



Cambridge Mathematics Experience Week

"You don't understand anything until you learn it in more than one way"

- Marvin Minsky



The Cambridge Mathematics Experience Week was a five day program hosted by Hearth Academy, New Delhi for students of classes IX to XII. The objective was to

introduce advanced mathematical thinking to young minds. Invited by Mr Shashank Vira, eminent educationist and founding partner, six of our students attended this program at Heritage International Xperiential School in Gurgaon. The program was led by Mr Paul Fenon, a University of Cambridge academic. It included lectures on advanced mathematics, statistics, probability, artificial intelligence and data science; complemented by interactive worksheets to strengthen logical connections.

Intending to reinforce the learning of our students, their accompanying teacher conducted sessions every evening, helping them revise the concepts learnt, and preparing them for the next day. These sessions enabled our students to demonstrate strong problem solving skills by being able to complete their worksheets within the allotted time. Most interestingly, the concluding class of the program connected mathematical concepts to real-world technology, such as face recognition, website interlinking and how interest feeds are personalized.

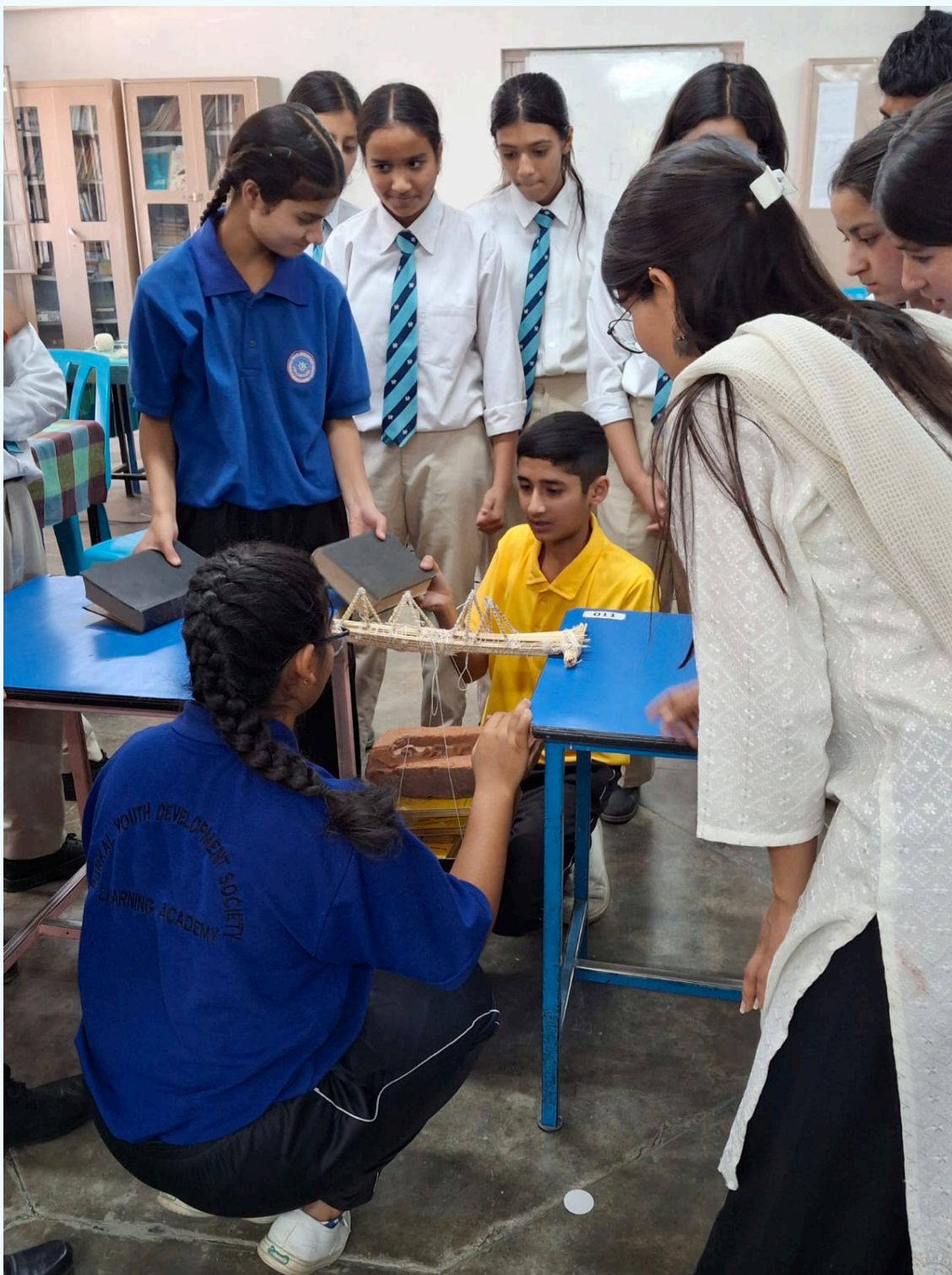
During the program, our students were also able to meet Mr Vira, who appreciated their enthusiasm in embracing new ideas and concepts. Our team expressed its sincere gratitude to Mr Fenon, Mr Vira, and the Heritage Xperiential Learning School for the invaluable opportunity. Mr Fenon praised the dedication and improvement shown by PYDS students during the program. All our students were presented with internationally recognized certificates of participation, enhancing their portfolios for future university applications.

For our students, the program provided much more than pure academic learning. It taught them to adapt to new pedagogy in an unfamiliar environment, as well as about learning advanced concepts in innovative ways. During the feedback session, Ashutosh of class X expressed himself saying, "Together with learning many new things, I discovered that Math is not just about calculations but is an experience of Mathematical Modelling and Daily Statistical Analysis too."

The boarding and lodging for our students were generously sponsored by our patron Mr Jatin Gulati, who also hosted them for dinner. Before leaving for the dinner, our students were given tips on conversation skills and social etiquette. The Gulati family was impressed with the students and has agreed to visit the PYDS campus on their invitation.

ATL Community Day

'We learn by rearranging what we know' - Ludwig Wittgenstein



The Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) Community Day is celebrated in April to spread awareness and engage local communities to experience the world of science and future technologies. With an aim to introduce the concept of tinkering to nearby non-ATL schools, we have for the last two years hosted local schools on campus for sessions and activities. This year, we decided to step out to spread ATL awareness.

Our team of three students and two teachers, visited the Moravian Institute, Dehradun on 26th April, to conduct a workshop. The first part of the workshop was a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) challenge for students of class VIII students. Elaborating on the science of building bridges our students spoke to their Moravian peers about bridges - their types, functions and designs. After which, they were divided into groups and given ice cream sticks, paper, thread,

glue guns etc. to build a bridge. All bridges were tested for strength and sturdiness and the best was declared the winner.

The second part of the workshop covered Robotics for the students of class IX. It was conducted by our Tinkering Facilitator. He introduced the concept of robotics and explained the differences between robots and machines. By way of a hands-on activity, students were taught to control LEDs through coding. Students of the Moravian Institute were very excited by their learnings and experiences from the workshop. It was a deeply gratifying experience for our team as well and we will visit more schools to share our knowledge to spread ATL awareness.

Earth Day Celebrations

'You don't live on this earth, you are only passing through' - Rumi



Our students were invited by Punaha Aranya, a voluntary organisation that promotes nature awareness, to celebrate Earth Day on 22nd April. The event was organised in collaboration with the Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand at the Dehradun Zoo. 50 students of class VI attended this event.

A short film showing the transformation of the Earth from a clean and green planet to the deteriorated state it is in today was screened. It made children aware of how we as humans are degrading our planet and the pressing need for all of us to make amends. The event featured three categories and our students made us proud by winning the following prizes:

- i) Caesar Cipher Challenge - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- ii) Bright Answer - 1st and 2nd
- iii) Project Presentation - 3rd

They had built a model of a house that used mirrors to reflect sunlight to illuminate dark corners and a book out of plastic wrappers. The event concluded with light refreshments, smiles and a renewed commitment by everyone to care for our only home, planet Earth.

Class XI Admissions

'Education must not simply teach work, it must teach Life' - W.E.B Du Bois



With a batch size of 50, and some subject classes getting very small numbers of students, it was resulting in sub optimal utilisation of our scarce resources of both teachers as well as classrooms. With a view to enabling better resource utilisation and enhancing the attention each student receives in all subjects, a decision was made to increase the batch size to 60, while restricting 20 students in each stream: Commerce, Humanities and Science.

A notice for admission was circulated at key locations and among the teachers and students. 43 needy students of neighbouring schools appeared for the test. Concurrently their parents were spoken with individually and advised of the ethos and culture of PYDS as a group. Following this, a shortlist was drawn up based on students, i) performance in the test as well as interview, ii) socio-economic background, iii) gender, iv) location of residence as this enables us to ascertain their need for transportation and hostel accommodation, v) subject preferences. Their homes were visited by our staff to ascertain their needy status and the list was trimmed further. After this exercise, 12 candidates (6 girls and 6 boys) were admitted. They were provided with uniforms & books and they joined classes on the 26th of April.

Career Guidance Workshop

'If you never take a chance, you may never get to dance' - Catherine Pulsifer



A career decision is a significant milestone for every student, as it shapes their professional journey ahead. Several factors, including a person's aptitude, interests, strengths, weaknesses and abilities, play a crucial role in this decision-making process. To foster this awareness among our students, our career cell invited Mr Prafull Kumar, President of Dream Realized LLC, to speak with them.

During the session attended by students of classes VIII and IX, Mr Kumar posed the important question, "What is a career?" After listening to their varied responses, he elaborated on the concept of a career and encouraged them to identify their interests. He made the point, "When you know your interests, you know what to study". Additionally, he provided alternative options for students to consider if their desired subjects or courses were not available. Students were encouraged to explore careers that piqued their interest and to understand the advantages and challenges associated with each path. Before concluding, Mr Kumar answered some serious questions such as, "What to do when faced with family pressure to opt for subjects one does not like?" Realising the importance of such sessions, we will be arranging for more in future.

Staff Mental & Emotional Wellbeing Workshop

We have to nourish to flourish'



Given their position as the pillars of PYDS, a workshop on mental and emotional well being was organised for our staff on the 1st of April. It was conducted by two qualified and experienced health professionals - Ms Binu Thomas and Ms Drishti Bhasin. Ms Thomas is a post graduate in Clinical Mental Health and in Counseling & Family Therapy. She is currently the head of personal counselling at the reputable Woodstock School, Mussoorie. Ms Bhasin is a post graduate in Psychology and

guidance & counselling. She is a counselling psychologist, a certified CBT & REBT Practitioner and a guidance counsellor.

Ms Thomas began by defining the basic components of wellbeing as - health, happiness and a realistic purpose in life. Highlighting the importance of mental and emotional detoxing, she explained multiple methods of doing so. She solicited input from participants on what they did to unwind and relax. They were encouraged to participate regularly in rejuvenating activities and to protect themselves from burnout.

Bringing the focus to the classroom, Ms Drishti Bhasin drew the attention of teachers to the 'invisible student'. They were urged to take notice of students who preferred to remain silent and in the background. She further explained that all emotions carry meaning and purpose and that it was important to channelise the students' energy in a positive direction. Teachers were urged to build a caring community around themselves by identifying sources of support at the workplace, home and community, as this would enhance their effectiveness. Emphasising 'emotional resilience' as an important factor, she discussed ways to enhance it.

Simultaneously, three wellbeing ambassadors (students of Woodstock School) conducted a session for our hostel students of classes IX to XII. They explicitly spoke about 'stress', its reasons, solutions and conducted stress busting activities. Our students connected well with the ambassadors, enthusiastically preparing charts and skits on mental health awareness and self-care. The workshop conveyed a strong message both for the staff and students that wellbeing is about having a peaceful mind and an empathetic heart. Our sincere thanks and appreciation for Ms Thomas, Ms Bhasin and Woodstock School once again.

New Uniforms for our Transport Team

'We take pride in what we do'



BTTP (Bus Them To Purkal), alongside nutrition and healthcare, has been one of the pillars of the PYDS program since its inception. We take pride in our staff who transport over 400 students and staff to and from the school in comfort and safety every day. They do so in all weather conditions, from remote villages like Rikholi and the increasingly congested thoroughfares of the city.

On 22nd of April, the entire team was provided with new uniforms, bearing the school logo. All of them looked very smart in new uniforms and obliged us by posing for a group photograph in front of their pride, the fleet of buses.

The Bastar Band Performance

'The Bastar Band is not just about music; it is a way of life for our people'

- Anup Ranjan Pandey



Thanks to the generosity of SPIC MACAY, we enjoyed a performance by the Bastar Band from Chattisgarh on our campus. Led by Padmashree Anup Ranjan Pandey the band enjoys both national and international acclaim. It spreads the spirit and culture of the Bastaria community, through ethnic folk instruments, dance, songs and mythological narratives. Ranjan Sir along with 15 members of his band were welcomed to the auditorium by our students with a loud round of applause. They looked very attractive in traditional costumes, colourful headgear and tingling ankle bells. As the curtains lifted, the stage portrayed a scene of a Bastar village house, with women singing a prayer to goddess Saraswati and worshipping their instruments. They went on to create music while performing household chores like winnowing and working with the pestle. The men joined in playing their exquisite instruments and danced with the women in a circle, creating a mesmerising experience.

After the elaborate performance, students were ready with many questions. As the band members were not fluent in English, Ranjan Sir helped translate the questions and answers. All artists were acknowledged with gifts of small ceramic articles made by our students in the pottery lab.



Jazz Concert

'Jazz is music for and by people who have chosen to feel good in spite of conditions' - Johnny Griffin



Thanks to Tender Roots, a charitable organisation that brings reputable artists to perform at schools such as ours, a group of International Jazz musicians performed for our students on 8th April. After introducing themselves and their instruments,

they familiarised the audience with the history of jazz music. While playing melodious music, they drew in students by encouraging them to clap to the beats being played. Their performance became even more engaging when they invited students to sing and play tabla in unison. Our students played in perfect sync with the artists in an exhilarating jam session that had the audience on its feet, breaking all barriers of age and culture through the universal language of music.

The response to the call of, *"Who will make music after this?"* was overwhelming. While answering questions, one of the musicians remarked, *"Music is a fun medium for celebration"*. While another said, *"I live for music"*. Together they encouraged the students to learn at least one instrument saying, *"If you can do this you will have friends all over the world."* Our Principal expressed her delight at the spontaneous bonding of students with the visiting musicians and presented tokens of gratitude to them.



Mountains of Life Festival

'He that plants trees, loves others besides himself'- Thomas Fuller



Azim Premji University's 'Mountains of Life Festival', arrived in Dehradun after travelling to different locations in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Students of class IX alongside students from other institutions, volunteers, professionals and community members. With the planet in turmoil and the climate crisis affecting all our daily lives, the festival provided a space to reflect on the human impact on nature and the urgent need for conversations, creativity, and action.

The PYDS group attended a talk that outlined the fact that humans and nature are inseparable. It highlighted the significance of cultural heritage and the need to preserve it. Students explored photo essays, infographics, art installations etc on display and interacted with other participants. Accompanying teachers attended a session in which the plight of the mountains, home to rare flora and fauna was discussed. The distressing trend of cutting trees in Dehradun for the sake of development was strongly voiced. Though there can be no remedy for the felling of trees that are more than 100 years old, it was suggested that people celebrate personal occasions by planting trees.

We are proud of....
Harshit Rawat PYDS batch 2021



A B.Com (Hons) graduate from Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University, Harshit joined PYDS in class III. Resident of Old Rajpur, Dehradun, his family comprises his grandmother, parents and a younger brother. His father works as a catering supervisor and his mother is a homemaker. Currently employed at JITM Skills Private Limited, Delhi, as a Digital Marketing Associate, Harshit narrates his story as follows....

"I was over the moon when I was admitted to PYDS in 2013. From day one, I made full use of every opportunity that came my way. I enjoyed taking part in classroom activities and group discussions. Always looking for opportunities, I participated in many inter-school and intra-school events. In sports, I won medals in track events, kho-kho and javelin throw. I was also a member of the PYDS U14 basketball team.

School was a happy place and time flew fast. By the time I was in class X, I developed a liking for finance related subjects and opted for the Commerce stream in class XI. My parents and teachers were very proud of me when I scored 97.4

percent marks in the class XII board exams, with 99% in Business Studies and Economics. The good result helped me secure admission in the coveted B.Com (Hons) program at Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University. There I studied subjects like Business Law and Business Mathematics and learned about company laws & regulations, Income Tax, individual tax and various Microsoft apps.

While at college, I developed a variety of skills by joining societies and internships. I was active in the Extension Society, where as a member of the technical team, I handled social media related tasks, like creating reels, editing videos, designing posters and managing stories. I participated in the UN Hult Prize competition, where I worked on a business idea focussing on sustainable fashion. I was the first runner-up in the E-Talk Detective's Den Business Quiz Competition held in my college.

My communication skills strengthened when I worked as a human resource and sales intern at an ed-tech start-up. I also completed a digital marketing course, which had a series of interactive sessions and assignments to work on. It gave me insight into online marketing through digital platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Google. Amidst all the frenzy, I balanced the desk & the court and continued to play volleyball/basketball, and soon became a member of the college basketball team.

Looking back, I realise that PYDS inculcated basic skills in me, which were honed in college. As a senior, I entreat all my juniors to make the most of school years by exploring as many activities as possible. These experiences will help you to develop new skills, build networks and promote confidence. Every opportunity, no matter how small, can shape your career and personal growth. Stay curious, work hard and always be open to learning.

I am immensely grateful to PYDS for giving me a good education and supporting my lodging expenses during college. Going forward, I see myself working in the marketing field, gradually taking on more senior roles and greater responsibilities."

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As the summer sets in, the campus gears up for another busy academic year. We gratefully look forward to continued support from our patrons. Take good care of yourselves.



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