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# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## Rhetoric, Rebuttals and Reason

*Arjun Singh reports on the recently concluded Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates*

With high-hopes, nervousness and gusto, the 59th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates took place in school between September 4 and 6, 2015. Once again, this year's 'Chucks' stuck to its reputation of testing participants' logic, reasoning and above all – cogent rhetoric; making for a truly challenging and yet memorable event.

The arrival of teams on Friday afternoon was soon followed by the opening ceremony, where old friends (and some rivals) of the country's public-school debating circuit were reunited. Within this 'Spartan



club' were some new faces from schools making their debut at Chuckerbutty. After enough mingling, the teams were given their official welcome and briefed on the competition's rules. This year Chucks underwent a complete renovation with the introduction of the World Schools' Parliamentary Debating Format – where speeches run for seven minutes (a departure from the usual four) and 'Points of

Information' are posed to speakers mid-debate. The preliminary round too was modified to feature a 'pool-style' arrangement, where each team would face five debates to decide their spots for the Semi-Finals.

Having been familiarized with the rules, the teams were given their first motion- 'This House believes that schools should avoid instilling a sense of patriotism'. Being a prepared motion (for which earlier preparation was required), the teams squared off against each other and promptly began their debates. During this battle of words, arguments regarding limits of the state's power, the neutrality of education and the distinctions between patriotism and nationalism were thoroughly discussed. After tea, the teams faced yet another ordeal when given the next topic, this time the topic being impromptu – 'This House regrets the emphasis on college education'. For an issue so pertinent in the lives of today's students, the debates revealed varied personal opinions across arguments by both sides. This debate marked the closure of the day's proceedings, following which the tired teams were hauled back; both to dinner and their accommodations for some much needed sleep.

A good night's rest refreshed the teams for the second day's trio of debates. Continuing into the 'prelims', teams were given another contemporary motion that read - 'This House would not watch ISIS execution videos.' This motion stretched the abilities of all speakers, requiring them to combine powers of rhetoric and argumentation with an in depth knowledge of policy as well as moral issues. The tension during the tea-break that ensued thereafter was palpable, because the two debates after the tea-break were going to decide as to which teams would proceed to the next round. Following this, the next (and thankfully, last) impromptu motion – 'This House would ban online anonymity' – was released. Given the prohibition of electronics, teams had to rack their brains for forgotten slivers of knowledge to use as examples while preparing this motion. In spite of this, teams lived up to the challenge, proposing

*(Contd. on page 3)*



## Regulars

### Soccer

The School Football Team participated in the Council's District Football Tournament held at St Joseph's School from 1st to 9th September, 2015. The team reached the finals where they emerged winners.

Congratulations!

### IAYP

The following boys have been awarded the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award:

**Bronze**

Nehansh Saxena, Harshit Bansal

**Silver**

Chinmaya Sharma

Well done!

### This Week in History

**1776:** On this day the Continental Congress formally declared the name of the new nation to be the "United States" of America.

**1897:** The First drunk driving arrest was made.

**1915:** A prototype tank nicknamed Little Willie rolled off the assembly line in England.

**1943:** Gen. Dwight Eisenhower publicly announced the surrender of Italy to the Allies.

**2001:** The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre took place.

*"Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself."*

Marcus Tullius Cicero

### Quiz

The School recently participated in the WWF- India City level quiz held on 2nd September, 2015 at RIMC. The School emerged as the winners and have qualified to the National Level Quiz to be held in Delhi.

Kudos!

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

The weather is humid.

**Yash Dewan**, *are you sure?*

He is a hardly-working boy.

**VKL**, *complimenting.*

I was self-introspecting.

**Aryan Bhattacharjee**, *we can see that.*

I am not a racist discriminator.

**Ranvijay Singh**, *introspecting too.*

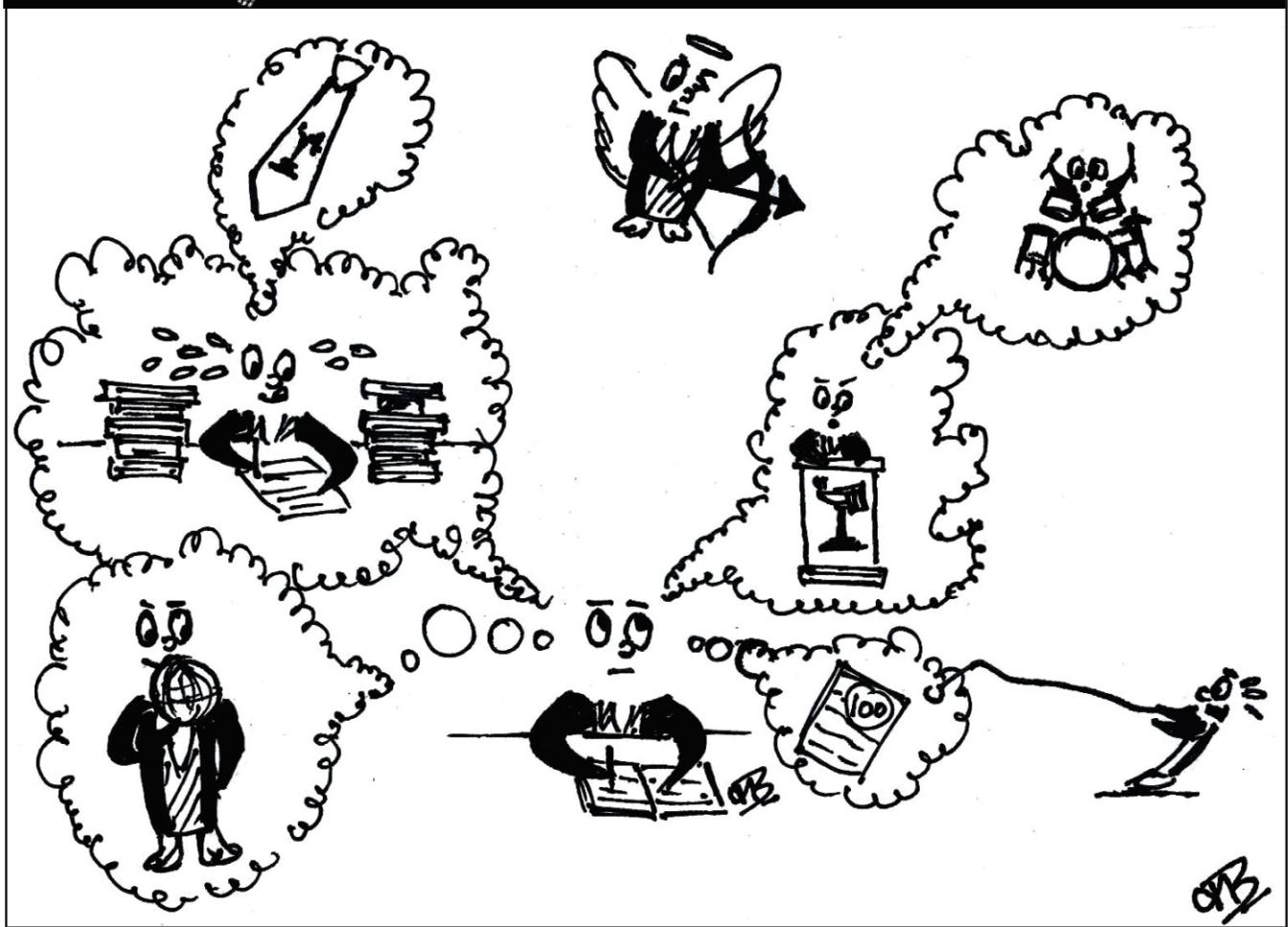
### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

This week saw the release of the much awaited iPhone 6S along with the new iPad Pro. Japan was hit by floods after torrential rain. The Syrian refugee crisis breathed a sigh of relief with Germany opening its borders to the victims. Queen Elizabeth II of England surpassed Queen Victoria as the longest ruling monarch. More British glory came in the form of Lewis Hamilton winning the Italian Grand Prix. The new human-like species, *Homo naledi* was discovered in Africa.

### Dosco Doodle

### Day 'Dreaming'

Kushagra Bansal



*(Contd. from page 1)*

excellent arguments regarding Internet freedom, online harassment and the policies that mattered. Stakes being at their highest by now; the last motion truly tested teams with its highly contentious nature – 'This House supports the use of tiger parenting techniques.' Stemming from Yale Law Professor Amy Chua's book 'Battle Hymn of a Tiger Mother', the term 'tiger parenting' was subject to various definitions by teams in an effort to encompass its broad usage. This debate proved to be the most challenging (albeit exciting) of all; and to see adolescent speakers present arguments steeped in profundity on a subject such as parenting was truly a delight.

An aura of mixed-feelings was noted at the completion of this round. For one, most teams were both relieved after a spree of debates over two short days, yet dissatisfied for not being able to progress. The Organizing Committee too looked worn out – for the logistical challenge to hold over forty debates in such a short span of time had clearly taken its toll. The day wasn't over though, for the Semi-Finalists of both pools faced off for a clash of ideology and realpolitik in 'This House believes that civil disobedience is essential to a democracy.' Following this penultimate round, the participants and organizers headed to the MPH, where the awards ceremony and the traditional 'Chucks' dinner were held. The evening boasted an entertaining concert by the School Popular Band, followed by 'the dance', where both teams (and escorts) showcased their moves in rhythm with the night's various mixes.

They say the most testing of times reveal one's true abilities. On Sunday last this dictum was firmly upheld by an enthralling final round between The Doon School A- Team and Mayo College Ajmer. With a motion as controversial as 'This House believes that Bollywood has a lot to answer for', both teams displayed exemplary rhetorical skills; the amplitude of swaying opinions being large for a topic dear to the hearts of many in the audience. At the debate's closure, many such opinions were to be shared, with comments from the judges and Chairperson serving as food for thought. Our School team put up a great fight; though in the end, it was Mayo College who clinched the trophy, having a taste of victory at Chucks for the first time ever.

And with that, for the 59th time yet, the Chuckerbutty debates came to an end. The farewell was marked with final goodbyes (and a few cries): for some it was their last 'round of debating at the inter-school level'. A huge acknowledgment is due to all those involved- the students, bearers and masters – all of whom put in borrowed time before Test Week for this event. The greater acknowledgment though lies with debaters, for without them the more important skills of logic, reason and rhetoric wouldn't have been showcased.

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| Creative |

## An Epiphany of Silence

**Madhav Singhal**

The first time I met him, we did not talk much. It was not because of the fact that he was speech-impaired and aurally challenged, it was because of my apprehension. The five year old entered my room, inspected it and sat down on the floor next to my dog. While I stared at my books, he stared at me. His eyes were strabismic and every time I met his glare, I reflexively looked down to my books. Just as the uncomfortable silence was becoming unbearable, he got up to leave the room, and did so, only after giving me one last expressionless look as the door shut behind him. Little did I know that this ritual of sorts was to repeat itself in the coming days.

Our next encounter was different. It had been raining since morning that day and by the time he had reached my house, he was soaked to the skin. He entered my room, with water dripping from his oversized clothes. On seeing him, I did not react, partly because I was annoyed and partly because I felt sympathetic. I merely got up and left the room to get him a towel and dry clothes, carefully avoiding the puddle of water which had been formed at his feet by then. He must have noticed this act because by the time I returned, the puddle of water was no longer there. I handed the clothes to him and left him alone to change. It was only at night that I was to find my once white formal shirt stuffed into my wardrobe, devoid of all its formality and pristineness.

When I returned silence continued to prevail. After careful inspection and scrutiny of my rather messy room, he had soon found himself a book. And this is how we passed the whole day: he remained glued to his book and I continued to struggle with mine. I must admit, looking at him leaning against the wall in the corner somehow filled me with pride. I did not have any connection with him. Still I felt proud. Guilty too.

This silent routine continued for about two weeks. The day he did not come, I found out that he was going back to his village. I was not expecting a parting message from him either. However, much to my surprise, he did come. There was no goodbye as expected and silence, as usual, filled the air. But this time even after he left, the silence lingered. It was in this lingering silence that I had a revelation. I realized that despite not speaking a word nor making a single gesture, he had not failed to communicate. In the silence I heard it—“He was not handicapped. I was.”

# The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

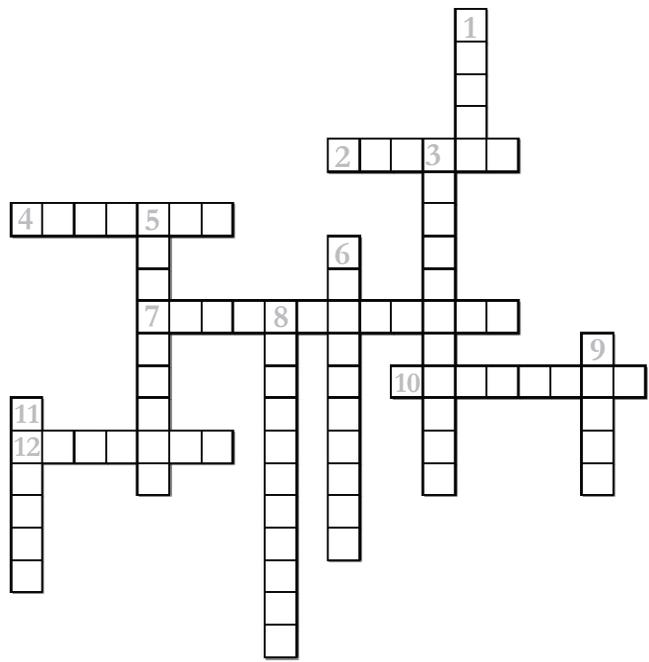
The academic agenda has been covered, books have been set aside, and now the moment that most of us have waited for has arrived. Football, music, midterms, and more importantly Founders will take place one after another. The next month offers no respite, but it will surely give us a good break from the academic front.

The debating society must be congratulated for organizing a flawless Chuckerbutty Debates this past week. The debate used a revised format which allowed each school to debate at least 5 times in a bid to reach the semi-final round. After seven intense rounds, our school managed to reach the finals were they lost out to Mayo College, Ajmer in a closely contested debate.

This past week witnessed people study as if their lives depended on it. Boys were seen all over the school trying to separate themselves from the distractions that the house had to offer. The PTM is another dark cloud that will present itself after the storm has passed, and none of us would like to be part of it. Parents and teachers will unite on a common front. This is something that our 'academically inclined' boys have never looked forward to, but nevertheless, the last minute cramming that took place will act as the first line of defense for boys in distress. The PTM offers a chance for many to get a much needed break from the suffering they have endured in the past month and a half.

The next few weeks will witness a plethora of colour on the main field as boys will adorn their house t-shirts for the Inter House Football competition. The matches begin next week, and the practices that most of us have endured in the past month are sure to pay off. The coming week will also witness the remaining events of the Inter House Music Competition. Apart from such grave details of events that took place over the course of the week, most of us await the commencement of the mid-term break for which a huge amount of planning has taken place. Founders is coming up, but before that, most of us have to survive the onslaught of PTM's that I mentioned before, so be prepared.

# Crossword



### Across

2. First woman to receive the Bharat Ratna award.
4. Cystitis is the infection of this organ.
7. The treaty signed between Tipu Sultan and Lord Cornwallis.
10. He has been appointed as the President of the Asian Athletics Association.
12. He is the President of Iran.

### Down

1. She has been designated as India's next Foreign Secretary.
3. Medical study of skin and its diseases.
5. She is known as 'Trimurthy of Carnatic Music'
6. She is acclaimed as India's first woman Photojournalist
8. Known as the 'Lady with the Lamp'
9. First animal to go to space.
11. Winner of the FIFA Confederations Cup held in 2013.

Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

<b>Answers to This Week's Crossword:</b> <b>Down</b> 1. Singh 3. Dermatology 5. Dikshitar 6. Vyarawalla 8. Nighatgale 9. Talika 11. Brazil	<b>Across</b> 2. Gandhi 4. Bladder 7. Seringapatam 10. Al-Hamad 12. Rouhani
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Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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