



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL PUNE

THE FIRST LIGHT OF THE SELF-LEARNING LEADERSHIP CAMP – 2023

BHILLAR: 8th – 12th October 2023

“You can never appreciate the scent of a flower by another's description.

Some things are left to experience. Journey of self.”

– Truth Devour

At the break of dawn, the Grade XI students of DPS Pune were zealously prepared for the remarkable five-day self-learning camp at Kamshet and Bhillar. They assembled at the school quadrangle at the first flush of morning, where sumptuous breakfast was served to them. Later, the Head of the Institution and a few teachers bid good bye to all the students as they boarded the buses with great expectation. The journey of three hours was made enjoyable by the students who entertained themselves with music and dancing throughout the trip.

Upon arriving at the campsite, the students were given a detailed safety briefing by the Campus Chief and then were divided into groups on a random basis. The activities of the day began with the naming of groups and creation of slogans for each group. The students named the groups novel titles like: MMC (*Maan Mauji Corporation*), Veer Bajrangbali, Chillies and 23 Mundis. This was further followed by multiple fun activities that enriched the students team building and leadership skills.

The introductory session was followed by a few ice-breaking activities of games, laughter, and various interactive events for the students, they were interrogated about the learning objectives of the camp. The students described their high standard of expectancy and anticipation that can be provided for their lifetime lessons and ‘aha’ moments. Post this session the students were allocated their respective homes for the next five days in tents and the dormitories.

The agenda for the day was meticulously scheduled. The day was interspersed with nutritious and delicious meals and a period of self-reflection on all the student's development of the day. The students enjoyed the strategy-based games with ample energy and thought. One of the games was especially intriguing - ‘the learning initiative’; it encouraged the students to plan, be patient and ignite the leader within. Dinner was lavish and extravagant and then the students bid goodnight - ‘Lights Out Time’. Not wanting the 5-day period to end already the students retired to sweet slumber. Indeed, every opportunity in the outdoors is an experience to remember.



GLIMPSES OF THE CAMP AT BHILLAR





STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023

NEWSLETTER 1





Dear Parents,
The next intimation would be through sms to inform you about the Departure from **Bhillar** on Thursday.



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*Sitting to-day in the sunshine, that touched me with fingers of love,
I thought of the manifold blessings, God scatters on earth, from above.*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"In the heart of nature, students find themselves, their purpose, and a sense of belonging that can last a lifetime." Leadership camps are organized events or programs designed to develop and enhance the leadership skills and qualities of individuals.

Leadership camps are crucial because they provide our students with an environment that fosters the development of essential life skills. During these camps, our students learn to communicate effectively, work as part of a team, solve problems, and make important decisions under pressure. These are skills that are not only invaluable in leadership roles but are also critical in every facet of life.

Moreover, leadership camps instill self-confidence and self-awareness in our students. The challenges and activities they face during these camps push them out of their comfort zones, helping them realize their potential. They learn to trust

their abilities and, in turn, become more confident leaders both inside and outside the classroom.

In conclusion, the importance of a leadership camp cannot be overstated. It is an investment in our students' future, one that will equip them with the tools and mindset to lead, to excel, and to make a positive impact on the world.

AN EXCERPT FROM DAY 1

At the break of dawn on 8th October 2023, the Grade XI students of DPS Pune were zealously prepared for the remarkable five-day self-learning camp at Kamshet and Bhillar. They assembled at the school quadrangle at the first flush of morning, where a sumptuous breakfast was served to them. Later, the Head of the Institution and a few teachers bid good bye to all the students as they boarded the buses with great expectation. The journey to Bhillar was short and pleasant. The students entertained themselves with music and dance during the journey.

On arrival at the adventure destination, the students were briefed elaborately by the Campus Chief about the rules and expectations. The students were given the liberty to form four groups. These students' groups gave themselves novel group names like: MMC (Maan Mauji Corporation), Veer Bajrangbali, Chillies and 23 Mundis.

The introductory session was followed by a few ice - breaking activities. Post this session the students were allocated tents and the dormitories. The agenda for the day was meticulously scheduled. The day was interspersed with nutritious and delicious meals and a period of self-reflection on all the student's development of the day.

The students enjoyed the strategy-based games with ample energy and thought. One of the games was especially intriguing – 'the learning initiative'; it encouraged the students to plan, be patient and ignite the leader within.



CHOTA HAZARI

Each day began with the enthusiastic pupils gathering at 6 a.m. sharp for some hot tea and an exercise routine known as "Chota Hazari." A lifetime's worth of memories were made during this early physical activity session, which included exercises to the tunes of whimsical songs like *bajra*, *lambi dadi wale baba*, and *gasolina*. The purpose of these engaging and entertaining activities was to get the students to start on a positive note. The pupils discovered that it is possible to work out their entire body in a pleasant and energizing way without any special equipment.

EMBARKING ON A CAVE EXPLORATION

The adventure activities which commenced every day at 8:45 am had the students set out to explore the captivating caves of the region. Their journey began with a challenging and steep trek towards the caves, with the intrepid team traversing diverse terrains that ranged from picturesque strawberry fields to densely packed, ancient trees. Emerging from the depths of the cave into the warm embrace of sunlight, a sense of achievement washed over all students. The beauty of the natural world surrounding was truly inspiring, with vibrant flowers and the finest offerings of nature catching the eye on the way back. This memorable journey left an indelible impact, a treasure that the students would carry throughout their lives.

EXPLORING THE WILD: A TREKKING ADVENTURE

Trekking marked an educational journey of discovery as the students delved into the art of mapping and fire-making. The session commenced with an enlightening lesson on the workings of compasses, setting the stage for the adventures that lay ahead. They embarked on an adventure by hiking through the delicious raspberry farms. Along the way, they encountered numerous scenic views that left them in

awe of nature's beauty. The instructor explained the science behind creating a proper fire in the wilderness, a profoundly informative experience for the students. They initiated their practical lesson by igniting small cotton balls and gradually honed their skills, culminating in the joyous achievement of a campfire capable of cooking the delectable treats they had taken along. As they savoured their meal, a sense of accomplishment and unity enveloped the group. Thus, the activity day of exploration, learning, and camaraderie was a fulfilling and enriching experience that will leave an enduring impression on each of them.

RAPPELLING IN NATURE

The students were split into four groups on the first day, each eager to embark on their daily activities. One group geared up for an adventurous 3-kilometer trek uphill, bound for the rappelling rock. With camaraderie in their hearts, they assisted each other in ascending the rugged trails, carrying their equipment on their shoulders. Upon reaching their destination, the instructors provided a comprehensive briefing on the activity and outlined the essential safety precautions. Ropes were meticulously set up, and harnesses securely fastened as the students prepared for their exhilarating descent down the rock face. One by one, each student was harnessed and descended the rock in a thrilling rappelling adventure. Upon their return to the campsite, the group convened to reflect on the valuable lessons and experiences gained from this memorable activity, ensuring that the day's adventure left a lasting impact on each participant.

ROPE-COURSES

Each group enthusiastically embraced two physically demanding activities, in particular the rope courses and outdoor survival challenges. The journey through



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the rope course commenced with an informative session about the necessary equipment. Following a comprehensive briefing on the safety equipment, the students ventured onto the Burma bridge, a thrilling test of courage and teamwork. The adventure didn't end there; it was capped off by a thrilling zipline descent back to solid ground. The day of exploration, adventure, and bonding with nature left them with a profound sense of accomplishment and memories to last a lifetime.

LEARNING INITIATIVES

The camp's core mission, which involves fostering discipline and physical activity while infusing a sense of joy, was vividly exemplified through the playful yet purposeful engagement of the young participants. Thought-provoking, strategy-based games, pouring energy and intellect into them were the part of the format for 'LI' activities. Students discovered the importance of planning, patience, and the essential quality of leadership within ourselves. "Mad Ads" games were organized during the designated campus fun time, providing children with a unique

opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a productive manner. Amidst the "campus fun" session, the game of "Mad Ads" created an atmosphere filled with laughter and creativity. Following the games, a series of enjoyable activities unfolded, designed to enhance teamwork and leadership skills.

As each day drew to a close, the students were given time for self-reflection. Self-reflection in the wild, in a metaphorical sense, refers to the practice of introspection and self-examination in the midst of the chaos and unpredictability of everyday life. The day culminated with a delectable dinner, followed by students returning to their respective dormitories and tents, having shared a day of both learning and light-hearted enjoyment.

A camp fire was organized on the evening of Day 4 and the students enjoyed singing and dancing round the bonfire. Few even put a talent show. This session was enlivened with performances that included singing, instrumental music, drama, self-composed poetry recitation and joyful dance.

CONCLUSION

The 5-day INME Camp organized for students at Bhillar and Kamshet concluded on Friday, the 12th of October 2023. It encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones. Some of the outdoor sport activities challenged both the physical and mental aspects of a student's character, promoting resilience and determination. Some activities offered opportunities for students to take on leadership roles, fostering management skills that can be valuable in their future endeavors. Participation in certain challenging activities taught practical survival skills. Students learned how to manage their rooms and their lives, instilling a sense of independence and self-learning. Encouraging respect for nature and an understanding of the environment is important for fostering environmental consciousness and responsibility. These experiences will be cherished by the students in the years to come.

"Nature has been for me, for as long as I remember, a source of solace, inspiration, adventure, and delight; a home, a teacher, a companion."

- Lorraine Anderson -



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THE BEST THING ABOUT MEMORIES, IS MAKING THEM

- GROUP CLICKS AND MORE -





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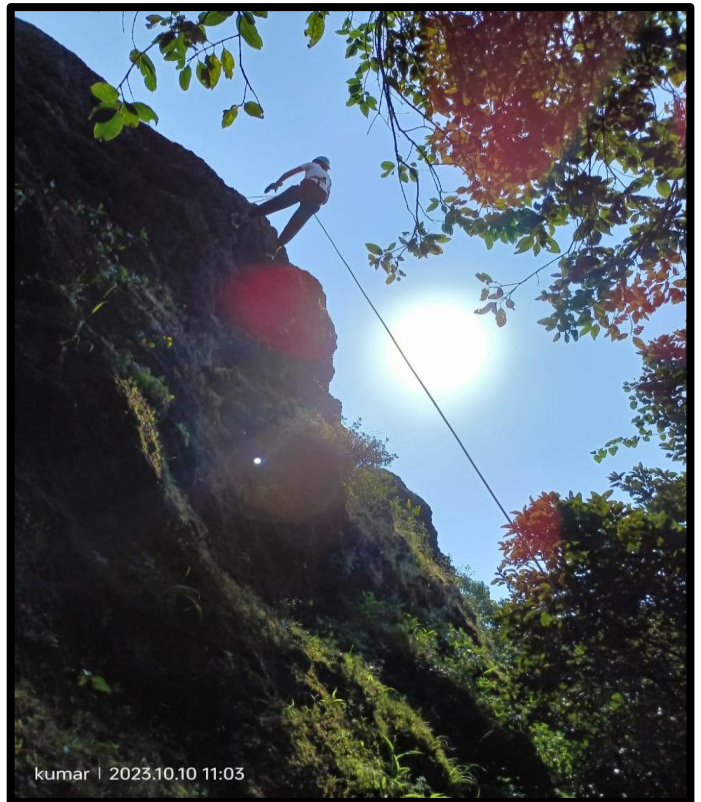


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"In the embrace of nature, school camps teach us to explore the sky and understand the earth."

