

'Trips are fun, and one with friends is fun galore'



Class VI Trip to Delhi

"These are not Delhi by-lanes, these are artist's canvas; every sight I see looks like a painting" - Mir Taqi Mir



The fusion of Delhi's eternal past and modern development never ceases to amaze its visitors. Students of class VI were sent on a trip to Delhi for travel experience and explore sites related to their lessons. Being the capital city and for several their

first visit, Delhi had a lot to offer to our curious students. On 13th December, 51 excited students and their 6 teachers boarded a chartered bus, singing, dancing, and playing games the entire way. On reaching, the group stayed at the Army Camp, with boys settling with the Rajputana Rifles Unit and girls at the nearby Transit Camp.

Over the next five days, the group visited a variety of interesting places. Among historical monuments they visited were the Qutub Minar, the Iron Pillar, Alai Darwaza and the tomb of Iltutmish. While visiting the Humayun's Tomb, they appreciated its architecture that set a precedent for Mughal architecture and Persian gardens in India. A visit to the Red Fort being an absolute must; where besides exploring the precincts and climbing the ramparts, the students attended the famous Sound and Light Show, where they saw an enactment of our rich history. On their trip to the India Gate and the National War Memorial, students saw the 'Flame of the Immortal Soldier', which commemorates soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. They also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

It was a pleasure to see students waking up early by themselves so that they had time to play on the grounds of their camp before embarking on the day's tour. They loved their stay at the camp, even more because of the delectable meals served there. When they learnt of the Museum within the Camp, they jumped at the opportunity to see armoury, uniforms and flags on display.

At the Lotus Temple, students immersed themselves in its serene atmosphere sitting silently with eyes closed for a few minutes. On their way back, they took a Metro Rail ride from Kalkaji to Hauz Khas. They were awed by the automatic doors of the coaches and had an exhilarating time using the escalators. As a part of their itinerary, students also visited the Science City where they learnt about water purification, the human body, metallurgy in ancient times and other topics of interest. At the National Zoological Park, they giggled at the antics of birds and animals, while some squirmed at the sight of reptiles. The Railway Museum visit was fun as children ran in and out of coaches, pretending to drive the old rail engines and riding the toy train. No trip is complete without shopping for gifts and memorabilia for the folks back home; students spent some time at the bustling *Sarojini Nagar* Market, where the teachers had a tough time keeping them together.

After five happy and fulfilling days, the tired but happy group began its homeward journey, mostly asleep in their bus seats. Amongst their many learnings, the trip helped enhance their knowledge, camaraderie, discipline, and social interaction skills besides giving them travel related experiences. Back on campus, students made an excellent presentation to their teachers and the Principal, providing an

insight into both their experiences and leanings. All of them are eagerly looking forward to their next school trip.



Class I Admission Test

Off to school, we'll play and learn; dance and run and have so much fun



The two important events that take place during the last quarter of every academic year are the culmination of one journey - passing out of class XII, and the commencement of another - selection of new students for class I.

As has been our practice, information regarding the new admissions process was propagated through placing of posters in the government schools and community spaces within our serving areas. 120 registration forms were received, out of which 103 candidates appeared for the entrance test on 1st of December. Candidates were required to answer 20 elementary questions in English, EVS, Mathematics and Hindi. In addition, they were evaluated through activities such as Simon Says, Clap the Number and story narration based on objects provided. The overall intent was to gauge the status of their current learning levels.

In parallel, our Secretary addressed the assembled parents, briefing them about the ethos of PYDS and the opportunity it afforded its children. Refreshments were served to parents and children during the process. Results of the admission test will be declared by the end of February. The predominant criteria for selection will remain the family's socio-economic status, with the child's learning levels being only of secondary importance.

Youth Leader Competition- tGELF

"He who wishes to secure the good of others, has already secured his own"

- Confucius



Gunjan of class IX and Tanisha of class XI represented our school in the annual Youth Leader Harmony 2024 Competition, organized by The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (tGELF). This is a year-long program designed to recognize student leadership in areas aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 13 Indian and one Bhutanese school sent their entries this year.

Our students focused on the issue of forest fires, through their project, 'Saving Uttarakhand from Forest Fires'. They identified high-risk areas in and around Purkal village and designed water storage pits along with conducting training sessions on fire safety for the villagers. With the School providing all resources, four water storage pits were dug at select locations to serve as project prototypes. Gunjan, Tanisha and social club students together with some villagers dug these pits and lined them with UV-resistant polythene to prevent seepage making them low cost, sustainable, wildlife supportive, fire retardant and easily scalable models. The two students also developed a website to provide more detailed information on the pros and cons of this solution, necessary precautions and emergency numbers for reporting forest fires.

At the finale held at Scottish High International School, Gurgaon, Gunjan and Tanisha gave a presentation and faced the jury's questions. The judges and audience were impressed with their leadership skills, innovative thinking and ability to address a universal challenge through local solutions.

Learning Infographics

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops"

- Henry B Adams



In the age of information overload, it is important to present content in a structured manner so that it is easy to comprehend. This can be done by using Infographics (a visual representation of information & data), that helps to categorise and display large amounts of data through graphics.

Ms Astha Gupta, a graduate in Fashion Communication from NIFT Delhi, was inspired by her father, a well-wisher of PYDS, to take time off and run a program for our students on infographics. Through a 15 session course for class VIII students, she taught techniques to process, condense and present information in a creative manner. She also conducted interactive exercises, group discussions and gave hands-on tasks to enhance the learning of students. In the concluding activity, students were organised in groups of five, where each group created infographic posters on the following topics

- Human-Animal Conflict: Leopard in Our Neighborhood
- How to Fight Distractions and Focus Better
- Be a Buddy, Not a Bully

At the exhibition attended by all of our staff, the students explained the challenges faced and their remedies through infographics. This program enabled our students to view things with a fresh perspective, beyond traditional methods. They learnt techniques to condense, simplify complex data and create effective infographics by applying principles of design, which will help them in academics and projects in the long run.

Dental Camp & Workshop

“You find people ready enough to do the Samaritan, without the oil and twopence” - Sidney Smith



Good dental hygiene is crucial, and ignoring it can invite multiple health issues. Muse Charitable Dental Clinic, Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, graciously conducted a week long, free dental camp on our campus. The visiting team, comprising Dr Sapna Gautam and her assistant, Mr Lotte Gyachho, brought all necessary dental equipment with them and stayed on our campus for the entire duration.

They conducted a series of workshops for classes I–VIII and Navjeevan batches 6 & 7. The topics covered were types of dentition, foods beneficial and detrimental to dental health, causes of tooth decay, habits for maintaining oral hygiene and demonstration of correct brushing technique. Issues such as risks of tobacco, sugary foods, smoking, alcohol on oral health and preventive measures, were added for classes VI to VIII.

They examined the teeth of 55 hostel students, with x-rays being conducted when required. Students were advised to have tooth fillings, root canals, extraction, scaling and orthodontic treatment. Tooth extraction and a root canal treatment were performed on two students as urgently required. Realising that dental hygiene awareness needed an upgrade for hostel students, a dedicated session was also conducted for them. 43 staff members also availed free dental checkups and benefited from having treatment done at nominal charges.

We are extremely grateful to Muse Charitable Dental Clinic, Dr Sapna and Mr Gyaccho for educating and helping us with care and dedication. They certainly

raised our awareness on oral health which inadvertently takes a back seat in our distracted daily routines.

Motivational Speech by former DGP

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation” -Walter Cronkite



It is our ongoing endeavour to expose our students to the learnings and experiences of real life, we do this by inviting eminent persons to come and speak to them. It was a great experience for us to hear Mr Aloke B. Lal, the former Director General of Police, Uttarakhand, who turned in 37 years of distinguished service. Mr Lal was awarded the Medal for Long and Meritorious Service in 1992 and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services in 2006. He is also an accomplished author, painter and photographer.

To break the ice, Mr Lal began by asking students about their interests and aspirations and listened to their replies intently. He then spoke about himself, reflecting on the time when he had failed in class XI and emphasized that had he not worked hard on himself at that time, he wouldn't have been able to achieve the milestones he did later in life. His story demonstrated that setbacks are part of the process, but the outcome is shaped significantly by effort and determination. Even during his most challenging postings, Mr Lal kept his passion for painting alive by exhibiting his works and writing for newspaper columns.

Students were left deeply motivated and realised the importance of discipline in achieving aspirations. As a token of gratitude, they presented him with a miniature garden, created in school. Vijayalaxmi of class VIII, remembers Mr Lal's words as,

"No dream is big or small. We must work hard with dedication so that our dreams lead us to our goals".

Pre Board Exams & Unit Tests

"If you change a classroom, you can change a community, and if you change enough communities, you can change the world" - Erin Gruwell



Pre-board examinations for classes X and XII were conducted between 2nd and 9th December. These were based on the pattern of board examinations to enable an early reality check on the student's proficiency levels. Students prepared by thoroughly revising their subjects, solving sample papers and resolving doubts with the help of teachers.

Simultaneously, unit tests were conducted for students of classes IX and XI. These tests too were framed to give them an insight to the CBSE board paper pattern that they would face in a year's time. Evaluation of answer sheets highlighted areas of weakness among students that required more attention. These will be addressed in the coming weeks.

A Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) was organized for classes IX to XII on the last day of school, so that parents of the hostel children could meet the teachers when they came to pick their children for vacations. In the presence of their parents, the

students were advised to roll up their sleeves and get serious about preparing for the final exams. Parents were also advised to maintain a good study environment at home. It was heartening to notice the increased level of parental involvement in the PTM.

International Student Science Conference

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants"

- Issac Newton



The International Student Science Conference 2024 (ISSC) was hosted at The Doon School, Dehradun, between 2nd and 8th December. Our students were invited to perform at the opening ceremony. A group of 38 students gave a cultural music and dance performance showcasing the Holi festival. Based on *Raag Kafi*, the performance included compositions such as '*Aj Khelo Shyam Sang Hori*', and '*Aj Brij Mei Hori Re Rasiya*'. The performance integrated Kathak dance with folk styles, accompanied by the tabla, pakhawaj, harmonium, dholak, clap box and guitar. This event was appreciated by the hosts and the entire audience for its combination of fluency and relevance.

During the conference, two of our Science teachers attended the "Chemistry is Fun" session. Among other things, the session had fun-filled experiments to simplify difficult concepts, which the teachers could use in the classroom. Experiments to show chemical reactions in everyday products, differentiate between hard water and

soft water, luminescent insects and such were also on display. Our teachers found the experience beneficial and expressed their appreciation.

Olympiads

“Education costs money, but then so does ignorance” - Clause Moser



The International Olympiad aims to bring gifted students together in friendly competition. They also provide a stimulus for a journey into the realms of exciting intellectual challenges. Regular efforts are made in our school to encourage and prepare students to participate in various Olympiads. As a part of this initiative, the following were organized by the Science Olympiad Foundation, on our campus in the month of December

Date	Olympiad	No. of participants	Classes
3rd Dec	Science	190	I to XII
10th Dec	Social Studies	98	IV to XII
10th Dec	Commerce	60	XI and XII
12th Dec	Math	243	I to XII
20th Dec	Computer	65	V, VII, VIII and X

We are not happy at the levels of participation and success of our students and will

Waste Warriors Closing Ceremony

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" - Helen Keller



On 15th December, 13 students and two teachers attended the closing ceremony of Waste Warrior's Green Gurukul Challenge (GGC). The GGC was designed to raise awareness & build sustainable practices to solve various environmental challenges, among students. They were assigned tasks, which they had to work on from their own school and submit proof of execution. This was a month-long competition, with participation from 40 schools across Dehradun.

Our students participated in five activities which were conducted in and around our campus. The event began with speeches by members of the Waste Warrior organization after which, a video featuring a compilation of activities carried out by all the participating schools was shown. At the request of 'Waste Warriors', our students performed a street play, 'Junk Funk Fusion', which was well received by the audience. Certificates were awarded to all participating students at the end of the program. Our team returned to campus brimming with motivation to incorporate good practices of waste management into their daily routines and to participate in more such events in future.

SPIC MACAY

"Where words leave off, music begins." - Heinrich Heine



The SPIC MACAY movement endeavours to expose the rich cultural heritage to the students and youth of our country. We were honoured when, under the auspice of SPIC MACAY, Pandit Partho Sarothy, one of the finest sarod players of our country chose to perform for our students. He was accompanied by Shri Ashish Pal ji on the tabla.

The event was attended by students of classes VIII, IX, Navjeevan batches 6 & 7 and students of class XII who are pursuing Music as a subject. The artists arrived clad in crisp dhoti and kurta and took their place on stage, gently placing their instruments before them. Pt Partho addressed the students and spoke about his 55 years of journey as a student of Indian classical music. He showed and spoke about the parts of the Sarod instrument and, climbing down from the stage, mingled with the audience so that students could view the instrument closely. Shri Ashish introduced himself and familiarised the gathering with the tabla.

At the start of the program, Pt Partho made students sing musical notes while Shri Ashish performed them on the tabla. Pandit ji then played the '*Mian Ki Todī*', a raag composed by none other than the music legend Mian Tansen. The mesmerised audience listened in rapt silence, while he played with intense passion, as if praying to goddess Saraswati. He concluded his recital by playing raag *Bhairavi* and imploring students to clap to the beats in tune with the tabla.

During the Q&A session, students asked both musicians many questions about their gurus, what made them choose music as a profession, how many countries they had performed in and so on. The lively interaction continued till it was time for them to leave. Students presented them with mementoes and they graciously posed for a group photo with the audience before leaving us with mellifluous notes etched in our memory.



Special Assembly Christmas Celebration

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing loud for all to hear"

- Will Ferrel



A special assembly was held to celebrate Christmas on 21st December as it was the last day of school before vacations. It was conducted by students of Navjeevan batch 6 (NJ-6) and primary school. Young dancers took to the stage and delighted everyone with their colourful attires and refined movements. Karuna and Satish of NJ-6 followed with a mono act bringing out the significance of Christmas and

welcoming Santa Claus. Christmas carols sung joyfully by the primary choir filled the air with yuletide cheer. Our Principal addressed the gathering wishing everyone a merry festive season and happy holidays. She also lovingly implored students to read books and help parents at home during their vacation.

After the assembly, primary and middle school students carried on celebrating through class potluck parties, remembering to clean their classes before bidding adieu to each other for the winter break. Parents of students from classes IX to XII met with the teachers and received feedback on the recently conducted pre-board examinations and unit tests.



Basketball Championships

"If you can't accept losing, you can't win" - Vince Lombardi



U-17 State-Level Basketball Tournament: The Khel Mahakumbh organised by Sports Authority of Uttarakhand asked us to send a player for the U17 State-Level Basketball Tournament. Our sports teachers recommended Vikas Rana of class XI, and he was subsequently accepted as a player for team Dehradun. In tournament matches that were held at the Sports College, Dehradun, between 13th and 15th December, Team Dehradun reached the finals after defeating Team Champawat and Team Pithoragarh. In the finals, they played against Team Haridwar and emerged winners of the tournament. Vikas Rana and his teammates were awarded gold medals and certificates for their achievement.

U-14 National Basketball Championship: Five students (two girls and three boys) were selected for the state-level U-14 basketball tournament held in early December, at BHEL Stadium, Haridwar. They, along with other players were reviewed by selectors during matches, based on which Anchal of class IX was selected to play for the upcoming national level championships. Anchal accompanied Team Uttarakhand to play at the National Basketball Championship held at the SATG Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad, between 16th and 22nd December. She played five matches for Team Uttarakhand, which reached the semifinals where they lost to Team Gujarat. Representing her State and playing at the national level was a good learning experience for Anchal. We are proud of her and she will be encouraged to improve her game and do even better next time.

We are proud of...

Akash Pal, PYDS batch 2020



Akash's parents migrated from Bihar more than 15 years ago. His father worked as a mason but erratically; contributing less and less to the family as time went on. His mother joined Purkal Stree Shakti to provide for her three children. The family somehow managed to build a small enclosure of plastic sheets for themselves on unauthorised land located precariously near a seasonal brook, in Purkul village. Till recent times, their house did not even have a proper door.

Akash and his brothers were accepted as PYDS beneficiaries and all three of them have completed class XII from our school. His elder brother, Vikas is a graphic

design graduate from Pearl Academy, Delhi and is working as an Associate Graphic Designer with Esskay Beauty in Gurugram. The youngest Ashish is pursuing graduation in Computer Application from DIT University, Dehradun.

Akash joined PYDS in class III and completed class XII with science in 2020. He scored 93.8% in class XII and 91% in class X board examinations. A quiet, calm boy, Akash balanced his studies, sports and creative pursuits perfectly, making his parents and PYDS proud. He has recently been offered a placement at Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MISL) as a Graduate Engineer Trainee through campus placement.

Akash narrates his story as...“I was very happy to join PYDS, I was a bit of an introvert who liked to study, because of which I did decently well in academics. I always believed that sports were as important as studies, so I actively participated in sporting tournaments, but without compromising on academics. I was very fond of drawing and painting as well. When I was in class IV, I was selected for a state level painting competition where I won a consolation prize. It was a transformative moment for me after which I never looked back. I was consecutively selected for other state level painting competitions in classes V, VI, and VII, during which I painted on topics such as water conservation and electricity conservation. In 2017 I was chosen for a National Level Painting competition held in New Delhi, and can never forget the happy faces of my parents and teachers on that day. Even today, whenever I am free, I like to sketch.

I prepared for the government exam for defense services NDA, Navy and appeared for the SSB interview in the TES 10+2 entry but could not qualify. However, with the help of PYDS, I secured a full scholarship seat for B.Tech in Automotive Design Engineering from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies in Dehradun. I always wanted to pursue engineering as a career and was interested in learning design softwares like CATIA and Fusion 360. Going forward, I see a bright future for myself as the world is set for a boom in the production of electric vehicles, which will result in a high demand for automobile design engineers.

I am currently in my final semester and am working on my major project. The exposure at UPES has broadened my perspective and enhanced my skills. During my course, I participated in several engineering seminars and sports events held at the university. In the 2nd year of college, I played in the University Volleyball League where our team secured the runner up position. I also participated in the inter departmental Basketball Championship during the 4th year of college, in which my team won the gold medal.

Towards the end of 6th term, I got an opportunity for a Summer Internship at Hero MotoCorp Limited, Gurugram, as an Emerging Mobility Business Unit Intern. Here I learnt about the Electric Vehicle (EV) and the EV Industry. This internship gave me a glimpse of the corporate world and I had fun travelling to new places with my colleagues.

At times, I pause to reflect on the role played by PYDS in shaping me into the person I am today... The school environment fostered curiosity, critical thinking and personal development. The holistic education I received there, gave me a good academic foundation and life skills to tackle challenges of higher education. I am deeply grateful to my teachers and sponsors who believed in me and supported me, thus empowering me to accomplish my dreams. In return, I am determined to carry forward the lessons and values instilled in me and will forever strive to make a meaningful impact in the world.

Finally, I want to advise my juniors to experiment with many new things during student life. Everyone is good at something or the other; figure out what you like and do what makes you happy.”

Donate to spread smiles!

The mellow light by the winter bedside reminds us of the warm bond we share with our well wishers. Take good care of yourselves till we meet again.



Copyright © 2024 Purkal Youth Development Society, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Purkal Youth Development Society
Purkal Village
PO: Bhagwantpur
Dehradun, 248009
INDIA

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Purkal Youth Development Society · Purkal Village · PO: Bhagwantpur · Dehradun, 248009 · India