



Lotus Leaves

annual newsletter

Headlines

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New ecology club
will teach how
to protect nature

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DPKS news airs
for the first time
on social media

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Democracy in action: new school council takes office

On April 26th 2025, the annual investiture of the new student council took place in the presence of the chief guest, Deputy Commissioner Shri Santosh Sukhdeva. The 10 new council members were elected by students from grades 5 to 10, as well as by all teaching and non-teaching staff. The election was conducted in a truly democratic manner, involving nominations, enthusiastic campaigning, voting via a proper ballot system, and fair vote-counting. This process stands as a lesson in leadership, that true leadership is earned through trust, respect and listening to the people.

Besides a new head girl and head boy, eight council members were elected, a girl and boy in each of the four categories: discipline, sport, culture, and ecology. The whole school hopes that the newly elected council will act with integrity, teamwork, and compassion.

At the same time, male and female representatives of the four houses were sworn in. The names of the four houses represent the values the school strives to uphold every day: unity, harmony, courage and wisdom. The day served as a reminder that leadership is not about power, but about service.

Unity reminds us of the power of
togetherness.



Harmony teaches us to live peacefully and
understand others.



Courage gives us the strength to stand up for
what is right.



Wisdom encourages us to think before we
act.



How school's architecture can teach students about geometry

During a visit to the school, the architect and Drukpa Trust trustee Roland Reinardy asked Tsewang Lamo, senior maths teacher, how she teaches the principles of geometry using the classroom architecture. She wrote the following reply:

"Architecture and mathematics are closely connected. Every beam, window and door in this building shows important maths concepts we learn in class. Being a mathematics teacher, I am grateful to the architects and engineers whose beautiful designs have become real-life examples for my students.

"When two beams cross, they create vertically opposite angles, equal and opposite. The frames of the windows and doors demonstrate various angles: acute, obtuse and right angles, as well as corresponding, alternate, interior, and exterior angles, helping students see how angles appear in real life.

"Patterns and sequences are everywhere, and triangles also play a huge role. We can spot isosceles, scalene and right-angled triangles in the structure, especially in the roof, beams and interior supports, and we also can find the area.

"These triangles show how strength and beauty combine in architecture.

"Thanks to the brilliance of our architects and engineers, our building becomes a daily lesson in geometry, sequences and patterns showing students that maths is not just in textbooks, it is all around us."



Classroom architecture used to teach students about geometry

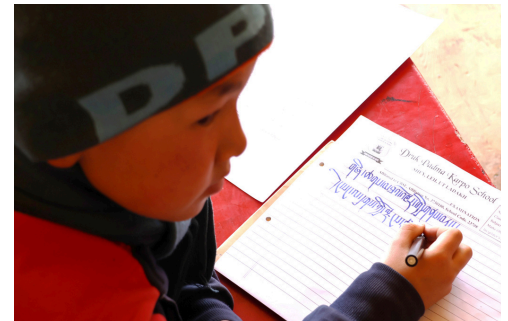
New song celebrates Bhoti language and culture

On April 1st 2025 Bhoti Day was observed at the school with a celebration of the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the Bhoti language.

Students and teachers took part in poetry readings, panel discussions, handwriting contests and storytelling, all illustrating the beauty of Bhoti culture.

The highlight was the performance by some of the younger students of a new Bhoti grammar song, composed by teachers and students. It is a fun and catchy song, designed to make learning grammar easy and enjoyable. With a lively melody, it helps students understand the rules of grammar and enjoy singing along. You can watch the song on our school's YouTube channel.

The event served as a reminder of the importance of preserving and promoting Indigenous languages.



Students and teachers had fun composing a new song designed to make learning Bhoti grammar easy and enjoyable



The ecology club was launched this year with a mission to cultivate environmental awareness among students

New club encourages eco-friendly habits among students

The Ecology Club was launched on March 19th, 2025, with a mission to educate students about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. Its main goal is to cultivate environmental awareness and responsibility among students, encouraging them to adopt eco-friendly habits and take positive action to protect nature. Through hands-on learning and community engagement, the club seeks to create responsible citizens for a sustainable future.

The club plans a wide range of activities, including awareness campaigns, environmental projects such as tree planting, as well as recycling drives, educational trips, creative competitions and gardening initiatives on the school campus. The club emphasizes teamwork, leadership and community involvement, while honing students' knowledge and skills in areas such as independent thinking, analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making.

Overall, the club hopes to encourage young people to think about the environment and to help protect it.



DPKS broadcast hits social media airwaves

On August 4th the first edition of the fortnightly DPKS news was broadcast on social media from the school's newsroom read by senior students in Bhoti, Hindi and English.

The full broadcasts can be watched on YouTube/Fortnightly News from Druk Padma Karpo School.

The first DPKS fortnightly news broadcast went out on social media in August

Work progresses on health centre and new block of classrooms

Two new buildings were started last year: the health centre and a set of four classrooms. The health centre, located near the residences, will provide the school nurse with isolation wards for residential students suffering from infectious illnesses, consultation space for day-to-day health needs and for visiting health professionals. Work on this building is continuing in 2025.

The set of four classrooms is a much larger building and will be the first of the buildings to have a sloping metal roof, a design change taking account of the increase in precipitation in Ladakh.

The construction season began its winter break at the end of October and re-opened on April 1st 2025. The seismic upgrade of other classrooms resumed and construction of the two buildings started last year also continued. It is hoped that funding will be in place for work to start on another set of new classrooms towards the end of 2025.



The new health centre will provide the school with isolation wards and a consultation space

Second branch school to open in Nubra Valley next year

The wishes of parents in the remote district of Nubra Valley will soon be fulfilled with the opening of a DPKS branch school at Nubra Skampuk in November 2026. Starting with nursery and kindergarten classes, the school will expand year by year up to matriculation level. Although the school is only 145 km from the mother school in Shey, the journey crosses Khardung-La, one of the world's highest mountain passes at an elevation of about 5,500 metres (18,000 feet). The laying of the foundation stone by His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche on October 29th, 2024 was celebrated with prayers, an inauguration ceremony and performances of dance and songs by students and villagers. Thanks were given to the villagers who donated the land as well as those involved in the planning. The first branch school at Khachey, in the remote Phokar Valley, opened in April, 2010.



The foundation stone for the second DPKS branch school was unveiled in October



The audience at the Founder's Day ceremony in September was entertained by students' performances of dance, drama and song

Guests' inspiring words resonate with Founder's Day attendees

The 24th Founder's Day in September marked another successful year in the life of the school. The event was celebrated in the presence of the school's chair, His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche, the school principal Mrs Mingur Angmo, their guests, school staff, students and parents. Also present at the spectacular event on September 24th were representatives of the Drukpa Trust and Arup who were visiting the school. The inspiring words of the guest speakers emphasized the importance of education, community and the values that the school upholds. Their insights resonated with students and attendees, nurturing a sense of unity and purpose.

The school band gave an impressive performance, and the audience was entertained by students from all age groups through dance, drama and song.

Safety workshop covered how to prepare for emergencies

In August, students and staff took part in a safety awareness programme organised by the administration of the Ladakh Union Territory and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh.

The workshop described what to do during an earthquake, fire, flood or mudslide. Evacuation drills were practised, including how to deal with injured people. Basic first aid was also covered.

At this time of climate change, it is important for everyone at the school to have a better understanding of how to stay safe and respond effectively to emergencies.



Students and staff attended a safety awareness workshop which also covered basic first aid

Evacuation drills were practised as well as what to do during an earthquake, fire, flood or mudslide



School events spring 2024 to spring 2025

May

May 12th Mothers' Day celebrated.

DPKS organized an Inter-School Speech and Essay competition on May 17th.

Group Commander Brigadier Deepak Sajjanhar, SM, gave a motivational talk on May 24th.

June

June 4th students took part with WWF-India in a Himalayan Cleanup drive at Shey Shashi wetland.

June 5th students marked World Environment Day by taking part in various activities.

French dentists Dr. Soizic and Dr. Myriam carried out a comprehensive dental check-up for 200 junior students.

June 15th outstanding results in Matriculation Board Exams announced: 100 per cent pass rate with distinction or grade A.

June 21st students participated in the 10th International Yoga Day on the theme "yoga for self and society".

The students of class 10 with teaching and non-teaching staff went on a transformative four-day educational tour to the picturesque Nubra Valley.

July

July 3rd the school held its Summer Expo and Fete.

July 21st the annual two-week summer holiday started.

August

August 4th the first edition of the fortnightly DPKS News broadcast from the newsroom.

School awarded 1st position for its cultural performance in celebration of India's Independence Day on August 15th.

School staff enjoyed a two-day teambuilding trip to the village of Hemya.

Ladakh's health department organised a week-long health awareness programme at the school. Four talented girls were selected to represent the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh at the 68th National School Games Football Championship.

August 31st students from the four houses competed in the annual athletics meet.

September

Students took part in the Ladakh Children's Theatre Festival.

September 5th Teachers' Day was celebrated.

The 24th Founder's Day ceremony took place on September 24th.

October

October 13th Little Footsteps Big Dreams Virtual event broadcast worldwide on YouTube.

The foundation stone for the new branch school at Nubra Skampuk was laid in a ceremony on October 29th.

The construction season finished at the end of October.

November

November 3rd the DPKS branch school in Phokar-Khachay celebrated its annual day.

Two teachers from DPKS attended a maths training workshop in Delhi.

November 23rd admissions for the nursery class opened.

December

December 12th the school hosted a seminar organized by the Ladakh Buddhist Association Youth Wing, Leh, for parents, focusing on the topics of parenting and drug addiction.

End of term was brought forward because heavy snow was forecast.

Students gave a song and dance performance at the 10th Annual Drukpa Council in Nepal.

DPKS was awarded the ET Tech X Educational Excellence Award in Hyderabad.

January

Students took part in an educational tour with the Aseem Foundation, exploring educational and adventurous experiences in and around Pune.

February

In February, a group of four students and two teachers travelled to the Czech Republic as part of an educational and cultural exchange.

March

Class 10 students sat their CBSE Matriculation Exams between February 15th and March 18th.

Heavy snow caused the return to school to be delayed until March 16th.

Bothi Day was celebrated with the launch of a new Bothi Language grammar song.

April

The beginning of April saw the start of the construction season at the school.

April 24th a half-day assembly and prayers were held for the attack on tourists in Kashmir.

April 28th a new site engineer, Stanzin Thousum, was appointed.



Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society,

thanks its partners:

Drukpa Trust, ARUP, University of Greenwich and Live To Love

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THANK YOU

On behalf of



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