

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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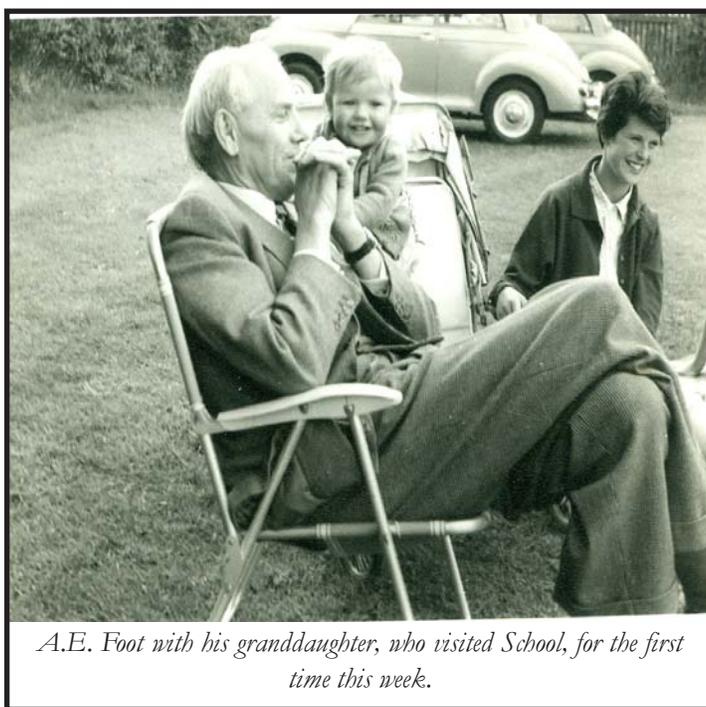
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THE WEEK

GONE BY 6

“Foot Leads, Feet Follow”

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Sarah Saunders, the granddaughter of the School's first Headmaster A.E. Foot



A.E. Foot with his granddaughter, who visited School, for the first time this week.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you please give us a brief introduction about yourself?

Sarah Saunders (SSD): I was born in Doddinghurst in 1966. I am the second daughter of George Foot who was born here, at The Doon School and I have a younger brother as well. There are the three of us and we were called the three foots or the three feet or a yard. So there's me, my older sister and my younger brother.

DSW: Do you remember any stories of Mr. Foot or of the School which you would like to share?

SSD: Yes, I have a photograph of me with my granddad. The photo was taken just before my granddad died of a heart attack while playing lawn tennis. So apart from this photo, which is very special to me, I have no other personal memory of him. Of course, there are stories which other people have told me about him. Once, he grew a beard when he was on holiday and Silvia Foot, his wife, really liked it, but he refused to keep it. So he shaved it off right before he came back to School!

DSW: What made you embark on your journey to School?

SSD: I have always wanted to come to The Doon School and I distinctly recall telling my dad that I want to visit this School and he would always say no. So I thought that one day I will go. Even though I did a lot of travelling when I was younger, we never came this way. At that time, my two daughters were too young to come here. Unfortunately, at the beginning of this year my aunt, who was also born here, died. After she passed away I started clearing out her house and that's when I found so many things related to this School. There was a lot of information about this School and so to help me get over the loss of my aunt, I decided to come to India and pay a visit to the school and well, it has blown me away!

DSW: What does it feel like to finally be in India?

SSD: I can't get enough of it. Last night I couldn't sleep because I was so excited about being here. I woke up in the morning and sat on the steps of Foot House and then I thought to myself that this is how my dad felt when he was here. So yes we are incredibly happy and excited about being here.

DSW: What do you think education should be about?

SSD: Education should be all about the joy of learning so that you learn how to learn. Once you've got that you can learn anything you want. It is all about wanting to learn because if you've got that enthusiasm and motivation to learn then you've got the rest of your life to learn anything you want to.

DSW: Which do you think would be a better school, co-educational or single-sex?

SSD: I can absolutely get the buzz of being in a single sex but I think that the real world does not consist of only boys or only girls. I think it's really important for girls and boys to learn to be together. But then again, considering the tradition of this School and the whole maleness of it; I imagine it is really fun for the guys.

DSW: Since you and your husband teach and empower the disabled, how can we as students of this School do our part to help the disabled?

SSD: I think the answer lies in acceptance. If we would just get to know them as individuals, there is a lot we can learn from them and the truth is that they have so much to give us. We have to help them build their confidence for whatever reason they lost it, so it is our job to help them get back on their feet. Once you get to know them and then you empower them, you realize that they have unique qualities. You must talk with them, and not to them.

DSW: Do you plan to come back to Doon in the future?

SSD: Of course! I would love to come back to this School!

VISITING GUEST

The School community welcomes Sarah Saunders, the grand-daughter of late Arthur Foot, the founding Headmaster.

EXCHANGE

We welcome the following exchange students:

Rahul Maganti and Rohin Maganti from **St Mark's School, Texas**

Harry Mathews and Nicolas Berenguer from **Stowe School, UK**

Amaan Naushad from **The Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman**

Suneet D'Silva from **Southridge School, Canada**

Jack Owlett and George Griffiths from **Millfield School, UK**

We wish them a fruitful stay in School.

SPORTING PROWESS

Samarjit Singh represented the **Indian National Junior Shooting Team** at the **Pizen** in the **Czech Republic**. He was ranked 17th in his category.

Arijun Khanna played at the **Cricket Academy** in **Delhi** and has been selected to participate in the Delhi State Trials.

Abhishek Parasrampurua won the U-19 **Gujarat State Open Badminton Championship**. He will now represent Gujarat in the upcoming Nationals.

Well done, all!

SOCCER SUMMARY

The School Senior and Medium Soccer Teams played matches in Delhi against various schools as part of the Pre-Season Soccer Training Camp. The results are as follows: On July 26 the School played against **DPS Mathura Road School**. The Senior Team and the Medium Team **won** their matches 2-1.

On July 27 the School played against **Vasant Valley School**. The Senior Team **drew** their match 0-0 and the Medium Team **lost** 5- 1.

On July 28 the School played against **St. Columbus School**. The Senior Team **lost** their match 3-0 and the Medium Team **lost** 6-1.

On July 29 the School played against **Modern School**. The Senior Team **lost** their match 4-1.

On July 30 the School played against **G.D. Goenka School**. The Senior Team **won** their match 4-2 while the Medium Team **lost** 4-2.

Well done!

ROUND SQUARE

The Doon School organized a regional **Round Square Social Service Project** at **Kata Patthar** and **Fatehpur** between July 16th and 26th. Pranjal Bhatt, Nitin Chauhan, Dr Amar Lanka, Dr MC Joshi and Ambikesh Shukla represented the school at this project.

Apekshit Goel represented the school at the **Annual Round Square International Service Project** held in Ladakh.

Kudos!

WELCOME!

We welcome the new teachers, Umang Verma, Arvind Dethi and Sudanshu Bhandari who have joined the Physics, Geography and History departments respectively. Their interviews run on page 5.

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

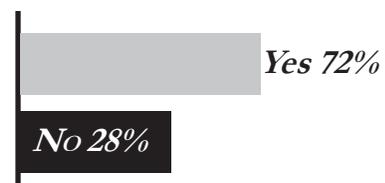
KICK OFF

School is hosting the annual **Inter- School Junior Football Tournament, being held between** August 9 and 12, 2012.

We wish the teams best of luck!

Opinion oll

Should students be allowed to talk about School in Assembly Talks?



(318 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you think we should be allowed to play in the rain?

BOOK OF THE MONTH

August



Title: Mike: A Public School Story

Author: P.G. Woodhouse

Publisher: Bibliobazaar

(Courtesy: The Library Council)

| Poetry |

Filler

Utkarsh Jha

This poem is a filler,
Inserted, so that the *Weekly* can head to the printer!
Written with lightning speed and clearly no imagination,

While the *Ch. Ed.* blurted instructions about the pagination.

And the masters' shouted
Clearly agitated,
By the lack of content
And the hours that they had spent.

While they were shouting,
I was struck by lightning,

A poem arose,
From a boy much morose.

It may just be a filler,
But it is clearly a killer!

| Report | 'MUN'NING IN CHINA

Raniz Bordoloi and Utkarsh Jha report on the recently concluded WEMUN Conference, held in Beijing between July 26 and 29

On July 25, a group of nineteen delegates, escorted by DKM and SBL, left the comfort of their homes to take part in the WEMUN conference in Beijing, China. While we were inarguably excited about the conference, we were also concerned about our performance in the various committees, especially when we thought about the sterling performance school had given the last time it participated in the competition.



We reached The Grand Epoch City where the conference was to be held, just in time for us to dress up and dash into committee. This meant that some of us were 'handsomely' late for the first session of our respective committees. What made the ordeal of turning up on time even more difficult was the vast size of the convention centre and the evident language barrier.

The WEMUN conference itself consisted of sub-conferences organized by universities and organizations from around the world. The conference comprised over fifty committees with around 1800 delegates. However, the Committees varied in size-

some had as many as hundred delegates while some others had as few as ten. Even though many delegates were handicapped due to their inability to speak fluent English (the language in which the proceedings were carried out), it was commendable that they often raised important points and spoke without any reluctance or hesitation. As a result we witnessed active participation from all members with topics from around the globe being discussed and debated upon. While finding a feasible solution to some of the problems turned out to be difficult, delegates ultimately managed to pass resolutions as they were focused more on collaboration than on competition.

Apart from engaging in heated debates and discussions, we were also able to visit the Global village where we witnessed a myriad cultures and nationalities. Whether it be watching Indians apply *mehendi* on the hands of others, or the Chinese painting flags, or soaking in the sights and smells emanating from the food stalls offering cuisines from all corners of the world, the experience was truly amazing and in sync with the spirit of the conference.

With all this going on, time flew by and soon the conference neared to an end. We attended the closing ceremony with feelings of anticipation and anxiety; feelings that were to dissipate as soon as our names began to be repeatedly called out for awards and praise. In the Harvard MUN's WTO and Organization of American States, Rahul Srivastava and one of the authors- Utkarsh Jha won the Most Outstanding Delegate awards. Karan Kairon, Sehaj Jouhal, Gaurav Kothari and Divyansh Goyal's diplomacy on topics ranging from Employment of Women to the Militarization of the Arctic won them Best Delegate awards. Other members of the delegation such as Udbhav Agarwal, Sayuj Dhandhania, and Pulkit Agarwal also did the School proud by clinching awards. Overall, the delegation had a very successful run.



The following awards were won by members of the delegation:

Best Delegate: Karan Kairon, Sehaj Jouhal, Divyansh Goel, Gaurav Kothari

Most Outstanding Delegate: Sayuj Dhandhania, Sachin Mehra, Pulkit Agarwal, Udbhav Agarwal, Rahul Srivastava, Utkarsh Jha

Honorable Mention: Pranay Raj Kapoor, Arnav Joshi, Raghuraj Rathi,

Verbal Commendation: Palash Kanwar.

Congratulations!

We spent the next two days in Beijing city where, fortunately, the food was to our liking. We visited the prime tourist attractions of Beijing which included the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City. Moreover, we polished our bargaining skills at the Silk Market, where many of us managed to achieve a ten fold reduction in prices.

All in all, the conference ensured that we not only honed our debating and speaking skills but also learnt how to look at a situation from different perspectives. Moreover, we experienced international diplomacy at its best. The WEMUN conference will undoubtedly remain one of the best trips of our lives, be it because of the conference, the people or the fun we had!

AND THEY'RE BACK... WITH ACCENTS

Aaryaman Scindia
St. Edwards School, England

I was privileged to have been given the opportunity to go to St. Edwards School in Oxford. It was an enriching experience indeed. Exchange taught me to be more understanding of other cultures. It was also a great opportunity to make a lot of new friends. I feel St. Edwards or 'Teddies' (as they call it) has changed my personality for the better. Being in a co-educational school also played a role. While I was at Teddies, I was exposed to new sports like rowing and rugby, which were at first a bit challenging, but with time I got the hang of things. I liked the School instantaneously and the students there were quite friendly. The Exchange was an amazing experience that will be etched in my memory forever. I am glad that I was fortunate enough to go to such a school. Undoubtedly, if I was given the chance, I would do it all over again.

Shivaan Seth
Eton College, England

Six weeks at one of the most renowned schools in the world, I couldn't have asked for more. After hearing so much about Eton from the boys who had been there on Exchange previously. I was anxious to get there and experience life as an Etonian. At Eton, I was exposed to a culture completely different from ours. I got the opportunity to make many new friends who made me feel comfortable from the moment I reached. I studied a variety of subjects including new subjects like divinity (religious studies) and art. I was also a part of the house cricket team that reached the semi-finals in their inter-house competition. I'll always remember every bit of my stay at Eton- from playing FIFA with my friends to the walks down to the High Street. My six-week long program has made me a more confident person and helped change my outlook. It has given me a new set of friends from another part of the world, which I believe is very important.

Vikramaditya Kapur
Malcolm College, Peru

An Exchange to Peru was both exciting and a cause for great nervousness. Peru certainly lived up to my expectation of what an Exchange should really be! I made friends, travelled around the country and even ate a guinea pig (a Peruvian delicacy!).

Arriving with pre-conceived notions of Peru, I was taken aback by how developed the nation really is and how few of their citizens actually spoke English. Initially it was tough to get by, but by the end of it I had picked up some Spanish phrases and could communicate with locals.

The highlight of my trip was when I visited *Macchu Picchu*, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was amazing that apart from being naturally beautiful, it was very well maintained.

Exchange was truly a life changing experience and I left Peru with friends I will never forget and memories that I will cherish forever.

Vishal Tummala
Southridge School, Canada



While I was on Exchange to Southridge in May, my entire form was 'cracking' the SAT vocabulary word lists, which is probably why (with my limited vocabulary) I can't think of what to say! Returning to the point, Southridge reintroduced me to the learning experience of a day school. Very unique in its infrastructure, it not only brought with it an experience of a lifetime, but also two very surprising things: first, the relationship between the teachers and students. The teacher is, more or less, a friend. At Doon, we do not understand the delicateness of that relationship, but the amount of self-discipline it brings about can be really surprising. That brings me to the second surprising thing I experienced, which is the amount of self-discipline the students there possess. Studying in a day school, they are highly exposed to an umpteen number of distractions; nevertheless, they continue to perform well in the fields of academics and sports. To summarize, Exchange was sixty days of fun, magic and revelation.

Kunal Kanodia
St. Philip's College, Australia

From eating kangaroo meat to playing Australian 'footie', Exchange to St. Philip's College was an experience I'll never forget. Located in Alice Springs, in the heart of Outback Australia, St. Philip's College has an excellent Outdoor Education programme, an active debating team and even their very own version of *The Weekly*, among other activities.

Apart from having an extremely welcoming attitude and amiable offers of help whenever I felt (and looked!) lost, the students at St. Philip's College showed me around Alice Springs nearly every other day. We went to *Uluru*, the landmark of central Australia to the rest of the world, *King's Canyon* and other places in and around the city.

Ironically, the first time I actually cooked Indian food was in Australia! I was asked to cook butter chicken for all the boarders in their mess kitchen and I ended up constantly looking up recipes on the internet to ensure that I was cooking the right way! Indeed, Exchange was an experience that I will always cherish; all the new friends made, experiences shared, and lessons learnt. St. Philip's College was an amazing experience. I would give anything to experience it all over again!

‘STAFF’ED UP

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Umang Verma (UDV), Sudhanshu Bhandari (SUB) and Arvind Dethle (ARD) who joined School this term

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us something about your background.

Umang D Verma (UDV): I did my primary schooling in California. Then I came to Dehradun in 6th grade and joined the School in D-form. I graduated from a school in Cambridge, Massachusetts, having left The Doon School in S form. It was very difficult to apply to US colleges from India back in 1997-98, as the School didn't have internet yet. For university, I went to Cornell University where I studied Physics. Thereafter I joined Georgetown University where I studied Law. After practicing law for a while, I finally left for India a month ago.

Sudhanshu Bhandari (SUB): My father was a physicist and he taught students for 36 years. He also taught at Universities in the UK because of his interest in Science and Physics. From early childhood, my sister, my elder brother and I were interested in academic pursuit and gaining knowledge for the sake of knowledge. And even though I have always been passionate about humanities and social sciences, the bulk of the family was from a sciences background, which is why I gained quite an interest in physics, cosmology, biology and other disciplines.

Arvind Dethle(ARD): My name is Arjun Dethle and I am originally from the bustling metropolis of Mumbai. I completed my preliminary schooling in the Maximum City and did my graduation as well as post-graduation in the field of Geography from Mumbai University. I then entered the field of teaching and have been a teacher ever since. Initially, for three years I taught geography to the students enrolled in the ICSE curriculum and soon after started teaching children who were a part of the IB and IGCSE boards.

DSW: Did you always want to be a teacher?

UDV: I didn't always want to be a teacher. I've taught before and I like it. When I was a senior in college, I taught physics to first year students. That was a lot of fun. On comparing practicing law to teaching, and that too in my own school, this is definitely so much better.

DSW: Having experienced both the Indian and the American education systems, how would you compare the two?

UDV: When I went back to Cambridge to do my 12th grade I took all advanced AP classes. ICSE was enough to prepare me to graduate at the top of an American high school class. That's how advanced the Indian education system is till grade 12 as compared to American high school. But by the time one graduates from college, people from the American system have caught up with, if not surpassed what the Indians are doing.

DSW: What do you think about the changes in School since you left?

UDV: I think all the changes have been for the better. On my rounds in Hyderabad House, I saw boys' deodorants lying out there. In my days in the house, if you accidentally left your deodorant lying outside, within five minutes it

went missing! We had cassette players kept in the Common Room. Of course, the food is excellent. The food that we had to eat was awful. We got chicken once a week on Sundays, and that too one piece. Dehradun was very different. When I was here there was no Nirulas, McDonalds or KFC. There was no option but to either eat in a Dhaba or eat in a Hotel, there was nothing in between. But now you have so many options.

DSW: In a nutshell, what reforms would you introduce into the education system in School?

SUB: First of all the departments need to be cross-disciplined. Inter disciplinary changes should be flexible like in the US where in one year or semester a student can study physics, literature or astronomy, so on and so forth.

DSW: What are your interests and how do you plan to contribute to the various activities in School?

SUB: I think that my interest lies in the intellectual arena. As I said at the admission stage, I can bring value in the form of contributing to debating societies or in the poetry clubs here or any kind of club associated with English literature, like writing literature or journalism. So the fact is that there would be a lot of extracurricular events, particularly academic in nature, which would be of interest to me, and of course, sports would be an arena where I would like to participate, but then I'm not a specialist in any of the sports.

DSW: What is your opinion of the reception you got in School?

SUB: The reception I have got till now has been a mixture of good and bad. Some students I found to be very responsive and bubbling with energy, while some were not so responsive. Surprisingly, the junior students I found to be more attentive and intelligent when compared with the senior boys.

DSW: During your tenure at Doon, what activities would you like to get involved in and what responsibilities would you like to undertake?

ARD: So far, I've been in school only for a few days. My role has been limited to that of a teacher and a tutor. As far as possibilities are concerned, I would like to get involved with cricket in school. I also play an instrument called the *kathaal*, which I have been learning for the past 3 years. I've given a few exams related to it, so I hope I can introduce the students to the instrument.

DSW: What got you interested in playing the *kathaal*?

ARD: My interest in playing the *kathaal* was aroused when I saw a small boy playing the instrument adroitly. However, this happened a long time ago, when I was growing up in my native place. The *kathaal* was one of the first instruments to give form to the Indian rhythm. I learnt to play the instrument from Hari Bagne, who is a well-known musician and a skillful *kathaal* player. Regrettably, due to other commitments, I have not been able to spend much time pursuing my passion of playing the instrument. However, I hope to make amends.

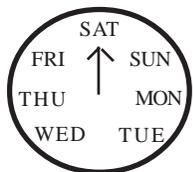
DSW: Why choose Doon out of the various schools in India?

ARD: The answer is simple. It is because the Doon School is amongst the best schools in India. That is probably the most important reason for me having chosen to teach at Doon.

|Junior Creative | THE BOOK

Arnaav Bhavanani

Weeks ago I was sitting in class, trying to think of a topic to write on because I needed to practise my language skills. Nothing sprang to mind. Then I thought, what if every single person in the world was thinking of something to write, right now. Billions of minds, billions of ideas. The enormity of this overwhelmed me. If all these ideas could somehow be compressed and written down in one volume, as one story, what would it hold? What mysteries, secrets, dreams, views and ideas would it reveal? Sure, a mammoth task like this would take decades of hard, unrelenting, back-breaking work, to piece them all together, not to mention translating the various diverse languages of this planet, trying to understand how all of them could be connected, one to another, to form one story. It would be long, undoubtedly, but still one unified volume. A volume that would link the minds of billions of people together, and give them all something to share, maybe even break down prejudices and bring the world together. It is said that when humanity stands unified, it will be the most powerful force in the universe. Maybe not physically, but mentally and spiritually. Humanity could crush anything that stands in its way. For there would not be seven billion people scattered across the world, they would be seven billion people, standing as one, challenging the universe: it's dark mysteries, secrets and horrors. This volume could be a stepping stone to redemption from what we have become: greedy, corrupt and uncaring. That compendium of human knowledge could serve as a reminder that no one is separate from the rest, that there are seven billion people in the world because each and every single person is counted, not because we pay for it, or are more privileged than the rest, or because some are considered too lowly to be counted. We're all counted because we all have one thing in common. We're human. We live, breathe, share the planet. What's so different? Our religion? Our caste? Our creed? Our wealth? None of this matters when we die. At the end all that matters is how we treated each other, how we stood together as one, and challenged the universe. When that one story will be written, the world will change.



The Week Gone By...

Vikramaditya Kapur

setbacks and counting days till their next vacations.

Nonetheless, boys have occupied the fields, finally realizing that they have to shed off the excess weight that they have gained. But more importantly, we have to worry about the holiday homework that we received. But that is not going to stop us from preparing for DSMUN, The Chuckerbutty Debates and Founders' Day.

School has also been subject to change. Some bathrooms have been renovated, but communal bathing still haunts the souls living in Tata House. Talking about Houses, I am bound to mention the dilemma that Kashmir House faced due to a short circuit- a single bathroom. The short circuit did not leave our efficient IT Department behind, leading to a blackout.

Upper Skinners is now in full use after its resurfacing was completed last term. But boys still tend to slip, fall and walk back with twisted ankles.

What certainly caught everyone's attention were the new (plastic) glasses in the CDH. Kudos to the Mess Committee!

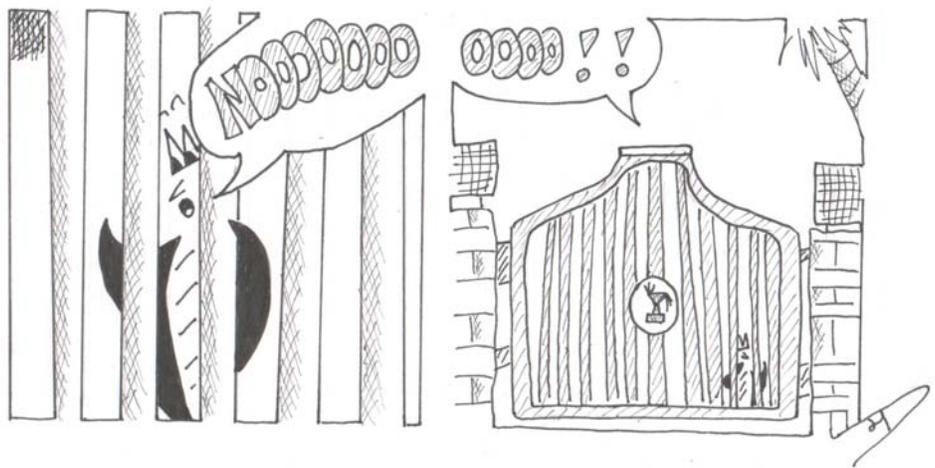
School has only just started, but it already promises to be an eventful term.

It is tough to come back to School. There is a lot that one has to sacrifice- airconditioners, cars, food, TV, virtual games and now, for most times, laptops. But what haunts most of us is the necessary haircut and shave! Like always, DoscOs seem to be moving on from these

Dosco Doodle

Back to School

Madhav Dutt



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