also satisfying to complete some needs of the citizens.

The border of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh is closed as there is maximum migration of people and Delhi already has many COVID-19 patients. This should also be implemented in Uttarakhand.

Wearing masks and carrying sanitisers are not sufficient; one must refrain from wandering outside without any specific reason. I understand that staying locked inside for so long can be troublesome, but our momentary mistakes can not only put us but people around us in danger too.

-Komal, Class X, PYDS Learning Academy, Purkal Village

Sanjana Koli, sharing her experience of a year-long journey in the U.S.A

"I never thought that I would get such an opportunity - to be an exchange student under the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program which provides a yearlong exchange scholarship to the US. I feel lucky that I got it.

I was really excited to start this journey. I was placed in a really sweet and adventurous family that everyone knew of in the city of Plainfield, New Hampshire.

In the school (Lebanon High School), I joined different clubs such as Students of Colour, Interact Club and Glow club (LGBTQ). I learned new things: Guitar and Spanish being among them. I made a lot of new friends and also met other exchange students who were experiencing the same rush of excitement as me. The time span of ten months felt really short.

My host family became my home away from home. They took me hiking on the second day of my stay and since then hiking trips became an integral part of my stay. I did many things for the first time like kayaking, canoeing, tubing, skiing, ice-skating and more.

The pandemic affected my year in both a positive and negative way. My host family and my bond strengthened and I had more time to do things that I liked but I missed other experiences such as going to Washington, D.C. for a week-long program or spending more time with my friends.

When I returned, I had to be in quarantine for fourteen days. I missed my friends and my American family a lot but I was also happy to be back home. Overall, I had an absolutely amazing year with a lot of new experiences and am glad to have made friends for life."



Learning to Dance in the Rain

We miss seeing our students enjoying the rain and playing with paper boats in the stream that runs alongside our campus. At the same time, we are happy to share that students have shown just how much they want to keep learning, irrespective of the distance and their other limitations. They have continued with their lessons under difficult circumstances with the support of their dedicated teachers and watchful parents.



Meanwhile, our School Graduates of Batch 2019-20 are striving for college/university admissions. It gives us immense joy to tell you all that 12 of 45 students have already secured seats in reputed colleges for their higher studies, several with scholarships generously provided by these Universities. We are hopeful that more of them will achieve similar success in the coming weeks.

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

As the Government considers reopening of schools, we are preparing to function as effectively as possible within the guidelines likely to be prescribed. As a part of our preparations, masks of all sizes and colours are being stitched by local women for our students.



We eagerly look forward to seeing our students' smiling faces as they run around the corridors, dribble basketball on the playground, chatter in the dining hall and share delights with their friends.

Happy Monsoon! :)

Click here to Donate!



©2020 Purkal Youth Development Society | Purkal Village, P.O: Bhagwantpur, Dehradun - 248009

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by [Mad Mimi®](#)
A GoDaddy® company