



Welcome Class I

"I believe that all children have immense potential and poverty should not hold them back" - GK Swamy



Of the 103 children in the age group of 5-6 years who appeared for the entrance test, twenty five were granted admission to class I. Thus ended the long, meticulous process of selecting needy children with the potential to learn, to be admitted to PYDS. These children and their parents came to School on March 15 for an orientation session. The children were taken to the school Uniform Store for measurement and distribution of the first set of uniforms. Parents were seated in the auditorium, where the Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth, welcomed them by saying that this was the beginning of the next phase of their responsibility towards their children's growth and future. He advised that a child's education and learnings were not the sole responsibility of the school and that the role of parents was equally important. Our Principal, Ms Diana Luji, welcomed parents on joining the PYDS family for the next 12 years.

Copies of rules, regulations, list of required documents and other information were provided to parents to read. The entire school team, comprising the Admissions Incharge, Academic Coordinator, School Nurse, and department heads of Transport, Books & Uniforms, were present to explain about their areas and respond to queries. Soon, gleeful children with their new sets of uniforms joined their parents. While walking out, elated parents looked around the campus, pointing out locations to their children saying, "*Dekho ye tumhara dining room hoga*", and so on. The sight of their happy faces will linger in memory for a very long time. Welcome, little ones, we look forward to seeing you in school.

U14 State Level Basketball Tournament

"A goal is not always meant to be reached, it often serves simply as something to aim at" - Bruce Lee



Ritik Rawat, Suraj Panwar and Nishav Rana were selected to be part of the U14 Dehradun team for the state level tournament. The boys joined the team for the matches to be held at Rishikesh International School, Rishikesh, on 16th March. Team Dehradun won two league matches to reach the semi finals, in which they defeated Team Haridwar 57-8 to encounter Team Tehri in the finals. They gave their opponents a tough fight but lost 57-31, to be declared the 'runners up'. Each player received a medal, certificate and a school bag.

Playing at the state level was an honour and a learning experience for our boys. They were under pressure to begin with, but improved with every outing. After every match, they discussed their mistakes with the coach and planned new strategies. Our boys gracefully acknowledged that the winning team played better, and have resolved to practise newer strategies and enhance their game.

Pre Holi celebrations

"Life is a canvas, and you are the painter. Add as many colors as you can to make it beautiful" - Anonymous



On the 7th of March, volunteers from Feeding India came to our campus to meet our students and have some fun together. Students of classes I to III and their teachers met the volunteers on the Sports Field, who introduced themselves and initiated the game of 'Dumb Charades'. The ice broke instantly as students gestured, trying hard to convey through expressions, while their team shouted guesses. Next, they were asked to draw and colour their favourite food. Soon enough, there was a collage of multi layered cakes, mouth watering pizza toppings, burger slices and yummy ice cream artwork. A big rope was then stretched across the ground for an exhilarating 'Tug of War', between two teams.

Finally, it was time to play with colours. Our art teacher drew a tree trunk on a large canvas. Childrens' palms were coated with a sponge dipped in different colours and they excitedly printed impressions around the tree trunk, forming multicoloured leaves. The grown ups refused to be left behind, and similarly enjoyed imprinting on the canvas. The rustle of leaves spilled the timbre of Holi, and it was hard to keep coloured hands away from friends. No one wanted the fun to end but, after gathering for a group photograph before the tree of colours, the coloured hands had to bid goodbye.

Theatre Workshop

"Theater is a verb before it is a noun, an act before it is a place"

- Martha Graham



Theatre explores finer human emotions in subtle ways, fostering profound sentiments, prodding us to step back and rethink. A workshop was organised by the Indian People's Theatre Association at Doon Library on 11th March, by artists from the National School of Drama. The entire batch of Navjeevan 7 attended it, for an exposure beyond the classroom. On reaching the venue, our students found themselves in the company of students from six other schools of Dehradun, including The Raphael Centre for differently abled children.

Students of all schools mingled, and the artists gently encouraged them in a way that even the shyest stepped out to participate. Our girls, Ambika, Kajal and Divya, who are hesitant participants in class, volunteered to perform and dance. They were applauded, and their spontaneity encouraged children from other schools to join the performance and showcase their talents. Children from the Raphael Centre, too, gradually opened up and came forward. Students communicated in gestures, using both tone and expression to convey emotions like anger, sadness and love. They acted like monkeys, birds and talked to each other like cats.

Everyone had a wonderful time and came away with new tools for communicating. They learned that all children are equal and that each one of them is talented. Children were given chocolates and certificates of participation. Two days later, in school, the NJ 7 students organised a brief presentation for the Principal, Secretary and teachers. They spoke about their experience and demonstrated fun filled activities. It was heartwarming to hear one of them say, "We were happy for the opportunity to freely interact and make friends with the differently abled children".

Bharatanatyam Workshop

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture are like a tree without roots” - Marcus Garvey



Our dance teachers were delighted when Ms Nishita Joshi offered to conduct a Bharatanatyam workshop for our students. Ms Joshi is a postgraduate in Bharatanatyam from the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai. She was warmly welcomed by our Principal, Ms Diana Luji. Facing an audience of class VI, VII and VIII students, the artiste explained that Bharatanatyam was not just a dance, but a medium for storytelling, expressing emotions and practising spirituality. She narrated the story of Natraja, the divine cosmic dancer and the Shiv Tandava dance. She also emphasised the importance of understanding the art form beyond aesthetic appreciation and promoting it as our cultural expression in the modern world.

Ms Joshi depicted the *Dashavatara* (the ten primary avatars of Vishnu) through an impressive performance. To educate the audience, she highlighted the differences in costume, style, steps and lyrics between Kathak and Bharatanatyam dance forms. Inviting boys and girls from the audience, she taught basic steps and encouraged them to repeat with expressions. The audience was enthralled, when she portrayed Krishna's '*makhan chori*' tricks through dance. She praised our boys and girls for actively participating in the performance and expressed her desire to visit us again and reach out to students who could not attend the day's performance. Students too, were elated as her way of conducting was modern and they could easily relate

with her. We are grateful to Ms Joshi for her time and look forward to receiving her again.



Activities After Final Exams

“In the moments we share our souls become one, through laughter and tears our friendship is spun” - Rupi Kaur



Once the final exams were over, students returned their textbooks for recirculation and cleaned their classrooms. Thereafter, they indulged in a number of interesting

activities to mark the end of the academic session. They had fun preparing delicious sandwiches, salads, bhelpuri and chaats of different kinds, watching movies and having Zumba dance & Yoga sessions. Some visited the Forest Research Institute and the zoo. Reading sessions were held, and all classes had potluck parties on the final day of the academic year.

Interesting workshops were conducted like the 'Climate Fresk' workshop, for class VIII, where students learned about the cause and effects of climate change through a game. A 'Trash to Treasure' activity was organised for both sections of class IX, in which students used discarded materials like cartons, paper bags, plastic bottles, soft wire, thermocol, etc to design useful products. In another activity, 'Advertisement Master', class XI students came up with innovative advertisements for products, using skits, PPTs and jingles. School closed for one week before reopening for the 2025-26 session, giving students a short break to rejuvenate.

Exploring through Treks

"Through hills and vales, together we go, in the joy of our travels, we will grow"



Two treks were chosen this year for the annual excursion of class XI; Nag Tibba and the Kush Kalyan.

The Nag Tibba Trek

Thirty three students went for a six day trek to Nag Tibba. Resting at 3022 meters, the Nag Tibba peak summit offers a panoramic view of snow-capped Himalayan ranges. Students bussed to Thatyur and hiked 16 kilometers from there to reach the Devalsari base camp. On reaching, they were briefed about the rich biodiversity of the region that is home to numerous species of bees and butterflies, by Mr Arun Prasad a keen naturalist.

Students were divided into two groups for ease of managing, each headed by an experienced guide. They visited the Ontar village, where they learned about the prevalent architecture in the mountains and the manner in which structures are built to adapt to the geographical vagaries of the region. The next morning on their climb towards Nag Tibba, students walked through thick vegetation, hearing facts and stories about the region. The guides pointed out the native flora and fauna, narrating interesting facts about them. Students collected trash on the way in garbage bags to mark their gratitude towards mother nature. They also visited the Devalsari temple before pitching tents at the Nag Tibba base camp.

Evening was fun as students went out in pairs to explore nearby areas, fetch firewood and gather around bonfires. They were always mindful of not making noise or leaving scraps of food, to maintain the sanctity of the surroundings. The absence of electricity helped them to detox from electronic media, and the scarcity of water taught them to be judicious with natural resources. Stunning views of the snow capped Himalayan range, that changed hues rapidly in the pristine light of dawn, awaited students when they climbed the summit in the wee hours of 20th March.

Time flew, but memories were made, students walked till Thatyur to board the bus homeward. Everyone was home by evening, their tanned, beaming faces giving away much, even before their chatter began.

The arduous trek pushed students to break boundaries, thus enhancing their confidence. The excursion was also a lesson in minimalism that made students realise that 'less is more'. The need to conserve and respect nature was magnified, just as the bonds of friendship were. Teachers rated the overall learning experience as excellent. It taught students many historical, mythological and scientific facts. The challenges thrown during the trek were tests of endurance that were passed with flying colours. In every way, it was an experience to be cherished forever.



The Kush Kalyan Trek

What better way to celebrate the end of final exams than embarking on a trek to Kush Kalayan, situated at an elevation of 3556 meters. To traverse through lush vegetation, sipping the serene greenery, bedecked with wild flowers, butterflies and the mellifluous call of birds.

Given the difficult trek, preparations began a month in advance, when 9 girls and 8 boys were selected to go for a run every morning to build stamina. They were given a list of essentials to take along and briefed about the purpose, geography, logistics, etc. Students were asked to submit a certificate of medical fitness and a letter of consent from parents. All members going on the trek were insured for injury and rescue. A unique feature of planning was that a leader and deputy leader were appointed for each day, starting from the eve of departure. All leaders were girls, and boys were deputies. To ensure timely departure, day scholars were

accommodated in the school hostels one day in advance. All kits were checked to make sure that everything was in place.

NIM

The group started by 5:00 am on the 17th of March from PYDS campus and reached NIM (Nehru Institute of Mountaineering), Uttarkashi, by 12:30 pm. Col Anshuman Bhadauria, Principal of NIM, met our students and briefed them about the importance of physical fitness and discipline. Students visited the Himalaya Museum, on campus which richly displays information on wildlife, rare Himalayan stones, rivers, glaciers and mountaineering equipment. Students saw personal materials and equipment used by some of the prominent mountaineers. They found the geographical pattern of the Himalayan River glacier, through interactive devices and information about mountaineering techniques and mountaineers, very interesting.

Stargazing

On reaching Uttarkashi main bazar, the party was driven to the Silla base camp in jeeps. After settling down and gathering around a bonfire, the guides gave an interesting discourse on stargazing, pointing out constellations in the clear sky. The next morning, students got into groups of three while trekking and thoroughly enjoyed the journey. They heard stories and facts narrated by the guides about the forest, birds, butterflies and flowers on the way. The aha moments were when they spotted a musk deer and the monal bird. Evenings were chill time when students collected fire wood and gathered around a bonfire to play games and discuss plans for the next day.

Moody Weather

At times the weather got moody with rain and snow, pushing everyone inside tents. Trek plans had to be altered accordingly, for example, the climb to Kush Kalyan was stopped a kilometer short, due to the snowclad slippery terrain. On their way back, when the snow was too soft to walk on, children had a hilarious time sliding down back to Papuda. The wet shoes and clothes failed to dampen their mood and back at camp, they happily huddled around a bonfire, having lunch while drying themselves.

Adventure Sports

A day at Papuda was assigned for adventure sports during which students learnt and participated in activities such as single jumar climbing on a rock face and double jumar climbing on trees. They were shown and taught to use various kinds of

mountaineering equipment and rope knots. Everyone had lots of fun and in spite of some apprehensions, they tried all activities.

Working together

Everyone contributed in one way or another, by setting up tents, gathering firewood and fetching water. When time permitted, students enjoyed preparing stuffed parathas for the entire group. Children learnt to set up and dismantle two types of tents, the 'dome' and the 'frame' tents. The guides took a slightly difficult route while returning for the sake of a varied experience. Back at Silla, some students went out to speak with villagers and spread the PYDS word, while the boys joined the locals for a game of cricket.

Well Done Students!

Our students were praised by the guides for their discipline and stamina, especially that of the girls. They said that ours was one of the best groups they had ever seen. On the last day, before boarding the homebound bus, students visited the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Uttarkashi main market. Everyone slept like logs on the way back home, tired but content.

The leading teams, formed at the beginning of the trip, were lauded for their efficiency that went well beyond expectations. Each team executed tasks assigned to them with innovation and dedication. They assisted and cheered their colleagues constantly, planning meticulously and winning one day at a time. Smooth sailing throughout the trek was attributed to the excellent strategies devised by the teachers and student leaders. Challenges such as unexpected snowfall, waterproof gear, snow friendly shoes, climbing sticks etc, were improvised in good spirit and everyone returned safe and happy. A lifetime of memories were made and students brushed up on critical thinking, decision making, teamwork, time management and to stretch their limits.

The teachers in the group were thrilled with the outcome. They shared their views as under:

Abhishek Sir- *"It was an excellent opportunity for honing discipline and leadership qualities. The 6 day trek was not just a test of physical endurance, it was also an exercise in character and confidence building."*

Ajay Sir- *"We got to know the children closely and they got to know us. Teachers and students developed precious camaraderie, memories of which will be cherished for a lifetime."*

Meenu Ma'am- *"I am very happy with the outcome. Time, money and efforts were*

well spent and there was no conflict of any kind. I highly recommend the trek for another batch."



Donate to spread smiles!

As nature transitions from Spring to Summer, we too are gearing up to spend more time indoors. We will continue to send cool pictures and would love to hear from you. Until next time, take care!



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