Pradnya Niketan Education Society's

THE ORCHID SCHOOL

Baner, Pune – 45.

NEWSLETTER TERM 2

AY 2025-26

Secondary and Senior Secondary Domain

Dear Parents,
Greetings!

"Time flies but memories last forever."

As we come to the close of yet another enriching term, I take this moment with immense pride and gratitude to reflect on the journey we have shared. It is truly a privilege to lead this domain and witness the collective growth of our students, supported by the unwavering partnership of our parent community.

The achievements and learning experiences would not have been possible without your constant encouragement, trust and meaningful feedback. Your support has enabled us to continuously refine our practices and uphold the high standards of teaching and learning that we strive for, at The Orchid School.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Director-Principal, Dr. Namrata Majhail, and Vice Principal, Ms. Sonali Khambete, for providing us with the vision, guidance and unwavering support that empower our domain to grow and innovate. My heartfelt thanks also to our Academic Programs & Projects Lead, Dr. Sangeetha Thampy, for her valuable support in helping us organize our initiatives and events in a structured and meaningful manner. I am equally grateful to our Secondary and Senior Secondary Coordinator, Ms. Jayashri Samudra, for her consistent support and dedication in executing responsibilities and ensuring the smooth functioning of the domain.

It gives me great pleasure to connect with you through this Newsletter and share glimpses of the engaging activities, milestones and experiences that shaped our students' learning.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this journey of nurturing confident, compassionate and capable learners.

FAREWELL

Annual Sports Fest

On 22nd November 2025, the school grounds came alive as students from Grades 5 to 12 participated in an energetic morning of drills and races. All four houses—Udaan, Ujala, Unnati, and Umang—displayed remarkable unity, discipline, and determination through their well-coordinated drills and high-spirited races. Each team brought enthusiasm, teamwork, and true sporting spirit to the field.

Inter House Dance Competition- Utkanṣh 2025

Our students of grades IX- XII truly set the stage ablaze with the vibrant **Inter-House Folk Dance Competition**. Talented performers from all four houses enthralled the audience with their rhythm, expression, energy, and boundless passion. The event was a joyful celebration of teamwork, confidence, and the spirit of performance, leaving everyone inspired and applauding the remarkable talent on display.

Khushi Ka Bazaar

Celebrating the Joy of Giving

Khushi Ka Bazaar was organised for **Grade XI**, serving as a beautiful reminder of the joy found in giving. Through thoughtful contributions and a spirit of shared compassion, our school community came together to share smiles, hope and essential support with those in need. The initiative reinforced the belief that even the smallest acts of kindness can create a lasting impact, making the day truly meaningful and memorable

Alumni Meet

Once an Orchidian, Always an Orchidian

It was a delight to welcome our Alumni back to campus on 23rd December, 2025—a heart-warming reunion filled with shared stories, laughter, cherished memories and inspiring journeys. Seeing our Orchidians grow, achieve, and soar continues to be a source of immense pride for us. It was truly an event for nostalgia, evoking strong emotions and a sense of pride as an institution that helped build their career path.

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Celebrating Memories and New Beginnings: Grade X & XII Farewell

The send off celebrations for Grade X and Grade XII were an emotional and memorable tribute to years of shared learning, growth, and cherished moments in school. From laughter and nostalgia to moments of reflection and pride, the events beautifully captured the essence of journeys completed and milestones achieved.

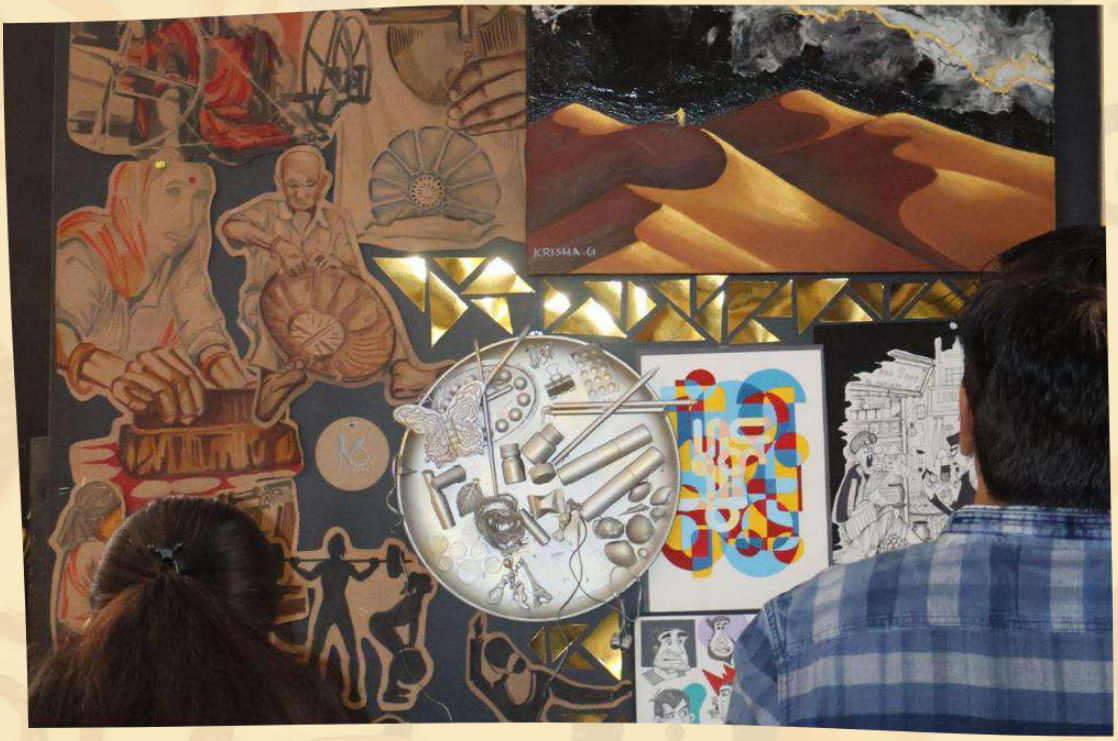
Republic Day Celebration & Art Exhibition – A Tribute Through Expression

The Orchid School celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great pride and patriotic fervour. The ceremony began with the unfurling of the National Flag, followed by the collective singing of the National Anthem, filling the atmosphere with unity and national spirit.

This year, our institutional theme, **"Communication,"** was highlighted as a powerful reminder of the change we wish to see in society. The focus was on fostering meaningful dialogue, active listening, and responsible expression, encouraging students to initiate positive change within themselves and their communities.

Art Exhibition 2025 – "ME TIME"

Creativity found vibrant expression at The Orchid School's Annual Art Exhibition, where our Painting students proudly showcased their artistic journeys. This year's theme, **"ME TIME,"** invited students to pause, reflect, and engage in a silent conversation with themselves.



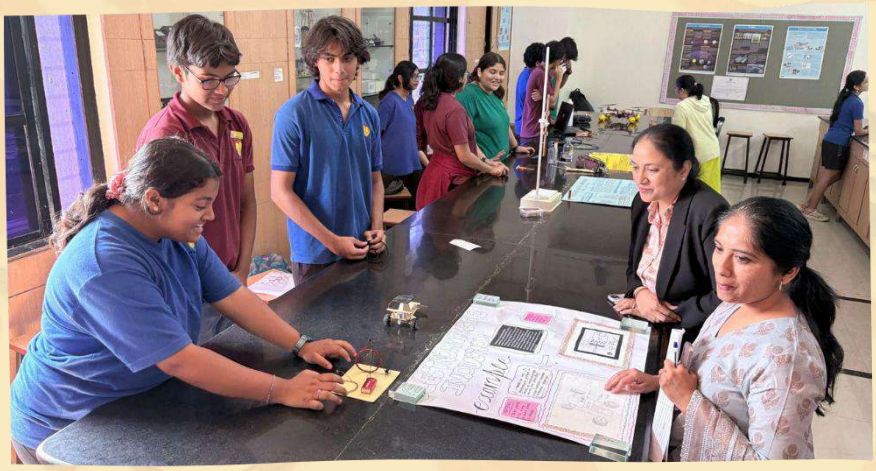
Global University Career Fair 2025

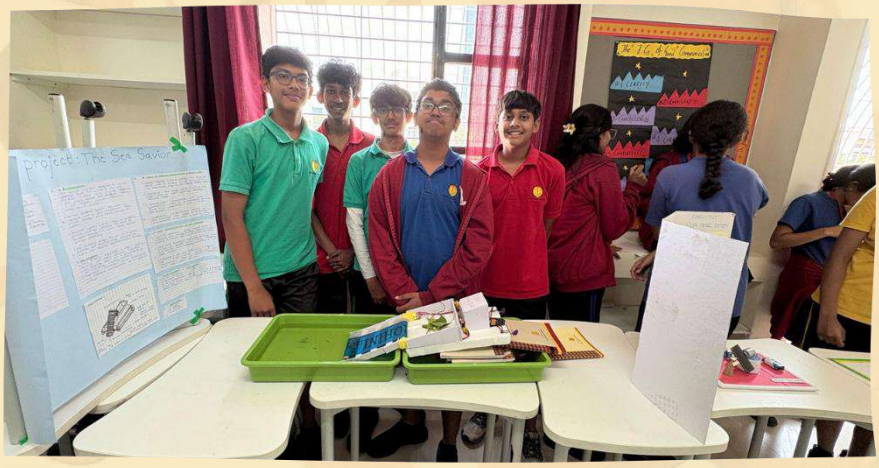
Aligned with our vision of delivering education that is locally grounded yet globally relevant, we consistently create meaningful opportunities for our students to make well-informed academic decisions and explore diverse higher education pathways.These initiatives provided valuable exposure to global academic prospects and empower students to make confident, informed choices by connecting them with leading universities and higher education institutions worldwide.

Learning Beyond…..

Curious Carnival – Science Exhibition

The school campus buzzed with excitement and innovation as we hosted "Curious Carnival" – our Science Exhibition, a vibrant celebration of young scientific minds and their boundless curiosity. From sustainable energy solutions and robotics to environmental conservation and everyday scientific phenomena, each exhibit reflected thoughtful inquiry and a deep understanding of scientific concepts.





DNA Workshop: Exploring the Blueprint of Life

Our students of grade IX recently participated in an engaging and hands-on DNA Workshop, designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world scientific practices. The workshop provided an immersive laboratory experience, enabling students to explore the fascinating world of genetics and biotechnology. It provided authentic laboratory exposure beyond textbooks, strengthened critical thinking skills and promoted experiential learning.

Change Makers Workshop

When empathy moves beyond understanding and inspires action, real change begins.

The *Change Makers Workshop* gave our XI graders a powerful platform to turn awareness into meaningful, real-world solutions. Through immersive simulations, thoughtful reflection, and collaborative problem-solving, students explored key Sustainable Development Goals such as clean water and sanitation, e-waste management, nutrition, and healthcare.

Under the guidance of **Mr. Parag Mankeekar** and the **RealLives Foundation**, students designed innovative business ventures and presented impactful ideas—discovering how empathy, when paired with purpose and sustainability, can create scalable change.

A moment of pride for our school: The Orchid School has been recognised as a **Certified ChangeMaker** School by the **RealLives Foundation**, reaffirming our commitment to nurturing socially responsible, compassionate, and proactive global citizens.

From Textbooks to Real Life: An Educational Visit to Dharavi

The students of Class IX went for a study trip to Dharavi, Mumbai, to delve into the intricate socio-economic dynamics and resilient community life within this unique urban setting. The study trip included visits to various micro-industries within Dharavi, such as pottery workshops, recycling units, and leather production facilities. These experiences provided a glimpse into the economic activities that sustain the community, showcasing the resourcefulness and resilience of Dharavi's residents.

Clinician's Perspective on Sexuality & Gender and Sexuality Sessions (Grade IX)

Grade IX students at The Orchid School attended two sessions on **Clinician's Perspective on Sexuality and Gender and Sexuality,** as part of their Life Skills module. The sessions were conducted by **Dr. Shirish Darak from Prayas Health** Group, Pune.

The session on **Clinician's Perspective on Sexuality successfully** provided students with essential knowledge about sexuality, reproduction, and respectful relationships. By promoting open discussion, critical thinking, and responsible decision-making, the session contributed to students' holistic development and prepared them to approach adolescence and relationships with awareness, confidence, and sensitivity.

The session on **Gender and Sexuality** explored critical concepts including the difference between gender and sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The session included an interactive "myth vs fact" segment, enabling students to critically analyze their own biases and assumptions.

Kala Ghoda Fest - "Ahead of the Curve."

The Painting students of Classes XI and XII visited the renowned **Kala Ghoda Art Festival** as an integral part of their curriculum. The visit provided an enriching platform for students to engage with diverse art forms, explore innovative techniques and interact with celebrated artists from across the country. Students actively participated in hands-on workshops such as wire sculpting and sun printing (cyanotype), gaining practical exposure beyond the classroom.

I hope these glimpses have given you a meaningful insight into the wide range of activities and events that shaped Term II in the Secondary and Senior Secondary Domain.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to share with you the experiences and learnings from this journey. Through the planning and execution of these initiatives alongside our students, we not only created memorable events but also grew together, strengthened our bonds, and imbibed invaluable life lessons.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to my dedicated SSS Team, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes made each of these endeavours successful.
Please be assured that we will always remain available for any support or assistance you may require.

Sincere regards

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