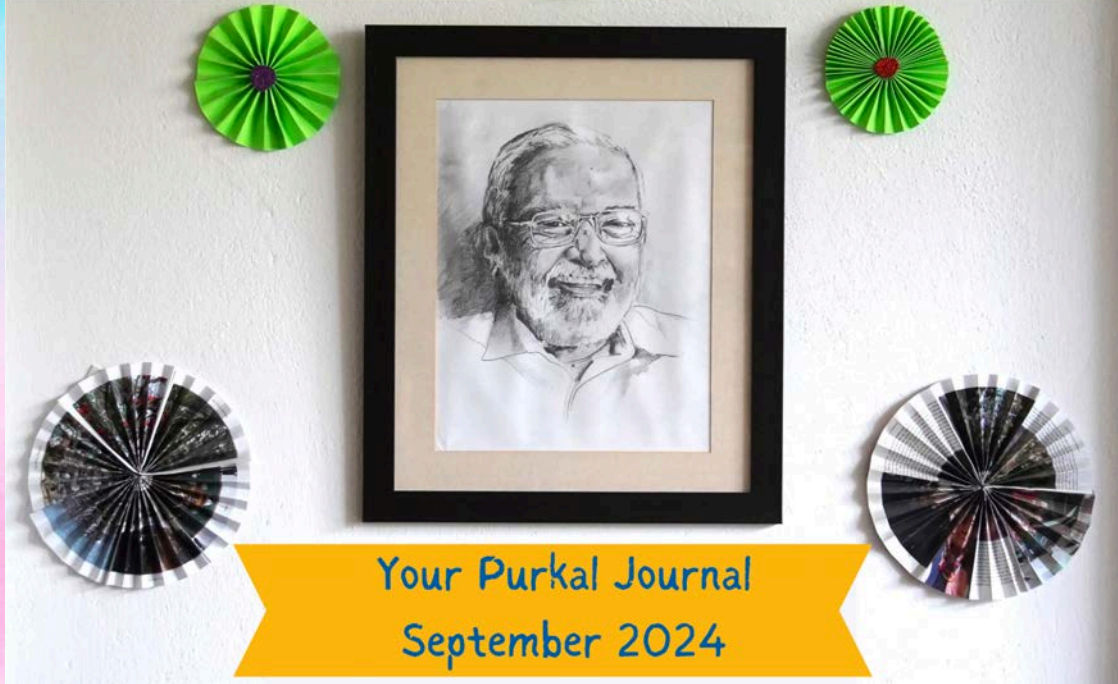


*"When I am older and wiser, I will remember you;  
I will grow stronger, at the thought of you"*



Your Purkal Journal  
September 2024

## Remembering Our Founder

*"Every act of kindness creates a ripple effect of goodness in the world" - John Marrs*



September 26th was a special day for PYDS, as it was the birth anniversary of our founder, Mr GK Swamy. The day began with the lighting of a lamp before Swamy Sir's portrait. This was followed by the offering of flowers at his portrait and seeking his blessings.

During the morning assembly, two students recited *slokas* on education while a younger student spoke on moral values, reminding us of the significance of good conduct that Swamy Sir worked hard to instil in us. Thereafter, three students played the hymn *Achyutam Keshavam* on the flute, which blended perfectly with the serene atmosphere.

In line with Mr Swamy's gospel and our School's motto - 'Life is for Giving', we marked the day with gratitude and selfless service by organising a blood donation camp on our campus. The program was a great success with 46 staff members, villagers and former students donating blood.

## Navjeevan Batch 7 Admission

*"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet" - Bobby Unser*



The process of planning for Navjeevan Batch 7, began in March 2024 with the identification of target geographies. Based on this, ten villages were identified across the Chakrata and Nainital regions.

Our Principal, Ms Diana Luji was a member of the team of seven that visited Lakhwar in Chakrata area. They assessed eighteen candidates over two days through a combination of written and interactive group activities. This was followed by home surveys to assess the family's socio-economic conditions.

In the Nainital area, our six member team toured the Ramgarh Block, conducting assessments at the Government Public School, in the village of Dutkanedhar. They evaluated forty one children from nine villages in a similar format. This was followed by home surveys.

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## Teacher's Day

*"The dawn of each poet, philosopher and king; begins with a teacher  
and the wisdom they bring" - Kevin William Huff*



Teacher's Day was celebrated by the students of Class XI with a special touch - by dressing up as the teachers of our school. They then paired with respective teachers, receiving a warm welcome as they descended to the sports field.

The day's celebration commenced with a special morning assembly, where students spoke about the significance of the day, also offering their gratitude to teachers. This was followed by Class XII students organising a program in the auditorium, comprising songs, poems, heartwarming speeches and games. It was a happy picture of those who teach, indulging in carefree merriment, running to the music around chairs, passing the parcel, copying the last step and so on. Everyone had a delightful time, with the revelation of several hidden talents among the teachers.

The day's finale was on the sports field, where students added to the cheer with their song and dance performances.

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## Half Yearly Parent Teacher Meeting

*"I do not promise perfection but I will do my best"*



The half yearly examinations were conducted between 9th and 19th September. As is our norm, these were followed by Parent Teacher Meetings for the entire school. At these meetings, parents were provided - i) a clear sense of the most recent academic performance of their children, ii) briefed about the upcoming Olympiads in which they would be participating and iii) most importantly, the need for all students to follow the School's disciplinary guidelines.

Parents received individual attention from their children's teachers, and were encouraged to ask questions in respect of all aspects of their performance and conduct.

Parents and students of both Board classes X and XII were addressed separately by our Secretary. Reiterating the importance of their forthcoming Board exams, especially Class XII, on the future of the students, he urged parents to closely monitor the activities of their children and provide a more conducive learning environment at home.

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## **Inter House Yoga Competition**

*"The harder you try the better you get"*



Yoga is a part of the curriculum for classes IV to XII, as it has a vital role to play in the holistic development of youngsters. The practice of yoga not only keeps them physically and mentally fit, but also improves their memory and concentration levels. Further, it keeps students energetic and in brighter moods, thus improving their overall academic performance.

An Inter House Yoga Competition was held on 28th September. The competition was divided into four categories - Junior (IV, V and NJ6), Middle (VI to VIII), Senior Girls (IX to XII) and Senior Boys (IX to XII). Being held for the first time, students participated enthusiastically. It was held on the sports field and witnessed by the entire school. Students cheered lustily for their houses and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. In a very close contest, Amaltas won while Kachnar stood second.

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## **Tekchand U-12 Girls Basketball Tournament**

*"Teamwork makes the dreamwork" - John C Maxwell*



Twelve girls from our school participated in the 'Shri Tek Chand Memorial Basketball Tournament (U-12) in which a total of ten schools participated. Our team defeated Doon Valley School (6-0) and Summer Valley School (16-2) on the first day.

On the second day, they won the match against Himjyoti School (12-3), thereby qualifying for the semi-finals. There, they met The OASIS School and won again (4-2). The girls gave their best in their final match against hosts, The Doon Girls' School, but lost by a wide margin (21-10).

On returning, when asked about the game, the Captain of our team said that we had used good passing techniques and placement strategies. After some rumination she added, "Our players need to build more stamina to put up a better fight next time".

We are proud of all of our players, many of whom were playing their first inter school tournament.

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## One Day One Story

*"Stories are memory aids, instruction manuals and moral compasses"*

*- Aleks Krotoski*



Every September, Pratham Books celebrates, 'One Day, One Story', to mark International Literacy Day. Our school signed up for the online event this year which enabled participation by our Navjeevan Batch 6 students. They read a story in English titled, Exam Fever, on e-tablets available in the Senior Library.

Although the event was scheduled for the entire week, as the dates were clashing with our half yearly examinations, our students were able to participate for only one day. They happily received certificates of participation from Pratham nonetheless. Our students enjoyed the activity and look forward to more such opportunities.

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## **SPIC MACAY**

*"No legacy is so rich as heritage"*





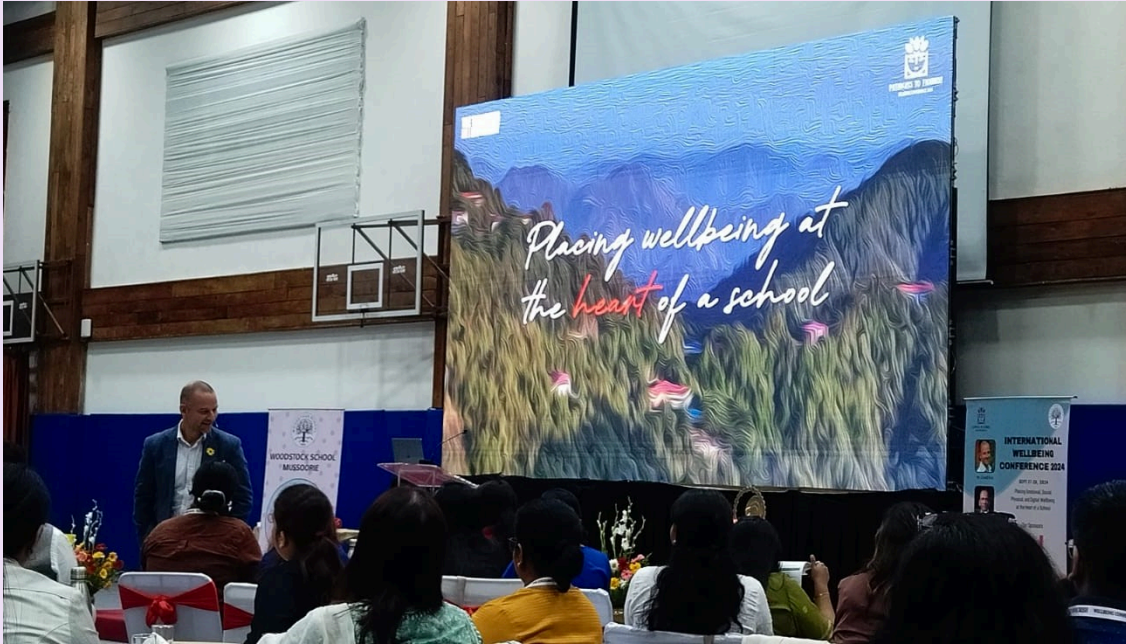
Seven hostel students visited The Doon Girls' School to attend a performance under the auspices of SPIC MACAY. The Vallabhatha Kalari school in Guruvayur, Kerala, presented a performance of *Kalaripayattu*, the ancient martial art of Kerala. The term *Kalari* or battlefield, reflects the art's legacy of combat training, which includes weapon use and yoga.

The troupe of six artists and two musicians, briefly introduced the history of *Kalaripayattu* and its many self-defence techniques which can be acquired by anyone with a little practice. Their performance showcased different aspects and disciplines of the art. They began with *Pootara Vandana*, a salutation to honour the tradition. Then followed a display of weapon combat which included stick combat, spear combat, sword and shield, and *Vadival* - animal stances of the bull, lion, boar, horse, dog and snake.

After the performance, students were invited to ask questions. They were curious about the basics of the art form and how they could learn it. They also enquired about the musical instrument that was being played in the background. Inspired by the impactful performance our students are eager to learn self-defence techniques.

# Wellbeing Conference

*"Your body hears everything your mind says" - Naomi Judd*



Woodstock School, a reputable institute in Mussoorie, hosted India's first ever International Wellbeing Conference for schools. 220 representatives from 77 institute, among them our Principal and Career Counsellor, attended and learned about social, emotional, physical, and digital wellbeing in schools.

Over two days, the speakers elaborated on the principles surrounding the theme of "Mental health and well-being must be at the core of education to help students thrive". They provided insights into mental health issues faced by students and suggested approaches to guide students towards building emotional resilience. Emphasis was also laid on the well being of teachers and support staff for the overall wellness of the school.

The event was well organised and offered a very conducive learning environment. Handcrafted products made by local artisans were on display in support of the local community. Staff of the host school also entertained participants with a live musical performance.

## Orientation by Plaksha University

*"Each new day is a new scene with new acts and roles to portray" - Melody Joy*



An orientation session for the Science students of classes XI and XII was conducted by Plaksha University, Mohali. Mr. Milind Mehta, its Outreach Executive, familiarised students with the admission process, eligibility criteria and scholarships. He went on to explain how technology based jobs were replacing more traditional ones, and highlighted the increasing salary gap between tech and non-tech salaries. He also pointed to India's shift from an IT services economy to a tech-product economy and mentioned that future jobs will largely be driven by startups and technological advancements. He urged our students to explore the B.Tech courses offered by the University and concluded by talking about its vibrant campus life and world class facilities.

The session gave the students a clear view of both the University as well as the emerging employment scenarios. Armed with this knowledge they can plan their upcoming college education better and focus in the best direction.

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We are proud of...  
**Komal, PYDS batch 2023**



Komal's parents and sister live near Johri-Jakhan road in Dehradun. Her father, irons clothes at the roadside. Her mother works as a helper in Anganwadi.

Komal relates her school journey as follows:

*"I was admitted to PYDS in class I and developed an interest in reading and writing soon. As I was aware of the financial struggles of my parents, I studied sincerely from the very beginning.*

*I made my parents proud for the first time when I received a prize on the Annual Day for standing 2nd in class I. When I was in class III, I narrated a story for the first time on stage, during an intra class competition. Science intrigued me when we were studying the solar system in class V. I developed an interest in Maths also because it was fun to solve problems and compete with friends to see who did it first. During middle school I began part in extracurricular activities such as plays and helping in art and craft work and my first stage appearance for dance was in class VII.*

*I opted for Commerce with Maths in class XI. Towards the end of class XI, I received "The Ajit Bhandarkar Award for Excellence in Society" by Officers Training Academy, Chennai. I soon realised my inclination towards the field of law and during class XII, I studied hard. During Annual Day 2022, I was awarded "The PYDS Future Citizen Award", for good values and ethics.*

*I appeared for the CLAT in December 2022 and the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) in June 2023 and got offer letters from 4-5 universities on the basis of my*

score. I chose to join BML Munjal University. Although it was difficult for them, my parents supported my decision to study away from Dehradun.

Joining the hostel and making new friends from different backgrounds was a unique experience.

I learnt to manage my expenses and to travel alone. I overcame challenges like opening up with new classmates, gaining confidence, looking for study material and doing most of the work on the laptop rather than notebooks.

Currently, I am pursuing my second year in BBA LLB (Hons.). My first internship was online in January. Here, I wrote legal articles on legal topics like Right to Education, Restraint of Marriage and so on, focussing on legal writing and using different kinds of citation styles like OSCOLA, Bluebook, etc. My second internship was under Justice (Retd.) JR Midha, where I learnt about legal procedures, arbitration proceedings, documents drafting, researching, etc.

After completing my course I want to join a multinational firm. I want to fulfil the dreams of my parents and make sure they never have to compromise on anything in future.”

**Donate to spread smiles!**

**Azure days and starry nights, of the hills beckon our friends and well wishers to join us for our 12th Annual Day celebrations on the 28th and 29th of October. See you there!**



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