

PRAYAS 2020 - The Annual Cultural Fest of St. Xavier's Institute of Education

'BUILDING A HOPE FILLED FUTURE'

1st February 2020

ST. Xavier's Institute of Education

Prayas is the annual inter-school and inter-collegiate cultural festival of St. Xavier's Institute of Education. It is an initiative conducted annually for intellectual, social and cultural development of College and School level students. It aims at networking with educational institutions and other like-minded individuals. Its main objective is to channelize creativity through meaningful events in the fine arts, performing arts and literary arts departments. Every year, Prayas revolves around a particular theme which makes the event value based and socially connected.

This year, the theme for Prayas was 'Building a Hope Filled Future'. The reason behind this theme were the Universal Apostolic Preferences which were to be followed by all Jesuit Institutions. Every event in the academic year revolved around the same theme. This was followed by four sub-themes which were a part of the Universal Apostolic Preferences – 1) Discernment and Spirituality 2) Walking with the excluded 3) Care for our common home (earth) and 4) Journeying with the youth. Most of the events of Prayas 2020 encompassed the theme. The festival was scheduled for 1st February 2020.

The planning for Prayas 2020 began in the month of November 2018. It all began with a small orientation provided to the students of the Second Year by the staff coordinators. Following the orientation, the staff coordinators along with the student council representatives kick started the initial planning process by chalking out the various departments that would be needed for the smooth functioning of the festival.

Various departments such as Creatives, Marketing, Technology, Hospitality and Administration were part of the plan. Based on the level of interest and expertise, the second year students were divided into these departments and were asked to work towards achieving various objectives within their departments. A core team was selected which consisted of the student council members Mr. Shannon Nogueira, Ms. Neha Chawda and Ms. Atiya Patni and the staff coordinators. Each department also selected a department head. The heads for the various departments were as follows. 1) Marketing and Social Media – Ms. Sharen Achangaden 2) Creatives – Ms. Calyn Dsouza 3) Hospitality – Ms. Anseeya Vaz 4) Technology – Ms. Rachael Dcunha. The student council members were put in charge of two departments each.

Once the assigned tasks were completed, it was time to decide the events list for Prayas 2020. After a group consensus among the second year students and the mutual agreement of the staff coordinators, the final list of events for Prayas 2020 was ready. The events for Prays 2020 were divided into 3 categories- Only School Events, Only College Events and Events for School as well as college. The list of events and rules were as follows:

I. School & college events

1. Express and impress (Mime)

'Be as expressive as you can and build up the event'

Theme: walking with the excluded

Max: 6 to 8 participants per team

(1 team per institution)

2. Folk swings (Folkdance)

'Let us see if your group can carry the collective wisdom, spontaneity and simplicity of folk dance'

Theme: Any theme

Max: 6 to 8 participants per team

(1 team per institution)

3. Paint the path (Poster Making)

'Speak your heart, through your art'

Theme: Journeying with the youth for a better future

Max: One pair per school

(1 entry only)

II. School Events

4. Waste matters (Best out of waste)

'Don't throw away, recycle it for another day

Theme: Care for our common home (Earth)

Max: One pair per school

(1 entry only)

5. Rap it up (Rap Competition)

'Wrap yourself around the beats of your creative persona'

Theme: Journeying with the youth

Max: one pair per school

(1 entry only)

III. College Events

6. Mind your language (J.A.M)

'60 seconds non-stop talking without hesitation, repetition or deviation'

Theme: Walking with the excluded

Max: only two participants per institution

7. Pitch Please (Group Singing)

'Make it sound pitch perfect'

Theme: Care for our common home (Earth)

Max: 6 - 8 students per institution

(1 entry only)

8. Worth thousand words (Photography)

'Explore the city through your Lenses'

Theme: Walking with the excluded

Max: 2 participants per institution

All 50 students from the second year were allotted an event group where they had to contribute at various levels. The event groups were asked to select a leader from each group who would be the event head and coordinator for that particular event. The event coordinators were as follows – 1) Mime – Ms. Rosemary Johnson 2) Dance – Miss Divya Kanojiya 3) Poster

Making – Ms. Sophia Rodrigues 4) Best out of waste – Ms. Calyn Dsouza 5) Rap and Singing – Miss Rachael Dcunha and Ms. Pratibha Fernandez 6) J.A.M – Ms. Vidonia Gracias 7) Photography – Ms. Sharen Achangaden

The next month was spent brainstorming on the various rules and regulations of the events, the technological requirements of the events, the judge's lists and various other factors. The staff coordinators were constantly in touch with the student council representatives for updates on the various events. Simultaneously, the various departments were also at work. The creative team, began designing the logo and the brochure, the marketing team decided on potential sponsors, the administration team prepared the time table for the events and the hospitality team followed up on the refreshments and so on. Every department worked hard on accomplishing the various tasks given to them.

It was then followed by the next step which was, to invite various schools and colleges to participate in Prayas 2020. By now, the first year students had also joined in and were helping their comrades who were in the second year. With the help of students and staff, invites for Prayas 2020 were sent to as many schools and colleges as possible in Mumbai and some even beyond Mumbai.

As the date for Prayas 2020 drew closer, the preparations also accelerated. Slowly and steadily entries began to come in from various school and colleges, sponsorship was also received with the help of few second year students and the core team which consisted of the staff coordinators, the student council and few other students met more often to discuss every detail of the event.

Prayas 2020 received sponsorship with the help of certain students. The Title partner was Bassein Catholic Bank Pvt. Ltd., the co-sponsors were Savexx and Blue Shade Events. The judges gifts were sponsored by Atona Herbals. Few other donors and well-wishers also contributed towards the event

The design for the certificates and the trophy was also finalized as well as t-shirts for the volunteers were printed. Everyone awaited in excitement and enthusiasm as the countdown for Prayas 2020 began.

February 1st 2020 was welcomed with gusto and zest. Prayas 2020 witnessed the participation of 21 schools and 18 colleges. The total number of students participating in Prayas was 368 students.

Prayas 2020 began at 9.00 am with a formal inauguration. The formal inauguration included the welcome of the guests, lighting of the lamp, welcome address by Ms. Priti Sivaramakrishnan, the inaugural address by our manager Fr. Blaise Dsouza S.J, the address by the principal Dr. Sossamma Samuel and orientation about the general rules. The Manager and Principal of the institution declared Prayas 2020 open. All of the events were finished and were followed by the prize distribution ceremony which ended at 5.00 pm. The various events witnessed a lot of creativity from the students. The judges too were impressed by the talent displayed by the students. Prayas 2020 ended with a formal vote of thanks where all were thanked for their valuable contribution. Feedback was also collected from the students regarding their opinion about this activity. Prayas 2020 was a grand success and it was all due credit to the staff coordinators Dr. Bijoy Thomas, Ms. Priti Sivaramakrishnan and their team of students. We look forward to Prayas 2021!

Report Prepared by

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