

Upgrading of the Primary School Wing at Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS), Dehradun, India

Activity Report



Gratitude makes sense of your past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

- Melody Beattie

"We are overwhelmed with all the appreciable changes happening in our primary section with the kind donation of ERI and ASED. The support will enhance the quality of services delivered to our primary students. Looking forward to see the smiling faces of our children whenever they will receive the surprise of a vibrant classroom."

*Mrs. Geeta Joshi
Primary Coordinator*

I. Project Activity Update

Floor Repairing – Completed

Casting of floors in all the five classrooms has been completed. In this process

- a) the old, damaged floor was removed
- b) new floor was casted with cement ratio of 4:1 for enhancing durability.



Classroom Painting – Completed

The painting work for all classrooms has been completed. Glossy emulsion paint has been used to make the classrooms brighter. The doors and windows have also been painted.



Procurement of Televisions – Completed

All the classes have been fitted with smart televisions. To prevent any incidence of damage, television screen protectors with wooden frames and toughened glass have been placed on these televisions.



Whiteboards for Classrooms – Completed

All the classes are equipped with new whiteboards.



New Furniture and Cupboards for Classrooms – In process

- Steel cupboards, are now placed in the classroom. The steel almirahs are more durable than the wooden cupboards. The teachers now have a safe place for storing project and other teaching materials.
- Soft Boards will also be placed in the classrooms.
- For the class furniture, PYDS is on the lookout for a new supplier: the consultation with another supplier did not materialize.



Phones – On hold

- As the school is currently closed for physical attendance due to Omicron case surge, the mobile phones have not yet been ordered. This shall be done when physical classes resume and the use of these phones is integrated into the curriculum.

II. General Organisation Updates

1. Bringing colors back to campus – resumption of a vibrant campus life



Morning Assembly

September 2021, saw the PYDS campus opening up in a phased manner. By the end of the month all students from Grades 6-12 were back. In October 2021, the students of Grades 4 and 5 returned to the campus after almost two years.

Till November 2021, as per government guidelines, classes were held for only 4 hours each day. The rest of the time was used by teachers to identify learning gaps, modify lesson plans, implement assessment of any knowledge and skill erosion that took place during the lockdown, and work on students' verbal articulation and conceptual understanding.

Since December, the school has resumed normal scheduling of scholastic and co-scholastic activities, which means that all students from classes 4 to 12 are in school from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

January 2022, saw another period of school closure with the spread of Omicron. As the situation came back into control, Grades 10 to 12 had already returned on 31 January 2022. Beginning February 2022, the Uttarakhand Government permitted the reopening of Schools from Grades 1 to 12. On the 7th Feb, PYDS welcomed back students of Grades 1-3. **Grades 1 and 2 were coming to School for the first time in their lives!** The children were welcomed into renovated and whitewashed classrooms, equipped with a television and a vibrant learning environment - all sponsored by ERI and ASED. The campus lit up with their chit chats and chuckles. They were ecstatic and had thousands of stories to tell their friends. The PYDS spirit was reignited! Click on <https://youtu.be/IDNp2n0VE48> to see students of Grade 3 celebrating their return to School.

2. School Activities

Juxtaposing with the harsh winter, campus activities were on in full swing ever since the students returned to school.

Digital Citizenship Curriculum

With the increased integration of online sources and distribution of mobile devices, the teachers observed that the students were becoming more susceptible to the negative side effects of digital integration. One of this was an increasing exposure to social media, which has begun to heavily influence their views of the world. This has led to a host of distortions and loss of focus in their minds.

To address this, Principal, Mrs. Arati Nagaraj devised a curriculum around Digital Citizenship. The intent of this effort is to encourage students to become good digital citizens and develop a common approach and attitude towards digital devices and social media. Sessions under the curriculum began in December for Grades IV-XI. These sessions have been engaging and self-reflective.

Distribution of Winter Clothing

Dehradun is one of the frostiest cities in India with an average minimum temperature of 6 degrees Celsius. As the yearly bone-chilling winter covers the whole city in its canopy, puffer jackets were distributed to all students. These jackets



come with an insulated section stitched inside to give an additional layer of warmth.

Christmas Celebrations

With inspiring enthusiasm, the students made beautiful Christmas decorations from waste cardboard. What made it even more special was that the celebration featured children from the Navjeevan Program, who have recently joined mainstream education and are still being assimilated into the PYDS community. Students and



staff sang Christmas carols, spent merry times and captured lots of photographs.

3. Achievements and Awards

- **Global Innovation Challenge** – **tGelf** (*The Global Education and Leadership Foundation*)
<https://www.tgelf.org/>

Parvati Shah (Grade 9), Riya Chauhan (Grade 9) and Riya Sharma (Grade 10) placed the School on the world map, by winning the Global Innovation Challenge, organized by The Global Education Leadership Foundation (tGELF).

Their project on the Smart Medicine Access Reminder Tool (S.M.A.R.T), was among 300+ entries, worldwide. It addressed the SDG-3, of Good Health and Wellbeing.



- **SABERA Award for 2021**

Parvati Shah from Grade 9 (one of the inventors of the SMART) was the face of SABERA Awards for 2021! The Social and Business Enterprise Responsible Award (SABERA), recognizes and highlights the best practices and sustainable development initiatives by corporates, non-profit organizations and individuals. (<https://www.sabera.co/>)



Parvati joined PYDS in 2014 after the Uttarakhand flash floods of 2013 when she lost both her parents. She had to face great odds at a very young age. Despite all these challenges, she conquered her fears and moved forward. It is of immense joy and pride for PYDS to see Parvati being recognized at this level and hosting the awards on 9th November 2021.

4. Alumni



Amandeep Singh

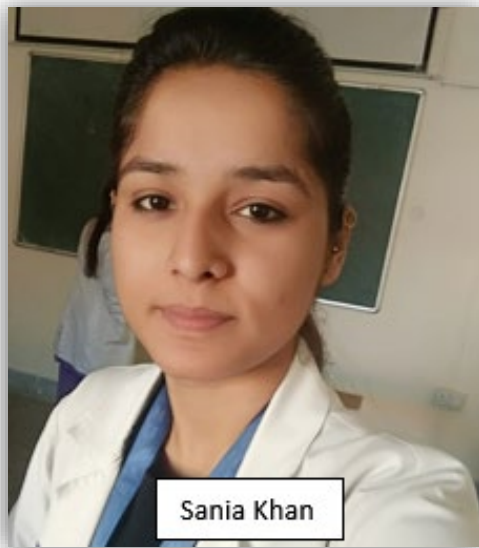
Amandeep Singh has secured a seat in the integrated course in Computer Science and Engineering (B. Tech and M. Tech) at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi.

The son of a mason (bricklayer) who could not work regularly due to poor health, Amandeep joined PYDS in Grade IX: through his dedication and hard work, he left no stone unturned to make the most of all the opportunities at the School. Throughout schooling, he performed extremely well in academics and also made a mark in the National Science Olympiad and various STEM Projects.

According to his Computer Teacher, he is a brilliant student with excellent cognitive and logical skills, who always comes up with out of the box ideas. His Speech Recognition Project based on python is one of his notable achievements. Amandeep will always be remembered as the '**cent percent boy**' as he scored 100% marks in Computer Science in the Grade 10 Board Exams. He scored 92.4% in his CBSE Grade 12 Board results with 97% in Computer Science.

Says Amandeep, *"All thanks to the support of PYDS and my donors for believing in me and supporting my education. After 5 years, I see myself working in tech companies like Google or Microsoft. I will always be indebted to all the help I have got and will take the legacy forward of helping the needy children. My sincere thanks once again!"*

Sania Khan



Sania Khan is the topper of her batch in the Bachelor of Physiotherapy program at Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU) in Dehradun.

Hailing from Saharanpur, located app 70 km from Purkal, Sania joined PYDS in Grade 11 as a residential student. From a young age, Sania had witnessed her family's dire financial hardships which were further aggravated by her parent's medical complications. Her mother suffered from Edema (body fluid accommodation) since Sania's childhood. Her father who earlier worked in a small utensil shop suffered from epilepsy for a long time, and was unable to work because of his ill health: he eventually abandoned his children leaving them dependent on support from Sania's uncle.

Despite these challenges, with her own strong determination and PYDS's support, Sania showed a natural aptitude towards medical sciences. Well aware that she is the only hope for her family and desirous of helping other people, Sania opted for and secured admission in the four-year Bachelor of Physiotherapy program in SRHU in 2017.

With sponsorship from PYDS's 'On to Life' program, which supports her course fees and accommodation expenses, Sania has worked tirelessly to build her skills in her field, completing her graduation and being the highest scorer in her batch.

She will soon be starting a six months' internship at Swami Rama Himalayan Hospital and will then start her journey as a Physiotherapist.