

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

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True Penmanship

Vir Bhatia shares his views on writing.

When engaged in a discussion with an active writer in School, I expressed my interest in taking up the art as a profession in later life. I was greeted with a rather abnormal response, "If you like writing, you should write more often." This was peculiar as I had always imagined writing to be a natural response or reaction to something that one is interested in or passionate about, and not an action that could be planned in advance or foreseen. I was surprised to receive such advice from someone who I considered to be a proficient writer.

This incident had me thinking, had I been under the illusion that writing was supposed to be expressive of one's inner thoughts and feelings. Was it really just people trying to impress others with their vocabulary? Or perhaps they wrote because they felt obliged to do so to cement their role in a certain group or circle. Maybe people were writing to control what others feel about them instead of about how they think and feel about the world. So I ask, if one is writing out of undue pressure from their peers instead of to share their views and opinions, has their writing any base or meaning at all? Not only does the quality of their writing suffer, but the very lack of genuine passion for the topic on which they are writing is utterly visible through their big words and long sentences. In the words of The Guardian's award-winning author, Meg Rosoff, "Your writing voice is the deepest possible reflection of who you are. The job of your voice is not to seduce or flatter or make well-shaped sentences. In your voice, your readers should be able to hear the contents of your mind, your heart, your soul." Contradictory to this is the notion that being a "good" writer is a symbol of vast knowledge, and an inability to write long flowery text indicates stupidity or ignorance. All one must understand and know to write effectively is himself. Understanding oneself goes hand in hand with being able to express ideas openly.

Obviously, this does not apply to every writer, but the amount of passionate, genuine and interested writers is decreasing at an alarming rate. One must question whether or not having the many platforms to express one's self that we do in school is futile. After all, the plethora and large variety of publications in our school demands an equally large amount of writers and contributors. Perhaps, to increase the quality of written material in school, we should decrease the quantity of availability. This will incentivise better writing and filter it from casual pen work. A good writer will no longer be able to take advantage of his or her status and reputation as one and will put more thought and energy behind their writing. One must reflect on our norms and ask, is it absolutely necessary to have two Hindi publications and two sports publications? The content in both instances is repetitive. Would it not be more prudent to eliminate one and create a monopoly of writers, editors, cartoonists and any other contributors? This would substantially increase the quality and credibility of the publication.

Additionally, few members of our community strive to take their writing proficiency or skill beyond the four walls of our school. The idea that being a successful writer at a school level is sufficient is a very dangerous one. The only way to develop and mature as a writer is to take your interest beyond our gates and into the hands of better mentors, more widely-read forums and a specific target readership. One must never be content, for contentment is the enemy of progress. Aim for excellence and talent will develop on its own. This is the wisdom that an accomplished and successful writer would impart. Not to write about what others want to read, or things that are 'normal', and not about things that don't define and characterise you as a thinker. Meaningfulness is the key to greatness.

Finally, one must be very clear that there is no shame in being inept or clumsy with a language. Language is merely a means of expression. There are many languages and many means beyond language through which an individual may express himself. Writing is multi-lingual but is, in its own way, limited. It eventually boils down to expression, which is the key to a peaceful and cooperative existence. Without effective expression, through any medium, and individual is powerless.



Regulars

'Trysts with Destiny'

A delegation of sixteen boys recently represented the School at the **Mayo College Girls School Model United Nations Conference** held in **Ajmer, Rajasthan** from **April 26-29, 2017**, and secured the following awards:

Best Delegates: Archit Barthwal and Aryan Chhabra
Most Outstanding Delgates: Aayush Chowdhry, Devang Laddha and Ojas Kharbanda

Honourable Mentions: Kalpit Sharma, Shikhar Trivedi, Yuvan Jaidka and Zoraver Mehta

Verbal Commendations: Arunav Vaish and Krishna Goyal.

Additionally, the delegation was adjudged the **Best Delegation** at the conference for the **seventh consecutive year**.

Well done!

Carried Away

The **School Hockey Team** recently participated in the **13th Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament** held at **Welham Boys School, Dehradun**, from **April 30 to May 2, 2017**. The team reached the Quarter-Finals where they lost to **The Punjab Public School, Nabha** with a score of **5-2**.

Well tried!

Summer Greetings

The *Weekly* welcomes all parents of A and B-Form students to the campus for their Parent-Teacher Meetings.

Dosco Doodle



"I destroy my enemy when I make him my friend."

- Abraham Lincoln

The Last Command

The following are the results of the **81st Inter-House PT Competition**:

Juniors:

- 1st: Tata
- 2nd: Kashmir
- 3rd: Oberoi
- 4th: Jaipur
- 5th: Hyderabad

Seniors:

- 1st: Tata
- 2nd: Hyderabad
- 3rd: Oberoi
- 4th: Jaipur
- 5th: Kashmir

House Positions:

- 1st: Tata
- 2nd: Oberoi
- 3rd: Kashmir
- 4th: Jaipur
- 5th: Hyderabad

Best PT Leader

Mihir Gupta

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

US colleges need athletics players.

Jaideep Gill, School Athletics Captain.

Wake up me at 6 am in the morning.

Aryaman Agarwal, sleep talks.

Around the World in 80 Words

The UK refused to pay the one hundred billion dollar 'divorce bill' required to leave the European Union. A suicide bombing on a NATO convoy in Kabul killed eight and injured twenty two. Kim Sang-dok became the third American to be detained by the North Korean government. China's Government confirmed its plans to launch its own online encyclopaedia to rival Wikipedia. Real Madrid won 3 – 0 against Atletico Madrid last Wednesday in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals.

New Arrivals

Pratham Bansal

A 'Weekly' Change

A debate on the benefits of the School's new Weekly Schedule.

Point

Arjun Singh

The School Council in March adopted a new Weekly Schedule to improve the daily routine of the entire community. After an exceptionally democratic process, where open suggestions were pinned up in the Library, the newly formed schedule – two weeks into operation – has been well received for its optimal structure and efficient management of time.

One of the primary benefits of the Schedule is academic, whereby class timings have been revised to forty-five minutes that enable teachers to cover more course content per day. Overall, this leads to a 35 minute increase in class timings per week, which along with evening classes is important for the IB and newly-adopted IGCSE curriculums in terms of meeting their required teaching hours. Likewise, the pre-breakfast classes, which some deem inconvenient, are appreciated for their back-to-back lessons, which allow taxing subjects to be taught with continuity for both teachers and students. As the day's academics concludes, lunch is served followed by a mandated rest hour enabling boys to digest their food and unwind after classes – a departure from the previous system, where lunch was followed by two classes and no rest hour thereafter. The rest of the afternoon has been strategically planned. A reserved hour in the afternoon now gives STAs, SUPWs and Societies the flexibility to operate on one of four working days, while Captains receive nearly two hours for sports practices. These can be held with little constraint, since Evening Toyé post-Games has been removed, giving players some much-needed recuperation.

Yet, it's important to address the criticism it's faced, primarily directed at the beginning of the day. With Rising Bells now ringing a mere fifteen minutes early, many have complained about a "loss of sleep". It must be noted, however, that the new timings still reserve at least 7.5 hours of sleep for D to A-Forms, which is enough to handle the day ahead. For senior students, especially SC-Form, their exemption from morning PT following the Inter-House Competition allows for extra sleep time, and makes late night studying and college work feasible.

Conclusively, all these benefits point to the new Schedule's acceptance. However, as with all policies, the future may change perspectives and yield new ones. To address these, the School Council encourages more feedback from the community, which would be addressed at its upcoming meeting and fuel this ongoing process to strive towards perfection.

Counterpoint

Aryan Chhabra

It is often said that change for the sake of change is cancerous, and looking at the new schedule, I cannot help but remark at how apt the saying is. While there were discussions and deliberations taking place in the School Council to reform the earlier schedule, this piece will question the necessity of the change along with analysing what these changes really are.

As per the new schedule, the main changes that have had the most impact on DoscOs are waking up earlier than usual for classes and longer class timings. About the first, this move was made to increase the number of teaching hours before lunch to give boys a break after eating. Whatever the intentions, the fact remains that most boys end up losing time for one of the most important parts of their daily routines: sleep. The Point on the right may argue that this time is compensated for after lunch, but even then the first two classes of the day aren't productive because students are too drowsy to pay attention. One can argue that a student ought to sleep early to make sure he's in shape for class, but we have to remember that for many seniors, especially SCs, the work-load of college applications and academics is extremely heavy for us to sleep early. With the new IGCSE coming in, it's reasonable to expect this trend to trickle down soon, and thus defeat the purpose of these new timings.

On the question of the new class timings, it's important to remember that classes are now forty five minutes long – an increase of ten minutes from the earlier schedule. The School Council has emphasized the need to increase class timings to satisfy the 'minimum teaching hours' of curriculums. But the benefit is for only a few, and adversely affects students in D, C and B Forms with unnecessarily extended class timings. As someone who's been in their place, it is important to stress that more classes with shorter time periods are better than fewer classes with unneeded longer timings, given the former allows a more comprehensive study of subjects per day, and matches the concentration spans of students. A change which benefits seniors at the cost of these students, according to me, is thus unjustified.

Conclusively, despite all the complaints about the previous schedule, it far outshines the current one in terms of appropriate timings (which is the essence of any schedule). In that regard, I'd hope the School Council notices these issues; if so, the meeting on Tuesday will have a lot to answer for.

Views from Yogi's UP

Kanishkh Kanodia analyses the first seven weeks of UP's new Chief Minister.

About seven weeks ago, a saffron blanket spread over 200 million people. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state of India, came under the control of the BJP, who won more than 75% of all seats in the Legislative Assembly. From this, we witnessed the uncanny and controversial rise of another watershed figure: the saffron-clad Yogi Adityanath, who was appointed Chief Minister (and thus, the democratically elected leader over the fifth-largest population of voters in the world). Yogi had long been known for his far-right Hindutva ideologies, and his appointment sent shock waves through the state, which has a population of about 40 million Muslims. The BJP was criticized for such a move by the media, critics and, most importantly, voters who felt “betrayed” by a nationalist in power. People feared the rise of a right wing intolerant state. However, Yogi has shunned his opponents with positive reception across India to an extent where many have compared him to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A surprising twist like this begs the simple question: Why?

According to me, a resident of UP and coincidentally Yogi's hometown (Gorakhpur), the answer right now is clear across the state. In the seven weeks since his appointment, Yogi has enforced strict law and order across



Uttar Pradesh, kept ministers and government officials on their toes and carried out various schemes for development. This isn't just generic talk, but is actually visible to a common citizen. After the relatively lawless regime – aka *Gundaraj* – of the Samajwadi Party, I've personally find myself safer in Uttar Pradesh today. The crackdown on crime hasn't stopped there, and illegal slaughterhouses are banned while anti-Romeo squads have come down hard on criminals – being just a few examples of heightened security in the state. The suspension of a hundred policemen for ‘laxity’ and transferring of many more serve as a warning to the law officials that looseness at workplace will no more be tolerated. Moreover, the fear of a phone call or inspection at any time of the day from the CM keeps them vigilant and active on duty.

It is not only law-enforcement officials, but also the bureaucrats who are afraid of him. In the past, Yogi has paid surprise visits to officers at the workplace to observe the efficiency of officials, as well as cleanliness and sanitation. His dictum to officials - “work 18-20 hours a day or leave” – has jolted the bureaucracy. Consequently, files have started to move faster, officials have mobilized and the efficiency of the government has increased. For instance, the seeking of a business permit is much easier, while document applications are processed swiftly. These actions have sent a message that unprofessional work will not be tolerated, and thus benefitted the common man. Now, in a state where politics is known to be vicious and dormant, there is hope that the government will finally bring about the changes they'd promised.

On the religious front as well Yogi has succeeded in winning the hearts of everyone. While in office, he hasn't said anything that could be termed as radical or extreme. In fact, many Muslim women appealed to him for help over cases involving ‘Triple Talaq’ and received a personal reply from him spontaneously. I've seen it myself: Muslim shopkeepers and vendors working at his Gorakhnath Temple in fact worship him for what they call his “justness and resolute nature”. Since Yogi is a sage by profession, common people also

“The fear of a phone call or inspection at any time of the day by the CM keeps the Police vigilant and active on duty.”

relate to him for leading a simple lifestyle. He is known to hold sessions for the impoverished, where people of all religions can directly state their problems to the Chief Minister. All these factors combined have earned him immense admiration: on both sides of the aisle and right from the grassroots level to the wealthiest citizens.

But on the flip side, Yogi's UP hasn't been a total Ram Rajya. Despite all his overtures to woo other religious communities, he still hasn't washed off the perception of being biased towards Hindus. Recently, the Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV) - a pro-Hindutva militant youth group formed by Yogi Adityanath - was accused of murdering and lynching in a so-called crusade against ‘love jihad’ (where Muslim men are accused of marrying Hindu women for conversion). Whereas one would

expect the CM to respond, Yogi hasn't said or done anything about it, all while the HYV continues to threaten Muslim men around the state to prevent elopement or marriage with Hindu women. The rise of this group in just the first 50 days of Yogi's Government has sparked fears of Hindu dominance with the State's patronage in the coming few years similar to Akhilesh Yadav's tenure, where the Yadav-clan would get away scot-free for almost any crime. Furthermore, as Doscos from Gurugram would know, the illusory politics of name-changing has come to the fore, with 'Urdu Bazaar' now 'Hindi Bazaar' and 'Alinagar' now 'Aryanagar'. Not only that, but naming airports in Agra and Gorakhpur after an RSS Ideologue does much harm to a secular image that he's trying to create, and that every government should have.

But despite the good and the bad, I must admit that I was wrong about Yogi Adityanath. The last seven weeks have shown everyone that he means business, and isn't the Hindu zealot that he once was (or is now made out to be). A feeling of sensible governance has finally arrived in Uttar Pradesh after too long a time, and we, the people of UP, hope it will stay for longer.

| Creative |

Feudal Shame

Nirvair Singh | *Comments on the issue of unimportance of women in feudal society.*

As the grievors departed with their free tea, Ainsley felt light headed. An infuriating pain streaked up his throat. As he struggled to reach his battered armchair, he stumbled and paused to catch his breath. After sitting down, he put his head in his hands. "It's all okay, its fine... don't worry... I shall survive... something shall workout" he whispered to himself. He felt a vibration run across his chest and slid pathetically to the ground. "I have no money for food and now no hope for a son to earn some for me." he ranted." He picked himself off the ground unsteadily. "It'll be okay, I've still got some time" he reassured himself. He walked down to the side table unsteadily, knocking over discarded bottles and dirty glasses. His steps echoed aimlessly around the empty house. He poured himself some hooch and gulped it down while he thought.

Christina, that incapable woman, couldn't even give me a son. The devil shall see to it that she rots in hell. I shall starve to death now because of her inability to bear me a son. Those four unnecessary expenses she burdened me with, those useless girls! I don't need more people to spend money on. Now soon I will have to pay and arrange for their stupid weddings with good for nothing louts and give them gifts when they bear my grandchildren. Now society will compel me to do many great things I don't want to do with the little money I earn. If I had it my way I would have even avoided the burial service as she is destined to go join the devil in hell, anyway.

He unsteadily walked out of his hut toward the outskirts of the town. He reached Kessler's Farm, where he goes and lies down in the field. He lay down in the paddy field looking up at the clouds and stars, seeing wisps of aspirational smoke rise and fade from the small brick factories. There was a sweet fragrance of sugar cane in the air and the graceful hum of the bees. His utopia turned into a veritable dystopia when a rancid buffalo came and started groaning in the periphery. His sensual abode was disturbed and he furiously lunged up to find the buffalo staring at him. He silently observed the buffalo for a few moments with fascination and then begun to have a dialogue with it.

Oh buffalo! I stand here today disappointed that I have a miserable life. I regret marrying that woman. I cannot have any other legitimate source of income as she joined her brethren in hell today. Illegitimacy is against my value system and that I won't break. Soon I won't be able support my addiction. On top of all that she dies and leaves me with a fifth daughter. I pray that the torture she got from me during life is doubled in hell!

In response the buffalo just groaned and moaned as though trying to pacify him. He carried on gulping on the hooch and talking gibberish to the buffalo. Once he had exhausted his wage on cheap hooch and the buffalo had finally fallen asleep he started walking back towards the town hall. The rage returned when he saw his five daughters sleeping in his hut. He then, began running through the high street towards the square. He went and sat down by the fountain and started screaming at the lord, swearing at strangers and cursing Christina.

Oh Lord! I curse you every day for having fate unite us, it was an unnecessary expense feeding her for 12 years.

As he raved on and on about fate being unfair to him he started to walk towards the town dump. As he swayed and sung his litany of complaints, slurring in speech, he suddenly fell on the garbage wagon with a bottle in his hand. The glass shattered and shards pierced his rib cage. Death came slowly. The next morning, the female garbage pickers left the drunken vestige of masochism to rot with its kind.

Speaking at Shimla

Karan Sampath reports on the recent *Revd Dr Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational Inter School Debates*.

In the hope of starting the year with some silverware, a team comprising Arjun Singh, Armaan Verma, Yash Dewan and myself, escorted by RKM, set off for Bishop Cotton School, Shimla to participate in the 22nd Revd Dr Samuel Slater Memorial Debates. As we climbed the hills, there was pressure on us to clinch success. Our trip began with a journey through the hills, reaching the quaint town of Shimla in the evening after hours in a car. Pitted against La Martinere Boys, Lucknow in the first round, we debated the motion 'It is a bad idea to introduce democracy in the Middle-East', which we won easily. Our next day involved tackling Pinegrove School in a debate about Kim Jong-un and his eccentricities - which was lively both during the debate and after it as well, where we secured a unanimous win.

Intensive preparations throughout the night built confidence for our debate against the Scindia School, where we defended the controversial decision to demonetize India, with another clean sweep victory.

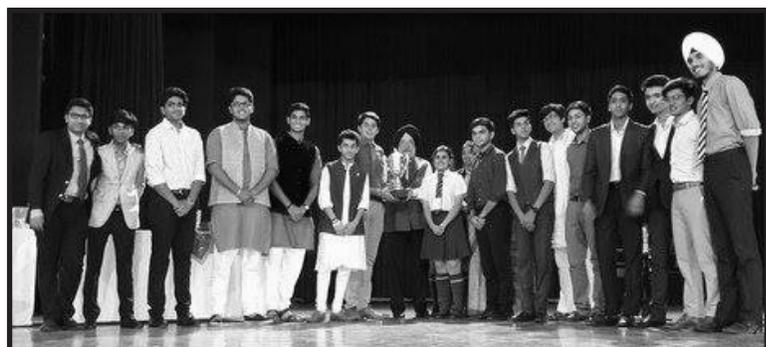
Having reached the Quarter-Finals, we debated against our longtime friends from The Shri Ram School, Mousari, once again defending Modi on the new Goods and Services Tax. After an enthusing debate, we took a stroll around Shimla with recent opponents from Shri Ram along with the Vasant Valley School, New Delhi. After a very enjoyable outing, the team scooped back into prep-mode for the Semi-Final Round against La Martinere Boys, Kolkata. Defending the motion *Feminism might do to men today what the past did to women*, we spoke passionately about the new developments in the feminist movement, particularly its extremist groups and gave our opposition a run for their money. Despite our performance, however, we were adjudged to be the defeated team, a decision which we took with a heavy heart.

Although we didn't secure victory, we certainly learnt a lot - which is a successful accomplishment itself. From the Ridge and Mall Road of Shimla, to the courtyard of Bishop Cotton, this trip surpassed our expectations in both grit and leisure, and were pleased to have had a memorable experience in more ways than one.

MCGS - F.U.N.

Zoraver Mehta reports on the recently concluded *Mayo College Girls' School Model United Nations Conference*.

After six years of winning the Best Delegation trophy, a team of sixteen MUN veterans did it yet again at this year's Mayo College Girls' School Model United Nations Conference, 2017. This long-named but short-duration event boiled down to three packed days of politics, legwork and socializing - three areas where we Doscos - under Kalpit Sharma's leadership - fought to preserve our reputations as the conference ran on.



With packed luggage to conceal the fake trophy of last year, colourful pocket squares and even someone's magenta suit, the delegation (including some politically savvy S-Formers) set out from the Delhi Railway Station for our 'pilgrimage' to Mayo Girls'. A few hours later, we arrived at the Man Singh Palace Hotel in Ajmer with other delegates who we'd met on the train. No sooner had we entered the hotel lobby that it was filled with echoes of 'expert

dressings advice' and the scuffles of trying each other's shirts, cravats and ties - with all eager to make a good first impression for committees (and otherwise). The Executive Board of the MUN, being college students, didn't hesitate to advise us, and gave Doscos more avenues to form a 'first impression'.

All the fun considered (and believe me, there was a lot), this MUN certainly took a turn from conventions, and was unlike any other seen before. Rather than securing a mere simple majority with two blocs and their leaders (who'd win all the awards), the Executive Board stressed on complete unanimity in passing resolutions, which made for an interesting challenge to the typical MUN style we're accustomed to. As this never happens in the real UN, many delegates thought it the format was too removed from the reality. The rigid points system also meant that we were challenged on every front: from chits and communiqués to speaking and lobbying.

But while committee sessions progressed as usual, we were constantly subject to some lively entertainment from both the visiting delegates and (especially) the Doscos. The cultural evening at Pushkar saw the School

Dance Captain show off his moves, while Krishna Goyal attempted (again, attempted) such elsewhere. Back at committee, the JCCs were ironically marked by Doscocs increasing tensions with delegates on ‘diplomatic matters’. Amid the uneasy peace, the proud Doonite delegate from Punjab kept away from all the foolery, showcasing his (im)maturity.

At the conclusion, Archit Barthwal and Aryan Chhabra were adjudged Best Delegates in their committees, while others contributed to bringing our individual total to eleven awards. In a final act, we netted the Best Delegation Trophy once again for the record seventh year (a continuous streak since the MUN was founded). The train journey back saw phone numbers exchanged and ‘Delhi plans’ made, which means this MUN is sure to be remembered in the future!

| Poetry |

A Thought

Aryan Bhattacharjee

As a crimson hue fell upon,
The vast, barren dome above
I rose in fright, despairing might,
In loss of one I dearly love.

The mighty void that formed within,
Lay so in quench of Company,
That off the chest, with an awful zest,
I felt the roar of Tympani.

In a sudden flash of mystic lights,
Upon the grey, dull, canvass plane,
Was tossed a hue, so richly blue,
That oceans etched upon my brain.

Through vacant, pensive redundancy,
Within the dance of the cosmic Lights,
Was moved afar, down into the star
From heights to greater heights.

And then as though the sky beseeched,
With voices deep as All below,
Or was it me? In quest for Thee?
To turn within to plough and sow!

I looked above in solemn gaze,
To catch a word, to have me lead,
Then All was lost or taken by thought
Until I caught a glimpse that said:

“Through rocks of hearts of Men be seen,
The I who I have lost!
The I who I knew long ago,
The I who I shall find.”

| Interview |

Natural Wisdom

The Doon School Weekly *recently interviewed* Suniti Dutta and Arjun Kamdar, *two Old Boys who were panelists at The Doon School Literary Festival.*

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What are your thoughts on environmental degradation?

Suniti Dutta (SND): When I see people talking about this gloomy subject, I feel the media should be blamed. Agreed, forests are being cut, bad things are happening and they need to be highlighted. However, it is equally important to highlight the positive environmental efforts occurring simultaneously. However, because of the media, people today blindly believe “everything is going down the drains”. It is imperative that we get rid of this logic, and in order to do so, we must alter our media coverage style.

DSW: How did School help you pursue your passion?

Arjun Kamdar (AJK): School gave me the opportunity to explore my passion and something very close to my heart. In School rat snakes, typically nonvenomous snakes that did nothing but good for the ecosystem would be killed by people oblivious to their harmlessness. I would get a call on the intercom or someone would come running to me saying, “Come pickup the rat snake and put it in the neighbouring forest, near Skinners or something!” Soon, I could figure out one snake from another, and even saw some of them grow from two to five feet in length. One thing I would like to mention about School and its herpetofauna is this frog known as Cairo-Mantis Vaginosis. It is a frog that was found in 1992, after Oberoi House was built, in the lotus pond outside it. Nothing is known of the behaviour of this frog and they are living in our backyard. It’s incredible how so many species are waiting to be tapped.

DSW: How did you manage to turn your passion into your profession?

AJK: Of course I had my apprehensions, “is there a market for it in the future” or “is it sustainable?” Despite my apprehensions I decided to immerse myself. The wildlife sector is multifaceted and there are several dimensions to it, such as captive breeding, conservation biology, population ecology, or even DNA testing. I decided that since I have time, I might as well consider it. Honestly though, I’m still in the process of deciding. One thing I would mention is that the wilderness is a book that never ceases to teach you. No matter how much time you spend in the forest, you come back knowing more, and each time I go into a forest, it’s like a tap root of a plant being pushed deeper and deeper into the soil. The deeper I get into this, the more I am at ease.

The Week Gone By

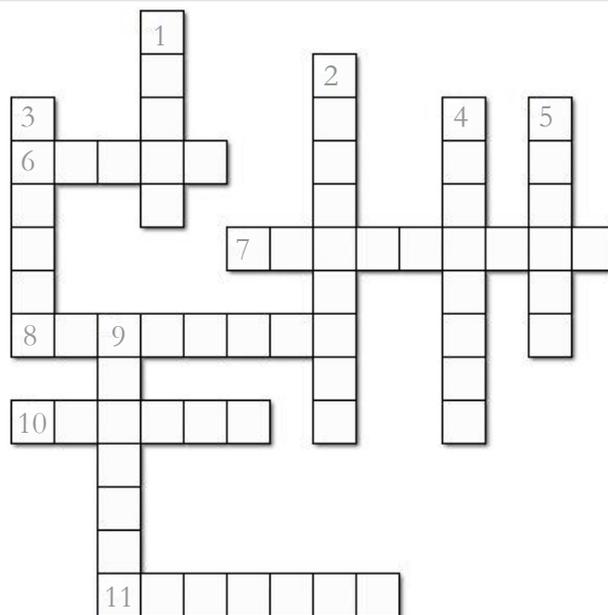
Mr 36

If not for the end of early morning PT this term, this busy week could have stretched Dosco sleep patterns to a breaking point. The Batch of '23 was welcomed to School over the weekend, while The Doon School Literary Festival was successfully held with an appearance by a (snake) charming Old Boy. Coincidentally, a video of a pair of rat snakes from the Khud fighting to pitch-perfect classical music from the Music School has reportedly gone viral. A reminder: there are no recorded incidents of snake bites since the School was established, so refrain from hitting the panic button on those parent-run Whatsapp groups. Since the newly-Christened S-Form was inducted into their new curricula, this was the first week in several months which saw full attendance for classes. Full Main Building classrooms and crowded paths certainly lent some vigour to the campus. However, a word of caution: treat your 'humanities without math' batch mates with care; you'll be incredibly jealous of their carefree lives for the next two years. Conversely, the lucky few (or perhaps the majority?) should take a good look at their PCM and Math HL brethren, who won't be seen much till they finish their exams (or are successfully finished by their exams).

The sweltering heat and dust clouds over the playing fields have been somewhat settled by a spell of rain. On the sporting front, the hockey team played several interesting matches, with prolific scoring and (expectedly) controversial referee decisions. The Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament has begun, with hopes pitched high to end the twelve year-long trophy drought. After much politicking (mostly from our sister school), rumours have been flying in two campuses that the first proper Socials for SCs may be held this evening. If the event does take place, the School community is cautioned against venturing out without gas masks and shades, post-sunset. History establishes that blinding white smiles are fabricated and industrial quantities of cologne are applied by Doscos only for such gatherings. While all this transpires, the last of the SCEs entered the comfortable IB exam halls to face some decidedly discomfiting papers. Speaking of exams, the SAT is underway. Do spare a thought for those sacrificing Saturday mornings to standardised tests as you enjoy your breakfast, to whom we wish the best of luck!

Crossword

Rulers and Conquerors



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

Across

- 6. The Turco-Mongol conqueror who is famously known as, the infamous conqueror
- 7. Alexander the Great originated from this region
- 8. _____ Caesar first ruled over the Roman Empire
- 10. _____ Singh was the founder of the Sikh Empire
- 11. He was the first Sultan of Egypt and the founder of the Ayyubid dynasty

Down

- 1. _____ the Great founded the first Persian Empire
- 2. _____ Pizarro was the Spanish conqueror who invaded the Inca Empire
- 3. A tribal conqueror known as the 'Scourge of God'
- 4. A French lieutenant who rose to become the first emperor of France
- 5. _____ Caesar was the first dictator of the Roman Republic
- 9. The Mongol leader of the largest land empire in history was known as _____ Khan

Answers to This Week's Crossword
Across
6. Timur 11. Saladin 1. Cyrus 5. Augustus
7. Macedonia 2. Francisco 9. Genghis
8. Julius 3. Attila
10. Ranjit 4. Napoleon
Down

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