



Annual Day

If I cannot learn the way you teach, please teach me the way I learn.

Our 10th Annual Day was celebrated on campus with zeal and enthusiasm. The chief guests for the occasion were Mrs. Vanita Raheja, Managing Director Business Services, Swarovski India and Mr. Subrato Roy, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications PR & CSR, HDFC Life Insurance.

The overarching theme of the event, 'Chrysalis to Butterfly', was displayed through a blend of displays and performances. Enthralling exhibitions and

dance dramas by the primary, middle and senior school students was the canvas through which the school displayed its key pedagogies. Our visitors received a red carpet welcome through a replica of India Gate built by the students, after which they entered exhibitions that took them on a mesmerising museum walk right through the stone age up to modern India . They moved through model village exhibitions, modern banking technology replicas, home applications, mushroom farms, all of which became tools for children to communicate their learning.

The walk through led to our cultural program in the auditorium. Here, two dolls, Shakti and Lakshya, personifying PYDS students, took the audience on a journey. The narrative of the dance drama moved from a village home to the inspirational life journey of Savitri and Jyotirao Phule, the pioneers of women's education in India. The act concluded with the story of a student who struggled to relate with conventional classroom learning but blossomed in the environs of Experiential Learning. As a climax to the whole event, Shakti and Lakshya fly to the end of the auditorium having metamorphosed into butterflies.



Selection of Navjeevan Batch V Students

We may not be able to educate every child, but we can make a difference.

'Navjeevan' is an ambitious program in which we admit children aged between nine and eleven from remote mountainous areas with significant learning gaps. They are put through an *accelerated learning program* that focuses on life and social skills, English language proficiency and conceptual Mathematics and Science. This enables them to join mainstream students in a period of twelve to eighteen months.

This year a five member staff team explored the villages in district Pauri Garhwal to select children from needy and deserving families. With a view to gaining their comfort and confidence so as to enable them to send their little

children into the PYDS family, we arranged and paid for them to visit PYDS and get a first hand feel of things. The visit was successful and all of them signed up to admit their children, giving us a batch strength of 18 in Navjeevan V. We are now running two batches of Navjeevan (IV and V) simultaneously for the first time ever.



Simple Living High Thinking

PYDS belongs to all of us and it is our responsibility. I belong to PYDS but do not own it. - G. K. Swamy

Such was the humility and simplicity of our founder, Mr. G.K Swamy. He was fondly remembered on his 86th birth anniversary by the PYDS family. The occasion was graced by his wife, Mrs. Chinni Swamy, who lit a lamp before his portrait on the Donor Wall. After having breakfast with the staff and students, she was led to the sports field where the teachers and children presented a flash mob sequence. Students paid homage to Swamy Sir in the true sense by cleaning the school campus and its adjoining areas.



Educational trip to Delhi

I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. - M. K. Gandhi

It is our conviction, that in itself, classroom teaching is not complete and it is important to expose students to various external experiences that help them gain perspective.

Fifty children and five teachers of Class VI set out on a four day educational trip to Delhi in the last week of September. For many students it was their first time out of Dehradun.

The theme of the trip was history and culture. The group visited the Qutub Minar, Jantar Mantar, India Gate, War Memorial, Science City, Railway Museum, Planetarium, Zoo, Habitat Centre, Akshardham and Bahai temples. The young minds absorbed the experiences and learning like sponges and had a volley of questions for their teachers. The children recounted and wrote about their experiences at the end of the day, and had short rounds of quiz.

The trip taught them valuable lessons in discipline, teamwork, independence and adapting to a new environment.



MUN

The Earth has enough to fulfil everyone's needs, but not enough for everyone's greed... - M. K. Gandhi

Model United Nations or MUN is a fine facsimile of the United Nations. It is a co-curricular activity with an academic tilt, where students roleplay as delegates of different countries. While our students have attended MUNs in the past, it was the first time a team of twelve students participated in the event hosted by Himjyoti School.

There were six committees in total, comprising two students from each school representing the countries assigned to them. Our team got the second highest number of votes out of 15 participating schools and Shakshi Negi of our team was declared the Best Speaker of her committee.



Chief Guest - Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria PVSM, AVSM, VM
The Chairman, Welham Boys' School - Mr. Darshan Singh
Principal, Welham Boys' School - Mrs. Sangeeta Kain

Military History Seminar

***"I regret I have but one life to give for my country". - Flying Officer
Prem Ramchandani***

Twelve students with their teacher in-charge attended the Military History Seminar held at Welham Boys' School, Dehradun. The two day event celebrated inspiring sagas of the Indian Armed Forces. Eminent officers (veterans & serving) from Army, Airforce and Navy graced the event. Their talks filled young minds and hearts with the patriotic spirit.

In the words of Riya Sharma Class XI, who is an aviation aspirant - *"Two days of Military History Seminar at Welham Boys' School was a roller coaster ride. We were divided in different syndicate sessions and each one of them turned out to be full of knowledge for us. Many questions were answered and have become lessons of duty towards our Motherland. This was a golden opportunity and I was fortunate to be a part of the seminar."*



Distribution of Winter Jackets

If we had no winter, spring would not be so pleasant.

Winters are long and harsh in the hilly environs of Purkal Village. Our students are between 6 to 18 years of age and exposed to long winters as the school has only 2 weeks of winter break. Last year, the children were provided with insulated puffer jackets. This year a need was felt for insulated track jackets since students wear Sports Uniform 3 days a week and these were provided to all 501 students in November ahead of the onset of the winter chill.



Mutlifloor Store cum Toilet Project

The Multi Floor Store cum Toilet block, construction of which commenced in September 2022, will meet a gaping shortfall in the hygiene infrastructure of the School. The present six cubicle toilet facility, built 12 years ago, has become completely insufficient.

Construction work has progressed at a consistent pace. The lower ground floor allocated for the Store and workshop is complete and in the process of being occupied. Structure of columns, roofs and staircase for the first and second floors is also complete.

The entire block, when complete, will house 10 urinals, 5 boys toilets, 18 girls and 6 lady staff toilets.



Progress of Girls Hostel Extension Block

We have to teach our girls that they can reach as high as humanly possible. - Beyonce Knowles

The construction of the Girls Hostel extension recommenced in September this year. The project had been paused for relocating overhead cables that went above the project site. In the first phase, the ground and first floors of the Hostel were completed. Columns, roof and staircase structure of the second floor have now been constructed. Each floor of the building will have a girls dormitory with a capacity of twelve with two washrooms as well as a warden room with an attached washroom.



Cover Story

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Rishabh's life is an ideal example of balance between vocation and avocation. Over the week, he works as a Site Planner and Project Execution Engineer at Tata Power Solar, Gurugram. During weekends he is a regular participant in music concerts as a tabla player. This satiates his passion for playing the instrument together with providing an additional stream of income. He recounts his experience as a student of PYDS for eight years and beyond as follows...

The journey is by no means short for a stream that becomes a river, equally arduous is the journey that merges the river into the ocean; likewise, I am but a drop in the ocean of music that is so dear to me. It was a constant struggle for my father to provide for me and my four siblings. Being the youngest, my education was extremely limited until I joined PYDS. Here I received comprehensive care encompassing education, nutrition and health that helped me grow dramatically in academics and sports. The exposure at PYDS coupled with interaction with other students from different backgrounds, gave me an insight into the different perspectives and cultures. I developed self esteem, confidence and leadership qualities. It was the ideal space to inculcate moral values that helped me become a better human being.

I completed my Bachelor's degree in Renewable Energy from Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra with full scholarship support from PYDS, and secured a position at Tata Power Solar as a Site Planner and Project Execution Engineer. Working with Tata I simultaneously completed my post graduation degree in Renewable Energy. The journey was not easy, but it taught me valuable lessons.

My taste for music developed during early school days, when as part of the choir, I played various musical instruments. However, I took my interest in Tabla further

by pursuing a full time bachelor's degree program. Managing tabla classes with a job was a challenge but I accomplished it. I am very grateful to my Guruji Shri Deepak Bhardwaj, who introduced me to Tabla. The idiom, 'Where there's a will there's a way', rings absolutely true for me as I used to walk 11 kms every Sunday with the pair of tablas slung on my shoulder to take classes from my Guruji.

Rishabh Jain, PYDS Batch 2016

Donation request for Quilts

Winter nights in Purkal are long and severe. Given their sizes and natural ventilation, hostel dormitories are particularly cold at night. These currently house 81 girls and 35 boys, primarily children of families resident in distant locations

Their quilts are worn out owing to usage and need to be replaced quickly. A total of 120 quilts is required. Each new quilt would cost us Rs 1,050, making our total requirement Rs 1,26,000.

Support from a kind donor has helped us raise Rs 21,000 to cover 20 quilts. We humbly request your generous support towards meeting this need.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Take care till we see you again in our next edition.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Be a Santa!



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