

The Doon School WEEKLY



“I sketch your world exactly as it goes.” -Arthur Foot
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FROM THE PENGUIN'S BEAK

A new section chronicling a Dosco's view of School through an interview.

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A commentary on the need for specialising in sports.

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THE STORYTELLER

An interview with the Indian author Ashwin Sanghi.

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The Death of a School Master

Armaan Verma and Kushagra Kar write on the treatment of masters in School.

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world...

-W. B. Yeats, *The Second Coming*.

Have you ever woken up in the morning too tired to really care? Too scornful to worry about the world around you; too burdened to try not to be. The School is suffering from an undeniable sickness, which has slowly gripped the very roots of what we hold dear to the Dosco narrative. Logic itself turns in its freshly dug grave, as do the values that we once prided ourselves on.

This piece, however, is not about the School as a whole. Nay, that would be far too ambitious an undertaking and we as writers would find ourselves in a remote Latin American country fleeing mob justice. Rather, we would like to underscore the recurrent, and rather disconcerting, problem of misbehaviour with teachers that has become almost commonplace

in this institution. It is a concern that we are all too aware of, mostly because of our often shameless engagement in the practice.

For reasons yet unknown, several boys have developed the tendency to bark at masters when they do not get what they want, be it grades, liberties or attention. Their hairs stand on end when told to do the right thing by their elders. Not only are boys unable to control their squawking in the classroom, but they continue to pursue masters outside it like prey. Needless to say, these are all characteristics of animals and symptomatic of much larger issues of disillusionment and indifference. Even dogs are born with innate loyalty, but it appears that a boy in this School can lack even that; perhaps, his allegiance is only to himself and his indifferent, if not contemptuous, attitude.

We look to admit students of a

specific intellectual caliber, pitted against others through rigorous interviews to find the crème de la crème of the Indian youth. Instead, we find ourselves needing to settle for a different breed of student; struggling to grapple with the basic social protocol expected of a productive member of a community. The putrid remains of a respectable legacy lie in the background, as student-teacher confrontations falling on the clear end of unacceptable remain under prolonged investigation. Yet, on the brink of ranting, we acknowledge one common truth: our communal conscience needs a serious resuscitation.

We begin with the notion of responsibility to oneself. Not just for students, but teachers and the administration. Nothing happens without our consent: eventually, we consciously decide to riddle our calendar with events, sign on to participate, and consequently lead each of them. To complain thereafter is incredibly hypocritical, and altogether unbecoming of the position itself. Every mistake, travail and consequent experience is a decision we make knowing our limitations and ambitions; contrary to popular belief, we do control our time. So, consciousness assured, it is important to remember two things. First, as a student, look to only yourself when the finality of your decisions dawns on you. While the

(Continued on Page 3)

Are Teachers Ill-treated?

“No, as I feel that even though we are going through a cultural shift, we as Doscos have stuck to our traditions and virtues.”

- Viksit Verma

“Along with certain other courtesies and etiquettes, the student-teacher relationship has also seen a deterioration”

- Ms. Stuti Kuthiala

“While personally I haven't faced outright abuse, there is a general lowering of standards in the way boys and masters interact.”

- Ms. Priyanka Bhattacharya

“They definitely are. Students have forgotten all manners and etiquettes necessary in life.”

- Mr. Piyush Malviya

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

The school participated in the **2nd Annual Indian National Space Settlement Design Competition 2018**. Following are the results:

Mahip Agrawal and Shantam Gilra were given **Special Recognition** in the **Good Points** category. Aneesh Agrawal was awarded the **Dick Edwards Award for Exceptional Leadership**. The team stood **Runners-Up** and has been selected to represent **India** at the **Asian Semi-finals**.

Kudos!

MASTERS OF MODULATION

The results for the **Trinity Speech and Drama Examination, 2018** are as follows:

Shivendra Pratap Singh and Sudhir Chowdhry have been awarded **Distinction** in the **Grade 6** examination. Miland Khemka has been awarded **Distinction** in the **Grade 7** examination.

Congratulations!



STELLAR SHUTTLERS

Mayank Kukreti and Krish Agarwal have been selected for the **Badminton SGFI Nationals**.

Well Done!

SCHOLARLY SUCCESS

Shaurya Agarwal and Zoraver Mehta have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Well done!

APPOINTMENTS

The following are the various appointments for the year **2018-19**:

Grandslam

Editor-in-Chief: Rishi Shrishirmal

Chief-Of-Production: Agastya Nath

Design and Technology STA

Boy-in-Charge: Rana Sunjog Thind

Srijan Prayas

Editor-in-Chief: Paras Gupta

Chief-of-Production: Keshav Pransukhka

DSIR

Editor-in-Chief: Karan Sampath

Chief-of-Production: Divyansh Nautiyal

Art

Secretary: Ameya Shawak

We wish them fruitful tenures!

“

Some painters transform the Sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the Sun.

—
Pablo Picasso

Around the World in 80 Words

Incarcerated murderer Samuel Little was investigated after confessing to 90 killings across four decades in the US. Queensland, Australia battled over a hundred fires as the city was prompted to evacuate on Wednesday. Norwegian grandmaster Magnus Carlsen held onto his world chess championship, beating Fabiano Caruana. Trump's ex-lawyer Michael Cohen pled guilty of lying to US Congress over Russia business deal. The Maharashtra Assembly passed a bill proposing to reserve 16% of seats in education and government jobs for Marathas.

(Continued from Page 1)

aid and counsel of our teachers is invaluable in the choices we make, the final onus of responsibility falls on our shoulders. Yet, if you know you cannot do justice to, or feel lackadaisical enough to not be perturbed by, the gravity of your responsibility, don't do it. Second, as much as the pressures of our choices impact us, they do multifold for our teachers.

In the vein of responsibility, remember that we are held to a certain standard: an expectation to be more than a mere flash in a fleeting existence. Contained within that code is the bare minimum of appreciation. As much as we choose to engage in certain activities, most of our teachers and tutors voluntarily subscribe to an age-old idea of the archetypical Doon School Master. That doesn't mean they are obliged to feed us, ferry us on outings, or even fetch our cakes; a gross underestimation of everything they represent if ever we thought that. The few masters

who open their doors to us at midnight, talking to us, counselling us in matters that they need not engage with us on, are doing their role justice. Every tutorial meeting where they hear us whine and cry, laugh and roast, simply gauging our stories and engaging with our lives, are doing their role justice. Granted, not all teachers fully embody this, yet where attention for betterment is due, it is being given. Inevitably, there is room for improvement; while experienced masters are more aware of this code, many are still imbibing these qualities. Regardless, it goes without saying, students need to respect the choices of their masters, as opposed to ridiculing their shortcomings. Yet, the greater shame lies in the implications of "fixin' what's not broken", by reminding teachers about their responsibility as role models and mentors. This, when considered from the perspective of the master already mentoring the boys, can be anything but conducive to the relationship. Ironically, the very

same administrative ideology is trying to promote a greater openness in the community, but is very deeply scarring it.

Echoing thoughts posited by boys on this very page, it all comes down to trust. Boys do not deserve trust when out of the cacophony of their voices, only cribbing may be heard. Notice, we have avoided 'DoscOs' throughout this piece: we would prefer 'boys', for the problem this piece addresses is symptomatic of boys who refuse to act like men. Not chauvinistic, testosterone-fueled beasts, but mature, compassionate and able members of a community, capable of doing justice by the people they pledge themselves to. When trust can be rekindled between the student and teacher body, maybe we can hope to reconsider the administrative short-comings that mire us today. In its absence, it is easy to catch a dispassionate gaze, dead-eyed and all too hopeless.

(The title was inspired by Seamus Heaney's 'Death of a Naturalist')

From the Penguin's Beak

The *Weekly* interviewed Pratham Gupta (T-House B-Form).

With this section, the Weekly aims to chronicle the life of a Dosco as he views it. Only when a person reflects can he march forward to success; the interview attempts to encapsulate this maxim. The choice for interviewee is wholly arbitrary, and will continue to be so. Happy Reading!

Q: What were the highlights of the term for you?

Ans: In School, I have been involved in Music as a part of the choir. Since the beginning of term, I had been looking forward to performing on the occasion of Founder's as it's the one time that parents get to see the School in its prime. I also wanted my parents to come and see me perform, and when they did, Founder's became the highlight of my term. Otherwise, most of the time it was both busy and engaging.

Q: What are you looking to accomplish over the coming winter holidays?

Ans: As a B-former who has his Final Trials coming up in March, my priority is to study. Mid-term

Trials were a wake-up call for me as I saw a huge drop in my grades. For my own sake, I need to memorise and from what my masters have told me, develop more of a "conceptual understanding". I will also be working on my skills as a vocalist in Hindustani Classical music.

Q: What problems did you face this term?

Ans: I felt that I had started drifting away from my friends. Since I started getting involved in activities that often took me out of School, I felt that I couldn't spend as much time with them. This is why I knew I had to strike a balance because I don't want to miss out on hanging out with my friends.

Q: What problems do you think

the boys are facing?

Ans: I think School expects too much from us and creates a huge workload for us to conquer. The environment is such that people feel compelled to get involved in one activity or the other and engage actively in all aspects of School life. If you don't do anything, people don't notice you, and then nor does the School.

Q: Did you apply for Exchange?

Ans: No, I didn't apply for Exchange, because I want to go in S-form. When the Exchange application came, I asked my seniors about it. They recommended that I go in my senior forms, as in their experience, you will have a better understanding of life and be able to do better on the Exchange.

Master of One

Ishan Roy proposes a new system for sports in School.

When one has only a couple of months left in school, many dormant thoughts begin to surface. You tend to think about the positive and negative changes you have witnessed in your school time. For some time now, I have been thinking about the level of sports in our school. Has there been a perceptible improvement in the level or has it suffered a bit of a slump?

Being an active sportsman in school myself, I've been for various tournaments over the course of the last year where, regrettably, I have had to hear the general perception our fellow public schools have of Doon; we are a school where sports teams are sent just for the sake of competing. When you come to think of it, it has been a while since the team sports (basketball, cricket, football, etc.) have brought home any silverware from the renowned and prestigious competitions. We find ourselves facing strenuous competition and getting eliminated in the latter stages of the tournament. But we must keep in mind that this feat is a very respectable task.

We have to remind ourselves that we are not a Sports College, an MNSS Rai or even a Mayo Boys for that matter. Despite the fact that our sporting seasons barely last a few weeks, we do give stiff competition to our opponents. This is a manifestation of the talent of the sportsmen in Chandbagh. In almost every sport, we manage to produce a national level player. This level of prowess is commendable. The question we need to ponder over is whether Doscos need to reach the pinnacle of success or are we content with our performance.

I understand that school works on the principle of holistic education and to sustain this system we have seasonal sports which provide each individual with an equal opportunity to participate in all sports. This system has prevailed for as long as one can remember—since my father's time and his father's time in Doon. They have all played cricket in cricket season, hockey in hockey season and football in the football season. Change is a constant in any old institution, but it is up to its members to decide whether these changes will be trivial ones or a one which will have a lingering impact on the function of the institution.

With reference to the chain of thought I have expressed, how feasible is it to implement an idea of specialisation? Please do correct me if I am wrong, but specialisation is a form of learning that provides an opportunity to an individual to hone their skills in field they are excelling in. It is an extremely efficient and effective way of fostering learning. Furthermore, it also provides an opportunity so students can gravitate towards the activity when consistent

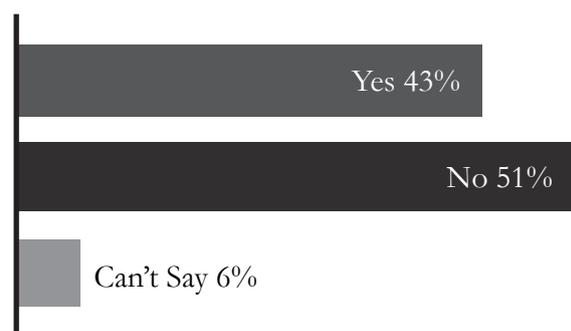
practices take place. What I am trying to convey is that a system like this will give our athletes a chance to work solely on athletics and give other sportsmen to give their undivided attention to their preferred activity at any time of the year.

I know that if a system like this is implemented, an integral part of the tradition of the school will take a backseat; namely the Games Blazer which has been worn by the gifted Dosco sportsman for the last 50 odd years. With an institution like ours that is built so strongly on the concept of traditions and beliefs, I feel it is extremely difficult and cumbersome to enforce this on everybody. There are many who simply cannot specialise in one sport, and that is nothing objectionable. Those who would wish to choose one practise, can do so and those who do not wish to should not feel compelled to. In our formative years, a major part of games is played for the sake of leisure and enjoyment. There are many people, including myself who play a wide array of sports, just because they are able to immerse themselves in the sport they are devoting their unswerving effort to at that time. Therefore, I feel that it should be an option for everybody, a choice that people can make based on their best judgement.

It is imperative that we as a community can understand the activities which promote our ethos and those which hinder it. I urge the community to consider the prospect of specialising in sports, and only welcome it after having scrutinised all possibilities that may impinge on School's ethos and traditions. Being a third generation Dosco myself, I know how strong and priceless this tradition has been in making this institution what it is. As a community, we must devise a way which promotes the legacy of School, and does not hamper its natural progression.

Opinion oll

Should we specialise in only one sport in a term?



(367 members of the School community were polled)

The Storyteller

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Ashwin Sanghi, an Indian thriller-fiction writer.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): In your talk you mentioned a review that said it was a disservice to compare you to Dan Brown. In real life, a race to be first exists. In that race the second is usually accused of being a copy. What would you say to people facing this situation?

Ashwin Sanghi (AWS): Only you can answer this question, 'Are you copying or are you innovating?' When my first book, *The Rozabal Line*, was released people dubbed me as 'The *Desi* Dan Brown'. If one were to read the book, they would soon realise that it is nothing like *The Da Vinci Code*. Although both the books run on the same themes, the theories are completely different. There are bound to be people who compare and make false accusations. However, one should learn to be indifferent to the public.

DSW: Since we are trying to promote creative writing, we have a very pertinent question. You claim to be a good storyteller, not a writer. What would your suggestions be to an aspiring storyteller-writer?

AWS: Firstly, write. Too many people think of writing but they don't write. Cultivating the habit of writing is important. Secondly, eliminate the fear of public judgement of what you have written. This is imperative as too many people restrict their creativity on the basis of how it may be perceived. Moreover, if you plan to enter the field of writing or storytelling after graduation, remember to hold onto a day job, as it is important to have a steady source of income while you sharpen your writing. You should also not depend on what critics say. If you do, you may never progress as a writer. If you do succeed as a writer, remember to stay humble as neither the language nor the story belongs to you.

DSW: Currently people think about becoming businessman, engineers or perhaps going into international relations. When did you become sure of your career as a writer?

AWS: During my time in college, I was never sure that I was going to become a writer. In fact, the course I had taken was oriented towards business. After I did my MBA from Yale, in 1993, I was part of my family business till 2012. I had started writing in 2002 and a couple of books came out during that period. It was only around 2011 that I seriously started thinking about changing my career to writing.

DSW: The school would like to know what your plans are in terms of writing and the other various projects you are involved with.

AWS: There are various types of projects going



on and as you know currently my books are in three series. One is the Bharat series which covers history, mythology, culture, religion, spirituality and philosophy, which I combine in a world of fiction. In addition to that, I do my Crime thriller Series alongside James Patterson. Then I also do my motivational books which are The 13 steps series. As of now, these are the three spaces that I operate in.

Currently I have got book number six in the Bharat Series which I hope to bring that out by the middle of next year. In addition to that, in the Crimechilla space, I am working on an independent series. Hopefully, we should be able to bring out the first book by the end of 2019 or early 2020. In The Thirteen Steps series I am working on writing on three titles which are a book on health, a book on salesmanship and a book on parenting. So I have tons of work and lots of projects which will come out in 2019. The Sialkot Saga and the Krishna Key are also getting adapted.

| POETRY |

Pointed Question

Aayush Chowdhry

Is
the
Knife
bad? Is
the Knife
bad or the
murderer?

Similarly, is Hierarchy
bad or
is one
senior
?????!

The Term Gone By

Dosco Doodle

Pratham Bansal



sports

India vs Australia test series
 Australian Open
 2019 Dakar Rally
 African Cup of Nations
 Handball World Championships
 India vs Australia ODI series



tv shows

Sabrina (Premiere)	October 26
Homecoming	November 2
House of Cards (Final season)	November 2
Narcos - Season 4	November 16
Star Trek Discovery season	January 2

books

The Outsider	Stephen King
Fire and Blood	George RR Martin
The Paradoxical Prime Minister	Shashi Tharoor
21 Lessons for the 21st Century	Yuval Noah Harari
The Boat People	Sharon Bala
Girls Burn Brighter	Shobha Rao

video games

Red Dead Redemption 2	October 26
Hitman 2	November 13
Fallout 76	November 14
Battlefield V	November 15
Just Cause 4	December 4
Fortnite Season 7	December 6



music

The Pains of Growing	Alessia Cara
DNA	Backstreet Boys
What is Love?	Clean Bandit
Pheonix	Rita Ora
Origins	Imagine Dragons
Treat Myself	Meghan Trainor



movies

Bumblebee	December 8
Spiderman into the Spiderverse	December 14
Aquaman	December 14
Mary Poppins Returns	December 19
Zero	December 21
URI: The surgical strike	January 11

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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