

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
April 27, 2019 | Issue No. 2535



UNDER THE SCANNER

A report on the recent Sri Lanka bombings.

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INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

An article celebrating the work of the tireless School staff.

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WEEK GONE BY

A humorous account of the events of the past week.

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All in a Day's Work

Dr. Amar Lanka recounts a day in the life of the Wellness Centre.

It is 7:15 AM and I'm walking to work. I get a call from the WC that the ambulance has been dispatched to fetch a probable fracture case, and that the caller was desperate. At the WC, as I rush through my morning rounds Mr. Rana informs that the janitorial staff hasn't yet reported for work and the washrooms need to be cleaned. A boy has vomited in the reception area which has been cleaned up by Praveen, the bearer. I make a mental note to inform the administrative manager to request the contractor to send a more reliable person next time and hope for the best.

By 7:35, the ambulance arrives. The boy is howling in pain, holding on to his disfigured arm. After immobilizing his arm, I make my first call of the day to the orthopedic, informing that I'm bringing a case of a fractured forearm to him. He does the X-ray himself, confirming the fractures, advising an emergency closed reduction under short general anesthesia. I give my consent, and call the parents informing them of the predicament while reassuring them that we have a trusted professional handling the situation.

By 8:35 AM, the procedure is done, parents informed and reassured— all within an hour, a half-day process anywhere else. Back in School, a few boys with

colds attended to, breakfast, a few more cases, the admin manager spoken to. Phew!

A little later, our driver, Mr. Mittal, walks in looking worn out – a stark contrast to his usual energetic self. He has lost weight after a heart attack a couple of weeks ago. He has come to meet us and is full of gratitude for our timely help. A couple of boys from O-house greet him and enquire about his wellbeing. Mr. Mittal is teary eyed.

We heal the pain and suffering of Chandbagh, but nobody enquires about our wellbeing. I pray that Mr. Mittal is fit by the time School reopens, that Anand doesn't fall sick before that. Anand and Praveen are key personnel at the WC. They work continuously for over 12 hours daily, without a day off.

The best part of our job is interacting with students. We feel alive, motivated, and young in their company. It shows-Tripathiji's family doesn't know he can crack jokes, that he high-five's boys when they are discharged. Karma, very liberal with her hugs, is excellent with boys and adults alike. Anand bhaiya often uses English phrases with a toothy smile. Negiji has an impeccable memory remembering most Old Boys by their numbers and sometimes awkward stories.

After a few more patients, I

enquire about the 'score'. We are nearing a half-century by 11:45 AM. With the ongoing rains, we might cross 120 today. In autumn 2018, an average of 90 patients visited us daily!

The post-break bell has rung, all the consultations have been done. I respond to pending emails, mostly from parents, endeavouring to have read all my messages before heading home. Reminders are sent to concerned departments to fix the washroom stench and the ever-faulty ACs.

Negiji walks in and informs me that a boy with an acne issue is refusing to call home so his parents don't worry. A conversation convinces him to call but it doesn't connect. This is entered into the register which the boy signs. The changing School environment has increased our workload, and paperwork!

I am appreciative of our nursing staff whose job description may be the longest in School. They have to be adept at nursing, housekeeping, clerical work, data entry, pharmacy and administrative duties. They have been here for 12 years, and have no qualms about reporting to work at ultra-short notice and working overtime. Three out of five are forced bachelors who thrive on interactions with students while two are retired and low on liabilities, thus able

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CULTIVATING CREATIVITY

Arin Modi and Shreyan Mittal participated in the **National Creativity Olympiad 2018** and secured an all India **13th rank** in **Seventh** and **Eighth** standard categories respectively. They have been awarded a cash prize of one thousand rupees each.

Well Done!

MASTER BLASTERS

The Doon School Junior cricket team is participating in the **5th Col. Shashi Memorial Cricket Tournament** in Cambrian Hall. The team played a match against Cambrian Hall on Sunday. In a 20 over match, The Doon School scored 220 runs. In an unbroken partnership between Tamish Agarwal and Veraj Goel, Tamish Agarwal scored **147 not out** in just 72 balls while Veraj Goel scored **59 not out**.

Well Played!

READERS' ARCHIVE

Which book are you currently reading?

Yash Adalti: The Priority of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon.

Kanishkh Kanodia: What China and India Once Were by Sheldon Pollock and Benjamin Elman.

MLV: In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende.

MJR: The Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire.

DEB: On Ugliness by Umberto Eco.

Karthik Subbiah: In Spite of the Gods by Edward Luce.

“

There is no exquisite beauty without some strangeness in the proportion.

Edgar Allan Poe

NETTING SUCCESS

The School tennis team participated in the **Annual Uttarakhand State Tennis Tournament** from the 16th to 20th April, 2019. Sangcho Rijiju reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Under - 14 Singles category**, Nirvan Chhajed and Raghuraj Sodhi reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Under - 14 Doubles category**, while Vidit Verma and Sangcho Rijiju were declared **Runners-Up** in the **Under - 14 Doubles category**. Avyukt Kocchar reached the **Semi-finals** in the **Under - 18 category**, while Aradhya Agarwal and Avyukt Kocchar reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Under - 18 Doubles category**.

Congratulations!

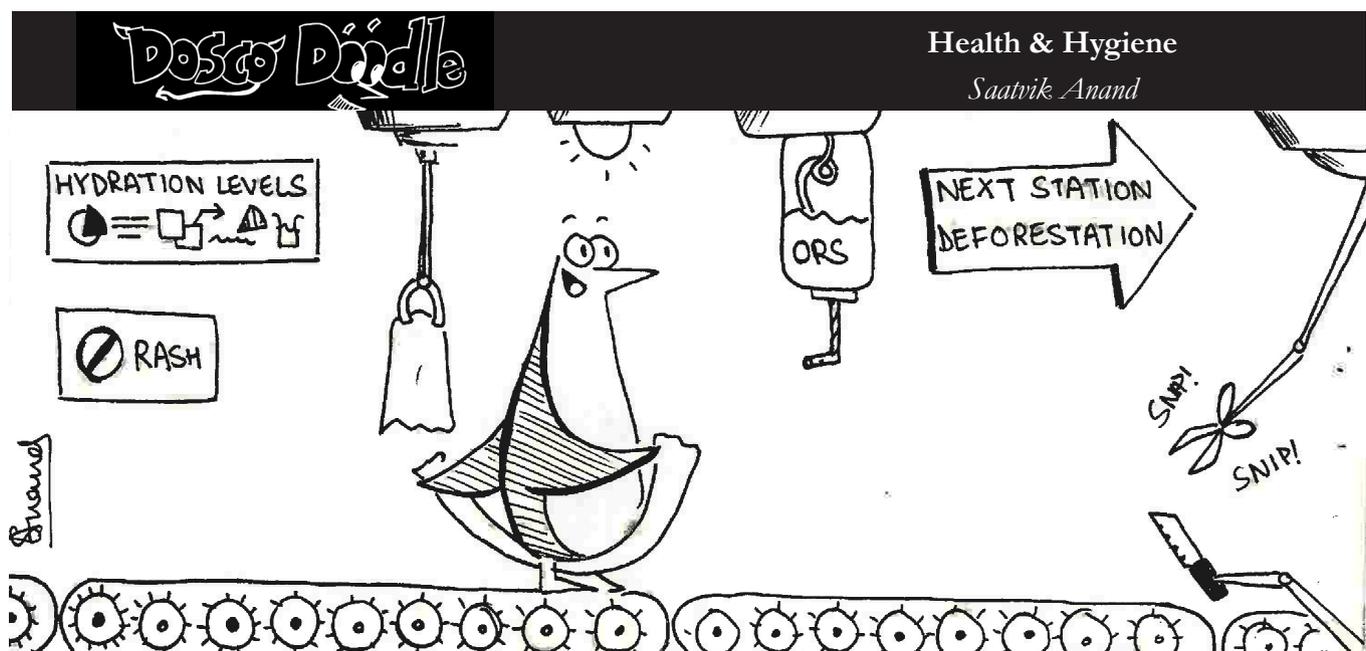
MATHEMATICAL MASTERMINDS

Aryan Agarwal and Armaan Thapar have been awarded medals for being **school toppers** in the **Pascal and Fermat Contests 2019** for grade **Nine** and **Eleven** respectively, organised by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing in the University of Waterloo, Canada.

Kudos!

Around the World in 80 Words

Attacks coordinated by nine suicide bombers resulted in the death of more than 350 people on Easter Sunday, despite the government having received multiple warnings. The second largest colony of Emperor Penguins in Antarctica have been reported missing, according to satellite images. Congress has put forward Ajay Rai from Varanasi as their candidate for the General Elections. Two militants from the terrorist organization Hizbullah were killed in Jammu and Kashmir. Manchester City beat Manchester United 2-0 in the Premier League.



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to dedicate most of our time to School.

We upgraded our facilities and now own even a defibrillator. Rechristened the 'Wellness Centre' years before the Delhi and other state governments came up with their own, we are pioneers in adolescent vaccination and our Vitamin-D program, and are perhaps the only institution with cent percent immunisation against 13 adolescent diseases.

At lunch, there is an interesting discussion with an SC about changes in School. Then, I head back home for a siesta while typhoid vaccinations are

administered. This is followed by an hour of clerical tasks.

Back at four, I see that a contract employee's gashed foot is sewn up. Another one has extensive accident wounds to be dressed. A few sprains and strains later, I head back. It has been a tiring day; I forego my evening walk again, and finish my daily dose of medical updates. Just as I settle down with a book, the phone rings— a boy with a cut palm is bleeding profusely. Back in a jiffy, the pressure bandaging is done, phone calls made. The boy is sent for suturing. A few calls and texts, later, I head back home at nine, hoping to finish a series.

I have forgotten my customary 8AM call to my mother. Ready to retire, I hope for good health and sanity for myself and my colleagues at the Wellness Centre - healthcare workers are victims of early burnout because of high stress. I can avoid stress for the next six hours because an alert team stays at the Wellness Centre, the department that runs for the longest duration in School.

This city never sleeps!



UNDER THE SCANNER

Sri Lanka Bombings | Advaita Sood

On Easter Sunday, a series of coordinated explosions and suicide bombings took place in Sri Lanka. The bombings destroyed three churches and three hotels in the cities of Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa, killing over 350 people and injuring 500. Government officials have since arrested 24 people who are thought to have had a connection with the explosions. The government has blamed the radical Islamist terrorist group National Thowheeth Jama'ath for the bombings, which allegedly received help from an international terrorist organisation. The government had the opportunity to launch counter-attacks, as they had received warnings from both India and the U.S. about possible explosions, and even from the terrorist group ten days prior to the attack, signalling a catastrophic intelligence failure. Moreover, the sophisticated equipment and the nature of the attack suggests that months of extensive planning had gone into the execution of the attack.

Both the government and the international community have taken certain measures to help the ongoing investigation and prevent further deterioration of the situation. A dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed in Colombo, and major social media websites and messaging services such as Facebook and Whatsapp have been blocked to curb the spreading of misinformation. Furthermore, the government declared a state of national emergency from midnight on Monday and stated that the measure would be confined to dealing with terrorism and would not impinge on any other rights of citizens. The international criminal police organisation Interpol confirmed that they were deploying investigation teams that specialize in disaster victim identification, to assist local authorities in the aftermath of the attack.

A recent probe into the attacks revealed that the explosions were in retaliation to the Christchurch mosque shootings that occurred

in New Zealand on the 15th of March. Fifty people were killed in the shootings. An intelligence memo circulated to some in the government weeks before the bombings stated that a member of the terrorist group, who has been identified to have perpetrated the explosions, began uploading 'extremist content' onto his social media accounts in the aftermath of the Christchurch shootings.

The attacks punctured a decade of peace that existed since the end of a deadly civil war that plagued Sri-Lanka from 1983 to 2009. The conflict was between the Buddhist majority, and the Tamil minority. It was an extremely dark period in Sri-Lanka's history, and one that spawned the dreadful terrorist weapon of the suicide bomber. Since the end of the civil war, the Tamilians and Buddhists have been increasingly vigilant of each other's actions, in both good and bad ways. However, this has resulted in the Muslim community feeling neglected and isolated. There is a high probability that these feelings have begun to materialise in the form of such attacks. Whatever the case may be, Sri-Lanka should proceed with caution in order to prevent their worst days from returning.

Fruits of Labour

The weekend before International Labour Day, the Weekly recognises the need to celebrate the school staff whose constant hard work keeps the School going.

It is spring in Chandbagh, and every single lawn looks breath-taking. But, how often does it strike us that there is an army of invisible people that work tirelessly to make sure School looks this way? In fact, how often do we realise that there are people who are working in every corner of School to make our lives easier? The guard bhaiyas, the workshop staff, the CDH bhaiyas, the maali bhaiyas, and assistants, bearers, and peons in the various departments across School all do their best to ensure that School runs smoothly. Some of them have spent the greater part of their lives serving School, making them more 'Dosco' than we can ever be. Kishan Lal ji, for instance, has been working here for 35 years! He has been part of the Art School ever since he joined, and helps out across the various departments within the Art School, although clay work is his passion and specialisation. He particularly likes to craft animals. Kishanji fondly recollects how it is not the work itself but his interaction with generations of DoscOs that has made his stay here worthwhile.

Throughout my life I have always loved creating things with clay, it has become an unforgettable skill and is my sole passion. I specially love creating animals and other fauna. - Kishanji

Assistant bhaiyas in the science block who prepare the labs for our practicals often go unnoticed. But, the science department would hardly be able to function in their absence. Maali bhaiyas also toil under the hot sun to ensure that we can play our favourite sports all year round. Some of them even live vicariously through us- Dhiraj ji, who has been working in School since 1983, loved playing cricket and football, but life did not allow him to pursue his passion for sport. So his greatest joy is watching us play as he works all year round on the grounds where he once dreamed of playing. The work of the ground maali bhaiyas is not easy, but Dhiraj ji is now used to it and enjoys watching the grass he so carefully tends grow green and soft.

Across the Main Field, in the CDH, a small army of people run around all day so that we can enjoy three delicious meals every day. One of them is Shuklanand bhaiya, a familiar figure, who makes his way through the CDH laying tables, and serving our teachers. For the last 20 years, he has reported for duty at 7:30am each morning, going home nearly thirteen hours later at eight each evening. He says that even though this might be the job he had dreamt of, it is all he knows, and he cannot imagine life any other way. Shuklanand bhaiya loves the bustling feel of the kitchen. The only thing that bugs the ever-cheerful Shuklanand bhaiya is the thought of going for midterms. He says he'd much rather sit behind the CDH and chat with his friends instead.

Since 1996, I have been doing this job, and even though it might not be the best, it has become a part of my daily routine and I cannot imagine life without it.

- Shuklanandji

In another corner of School, there is an avuncular bhaiya, always ready to share a secret, or lend a listening ear. Those who frequent the Music School know that it just wouldn't be the same without Satbeerji. He has spent the last 30 years of his life in School. Older residents of School will remember that he has worked not only in the Music School, but also in the CDH, the Swimming Pool, and the Main Building. And the only thing that has changed about him is the greyness of his hair. He smiles as he says he is proud of DoscOs because people know who they are wherever they go. As a gaggle of noisy D-formers troop into the Music School, he rushes off to check whether the music rooms have been cleaned and readied for class.

Nestled in what can be aptly described as School's nerve centre, KC Sir fondly recounts the satisfaction he has experienced working here. He was all of 16 years of age when he joined Doon in 1983. Although he had not been educated in Computer Science, his natural aptitude for computer languages

soon got him to be appointed as the computer laboratory assistant during the early days of computers at School. Boys and teachers working on publications relied on KC to solve any glitch – software or hardware - he has been the troubleshooter for generations of ‘publication boys’ till the more recent and more sophisticated software and hardware has made publication work easier.

People may think our work is easy, and can be done effortlessly, but I am sure that the students who have worked with us would have realised the effort that our work requires.

- *Dhirajji*

KC has many fond memories of the time that he has given here. He remembers those fun trips to Salan Gaon when School was setting up the John Martyn School there. He told the Weekly how masters, students and supporting staff would walk or cycle down to the village and work side by side to set up the school for the children of the locality. He said it was particularly thrilling to be cycling in rain. However, what made these trips most memorable for him was the fact that he always came away with a sense of satisfaction of knowing that he was part of a worthy project. There are regrets too...he feels that with growing demand for professionalism, the informal, family atmosphere that prevailed earlier has begun to fade away.

As cliched as it may sound, these are the people who keep us safe even as we sleep. Yes, the Guard bhaiyas who work in shifts, round the clock. The Weekly wondered what their life is like, considering the nature of their jobs. One of the Main Building guards, Balanji, usually seems to be brimming with good cheer. However, as we chatted with him, his eyes took on a distant look as he told us about his family far away in the hills of Chakrata. He said he missed them, but his job keeps him away for most of the time – he gets to spend time with them just once a year, that too, for not more than two or three days. Balanji however springs back to his happy self as he almost thinks aloud and says, “par bachchhe bhi to apne ghar chhod ke aathh mahine yahan rehetete hain!”

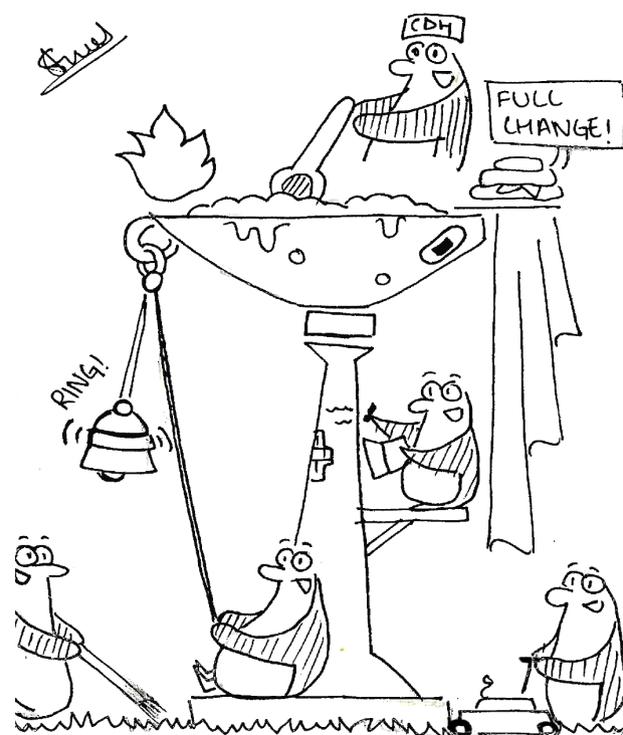
(but the boys too stay away from their homes for eight months a year). One could not but walk away with a sense of gratitude for the security we enjoy thanks to people like him.

Though our bhaiyas are always smiling, under their happy demeanour, there lurks the fear of economic insecurity that shadows them as their retirement come closer. Kishanjiis scared of falling ill and being neglected by his children. Shuklanandji wishes he could ensure that life post-retirement would continue to be as it is today.

The writers of this column would sign off with hopes that the larger community will continue to acknowledge and value the work done by these people, not just around May Day, but remember that without the efforts of these people, life in Chandbagh would not be the same.

I would like to tell all the students that they should work hard, after all, their parents are doing so, so that they can study here. They should also behave well, and spread the name of the school, so that wherever they go, people can look at them and say that they are Doscos.

- *Satbeerji*



The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

I can't recall the last time so much was happening within 75 acres, even in a school as busy as ours. In a statistic acquired from a reliable source, 136 students and 26 masters were out of campus in the course of this past week. With so much to cover, I hope I do justice to all this in the 300 or so words I am left with.

What is truly heartening is that while the rest of us are doing everything but peering into our coursework, those with International Math, foreign languages and D&T are fighting hard against the schedule to find 'academic time'. On the other hand, though, numerous classes, especially for SC Form find themselves with below 50%

attendance, owing to the plethora of things going on, resulting usually in dismal academic progress, with many putting their 'heads down' to catch a wink.

The reason for such somnolence is the late night Play/Dance/Band practices, or any combination of the three, that have now become a daily affair. Artistic pursuits were taken out of School too, recently, with Izhaar-e-Hunar held in Hopetown. While our orchestra and choir pulled off a stunning performance, I have heard that misunderstanding of certain rules on copyright unfortunately led to the team's eventual disqualification. Our band of actors, however, pulled off a stunner by coming 3rd with a play written almost entirely in the bus journey to Hopetown and executed for the first and last time, on stage- a play that went wrong?

Meanwhile, our sports teams have been keeping busy, something we

must truly laud them for- exceptional stamina. Our hockey team has recently returned from their United for Hockey tournament that was held in Delhi. After an impressive undefeated run they lost 1-0 in a hard-fought final. Undeterred, they have embarked once more on a trip to Oakgrove for another tournament; we wish them all the best. The basketball courts too remained busy over this past week with the Districts tournament only recently finished and a spectacular performance at Welham Boys- all those early morning practices are yielding results.

With a month to go, brace yourselves for the tempest to come! For S and SC form however, the storm hits us today. Just some advice: the order in which you visit your teachers can sometimes make all the difference, and a better outing. Have a good one!

Sudoku

8	5		3		1		3	
3	6			5	2		4	
							7	9
	1		4		8	9		6
	4		7		6			3
9	3					4		
6				8	7	3	9	
	9		1				5	8
4	8		2					

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>

Key

1	9	7	3	2	9	5	8	4
8	5	2	4	6	1	3	9	7
4	9	3	7	8	5	1	2	6
7	8	4	5	1	2	9	3	6
3	1	5	6	9	7	8	4	2
6	2	9	8	3	4	7	1	5
9	7	1	2	5	8	4	6	3
2	4	6	1	7	3	9	5	8
5	3	8	9	4	6	2	7	1

The *Weekly* welcomes S & SC form parents to School. We wish those hoping to watch Avengers Endgame all the very best!

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

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/ weekly@doonschool.com



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