

<b>REGULARS</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2</span>	<b>POETRY</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2</span>	<b>'READING' RESPONSE</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3</span>	<b>REPORTS</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">4</span>
--	--	--	---

*The Doon School Weekly wishes the School community a happy Children's Day!*

## Fast Track

*Madhav Dutt and Kanishka Malik recount the Inter-House Athletics Competition*

This year's Inter-House Athletics Meet witnessed new levels of competition between the experienced and well-known athletes, and the newcomers. The highly-rated ones tried to match the standards of the past and the newcomers tried to set new standard. All those present at the competition will agree that the attempts to do all this were evident.

The junior events, as always, revealed fresh talent. Vijay, a D former of Hyderabad House, won the prestigious hundred metre run by a very narrow margin from Aahan Menon who, too is, as yet, only a C former. In the high jump event, Shrestha Khaitan jumped the highest, clearing an impressive 1.46 metres. Vijay's victories were commendable enough to bring him the Most Promising Athlete award in the juniors' section. The Jaipur athletes like Harshvardhan Bansal and Marud Garg must also be lauded for their performances.



In the track events in the mediums' section, Udai Bothra had to do his level best to ensure that he took the lead from Adhiraj Thakran in the four hundred metre run to win the event for the second consecutive year. Dhruv Sawney won the Long Jump event. Tushar Gupta performed exceptionally well in all his events, and even managed to break the High Jump record by an astounding eight centimeters. In the field events such as the Javelin throw, Viren Chhabra won the event for the second time and Utkarsh Garg bagged second position. Viren Chhabra of Hyderabad House went on to win the Discus throw as well, followed by Abhinav Parthi of Oberoi House, who came second. The hundred metres run was dominated by the accomplished athlete from Tata, Aditya Gupta, who won all his events, including the two hundred metre run and the Hurdles. Lakshit Joshi won the eight hundred metre run, taking the lead from his housemate, Vigya Singh, who came second.

In the Seniors' category, Vidur Vij covered the hundred metres at lightning speed with a timing of 11.84 seconds. The 400 metre run in the same category was an entertaining event in which the School athletics captain, Aaditya Vicram Gupta, bagged the first position. Sumer Boparai outclassed everyone in the Shot-Put event, throwing a distance of 11.5 metres. Aayan Patel, the Oberoi House athletics captain won the hundred metre Hurdles as well as the 400 metre Hurdles. One of the most awaited events, the Pentathlon, took place on November 2, a holiday due to Guru Nanak Jayanti. The whole School assembled outside the CDH during breakfast to watch the finale. Once the fifteen hundred metre run was complete, the whole school was talking about Nikhil Sinha, who came first in the Pentathlon (followed by Amit Gupta and Vedant Chandra of Tata and Jaipur Houses respectively). The School witnessed a test of endurance towards the end of the competition, when the five thousand metre run took place. Vedant Chandra won the event and all of us will agree that his hard work had paid off. Vedant took the lead in the fifteen hundred metre run (followed closely by Arjun Middha) and even threw the javelin the furthest in the seniors' section. These victories secured him the Best Athlete Award. The School witnessed some impressive team-work in the relays. Kashmir shifted their best sprinters – Anmol Jamwal and Udai Bothra from the Mediums' section to the seniors' section in order to win the hundred metre relay. Kashmir House won this event in the juniors' section too.



The competition ended with marching and Oberoi House marched remarkably towards the marching prize - an enormous cake! This was followed by the speeches of the School athletics captain and the Headmaster, Dr Peter McLaughlin, the Chief Guest. The prize distribution saw Jaipur house winning the Junior Cup, Kashmir securing the Mediums' Cup and Tata House bagging the Senior Cup with a narrow margin from Oberoi House.

## AWARDS

Manit Bhandari has been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.  
 Dhruv Velloor has been awarded **Debating Colours**.  
 Siddhant Sachdev has been awarded the prize for the **Best Junior Debater of the Year**.

The results of the **Individual Table Tennis Tournament 2009** are as follows:

<b>Juniors:</b>	<b>Seniors:</b>
<b>1st:</b> Shivaan Tandon	<b>1st:</b> Sagar Agarwal
<b>2nd:</b> Rishabh Chadda	<b>2nd:</b> Ashutosh Kejriwal

The following are the results of the **Dipankar Sen Individual Science Quiz, 2009**:

**1st:** Arjun  
**2nd:** Saarthak Singh  
**3rd:** Aviral Gupta

Congratulations!

## APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments for the forthcoming year were made recently:

**Boys-in-Charge, Paper Recycling:** Arjun and Arvind Sharma.

**Social Service Secretaries:** Devashish Singal and Angad Bawa.

**Boys-in-Charge, Photography STA:** Shourya Gupta and Nilesh Agarwal.

**Joint Secretaries, Junior English Debating Society:** Utkarsh Jha and Vikramaditya Kapur.

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

## TRACK AND FIELD

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Athletics Competition, 2009**:

<b>Juniors:</b>	<b>Mediums:</b>	<b>Seniors:</b>
<b>1st:</b> Jaipur	<b>1st:</b> Kashmir	<b>1st:</b> Tata
<b>2nd:</b> Hyderabad	<b>2nd:</b> Tata	<b>2nd:</b> Oberoi
<b>3rd:</b> Kashmir	<b>3rd:</b> Hyderabad	<b>3rd:</b> Hyderabad
<b>4th:</b> Tata	<b>4th:</b> Jaipur	<b>4th:</b> Kashmir
<b>5th:</b> Oberoi	<b>5th:</b> Oberoi	<b>5th:</b> Jaipur

**Mumtaz Ahmed Trophy for Best Athlete:** Vedant Chandra

**Most Promising Junior Athlete:** Vijay  
 Well done!

## Opinion Poll

**In your opinion, does the media play a role in spreading alarm by sensationalizing news unnecessarily?**



*(250 members of the community were polled)*

**Next Week's Question:** Do you think there were too many activities too close to the Trials as usual?

## UNDER-16 HOOPS

The School participated in the **Under-16 District's Basketball Tournament** held at **The Doon International School**. The School reached the Finals of the Tournament and lost to the host school, 31-30. Well done!

## BADMINTON

Abhishek Parasrampur, Arjun Khaitan, Vidit Sadana and Nayan Manchanda represented the School in the **Councils Badminton Tournament**, held at the **Aryan School**. The School won the tournament. Well done!

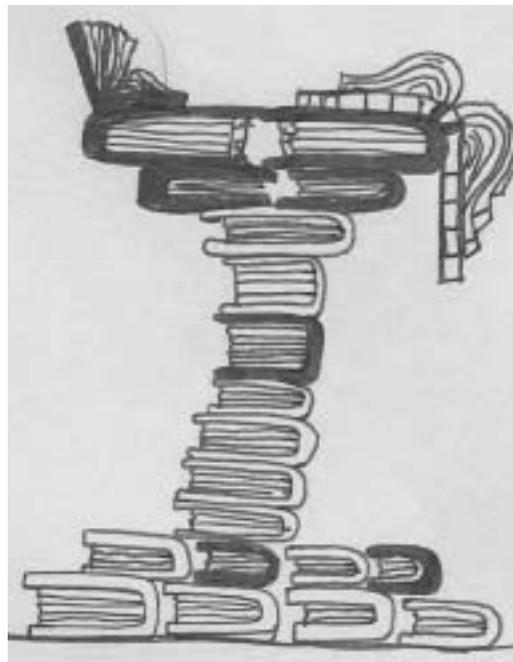
### | Poetry |

## When I Got Thrown Out of Class

*Saptarshi Biswas*

"Get out of class,"  
 The teacher said,  
 Looking at me, purple with rage.  
 On a Monday morning,  
 The sun shining bright;  
 I stepped outside, barely awake,  
 And breathed in the good, fresh air.  
 I got rid of the memory of class,  
 And also the Satanic teacher in there.  
 I looked down the corridor,  
 Heard birds chirping in the trees;  
 Saw the clear, bright sunlight,  
 Filtering through the leaves.  
 The chill wind around me,  
 Sent vibrations up my spine,  
 And reminded me of the exciting events,  
 Of the last outing of mine.  
 I understood, I understood,  
 The difference between the two,  
 And that the corridor outside is anyday better,  
 Than a class inside which is torturing you.

## doontoon



*'Trying' Times*

---

---

# Letter To The Editor

---

---

## 'Accrediting Pages' Indeed

The very presence of the article 'Accrediting Pages' in the last *Weekly* raises quite a few issues. The issue of incentives in the School system itself is something that has been debated in the past and needs to be re-visited. There is the issue of the systemic need for something like the Reading Awards and finally there is the entire question of the ethical validity of the article itself.

The article, however, raises the pertinent issue of the point-hungry-Dosco. The present Dosco (read senior forms) understands two things better than his own name — food and a single-minded pursuit of points for awards/colours. The latter takes on an ugly face particularly in the Autumn term of SC form. During this time some boys haunt masters for points relentlessly. At times, even running down peers is par for the course. The more articulate give vent to their frustration in writing or in Assembly talks. To serve his purpose, the odd Dosco will 'undo' stated codes, policies and rules, or wheedle his peers into taking up his case at the House or even the School Council.

In fact, the poor Reading Award is hardly "offensive". An award, in essence, is a mark of recognition for any form of achievement. It is a public acknowledgement of excellence in any field. Incentive-based reading programmes are a common feature in schools the world over. A simple Google search on incentive-based reading programmes will astound anyone!

As for the "sin" of "reading the works of only a few authors or poets" that Mr. Velloor defends: one can only say that wanting to remain limited is a choice one is free to make in life! A school, however, cannot afford to be so complacent. The article seems to be an oblique apology for those readers who perhaps limit themselves to pulp and fantasy fiction. There is no harm in limiting oneself to only that, but to sneer at anyone who reads beyond that, for whatever incentive, is being truly "preposterous".

Why the Reading Award? The award was instituted by the former Headmaster, Dr. Bajpai, with the sole intention of encouraging eclectic reading. In the age of dwindling readers and low language skills, this was considered to be one of the ways in which literacy and exposure could be handled in School. The initial proposal submitted by yours truly was deemed, and rightly so, too complicated. The initial proposal included the minimum reading of about eight genres to qualify for the interview stage. Dr. Bajpai wanted to avoid any systemic complexity, hence, the system of the minimum number of pages and the institution of an interview panel. The clause of reading Library books was put in to increase the stake-holding of the students in the Library. Moreover, the pages are only cut-off margins that allow a student to qualify for the interview stage. The panel that comprises Masters and the senior students of the Library Council assesses not only the level the participant qualifies for, but also looks at the qualitative aspect of the books. It is true that the award requires active changes and keen interest from interested senior students and Masters. Finally, no one is in any way forced to participate in the Reading Awards; hence one is not really certain what 'Accrediting Pages' is griping about. As a much-respected senior boy, the author of the article should have tried forwarding some positive suggestions to make the award better, rather than merely debunk the concept altogether.

This brings us to another systemic issue — the ever-growing series of awards, rewards and colours. It may be a good idea to just suspend all reward-for-contribution-to-activities and Colours for a few years. Every year senior boys complain of the 'politics' that is being 'played out' at various levels in deciding the Colours or awards or nominations. What is often forgotten is the quanta of 'politicking' boys themselves indulge in. Suspending all Colours would affect only the Blazers, the games and activity Colours and the various House Colours. The names on Boards would continue, as would awards for winning events. In a way, it would only mean that boys would not carry the additional cross of trying to be more equal than the rest.

Finally, what is most appalling is the lack of ethical sense of the author who was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Weekly*, the guardian of journalistic ethics. Mr. Velloor was one of the interviewers of the Reading Awards this year. If he held such disparaging views about the Reading Awards why did he sit through the interviews? Does not Mr. Velloor realise that he represents the panel when he writes this article? How can the constituent member of a system come out and publicly debunk the same system? It is akin to a Governor of the School coming out of an IPSS meeting and issuing a press statement debunking the existence of the IPSS, or one of the Housemasters or HoD's going to the press stating how worthless the systems of The Doon School are! One had hoped that before casting the stone, the author of 'Accrediting Pages' would have at least considered the responsibility of his position as a panel member of the Awards.

It is amusing to note that most disparaging articles and remarks about the School come after the Board results are declared or after the baton has been passed on for the forthcoming year. On a more sympathetic note, one can just reiterate the thought which Dr. McLaughlin voiced in one of the meetings, that when the seniors start nitpicking about the system, it is a sure sign that they have outgrown the system and it is time for them to move on. The School, in that sense, has done a good job — it has most certainly taught the author and his peers to look critically at a system.

(Debasish Chakrabarty)

# Doon Tees Off

*Bharat Ganju reports on the Inter-School Golf Tournament held at the Chandigarh Golf Club on November 1*



Golf as a sport in School had never really picked up. There were always a few odd golfers, yet no one really took the initiative to build a team. Many of us are unaware that every student of School has a membership at the DSOI Golf Club, a place many of us will have seen during our cross-country practices.

Yet, just last term, the idea of creating a School golf team emerged, and many boys showed a keen interest. Some of the takers hoped the School would provide lessons to beginners.

The proposal of golf being introduced as a sport was first raised in the School Council, and was subsequently passed in the Games' Committee, and once the go-ahead was given, there was no looking back. SJB took over as Master-in-Charge, whereafter there were regular outings to the course.

It was a matter of time before an invitation for an inter-school golf tournament came along, and the first came from the Chandigarh Golf Club. A team of four boys was selected to represent the School at the tournament and we left for Chandigarh on October 31, escorted by SJB.

The tournament was played on November 1, in the Stableford format, in which each player gets a certain amount of points per hole depending on the number of strokes and their respective handicaps. Moreover, this tournament had a modified format, in which a player's handicap was reduced by a quarter, thus making it more difficult to score (the lower your handicap, the more difficult it is to gain points).

The tournament consisted of over one hundred and fifty players, Old Boys and boys from schools such as YPS, Patiala, Vivek High School, Chandigarh, and St John's School, Chandigarh. Apart from the fact that it was a new course, and that we were unfortunate to not get a practice round, the tournament can be deemed as a success, with the team standing third in the overall tally, losing to two local schools.

The recent tournament is a good sign for times to come, and I am sure that soon many more boys will be involved in the activity with increasing opportunities.

*Utkarsh Garg and Vaibhav Bahadur recount their experience at a star-gazing trip held last week.*

## Star-Gazing



The Astronomy Society members escorted by RMR, VKL and ANC visited Boorans Khanda, a small village near Dhanaulti for a 'star-gazing' trip in the last week of October. The trip, as part of the annual activity of 'night sky view' of the Society, coincided with an international project called *Galilean Nights* in the International Year of Astronomy, 2009.

We left the campus at around 2.30 pm on October 24, and reached the village by 5:30 pm. Intense cold greeted us but the camps at the site comforted with equal warmth. We quickly settled in and had some snacks and tea. Later in the evening, we installed two reflecting telescopes, one 6 inch and the other 90mm, which we had carried with us from School.

After dinner, we were appraised by RMR of the activities that were to be conducted. We were provided with a night sky chart that helped us locate different constellations and a star count chart to compare the number of main stars around the constellation of Cygnus. It was exciting to see so many stars, especially Magnitude 6 stars which were quite faint. All of us clearly saw a fading light patch starting from the north-east horizon extending to the south-west in the sky. It was the branch of the Milky Way galaxy in which our solar system is located. We were able to recognize eight constellations in the sky by matching it with the sky chart. The telescopes were used to see Jupiter, its four fast moving satellites, namely Europa, Ganymede, Io and Callisto, and the Moon with many of its craters. VKL and ANC were amazed to see these heavenly objects in the sky. They took a lot of interest in our activities and we felt encouraged by their participation.



To view some of the other planets, we went to the extent of waking up voluntarily as early as 3:30 in the morning when the temperature had dropped below the freezing point. We observed different planets like Saturn with rings across its disc, Mars and Venus. These three planets were almost along a straight line with Mercury very close to the Sun, making it difficult to see. The most interesting but cumbersome part was to keep moving and focusing our telescopes to view the planets as they would be out of sight in just a few moments.

After sunrise, we did some terrestrial viewing of the snow-capped peaks of Gangotri, Chaukhamba and the village in the valley below us. Later after breakfast, we headed back for School. It was indeed a pleasant and purposeful trip.

**Online Edition:** <http://www.doonschool.com/magazine>

[weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



IPSS® All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248009, India. **Published by:** Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Vivek Santayana **Editor:** Shashank Peshawaria **Senior Editors:** Arnav Sahu, Bharat Ganju, Chandrachuda Shukla **Associate Editors:** Kanishka Malik, Abhinav Mittal **Special Correspondents:** Arifeen Chowdhury, Shashvat Dhandhanian **Correspondent:** Rahul Srivastava **Graphics Editor:** Madhav Dutt **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Stuti Bathla, Priya Chaturvedi, Arvindanabha Shukla **Special Assistance:** K C Maurya **Photo Credit:** Sookrit Malik