

“Gold and mellow the sunshine streams  
preading smiles and sparkling dreams”



Your Purkal Journal  
November 2024

## tGELF Competitions

*"Let your passion lead you, to wherever it wants to"*



Every year, The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (tGELF) brings together middle & high school students from across India through a series of competitions. The results are out for the two competitions in which our students participated.

I. The **Reel to Real Competition** was open for classes IX to XI. Participants had to produce a five minute film on the theme, 'Dreams In Colour'. Four students of our Photography Club brainstormed and wrote a script, naming their film *Udaan: Beyond Threshold*. It was about a girl who achieved her dream by believing in herself and making persistent efforts. Students did a commendable job by shooting the entire film on a phone camera within the school campus, on zero budget.

In a field of sixty entries, their film was selected for the final round, which was held over a Zoom Meeting where all shortlisted films were played. Each producing team had to introduce their entry in two minutes. The nail biting suspense ended when *Udaan* was declared the winner, and awarded as the 'Best Movie of the Year'. The jury praised Team PYDS for their spontaneous dialogue delivery and innovative script.



II. In the **Magic with Colours Competition**, participants had to upload a scanned version of their sketch/ painting on the theme, 'Harmony with AI'. The idea was to investigate the future of artificial intelligence in enhancing human life, addressing ethical considerations and imagining a world where humans and AI coexist in harmony.

Three of our students from class VIII submitted their artwork; of which Ishika Bhardwaj's painting was among the best 35 entries from all over India, to reach the finals. The final round took place over Zoom on 29th November, in which the artwork

of all finalists was shown. They had to elaborate on the concept and message of their creation. Ishika made a good presentation and her work was appreciated by the judges for its creative execution and good workmanship.

## **Class IX Trip to Agra and Jaipur**

*"I do not own an inch of land, but all I see is mine"*

*- Lucy Larcom*



Every year, outstation trips are organised to expose students to the thrill and experience of travelling together and visiting places of interest. On 10th November, 39 students of class IX along with six teachers excitedly left for a trip to Agra and Jaipur. The party travelled by bus, enjoying every bit of their journey chattering, singing songs and making merry. Upon reaching Agra in the evening they were hosted by the 60 Para Army Unit. Over the next two days, students visited the historical monuments of the city, starting with the Taj Mahal. A guide showed them around the monument pointing out the motifs and features for them to appreciate the characteristics of Mughal architecture. The group also visited the Agra Fort, Emperor Akbar's Tomb at Sikandra and Fatehpur Sikri. At Fatehpur Sikri they saw historical structures like the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Salim Chishti and the Panch Mahal, each reflecting the brilliant architecture of the bygone era. On the eve of their

departure to Jaipur, students browsed around Sadar Bazar and bought the famous Agra ka petha, which they happily shared amongst themselves.

After two days of fun in Agra, the party advanced to Jaipur. They took a break at Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary and explored the Amer Fort, before settling down in Jaipur. The next day, they set out to tour the prominent buildings such as the Jantar Mantar, City Palace, Hawa Mahal and Albert Hall Museum. Students attended a cultural program by the Rajasthan Tourism Department that showcased the vibrant traditions of the state. On 14th, after returning from city excursions, teachers surprised the students with a cake and dance party after dinner, to celebrate Children's Day. As no trip is complete without visiting the market, students went to Bapu Market where they bought bright Jaipuri dupattas, juttis, kurtas and bracelets. At Masala Chowk they were given ₹500 to spend per group of five. It was fun watching them scouring the menu and debating their selections to order mouth watering dishes within the budget. Dal Bati Churma was unanimously declared the best of all.

Just as all good things come to an end, the tour too was over and the group turned homewards. Bonds of friendship were strengthened between students, as they explored new cities, played games and sang on top of their lungs. It was also a lesson in budgeting precious travel money and adjusting in new environments. The important lesson they learnt was the comparison they were able to draw between the Mughal and Rajput cultures, architecture and the rich history of Agra and Jaipur cities. Back at school, they gave a presentation before the Principal and teachers, enumerating their experiences dotted with mirthful anecdotes that created memories for a lifetime.



## Diwali Programs for Hostel Students

*“Sing for the laughter & dance for the day, let’s stay together, just for today”*



On account of their homes being distant, and journeys being both time consuming and expensive, not all our hostel students were able to go home during the short Diwali break. A number of activities were organised to keep these 40 students

happy and busy. On the first day they were taken on a trek to a nearby farm, where they played games such as kho-kho, dodgeball in the open green, sunlit space. The next day was Diwali, students were divided into four groups to compete in Rangoli and Diya Decoration competitions. Groups vied with each other and created colourful rangolis and diyas that provided a perfect backdrop for the evening celebrations, when exuberant students gathered to light eco-friendly firecrackers.

As many of our students have aspirations to join the National Defence Academy, the next visit was to the Indian Military Academy, where they went for a guided tour around the campus where they were visibly in awe of the smart cadets going through their training drills. At the Shaheed Memorial Museum they saw war weapons and photographs of soldiers in action. Students returned with renewed feelings of pride for their country, with even more determination to join the NDA.

The wide range of interesting activities during Diwali break kept the students happy and busy, giving them a sense of both festivities and new experiences.

## Children's Day

*"Like gentle streams beneath our feet, innocence and virtue meet"*

*- William Blake*



Children's Day began with teachers conducting the morning assembly in place of students. Ms Aakriti Barthawal and Ms Priyanka Chamoli opened the assembly by

cheerfully wishing the students on the occasion. The teachers gathered and sang the hymn, 'Vah Shakti Hume Do Dayanidhe', they presented The Thought of the Day, An Interesting Fact and read the News Headlines. They enthusiastically sang a song 'Bum-Bum Bole' to entertain the children.

Most appreciated was a lovingly self written poem by our Hindi Teacher Ms Priyanka Chamoli.

PYDS के बच्चे है ये PYDS बच्चे  
मन के बहुत सच्चे है ये प्यारे प्यारे बच्चे  
अकल में थोड़े कच्चे है पर लगते बहुत है अच्छे  
PYDS के बच्चे है ये PYDS बच्चे  
नाचते गाते धूम मचाते, जहां भी जाते जीत के आते  
अपनी छवी से, मोहक हँसी से, सबका मन बहलाते  
जब भी देखो इनके चेहरे, फूलों से खिलखिलाते  
हर गलती को खुद स्वीकारे, मन के है ये सच्चे  
PYDS के बच्चे है ये PYDS बच्चे  
नवजीवन से आते है ये, मेन स्ट्रीम बन जाते  
क्यों, क्या, कैसे, पूछ पूछ के अपना ज्ञान बढ़ाते  
अपने अपने अभिनय से ये सबके मन को भाते  
मुश्किल काम को आसा करदे, एक्सपर्ट बन जाते  
जो भी करते मन से करते, होनहार ये सच्चे  
PYDS के बच्चे है ये PYDS बच्चे

With a view to conveying their love and affection for the students, teachers also hosted a special lunch for the entire school.

## Poetry Writing Workshop

*"The poet is the sayer, the namer, and represents beauty"*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Ms Mridula Deol, a professional creative writing teacher, conducted her second workshop at PYDS for the benefit of our students. She coached students of classes IV, V and members of the English Creative Writing Club on the poetic forms: acrostic, limerick and cinquains, explaining each one's meaning and features, and providing relevant examples to aid their learning. Further she elaborated on figures of sound such as alliteration and onomatopoeia and figures of speech like metaphor, personification, simile and rhyme. Students were divided into groups and allowed 10 minutes to compose limericks on the theme of 'nature'. Two students happily read out their compositions for everyone. As homework, students were to compose a poem on nature, using two imagery words from a list. In her feedback she advised that the creativity and spontaneity of students was impressive.

## **Talk by DRDO Scientist**

*"The science of today is the technology of tomorrow"*

*- Edward Teller*





On 30th November, Mr Dhananjay Upadhyay, a scientist from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), gave a talk to students of classes IX to XII about his organisation. He began by explaining the vision, mission and history of DRDO, tracing its progress to the present when it has grown to become a network of laboratories, engaged in developing defence technologies across numerous disciplines. Further, he familiarised students with career opportunities at DRDO and its recruitment process. To facilitate their understanding, he also screened a documentary on DRDO. When asked by students as to what has been DRDO's biggest achievement, he pointed to the development of nuclear power.

Keen on arousing students' interest in mathematics, Mr Upadhyay demonstrated its correlation with nature and everyday life. He explained that the language of mathematics is universal and that its study helps develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. He also demonstrated the manner in which Math plays a significant role across multiple disciplines such as social science, natural science, humanities, engineering and technology. He further explained why mathematics is considered difficult; and elaborated how on the contrary, it actually makes everything around us easy.

At the end of his interesting and wide ranging talk, Society Secretary, Mr Anoop Seth, thanked him for imparting valuable knowledge and presented him a painting made by our students as a token of gratitude.

## English Olympiad

*"The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead" - Aristotle*



The Olympiad movement aimed to bring the most gifted students together in a friendly competition of the highest level. They help to boost confidence and enhance academic performance of students. On 8th November, the annual English Olympiad was held on our campus in which 200 students from classes I to XII participated. Among them were 10 class I students, who were appearing for the first time. Earlier, students had been prepared by teachers by showing them the correct way of filling OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) sheets and familiarising them with the overall process. During the exam, teachers were present to help students with queries and to ensure a smooth process, especially for the first timers. Results of the Olympiad are expected within the next two months.

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## Inter-School Robotics Competition

*"Experimentation with instruments only does not make one a scientist, to me scientific mind makes one a real scientist" - Tagore*



We are proud of having a well equipped Tinkering Lab where, among other new technologies and applications, our students have been learning robotics. They were super excited when they heard about the Inter-School Robotics Competition to be held at Maa Anandmayee Memorial School, Dehradun. On 23rd November six of our students took part in the event, which saw participation from a total of eleven schools.

Amrit Yadav and Manav Khatri of class IX entered the 'Fastest Line Follower' event in which teams had to bring their pre-assembled robot and race it on a given track. Our team reached the finishing point in 36 seconds only, beating the second team by a huge margin of 1 minute 4 seconds. The judges applauded our students with inspiring words of praise.

Tanisha of class IX and Vansh Wadhwa of class XII participated in the 'Robo Race', in which participants had to navigate their robots on an obstacle track. Our team claimed the 2nd position in this event.

For the 'Robo War', the bots were provided by the host school. Participants had to knock the opponent's bot out of the arena and survive till the end. Anushka Thakur of class IX and Anshuman Rana of class XI represented our school in this event and put up a strong fight against their opponents.

## Puppet Making Workshop

*“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up” - Pablo Picasso*



A Puppet Making Workshop was conducted during the Children's Art Exhibition, held in the 3rd week of November at the Doon Library and Research Centre, Dehradun. Six students of class VII participated in this workshop.

The renowned puppet artist Mr Ramlal Bhatt showcased a collection of handmade puppets in different Indian cultural attires such as Rajasthani and Kumaoni. He elaborated on the origin of puppets in Rajasthan, explaining how they are deeply embedded in the region's heritage and storytelling traditions. He demonstrated the art of puppet-making for the young attendees, introducing an easy method of folding newspapers and securing them with threads to shape them into puppets. Students were given an hour to craft, during which they made five puppets: a doll, giraffe, bird, scarecrow and a butterfly. In doing so they enjoyed practising the new technique and were happy with their creations.

Before leaving, the students were offered a chance to get their faces painted. The girls chose vibrant butterfly and floral motifs, while the boys opted for striking scorpion designs on their necks.

## Book Launch

*“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it; it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it” - Anonymous*



On the 17th of November, six students and two English teachers went for a book launch at Hotel Madhuban, Dehradun. The book was “Yodha II: the Illustrated Military History of India”, authored by Shiv Kunal Verma an eminent military historian. The book includes a rich collection of over 1,600 illustrations, paintings, and photographs spanning the military history of India from ‘The Crown (1858) to The Kargil War (1999)’. The author explained that the objective behind the book was to bring India’s military history to life and to help readers understand its geographical canvas. He also pointed to the wide range of topics covered in the book including the rise of Marathas and the power struggle between the French and the British.

It was an insightful speech for our students, at the end of which they met the author and happily posed for a picture with him.

## International Pakhawaj Day

*"Music fills the infinite between two souls"*

*- Rabindranath Tagore*

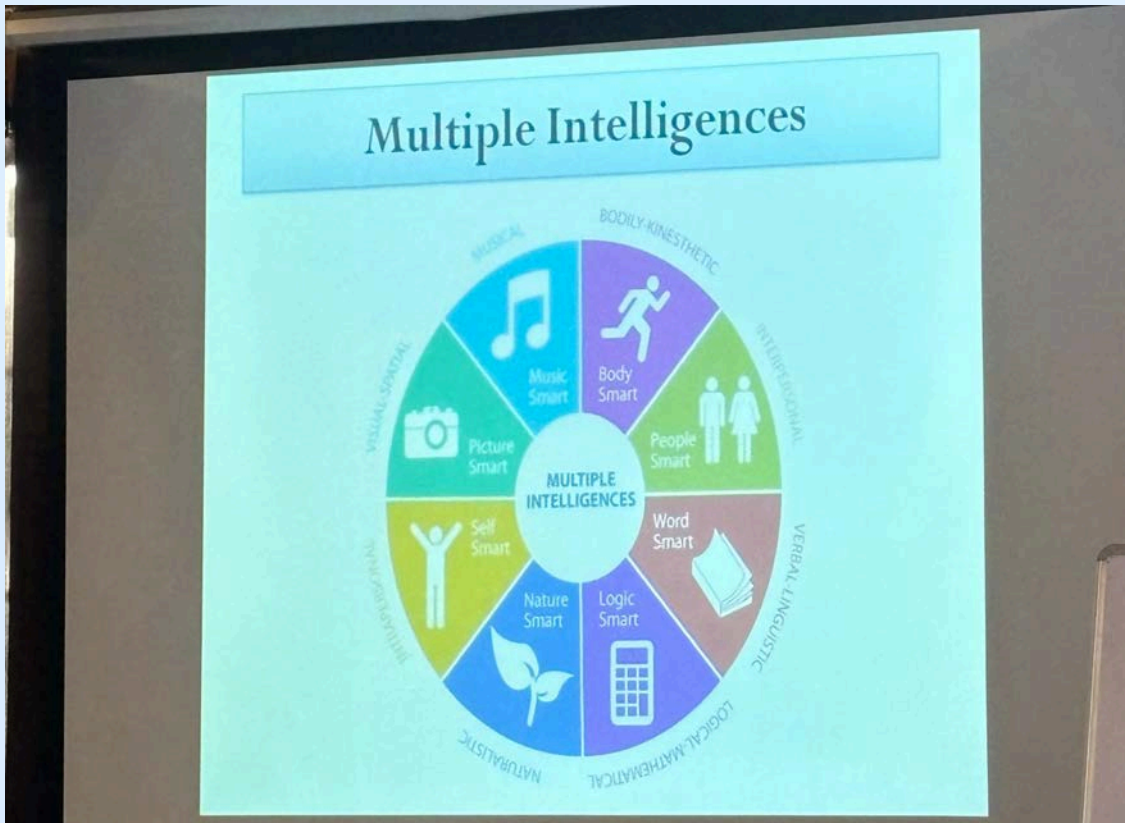


It has been our privilege that five of our students are receiving pakhawaj classes from Pandit Santosh Das Namdev. Panditji is India's renowned pakhawaj player and founder of the International Mridang Sansthan in Haridwar. He organised the International Pakhawaj Mahotsav on 17th November at Shantikunj, Haridwar, in which 32 participants, including the five students from our school, performed in unison for 45 minutes. The performance began with the recitation of pakhawaj bol followed by their instrument rendition. They also played compositions such as the Ganesh Vandana, Saraswati Vandana and other bandish pieces.

The event was attended by more than 250 people. Our Society Secretary and Principal were in the audience to support and encourage our students and witness the fruits of their dedication. The mellifluous performance was a great experience for the audience, as the ensemble included children as young as 6 years. The dedication and talent of the young pakhawaj players was warmly applauded. At the conclusion of the event, participating students were awarded certificates. Back on campus, pakhawaj playing students narrated their experiences, inspiring others to explore and appreciate traditional Indian music.

## Social Science Capacity Building Program

*"Everything must be made as simple as possible. But not simpler"*



A two day Social Science Capacity Building Program was conducted for School Teachers on 19th and 20th November at the Asian Public School, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun. It was attended by 55 participants from various schools of Dehradun and nearby areas. Our Social Science teachers, Ms Jyoti Dangwal and Ms Aakriti Barthwal, attended the workshop.

The workshop focused on aligning students' assessments with their learning objectives, refining their pedagogy, critical thinking and problem solving skills. A comprehensive discussion was held on interdisciplinary projects, types of questions and intricacies of the marking scheme. Emphasis was placed on enhancing student engagement through innovative teaching practices. Attendees were encouraged to collaborate and revolutionise teaching methods to promote captivating, interactive and creative learning experiences. Our teachers found the workshop beneficial, as it gave them a platform to exchange ideas and acquire practical tools for enhancing their teaching practices.

## Sports

*“Reach high, for stars lie hidden in you. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.” - Tagore*





Khel Mahakumbh is a platform where people of all ages get an opportunity to participate in a variety of sports events. The competitions are structured in levels of Nyaya Panchayat, Block, and District, with a restriction that participants can compete in only one event. Several of our students cleared the Nyaya Panchayat and Block level competitions in multiple sports and qualified for the District level.

The U14 District level matches were played at the Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur, Dehradun on 19th and 20th November. Rittik Rawat of class VII won a silver medal in long jump. Our Girls Volleyball Team played two matches but could not advance to the semi-finals. Two students of class XII played the District Level U20 Table Tennis matches held at Parade Ground, Dehradun, in which Komal Bisht won the silver and Rishabh Pundir won the bronze medal.

Three students represented our school at the U-16 State Basketball Championship held at BHEL Ground, Haridwar, between 6th and 8th November. Himani of class VIII A and Renu of class XI B played for Girls Team Dehradun and their team won the gold medal. As members of the winning team, Himani and Renu received individual trophies as well. Devraj of class XI B was a part of the Mussoorie Boys Team. His team lost in the quarter finals to team Haridwar. All participants received certificates and are likely to be considered for the National level selections.

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We are proud of...

**Rupali Chaudhary, PYDS batch 2020**



Rupali joined PYDS in 2010 in class III. After completing class XII, she joined Shoolini University for Bsc (Hons) in Zoology and is now working as an Education Officer at Friendicoes Seca, Gurgaon. She narrates her story as:

My family consists of my parents and younger brother. My father is a caretaker of a farmhouse in Bhitarli village. My mother works in Stree Shakti. My brother was also a PYDS student. Our village is surrounded by a forest with a little stream running through it. Flash floods and landslides are common during monsoons. It was very difficult for my brother and me to catch the school bus during such times. We had to

walk 20 minutes each way for the school bus amidst fear of wild animals.

Studying at PYDS was the best thing that could have happened to me. I was part of various clubs and activities in school and made the best of every opportunity that came my way. I took part in inter school, district and state level competitions of essay writing, Hindi recitation, painting, science quiz, Sanskrit plays, various sports, etc.

I made my parents proud for the first time when my team won the gold medal in the U18 basketball state level competition. I was part of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering adventure course in 2019, where I bagged silver medals in both the cross country and obstacle race. It was my privilege to be the Sports Captain of the school when I was in class XII. I was also a part of the team that headed the biodiversity club. As my house was surrounded by a jungle, I observed the trees, plants and animals with keen interest but was unable to identify them. Through the biodiversity club I learnt to identify various kinds of flora and fauna.

PYDS helped me secure a scholarship seat at Shoolini University to study BSc (Hons) in Zoology . For 3 years I studied the physiology and anatomy of animals, including their behaviour. In the labs, our class studied organisms under the microscope, learned to differentiate plant and animal cells, cultivated bacteria, identified antibiotics for them and much more. I was also a part of the Shoolini sports team and went for All India Inter University Korfball tournaments to Pune and Jaipur. I worked as an academic counsellor at Shoolini University from January to December 2023. My job was to counsel students to decide a career path and clearing the doubts of parents. I also helped students to apply and fill forms for admissions and scholarships. I also took new students for campus tours, showed them their classrooms, hostels and introduced them to the faculty. I also worked in the Registrar's Office and assisted in compiling students' details, file and register them.

In May this year, I landed my dream job at Friendicoes Seca, an NGO that helps in the rehabilitation, treatment and neutering of domestic animals. Here we have about 2000 abandoned animals that are receiving treatment for various diseases. I am lucky to have done a 'Therapy Dog' course and become a part of the program that finds good homes for abandoned dogs. This is being headed by Shirin Dhabhar ma'am, who is India's first Canine Behaviorist and a dog trainer for 'Assist Dogs'. In November, I attended a dog training program in Bangalore headed by her, where I

learnt types of training methods.

I am very grateful to PYDS as for eleven years they helped me become what I am today. All these things that I have achieved today wouldn't have been possible without them. When I was at home for a brief time in April, I was happy to take the hostel students of PYDS on a trip to Lachhiwala Nature Park, to observe a variety of birds, butterflies, and trees. As an ex-student of PYDS, I implore my juniors to make the best of all opportunities, as you never know when they may come handy. Your school is the best platform to sharpen your skills and shape your dreams. Speaking about my future, I wish earnestly to dedicate my life for the welfare of the voiceless beings.

**Donate to spread smiles!**

**Gold and mellow the sunshine streams, spreading smiles and sparkling dreams.**

**Take care of yourselves dear friends till next time 🌻**



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