



In the Frame: Nikita Rana, Class IX

I don't start with a color order, but find the colors as I go.

- Helen Frankenthaler

March brought us some exciting news to share with you! Events at School, as diverse and spirited as the colors of spring, kept us and our children busy. Activities are picking up the pace and our children are all geared up for it.

From our campus, electrified with the energy of our children, we bring to you our Purkal Journal.

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Our students commemorated International Women's Day with a special assembly dedicated to women's accomplishments and achievements. During the fruit break, a group of our students gathered on the basketball court for a flash mob and did a brief dance performance that took us all by surprise.



The rest of the day was full of thoughtful activities like interviews with lady staff members, a movie screening of 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl', and posting original poems on the wall. These poems were dedicated to challenges faced by women and their achievements.

Coloured in Happiness and All
the Good



The colourful dusk of Choti Holi transcended into an electrifying evening gilded with captivating music and dance performances.

This event was led and executed entirely by our residential students and was followed by a special dinner sponsored by a generous donor. The event concluded with the burning of Holika. The following morning was spent by staff and children playing with gulal and sharing heartfelt wishes and delicious snacks.

End of Year Assessments



The end-of-year assessments were successfully conducted in a timely manner with students appearing physically for final examinations between 15th and 25th March. Results were announced in phases between 4th and 6th April. All of our students were promoted to the next grade and there were very few exceptions. The end-of-term Parent Teacher Meeting was thoughtfully planned in order to strengthen parental engagement. It highlighted our expectations of parental support to students with regard to their schooling, namely punctuality, leave, uniform, academic performance and conduct. The parents then met their ward's class teachers for one-to-one interactions.

**Epitome of Good Values
and Ethics**



Our student, Komal from Class XI, won the Lt Col Ajit Bhandarkar Award, awarded by the Metamorphes Foundation, for 2022. The Metamorphes Foundation was founded by veterans of the Armed Forces committed to bringing about a positive change in society.

The award is conceived in the memory of late Lt Col Ajit V Bhandarkar, who laid down his life in service to the nation and was awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously. Every year, the award is given to a student of Class XI who stands out as an epitome of good values and ethics. We are proud to say that Komal, our Class XI student was felicitated with this award which included a medal and the book ‘ The Saga of a Braveheart’ written by the wife of Lt Col Ajit V Bhandarkar.

Off to the Races



We organized a long-distance running event which marked the end of the final examinations and academic year 2021-22. It also kicked off our fortnight of celebrations and activities. It was a day of joyous recreation for both students and staff and was generously supported by many of our friends in civil society. Flagged off by our Chief Guest, Mr. Ashok Chaudhary, all our students and teachers participated in the run. Starting points for each group were based on their age and physical capacity, with the longest stretch of 5.7 Kms for students of Class XI and XII. Teacher volunteers were ready along the route with water for the runners, and a kind donor sponsored refreshing drinks for all participants. Many residents of the villages along the route came out of their homes to cheer our students and staff as they passed by and the whole event was filled with perseverance and fun. The day concluded with a friendly intra-school basketball match for our senior classes.

Fortnight of Celebration



After an enriching academic year, despite the odds we faced in managing it, our curated fortnight of celebrations and activities, held between 26th March and 8th April, gave us a wonderful opportunity to end it on a positive and energetic note. Several excursions and indoor activities were organized for the students, including treks, cleanliness drives, picnics, visit to the zoo and swimming in our nearby river. In organizing and participating in the activities, students picked up essential skills such as team-building. The enjoyment of our children (and staff) in their well-deserved downtime was a delight to behold. It was an adventurous and joyous experience for our students and staff.

Student Council Election



Left to Right (Shivam Negi, Amaan Ullah, Sameer Pundir, Swastika Chaudhary, Akash Lekhwar, Prachi Lekhwar, Siddharth Rawat, Devansh Kala, Karuna Rana, Neha Kothari, Shaurya Pundir, Dhruv Om Sharma)

The Student Council at PYDS serves as a medium for active communication and forms a critical connection between the school and its students. The Council also gives students an experience in leadership, strategy building, mediation and organizational skills. Student Council elections were held this

quarter after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. Students from Classes XI & XII were nominated for several positions. After impassioned presentations from the nominees about their school records, past experience, plans for empowering the student body and strategies to build clear channels of communication between the School and its students, students cast their votes through Google forms under the supervision of teachers. The results were announced the following day, and the newly elected Council took up its responsibilities after the swearing-in-ceremony on 18th April 2022.

Mainstreaming of Navjeevan Batch 3



The journey of our Navjeevan Batch 3 over the last 18 months has perhaps been the most challenging and inspiring. This quarter, after months of rigorous preparation, these students appeared for final assessments. They gave detailed VIVA tests and attempted the Mathematics, English and Science question papers that were part of the final examinations of Classes IV, V and VI. Based on their overall development over the 18-month program, teacher and warden observations, and subject

assessments, we are very happy to share that eleven students were mainstreamed to Class VI, four students to Class VII.

Pursuit of Tech Upgrade Continues



With your generous support, we have been able to equip our Tinkering Lab with new Central Processing Units. The machines have been installed and are ready to run a wide range of software. Their increased capacity will make it possible for a larger number of students to be trained in Electronic Circuit Programming and Testing, Development of Android, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IOT), and Applications.

Helped by a generous donor, we have also been able to considerably upgrade the facilities in our Art Lab. Four computer systems have been installed to create platforms for students to perfect their skills in digital art, and a SMART TV has been installed to enable video-based teaching and digital art presentations for a large number of students at the same time.

Special curtains have been installed to control the light and heat in the room. Facilities for Batik and Tie-and-Dye have been created through the installation of an induction stove, utensils, and plastic tubs.



Through an extension project, the Art room has also been expanded to house facilities for pottery work, including a pottery wheel, and an apparatus for screen printing (built in-house by the school carpenter) in an artificially created dark room section. The upgrade of our Art room has led to the creation of a visually rich and joyful space, further enhancing the artistic expression of our students. Given the much wider range of activities now being undertaken, it's also been renamed as the Visual Arts Room.

Defying the Darkness



Cover Story Sania Khan

On the foundation day of her alma mater, Swami Rama Himalayan University, Sania Khan was honored with the gold medal and merit certificate on topping the final year of her Bachelor of Physiotherapy program. Let's go through her story in her own words.

"Growing up, sometimes I look back and realize that my family background has influenced me to be who I am today. My father, Israr Ahmad, always taught me to value myself and my true potential."

I hail from Saharanpur, a town in Uttar Pradesh. My father used to work in a steel and tin shop and had to quit because of his deteriorating health condition. My father was incapable of working for long hours.

My mother suffered from Edema (body fluid accumulation), but she still managed to play a very crucial role in shaping our lives. Sadly due to difficult financial conditions, she did not get proper treatment and succumbed to death.

Financial constraints had compelled me to drop out of further studies. I was struggling with life and basic amenities, staring at a premature marriage, ignorance, and destitution when fate introduced PYDS to me. My conditions molded me into a hardworking, tolerant, cooperative, and passionate student at PYDS.

After class XII, I decided to pursue a Bachelors in Physiotherapy. I appeared for the admission test at Swami Rama Himalayan University and secured AIR 58 and was able to secure my admission.

I learned about the basics of Physiotherapy and Electrical Modalities used in different treatments. My leadership skills helped me become class representative and I was able to manage every task sincerely.

I have completed the final year of my course and currently, I am in the third month of a 6-month mandatory internship at my university. During the past 2 months, I was posted in the ICU where I independently treated patients for Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation. Now I am posted in the Orthopedic Ward, attending to patients who need various kinds of orthopedic treatment. This exposure will help in boosting my confidence level and polish my skills.

All this has been possible because of the kind support I got from Swamy Sir, PYDS, and my donors who have all been helping me throughout this journey. I am sure that my Mother and Swamy Sir, from heaven, would be very happy watching me give my best.

My parents' desire has been to see me become successful with my honest efforts and be a change-maker in the family."

Sania Khan, Intern Physiotherapy.

Swami Rama Himalayan University.

Thanks for taking the time to read our stories. We would be back soon with the next edition, with the new stories. We would be glad to hear your suggestions and ideas.

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