



*"The future is the canvas,
that I yearn to paint"*

Independence Day

"Freedom is not just about independence; it is about self-discovery and self-realisation" - Dr A P J Abdul Kalam



The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with pride and gusto in our school. Principal, Ms Diana Luji hoisted the National Flag and took the salute as students marched past. This was followed by a whole school PT drill.

Thereafter, there was a variety program by the students, displaying patriotic fervour. To begin with, primary students were dressed up as Indian freedom fighters. As each one stepped forward, a brief biography of the represented personality was narrated. This was followed by students singing patriotic songs, putting up a yoga display as well as giving talks and reciting a poem on the 'Independence Day'. They also enacted a short play that took us through a flashback of some significant events during the freedom struggle. The program finale was a lively dance performed to a medley of patriotic songs.

The event concluded with the Society Secretary urging students to ponder on the meaning of freedom in today's context and the Principal appreciating the efforts of students and teachers for the program.

Career Spectra

"Leave the roads, take the trails" - Pythagoras



Career Spectra, the annual festival was organised in the auditorium on the 17th of August. Ms Smita Mankad, one of our directors, was the Chief Guest for the event. The inaugural ceremony featured a Radio Show designed to provide information about potential careers in an engaging manner. This presented the challenges related to the job market, punctuated by interesting retro advertisements.

Seven career stalls had been set up by students of class XI, viz. i) Passion as a

Career, ii) Fitness and Sports Management, iii) Defence Services, iv) Road Map to Success, v) Social Media - a Risky Career, vi) Business Startups - a Challenge and vii) AI Taking Over Jobs.

Stalls were judged for their visual appeal, communication, content relevance and overall presentation. The stall, 'Social Media - a Risky Career' was declared the winner.

The judges quipped that in older days, careers that took lead from non academic subjects were not accepted in families. However, it was heartening to note that PYDS students are taking interest in offbeat careers as well.

National Space Day at IIRS

"You have to dream before your dreams can come true" - Dr A P J Abdul Kalam



August 23, was proclaimed as the 'National Space Day', to mark the day when India became the fourth country to land on moon and the first to reach its southern polar region. This year, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) Dehradun, initiated several activities to commemorate the first anniversary of this feat.

Our school received an invitation to attend the celebrations which was attended by 10 students. The day began with a talk on the wonders of space, followed by two live demonstrations - one of a Water Rocket Launch and the other of a Wireless Rover in action. During the Open House Quiz, two of our students Sunil of class XI

and Tanishka of class IX, won certificates for giving correct answers. The talents of our students also shone bright in the Painting Competition on the theme 'Planetary Exploration: A Giant Leap for Mankind'. Kanishka of class XI was awarded the 1st prize for her outstanding artwork.

Our students were thrilled to attend the event, as it stimulated innovation and enhanced their knowledge.

Visual Art Competitions

"Excellence is a continuous process, not an accident" - Dr A P J Abdul Kalam



Two competitions were organised for the entire school, to bring out the creative side of students.

Rakhi Making Competition

To commemorate the upcoming festival, a competition was organised for classes I to VIII in which students had to design and make rakhis.

Students of classes I to III were permitted to make rakhis at home, using discarded materials, with parental assistance and the two best entries were rewarded.

Students of classes IV, V & Navjeevan were divided into groups of five. Each group had to make one rakhi, using materials provided by the school. The best group in each class received an award.

For classes VI to VIII, the competition was intra-class. A group of five students from each class was selected to represent their class. They had to bring their own materials and make one rakhi per group. The best entry from each class received an award.



Clay modelling Competition

Classes IX to XII had an intra-class competition in clay modelling. Each class fielded a team of five students. Every team was required to utilise the entire amount of 3 kg clay given to them, to model a Ganesh idol of 12 cm x 12 cm. The idols were evaluated for their size, creativity, applied skills and presentation. Certificates were awarded to the better of the two entries of each class.

Poetry Writing Workshop

"Come to the edge of the earth, lift up your hands to the sky" - Rabindranath Tagore



A poetry writing workshop on 'Nature' was conducted by a volunteer Ms Mridula Deol for class VIII students. Ms Deol has been an educator for the past eleven years. Her articles on education and spirituality have been published in leading English newspapers and she has authored two poetry books.

During the workshop, students were taught about acrostics, limerick, haiku and cinquain forms of poems. Figures of sound - alliteration, onomatopoeia, and figures of relationship - metaphor, personification, simile and rhyme, were also discussed. Ms Mridula quoted poets like William Wordsworth and Robert Frost to illustrate these concepts. Students were then tasked with writing a nature-themed poem using at least two words of sensory imagery.

The students thanked Ms Deol for the valuable learnings and she in turn promised to revisit in the near future.

Teachers Workshop

"The more I learn, the better I teach"



A capacity-building program on 'The Art and Science of Question Paper Making', was held on our campus by Dr Geeta Shukla. She is a certified Career Counsellor, Child Development Specialist and CBSE Master Trainer.

In an interactive session, Dr Shukla, emphasised the importance of adhering to the CBSE board exam paper format, even in primary classes. She further suggested to teachers that they a) use the CBSE website to understand the format and incorporate it while preparing question papers and b) frame question papers keeping in mind the three domains of Bloom's Taxonomy - cognitive, affective and psychomotor.

Dr Geeta also discussed various layouts of setting question papers, such as the MCQ format, variable levels of difficulty, incorporating questions to encourage critical thinking etc. and clarified the difference between simple and complex, reasoning and case-based questions.

The teachers were happy to have an array of new insights, in time before setting the half yearly question papers.

Breast Cancer Awareness Program

"Awareness without action is worthless" - Phil McGraw



Biology students of classes XI and XII attended a program, "Join the Crusade against Breast Cancer", at Welham Girls' School, Dehradun on 10th August. The objective was to educate young girls about breast cancer, emphasising early detection methods and providing other essential information.

The program began with a documentary in which the importance of self-examination of the breast was emphasised. It also highlighted the importance of clinical breast examinations and mammograms, especially after the age of 40. Another documentary presented a discussion which highlighted breast cancer as being one of the most curable forms of the disease. It further suggested preventive measures such as maintaining a healthy weight, following a nutritious diet, having children at younger ages and including foods such as broccoli, watermelon, flax seeds and guava in one's diet. Clips featuring breast cancer survivors were shown to provide real life context.

Following the documentaries, three experienced lady doctors took queries from the audience. They emphasised that since there is no vaccine for breast cancer, it is important for women to remain watchful and take steps for early detection and successful treatment of breast cancer.

Off Campus Competitions

"If you stumble, make it part of the dance" - River Maria Urke



Our students participated in a number of competitions in the month of August. They won in some, but were dejected whenever they didn't. At such moments, they were reminded by their teachers that, "Participation is more important than winning".

Two students went for the National Level, Hindi Extempore Speech and Essay Writing Competition at the IPS School, Dehradun. Twenty four schools from across India took part in this competition. Purnima Lakai of class XI, appeared for essay writing on the topic 'संस्कृति और नैतिक मूल्य भारत को सभ्य, सम्पूर्ण और विकसित बना रहे है'. She secured the 3rd position and was awarded a trophy along with a cheque for Rs. 15,000 and a certificate. Aafia Naaz of class X, attempted extempore speech, for the topic, 'जलवायु परिवर्तन आज मानव के सामने सबसे बड़ा खतरा', and received a consolation certificate.



On 22nd August, an inter-school English Elocution Contest was organised by The Doon Girls School, Dehradun in which 26 schools participated. Thirteen of our students from classes III to V competed in the solo and the group recitations, on the topics, 'Fairy World' (class III), 'Recreation' (class IV) and 'Adventure' (class V).



Five students from our school participated in the inter school Hindi Debate Competition held at The Doon Girls School, Dehradun that saw participation from twenty two schools. The topic for the seniors was 'महिला सशक्तिकरण आदर्श की भावना है वास्तविकता की तसवीर नहीं' while for the middle school it was, "मतदान की आयु 18 से 16 वर्ष कर देनी चाहिए".



On 23rd August, four students participated in the 'Incredible India Quiz', hosted by DPSG, Dehradun. Ten schools participated in this competition, in which there were six rounds of ten questions each. Participants had to select the correct answers to questions displayed on a big screen, entering it on their mobile phones. During the quiz, our students realised that their phones were slower than others, yet they were unfazed and completed the quiz.



PYDS participated in the Harmony 2024, an inter-school cultural extravaganza held at Unison World School, Dehradun. The event saw participation from 16 schools.

Our school entered for:

- i) *Shruti*, an Indian vocal music event in which our students sang, "Pankh hote toh udd aati re", a song based on Raag Bhopali.
- ii) *Trivat*, the Indian classical dance competition, in which our students personified the monsoon season, through a Bharatanatyam performance.

We are proud of
Himanshu Kathait, PYDS batch 2021



Himanshu's parents and sister live in a rented house in Tapovan, Dehradun. His father works as a waiter in a nearby hotel and his mother is a housewife. An alumni of the 2021 batch, Himanshu joined PYDS in class XI and opted for the Science stream. He had hardly attended school for one year, when it closed due to the COVID lockdown.

Himanshu narrates his journey as follows, *"Studying at PYDS was a great experience, as I made many friends and learned a lot from teachers. There was a lot of opportunity to explore through visits, clubs and resources such as the library and computer lab. My public speaking skills and confidence improved immensely. Being fond of sports, I played basketball, volleyball and table tennis to my heart's content. Swami Sir was a great administrator and motivator, he made everyone participate willingly in all activities. In January 2020, our class was taken on a trip to Gujarat. It was a memorable excursion, during which we visited many places and strengthened bonds of friendship amongst ourselves. Though I was at PYDS for a brief time, my personality developed rapidly in its conducive environment.*

I appeared for UBTER (Uttarakhand Board of Technical Education Roorkee) and Uttarakhand JEEP (Joint Entrance Exam for Polytechnics). I secured admission in

Govt. Polytechnic Dehradun, for a three year diploma course in Mechanical Engineering (Automobile). Later I took up internships in Autocad and Solidworks, which significantly enhanced my skill set. As I am fond of designing, I look forward to a career in automobile design.

When my diploma course came to an end in June, I joined Maruti Suzuki, Gurgaon, as a Junior Engineer Trainee. I have signed a contract for 2 years, including training, at a salary of 4.50 lacs per annum. People ask me if finding placement immediately after graduating was like a dream come true; to which I reply, 'Doing a job is not my dream. When I do a job for someone else, I am actually fulfilling his dream'.

For me, being empathetic towards fellow beings is fundamental. We should have sympathy towards animals and help them. The speed at which the climate is changing also bothers me. I want to work for all these issues in future. I would advise my juniors to work towards their own passion, because it will sustain them. Although money is important, it should not become a barrier that blocks dreams and aspirations. Those who do not follow their passion are unhappy; and from unhappiness spearhead vices."

Himanshu's words set him apart as a practical thinker who does not follow the crowd. He is presently training at Maruti, Gurgaon, and will be shifting to work at their Kharkhoda plant soon.

Donate to spread smiles!

Adieu, dear friends and well wishers of PYDS. Your good wishes help us keep our banner flying high. We look forward to your continued support as always. Take care, till next time!



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