



Lotus Leaves

annual newsletter

Headlines

Students take top prize at drama festival

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School's top management posts filled

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Students see stars in astronomy class

Celebrating and honouring Ladakhi culture

Preserving Ladakhi culture and providing a modern education is at the heart of the school's ethos. Fourteen-year-old Stanzin Chorol wrote of last May's Ladakh Day: "Ladakh is a place where nature dwells in its purest form. I am proud to live on this land and to call it my home. In this modern period, preserving our culture has been a great motive of the people of Ladakh. On Ladakh Day people portray their love, respect and importance of our culture." Also in May is Buddha Purnima, Buddha's birthday, when people hope to remove darkness and confusion from their lives and fill them with the moon's brightness.

Founder's Day on September 24th focused on tradition, with attendees in traditional dress, speeches in the Bothi language, and Ladakhi food served. Student performances at the event often embrace many Indian traditions, on this occasion all showcased Ladakhi culture, with Losar, the Ladakhi new year, as a theme. In keeping with the school's ethos of embracing old and new, the event was screened live on Facebook for the first time.

Modernisation can cause families to disperse, so Help Age India raises awareness of the vulnerability of the elderly through its programme "Bridge the gap: understanding elder needs". Students met and entertained residents at an old age home near the school in June.



Students in traditional dress on Founder's Day

Top team promotions

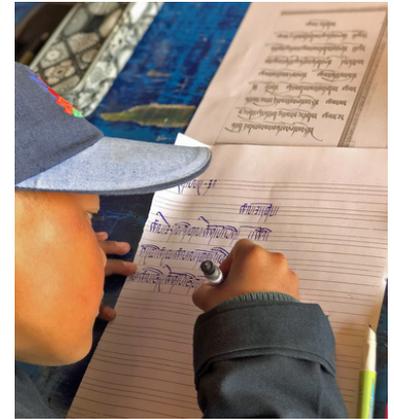
During Founder's Day celebrations on September 24th, it was announced that Vice-Principal Mrs Mingur Angmo was promoted to Principal and that Mr Anil Kumar, a science teacher, was appointed Vice-Principal. A strong senior management team is vital for such a large school, now with about 880 students, 40 teachers and 50 support staff.



Congratulations to Mingur Angmo and Anil Kumar on promotions

Experienced teachers pass on their wisdom to DPKS staff

Two days of teacher training organised by the Lions Club International took place in June 2022 under the guidance of two experienced trainers. The aim was to make teaching methods more student oriented by encouraging students to question material and to take part in open discussion. Attention was given to improving the social and emotional skills of teachers and students. Bhoti language teachers also received training. Bhoti Day on April 1st including a Bhoti quiz, Bhoti speech competition, story-telling, and Bhoti calligraphy, was a great success.



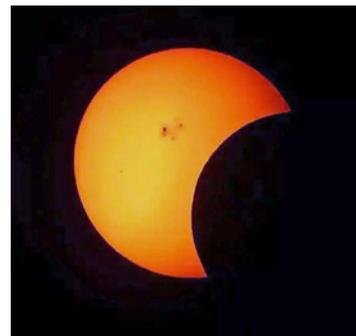
A student practises Bhoti script

Star-gazing students enthralled by astronomy lessons

Ladakh, where the night sky is so clear, offers an excellent venue to study the stars and in August science teacher Anil Kumar enthralled older students with lessons on astronomy. The school is fortunate to have two telescopes, a Dobsonian six-inch manual telescope and a Celestron NEX STAR 6 SLT automatic, both donated by supporters. Students were encouraged to explore the solar system and were amazed to see giant planets such as Jupiter and Saturn. In October, a partial solar eclipse was observed thanks to the ASEEM Foundation's donation of eclipse viewers. These experiences may spark the desire of some to learn more about space and science.



Viewing stars and planets



Viewing solar eclipse

Health and wellbeing

The school hosted the launch of the Naropa Fellowship's DZAMO women's health initiative in May 2022. DZAMO is the result of surveys aimed at understanding women's health and encouraged sustainable practices. On World AIDS Day, December 1st, a class of final-year students led a school assembly on AIDS and its related myths, as well as measures to prevent it. The school hosted the concluding event of a 16-day awareness programme held at different schools which covered drug abuse, the Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Act and cyber security. Thanks were offered to the experts, teachers, parents and students for making the event a success. The event was organised by the Ladakh Buddhist Association youth wing in collaboration with the Ladakh Ecological Development Environmental Group. A screening programme focusing on the early detection, treatment and management of 32 common health problems has been introduced at the school.

Seismic upgrades and building for the future

Construction teams worked hard last year to complete the seismic upgrade of the Singeyla residence for boys, and achieved about 75 percent of the girls' Warila residence, both named after mountain passes. There will be 376 residential places for students from remote areas or nomadic families, as well as local students. Head girl Sonam Lanzes wrote: "My stay at the hostel has been a crucial phase of my life, not only regarding studies, but also about life skills, and moral and ethical values. We learn from the confluence of different traditions, languages and lifestyles of regions of Ladakh. This place will always have space in my heart."



Construction site

In September, a two-day development planning workshop was held at the school. Governors, the construction manager, the principal, partners, and representatives from Arup and the Drukpa Trust worked on a five-year infrastructure plan. DPKS is looking to offer Class 11 and 12 courses in commerce and humanities, and needs new facilities for this. Currently at the age of 16, students must leave DPKS and start work or move to another school for two years. Four new classrooms are needed, accommodating 40 students each, as part of the senior secondary school facilities.

Spring vegetables are ready for picking

Principal Mingur Angmo is interested in gardening and farming, and is keen for the care and use of plants to be incorporated into practical classes. A new science club, run by the science and infant teachers, will be experimenting with aromatic plants and herbs in the plant nursery. The first spring greens grown in the greenhouse were ready in March for use in meals cooked for residential students.



Winter greenhouse



Stanzin Thinly signed up for entrepreneurship scheme

Alumnus cultivates vegetable venture

Stanzin Thinly, a 2013 alumnus, started an entrepreneurial venture called RiYul Hydroponics which aims to make fresh vegetables available to everyone in Ladakh during the harsh winter. After completing a science degree in Chandigarh, he joined the one-year postgraduate Naropa Fellowship programme in 2021. This course helps promote entrepreneurship and growth while preserving the cultural heritage of Ladakh and the Himalayan region.

School picnic: a day of laughter, food and dancing

The annual school picnic in nearby Sakti village caused great excitement on August 12th. The first school picnic since 2019 was a day of joy, laughter, companionship and enjoying sports, good food and dancing. Even the slight drizzle did not dampen spirits.



Picnic at Sakti village



School events spring 2022 to spring 2023

May

Students received two days of creative writing training from Mr. Haresh, Chief Editor of Malaysian based online journal, TWENTYTWO13.

Students observed Anti-Tobacco Day on May 31st, performing yoga and pledging to keep the school a tobacco-free campus.

June/July

June 5th: students marked World Environment Day by litter-picking in the village.

Teacher training held on student-orientated teaching methods.

Sixty students took part in 5-kilometre "Mini Marathons" organised by the Indian Army to identify and promote young talent. Seven won medals.

The first ever school film festival screened 14 five-minute movies showcasing students' ingenuity and artistic aspirations.

The school took part in Help Age India's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

On June 22nd students participated in the 8th International Day of Yoga, on the theme "yoga for humanity".

Staff and students visited the Khachey branch school in the Phokhar valley.

Blooming Day was celebrated on July 7th.

August

DPKS came first in a 12-day theatre festival between 11 schools during the school holidays and received a cash prize of Rs 10,000.

The annual parent teacher meeting on Aug. 24th focused on issues of behaviour and etiquette.

September

Teacher's Day celebrated on Sept. 5th when students performed songs and distributed gifts to all teaching, non-teaching and support staff.

His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche organised the Annual Puja for a successful year ahead.

School's 21st Founder's Day was celebrated on Sept. 24th.

October

End-of-year internal school examinations started on Oct.17th.

The solar eclipse was observed using donated protection glasses from ASEEM foundation.

A three-day inter-house athletic competition took place on Oct 26th.

November

New academic year started on Nov. 7th.

Children's day was celebrated on Nov. 14th.

Wisdom House won best house at annual Results Proclamation Day.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram health screening programme started.

December

On World AIDS Day, Dec. 1st, a class of final-year students led a school assembly.

Winter break started for younger students on Dec. 4th, the two eldest year groups finished on Dec. 15th.

On Dec. 25th students performed on All India Radio.

January/February 2023

On Jan. 26th students took first place in the culture category and second place in the march-past in Leh, as India marked its 74th Republic Day. NCC cadets Deachen Chosdon and Skalzang Chosdon were selected from Ladakh for the parade in Delhi.

March 2023

The government middle school in Alchi visited DPKS as part of an exchange programme, in which students and teachers shared good practices.

The construction team restarted seismic upgrade work after the winter break.

Newly elected school council members were sworn in on Investiture Day, March 25th.

April 2023

On April 1st Bhoti Language Day was observed. Matriculation exams took place.

Arup resident engineers Alex Spratt and Lauren Walters arrived for their assignments.

Kung Fu training resumed for 60 girls from two Vietnamese masters Le Dinh Vuong and Nguyen Kha Trinh.



Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society,

thanks its partners:

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