

*Come and see us sing and dance
And beckon our dreams with open eyes*



Your Purkal Journal
October 2024

Sports Week

"You don't have to be so tough that it doesn't hurt, you just have to be tough enough not to quit" - Anonymous



Our much awaited Annual Sports Week was held between 4 - 11 October. While the competition was among the four School Houses: Amaltas, Dhaak, Gulmohar and Kachnar, it presented an opportunity for all students to participate in a variety of events. The first day kicked off with the - "Off to School, Three Legged, Helping Mom, Kick the Ball and Jalebi" races, for the students of Primary and Navjeevan. On the second day, the entire school ran the Marathon. The running distance was class wise with the longest stretch being for classes XI and XII. Thereafter, the events moved to a field generously made available by a neighbourhood school. Track events, shot put, and kabaddi matches were played there in the mornings amid lots of excitement. Table tennis, volleyball, basketball, badminton and chess matches were played on campus in the afternoons. Medals and certificates were awarded to the first three winners.

The House Winner Trophy this year was lifted by Amaltas (Yellow) House. The happy events concluded with a friendly tug-of-war between students and the staff. Our Principal, Ms Diana Luji appreciated the participants and the event organising team for conducting a successful Sports Week.

12th Annual Day

"Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action"

- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam



We celebrated our 12th Annual Day enthusiastically on the 28th and 29th of October, on our campus. Drawing inspiration from Dr Kalam's biography, Wings of Fire, exhibits and events were woven around the theme, 'The Power of Dreams'. A range of unique and interesting exhibitions were displayed by the Activity Clubs - Creative Writing, Diverse Design, Literature, Nature, Philately and Robotics, showcased their efforts and the learning of their members. The Video Editing Club screened short films produced by our students that drew much attention, as did the ceramic pieces created by the young members of the Pottery Club. To prepare for the occasion, the campus and its surroundings were cleaned thoroughly by students. Art students spruced up the place with colourful batik hangings and created an attractive photo point with elements of the various activity clubs.

All was set before the arrival of the Chief Guest, Capt. Shanthi S, Project Director, Infosys Foundation. She was warmly welcomed and shown around all the exhibits, during which she encouraged students for their efforts. Thereafter, she addressed the gathering of guests, parents and students, sharing her inspirational journey to the first women's batch of the Indian Army. The cultural program began with a Kathak-Bharatnatyam performance to the melodious song, swagatam-vandanam. Winners and High Achievers were awarded certificates and prizes by the Chief Guest. The highlight of the evening was a musical dance-drama that traced the struggles of Dr Kalam as a student who overcame challenges and carved a niche for himself as a prominent scientist of India.

Visit to Wildlife Philatelic Exhibition

“The king of hobbies or the ‘Hobby of Kings’, stamp collecting is indeed an art by itself” - SL Mukherjee



An exhibition, 'Wildlife on Stamps and Philately' was held during the National Wildlife Week, at Uttarakhand Museum of Contemporary Art, Dehradun. It featured an attractive display of fauna on stamps, special covers, first-day covers, special cancellations and picture postcards. Students of the Collectors' Club visited the exhibition on 3rd October. It was the first time that they were visiting a philatelic exhibition on birds, animals and reptiles. Students were particularly intrigued by the moving snakes they saw on 'Augmented Reality (AR) postcards'. In AR, the image comes to life with the help of an application, showing videos. Names of different species of owls and their habitat were explained to the students by the presenters. The vivid pictures and appealing displays made a profound impression on their young minds. Having observed the displays with keen interest, they returned to school with a better vision of how to exhibit their collections in future.

GK Olympiad

"We are not what we know, but what we are willing to learn"

- Mary Catherine Bateson



The General Knowledge Olympiad, organised annually by the Science Olympiad Foundation, was conducted in our school on 15th October in which fifty students from classes VI to IX participated. This was our first attempt at hosting the GK Olympiad post lockdown, which was perhaps the reason for the relatively low number of registrations. The results of the test are awaited.

Given the beneficial learning impact of such Olympiads, we intend to encourage more students to participate next year onwards. By way of preparation, we have re-introduced weekly GK sessions for all students of classes I-XII, which are closely aligned with the topics covered in the competition. The overall focus is on enriching their general awareness and knowledge of current affairs.

Mock Interview

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today"

- H Jackson Brown Jr



To enhance the interview skills and preparedness of the students of class XII for their university admissions, five distinguished university representatives were invited to conduct Mock Interviews. Rooms were set up to create formal backdrops to familiarise students with real life scenarios.

During the interviews, the CVs of students were analysed and they were asked to speak about their backgrounds, soft skills, course preferences, current affairs, reasons for choosing the particular college, etc. Candidates were marked for their knowledge, communication skills, body language and confidence. Before closing, interviewers provided each student with constructive feedback and actionable advice to improve their skills and demeanour. Given the extensive experience of the interviewers, students and teachers found the exercise immensely beneficial.

Trip to Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary

*“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you”
- Frank Lloyd Wright*



On the 20th of October fifteen students of the Navjeevan batch 7 attended the Uttarakhand Bird Festival at the Benog region of the Mussoorie Wildlife Sanctuary. The festival featured a wide range of activities, including guided bird-watching sessions, exhibitions, sketching birds, quizzes, local cuisine, etc.

Our students received a warm welcome and were given a guided tour of the sanctuary, which is home to the benedictory pines, old cedar trees, medicinal plants and birds such as the White Capped Water Redstart and Red Billed Blue Magpie to name a few. They saw high quality pictures and gleaned numerous facts about the rich biodiversity of Benog. In recognition of their curiosity and disciplined conduct, all of them received Certificates of Participation from the Organisers. This recognition added an extra layer of happiness to their memorable excursion and they sang their way back to Purkal.

Alumni Talk

*“Sharing experiences you experienced in your life, is a better
experience to experience” - Lutan*



We were pleased to welcome Esha Sharma, an alumna of the 2021 batch to our campus for interacting with students of classes XI and XII. Esha is an NCC cadet who is intensively preparing to get into the Indian Army. She guided her juniors by providing detailed information on the NDA, CDS, AFCAT and Paramilitary forces - eligibility criteria, application process, tips for preparation etc. She introduced them to the Service Selection Board and its admission process. She also explained the advantages of joining the NCC and how it helps aspirants of defence careers. Students were inspired when she showed them a video clip of her journey as an NCC cadet.

The session concluded with a Q&A segment where Esha addressed students' queries helping to clarify their doubts. Being a senior with first hand experience, her talk was well received and applauded by the young audience.

Chess Competition

"When you see a good move, look for a better one"

- Emanuel Lasker



Seven of our hostel students participated in the Chess Competition organised by the School Sports Federation at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun. In the five rounds played, our students displayed their skills at playing chess, which they began learning in July this year. Deepanshi (NJ6), Simran (NJ6) and Rupesh (VII) won three rounds each and secured the 6th, 7th and 9th positions respectively. Suraj, Anurag, Rudra and Anuj also did well and won two rounds each.

The competition boosted the confidence of our students as they tested their newly acquired skills and fared reasonably well especially as it was their first such experience. In the process, they learned new strategies, analysed their mistakes and are confident of putting up a better performance next time.

SPIC MACAY Concert

“Talent is like electricity. We don’t understand electricity. We use it”

– Maya Angelou



On 21st October, we had the honour of watching the performance of Shri Bundu Khan Langa, a renowned Rajasthani folk musician and his group of seven artists. It was attended by class I to V, Navjeevan 7 and Jagar Club students.

The group presented Rajasthani folk songs accompanied by folk instruments. Shri Bundu Khan introduced the Morchang, a wind percussion instrument, narrating its history and demonstrating how it is played. In an interesting performance of the Bhavai dance, the dancer balanced seven pots on her head while pirouetting and swaying with the soles of her feet on the edge of a metal plate. In the next performance, she bent backwards while dancing and picked a currency note with her teeth from a tumbler placed on the floor. The stunning show's last piece was the "Dama Dam Mast Kalandar" song, whose contagious beats had students on their feet, dancing away merrily. Followed by an engaging Q&A session in which students asked the artists a multitude of questions about their skills and learnings.

District Level TT Tournament

"If you will never try, you will never know"

- Ave Mateiu



Five of our students participated in the District Level U15 and U17 Table Tennis tournaments held at Summer Valley School, Dehradun on 27th October. This was the first time that our students participated in an external TT tournament.

On the day of the matches, they reached the venue early and practised before the matches began. They won a few sets in their matches but could not qualify for the quarter finals. While disappointed with their performance they were happy for the opportunity of playing with the state and national level players. They learned a lot, as one participant said that she observed new serving techniques, which she is eager to practise and perfect.

Dandiya Night

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibres connect us with our fellow men" – Herman Melville



As in previous years, we celebrated the Garba-Dandiya Night during the Navratri festival with our staff members, their families, and hostel students to come together to embrace the celebratory spirit of the festival. After a ceremonial puja to Goddess Durga, invoking her blessings for a joyous and auspicious celebration, students and staff members opened the floor by swaying gracefully to garba beats and joyous clicking of dandiya sticks. It was nice to see staff and their family participating with equal enthusiasm. The celebration not only embraced the cultural significance of Navratri but also served as an event that brought together members of the school community and their families, cementing the idea of PYDS as a happy, extended family. It was a memorable and heart warming evening and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.

Military History Seminar

“You can’t get anywhere without covering the distance”

- SM Yogendra Singh Yadav



On the 9th and 10th of October, a Military History Seminar was held at Welham Boys' School, Dehradun. It was attended by ten students from our school. The theme this year was 'Kargil 25 Years'. On the first day, attendees heard stories of courage by Param Vir Chakra awardees, SM Yogendra Singh Yadav and SM Sanjay Kumar who recounted their actions during the war. Later, students got a chance to converse with Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, which deepened their understanding of military history and leadership. During the day, Art participants from various schools prepared their artwork on the theme of the seminar. A short movie on the Kargil War was screened in the evening.

The topics: i) Restoring Sanctity of the Line of Control, ii) Importance of Air and Naval Operations, iii) Lessons in Leadership & Learnings in the Kargil War were discussed on the second day. A painting made by Kanishka Joshi (class XI) of our school, was exhibited along with the artwork of students from other schools. The students also had the valued opportunity to converse with Lt. Gen. P.C. Bharadwaj, Vice Chairman of Welham Boys' School who gave them an overview of the role played and sacrifices made by the Armed Forces for the country. The two day seminar left a deep impact on our students and gave them a better understanding of the military history of India.

'Sur aur Saaz' Music Concert

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life"

- Berthold Auerbach



"Sur aur Saaz: A Musical Journey Through Culture, Heritage, and Emotions", a concert held at The Doon School, was attended by eight students from our school. The concert was led by the school's music captain and featured a variety of musical performances. Shankar Mahadevan's, "Ekadantaya Vakratundaya", was the opening song, leading to mellifluous western and Indian classical renditions.

It was a novel experience for our students who enjoyed watching the live orchestra performed by their peers. They listened keenly, learning about new ragas, and distinguishing between musical instruments like santoor, electric guitar, sitar, and more. On their way back, students discussed with admiration the meticulous skills of the presenters.

Dussehra Celebrations

"When men are most sure and arrogant they are commonly most mistaken" - David Hume



Ravana was a learned scholar, warrior, devotee and artist; but his downfall was led by his inflated ego and arrogance. Dussehra, the day when Ravana was killed by Lord Ram, celebrates the victory of good over evil. Being a holiday, hostel students were excited to do things out of the routine. After a hearty breakfast, one group got busy giving fresh coats of paint to the multifarious planters on campus. Another group busied itself applying their innovation to build an effigy of Ravana with materials on hand, like cardboard boxes, paper, sticks etc. As soon as it was dark enough, everyone got together on the sports ground and declared the victory of good over evil by setting the effigy on fire. They clapped and danced around it in glee, till it was time to gather in the dining hall for a special dinner. Thus ended a day full of activities and fun.

We are proud of...

Radhika Baloni, PYDS batch 2024



Radhika came to Dehradun with her maternal uncle when she was four years old and was enrolled at the Early Childhood Learning Centre of PYDS. Her brother is visually impaired and has deformed limbs. A girl with a clear purpose, Radhika narrates her story thereon:

“My parents and brother live in Mussoorie. I am the eldest amongst three siblings. My father works in a hotel and is an alcoholic and my mother is a homemaker. Ever since I came to Dehradun with my maternal uncle, he has looked after me like his own child. My journey as a student of PYDS has been pleasant and full of learning. I was an average student but I tried every opportunity. I made many mistakes but learned from them. School has been my guiding light and I am deeply motivated by its motto, ‘Life is For Giving’. I sailed fairly through classes one by one. Psychology, which was one of my chosen subjects in class XI, soon became my favourite.”

I am now pursuing a Diploma in Education (D.Ed), specialising in visual impairment from the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIPVED), Dehradun. I have joined this course to equip myself to help my brother and others like him. Although there is little that I can do to improve his health, it will be very satisfying to help him in whichever way I can. It was a hard decision to opt for this course but when I spoke to our Society Secretary he encouraged me to go ahead. My teachers were very happy when I was granted admission and counselled me on the do's and don'ts before I bid goodbye to PYDS, which was not easy. Together with D.Ed, I am also doing an online course in BA Psychology from IGNOU.

Life outside school was completely different. The first thing I learnt at NIPVED was to have control over our emotions. Unlike school, there was no one to turn to for help or advice. I had to face all challenges by myself. It was then that I was reminded of Anoop Sir's words, 'When you step out of PYDS, you get to know...' I am learning here about education and development of children with visual impairment and Braille. There are thirty students in my class, of which ten are 100% blind, ten have low vision, while ten have normal vision. I am now friends with two visually impaired persons. We have to be careful not to hurt the feelings of disabled children. Time is a great teacher; I have realised that I need to work on my personality also.

After completing my D.Ed course, I want to go to Spain and join an NGO for experience and pursue an M.Phil in psychology simultaneously. I hope to get the support of PYDS in completing my future studies. I am keen to start a centre for specially abled children, that can be trusted for providing good care to them, irrespective of their financial status. I want to do this as once when my brother went to an NGO, he was pinched by the caretakers because we did not have the money to tip them. To my juniors I want to say, 'It's your life and it's your choice, but express yourself in such a way that it does not hurt anyone. I want to give special thanks to all my teachers. It is because of them that I am here today. Thank you PYDS for giving me the best years of my life.'

Donate to spread smiles!

We wish goodbye to all friends of PYDS. Take care till we meet next time.



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