

# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot

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## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

A brief overview of some important events that occurred in the holidays.

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# Thank You For the Days

## Mr. Matthew Raggett

As I write this on the verandah of the HM's Residence in the early morning sun, the house is full of the boxes and packing that will go into a truck and make their way back to Germany... as I will in the next couple of weeks.

The process of packing up in the house reminds me of something that I say to the boys and masters when they visit and refer to it as 'my house'; it isn't my house at all, it's theirs too.

For almost four years I have been the person looking after it, them,

and the School, just as the Board do in their time. Just as the students do in theirs. We all play a part in contributing to the development and improvement of what we find when we arrive — we give and take what we can while we are here and we leave something behind that we hope will have a positive effect on community in the years to come.

When people ask what it is like (now they ask what it has been like) being the Headmaster of The Doon School, I tell them that it's exactly what the Ministry of

Tourism says... Incredible India! I think that this might be the most interesting headship in the world. There might be schools that are older, more diverse in their staff and students, with larger endowments and more scholarships, better academic results, are more selective and oversubscribed at admission, and have active boards and alumni networks, but there are no schools that have all of these to a degree and have a place in the national consciousness and the exposure that brings. Some of the things that we are able to do, see, hear, try, and collaborate on as a result are remarkable and I know that a few of the things we have in the pipeline for teacher training and development will have an effect that will be shared beyond the walls of Chandbagh; our mission, after all, is to serve India.

In the Assembly on Wednesday, I thanked the Board for taking the risk of hiring someone with a set of experiences that they knew would challenge the status quo; it is what they were looking for and what the School needed. I was able to thank my colleagues for being willing to reflect on the way things were done and the ways in which they could be improved for the benefit of the students, their outcomes, and most importantly, their wellbeing. This is work-in-progress and will allow

*(Continued on Page 3)*



# EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Here are a few of the most significant events from around the globe that took place during the holidays.

A United States drone strike killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, leading to increased tensions between the two countries and also to Iran declaring war on the US.

In early September, an anonymous complaint was lodged against Donald Trump stating that, in a call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, he used the power of his position to “solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 US election”. This complaint eventually led to his impeachment.

Australian bushfires broke out in September, spreading in the country throughout the year and having now burnt a total of about 72000 sq. miles of land belonging to both forests and cities.

## CONDOLENCES

The *Weekly* regrets to announce the passing away of Ms. Rita Sinha, who was a part of the Music Department as a Hindustani Vocal teacher for 27 years. During her tenure here, apart from training C and D Formers, she had also successfully prepared many students in Hindustani music for their ICSE and ISC Board examinations. The School remembers her contributions with gratitude.

We extend our condolences to the family.



A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

Oscar Wilde

## CONDOLENCES

The *Weekly* regrets to announce the untimely demise of Mr. Sharat Nambiar (Ex 135-H, Batch of 2016).

Sharat was boy with great sense of loyalty and heart filled with simplicity. He would do no harm even in mischief to anyone.

This unfortunate task of writing for him when he left for the heavenly abode takes me down the memory lane and reconnects me to Sharat when I first saw him in his B Form.

I have had the opportunity to spend more time with him in his senior form as I had moved to H House and he did my subjects.

We have spent long hours talking to each other, discussing school, the economy, politics, etc. He used to be frequent to my residence and became a part of our extended family.

It is extremely difficult to accept the loss. I shall take more time to come in terms with it.

May his soul rest in peace!

-SKD

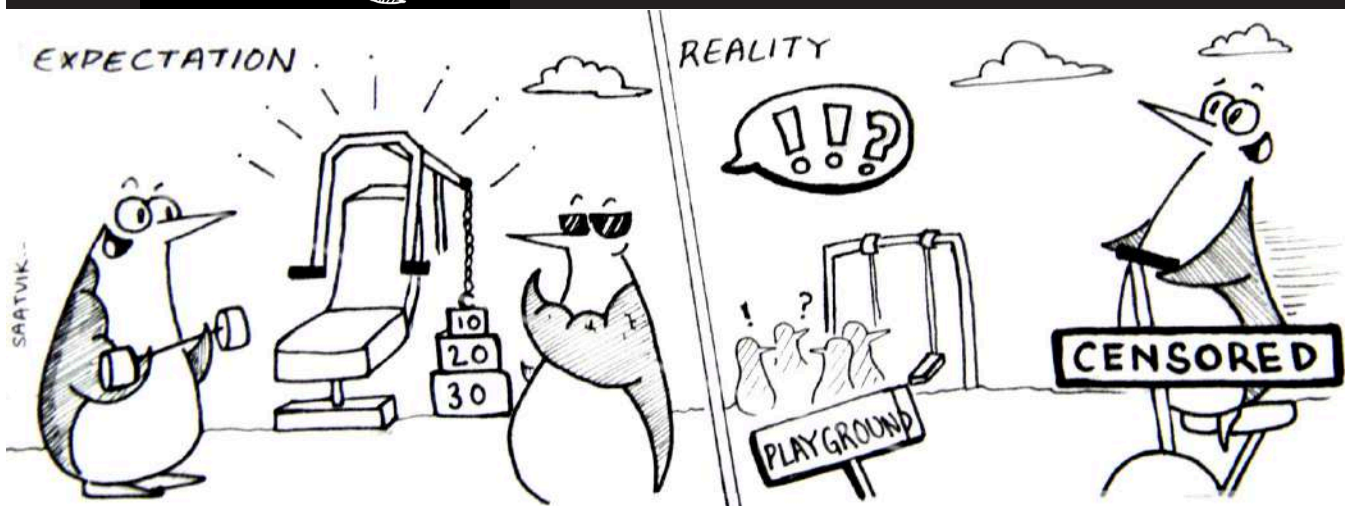
## Around the World in 80 Words

China locked down the city of Wuhan due to a coronavirus outbreak. An air tanker fighting Australian bushfires crashed in the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales. Uber sold the Indian branch of its food delivery service, Uber Eats, to Zomato. Climate scientists rejected Trump’s ‘Prophets of Doom’ criticism, saying they can provide evidence. Ex-Indian Cricket Captain Mohammed Azharuddin was booked for cheating a travel agent in Maharashtra. Burnley beat Manchester United 2-0 in their first win at Old Trafford.



Unleash the Beast

Saatvik Anand



*(Continued from Page 1)*

the community of adults here to continue growing professionally. And I was able to thank the students, those wonderful people we are all here for, who have taught me so much, shared their highs and lows and, increasingly, been able to express and challenge the unwritten rules and systems here which get in the way of their own agency as well as their emotional and social development.

I told them that midlife is when you reach the top of the ladder and find that it was against the wrong wall (Joseph Campbell), and that's where I find myself now, leaving a place that I love to be with the people I love; I have put my work ahead of other things that I should have been taking care of and have

reached a tipping point. I hope that sometime in the future, even if one or two people remember this, it will save them and their family a great deal of pain.

So, our time together has come to an end, but our influence on each other and our learning from

one another has not. One of the joys of having moved around the world and worked with so many people is that those who resonate with us always keep in touch, even if it's in our heads. We remember things people say when we need to, we wonder what that person would have done in this situation... this is what keeps my mother alive in my memory even though she died 24 years ago.

I wish everyone in the community all the very best as they move forward, move on, and grow into new versions of themselves... hopefully becoming better versions of themselves as time goes on. Thank you for the days (Ray Davies).

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**We all play a part in contributing to the development and improvement of what we find when we arrive.**

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## Imagine

**Arjun Prakash**

Just imagine a world where everyone is the same,  
No politics, no hierarchy or any sort of fame.  
Where birds can soar across the sky,  
Without being disturbed by an urchin's cry.

Just imagine a world without any borders,  
No kings, no queens or ritual orders.  
Where every person is treated equally,  
And not upon their caste or identity.

Just imagine when all the trees start to sing,  
Instilled with the rivers soul from within.  
Where everybody can breathe healthy air,  
Without having to wear a mask in despair.

A world like this is a far-fetched illusion,  
But just before I reach my conclusion,  
Imagination is our only weapon in the war against  
reality,  
And it is our generation's job to give it more clarity.

## Falling

**Kabir Subbiah**

When the world takes up arms  
Against your cause,  
Causing to it harms.  
Why do they receive applause?

In a defeated tone, you resist,  
Asking questions again.  
Why do you persist?  
Why don't you just give in?

So you look at a knife  
And wonder what purpose it can fulfill:  
Can it take your life?  
Can it kill?



## Microfiction

**Eeshan Mehrotra**

### The Good Samaritan

One morning I noticed a missing person's sign on the corner telephone pole. There was the kid's picture, his name (Jonas), and a phone number.

Four days later, written in red: "\$20,000 reward!"

After the weekend, it was up to \$50,000.

When it gets to \$75,000, I'll make the call.

# Auf Wiedersehen!

The Weekly bids farewell to **Mr. Matthew Raggett**. On this occasion, his friends, students, support staff and colleagues share their thoughts on his tenure.

I know the HM to be an individual who is morally and ethically driven. A leader who has his heart in the right place and one who constantly works for the betterment of every individual on campus by assisting them in their personal and professional pursuits. In my professional interactions with the HM on the School Council, I imbibed from him the values to listen, learn, and to be open to ideas. The refreshing sight of the HM on a Hero bicycle on a Sunday morning will be dearly missed by all. I wish him the best of luck as he moves on in life!

**-Divyansh Nautiyal**

They say first impressions matter, and that couldn't have been truer in my first interaction with the Headmaster. As a spirited A Former, I wanted to give a talk about the changes in School, and on reading my speech, the Headmaster called me to discuss it. I quickly found myself disarmed, not by what was being discussed, but the manner in which the discussion was conducted. Being a teenager with almost no real-world experience, I was treated with respect, was listened to, and was never dismissed. I realised then that regardless of the conclusion, it was paramount that the respectful spirit of intellectual discussion is maintained. That is a learning that I hope to exemplify as Sir and I leave the walls of Chandbagh.

**- Karan Sampath**



To me our Headmaster, Mr. Matthew Raggett, is about courage, dedication, and patience, all of which he exhibited in challenging our mindsets at The Doon School. We call ourselves a progressive institution, yet we let our thought process obstruct us from accepting change. I see in him a visionary who was ready to take on these matters with the changing time. A true family man whose accessible approach and gentlemanly nature is a hallmark of his interaction with masters and students alike. One can disagree with him respectfully. Taking the words from Nandil's farewell speech, he knows when to bring in the light moment within the community. In the words of Swami Vivekananda, I see in him the focus on education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, intellect is expanded, and independence is handled. His encouragement, love, affection, care and gratitude will always be my biggest treasure.

**- ANC**

My fondest memories with the Headmaster have been talking to him at the breakfast table. He never failed to put a smile on my face even in the most serious of conversations. His humour and his undying enthusiasm towards every task that he does has always been his charm. I never thought that one day I would be writing for his farewell, let alone that he would leave when I would be in School. I wish him the very best for his future and hope that he has found a second family in the Chandbagh community. I hope that I live up to his expectations and truly 'be the best version of myself.'

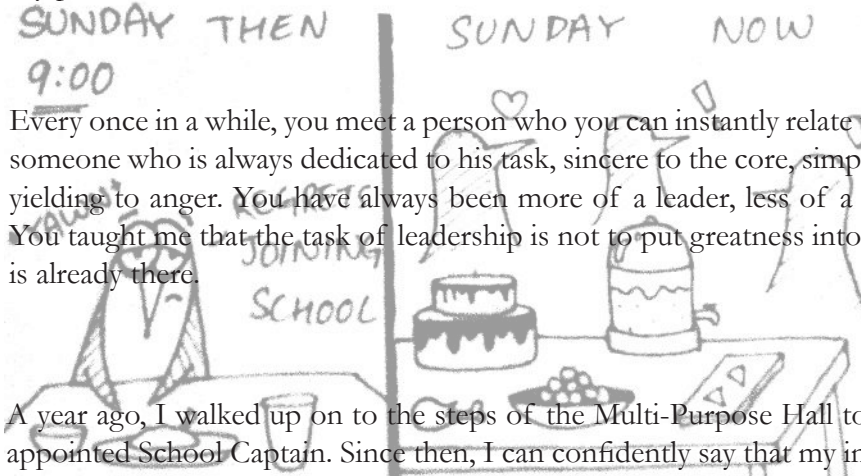
**- Aarnav Sethy**

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More than my Headmaster, I will remember Mr. Matthew Raggett as my TOK teacher. He always entered the class with great enthusiasm, always prepared and decided for the class. What stood out was his love for Theoretical Physics and how he connected it to other Areas of Knowledge. On a personal note, I will always remember the instance when he left his own reading and paperwork for a cup of tea with me while editing my presentation.

- Paras Gupta



Every once in a while, you meet a person who you can instantly relate to. You are definitely that person for me: someone who is always dedicated to his task, sincere to the core, simple in life, calm under pressure, and never yielding to anger. You have always been more of a leader, less of a boss, and that's what has set you apart. You taught me that the task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for the greatness is already there.

- Ajaypratap Grewal

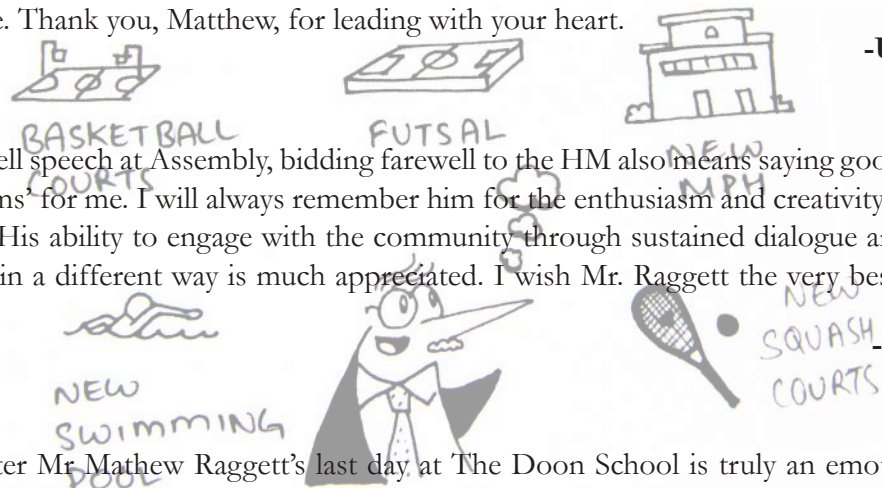
A year ago, I walked up on to the steps of the Multi-Purpose Hall to shake Mr. Raggett's hand as the newly appointed School Captain. Since then, I can confidently say that my interactions with him have been eventful, to say the least. From cracking cringe-worthy innuendos in his drawing room over some baked pleasantries to starting our mornings on the Main Building rooftop for tutorials, words cannot convey what future students shall be missing out on. A year later, as my Batch and I move on, so does Sir. The end of our time in School also marks the end of the road of his journey. While I am sad for his departure, I am grateful for having served this office under his stewardship.

-Nandil Sarma

"How's your living arrangement, Udayan?" "It's quite cold actually!" "Wait, let me get you my heater from the other room." And up sprung Matthew, a complete stranger to me (two years ago) to lend me some warmth (in ways more than one) for my cold guesthouse room in the MPH. At the end of my joining interview, I asked the Headmaster how would he like to be addressed. "Just call me by my name," he said, smiling. Since then, Matthew has always treated me like an equal, showed me what respect really means, and has never made it seem like he is superior or an authority figure. I have never seen a leader being so approachable and authentic in his interactions with everyone. Thank you, Matthew, for leading with your heart.

-UNP

Echoing what I said in my farewell speech at Assembly, bidding farewell to the HM also means saying goodbye to a friend and 'Comrade-in-Arms' for me. I will always remember him for the enthusiasm and creativity with which he approaches his work. His ability to engage with the community through sustained dialogue and to encourage people to see things in a different way is much appreciated. I wish Mr. Raggett the very best for the future.



-KLA

The highly respected Headmaster Mr. Matthew Raggett's last day at The Doon School is truly an emotional affair. I know how painful it is to say goodbye to someone who is less of a Principal and more of a father. I am so proud to have worked under his leadership. Not only is he an amazing boss, but he has also shown himself to be a loving and inspiring person. Sir, I have no doubt in my mind to say that you're an achiever, open-minded, generous, knowledgeable, modest, courageous, responsible and a highly respected individual. There are no words to express my sadness on this occasion, but I'm sure that your confidence in and encouragement to us will always keep us moving. I know I speak for all of us here at the Headmaster's Secretariat when I say that having you as a boss has made working here easy, enjoyable, and rewarding. On behalf of the HM's Secretariat and my colleagues, I wish you good luck and success in all your future endeavours, Thank you, Sir, for everything, You will be dearly missed!

-Afshan Anjum

# Aap Chronology Samajhiye

*Aarnav Sethy takes us through the most talked-about events around the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).*

The Citizenship Amendment Act provides Indian citizenship to immigrants of Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths residing 'illegally' in India since before December 31, 2014. Protests have erupted over the discriminatory nature of the law due to the exclusions of Muslims from the Act. Critics also point out that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and CAA proves to be a lethal combination.

## 31

AUGUST

### Final NRC List for Assam is Published

The final updated list for the Assam NRC is published; 1.9 million applicants rejected. Assam BJP Leader Himanta Biswa Sarma expresses displeasure; demands fresh process.

### Citizenship Amendment Bill is Passed in the Rajya Sabha

Rajya Sabha passes the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) with the support of 125 members, with all amendments to the bill rejected. The bill effectively takes the status of an Act. Protests erupt in Assam. US Federal Commission proposes sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah.

## 11

DECEMBER

## 12

DECEMBER

### Protests Spread Across India

Two protestors killed in police firing in Guwahati; Assam activist Akhil Gogoi is taken into preventive custody for inciting people to join protests against the Citizenship Bill. Protests spread to Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and across other cities of India.

### Police Officials Attack Jamia Millia Islamia University

The Delhi Police cracks down on Jamia Millia Islamia University; firing of tear gas and use of batons on students reported. The authorities deny that any permission was sought before entering university campus. Many students hospitalised with severe injuries and several others detained by the police.

## 15

DECEMBER

## 18

DECEMBER

### Supreme Court Takes 60 Petitions Questioning the CAA

The Supreme Court of India takes up 60 petitions questioning the constitutional validity of the Act; refuses to stay the CAA until a judgment is passed. 1100 educational institutions sign a petition condemning the police brutality on JMU.

### Internet and Telecommunications Shut in Parts of UP

Magnitude of protests increase throughout the country. Historian Ramchandra Guha arrested by Bangalore police. In Delhi, Communist Party Leader Sitaram Yechury and Activist Yogendra Yadav are detained along with 1,200 protestors. BJP-ruled states ban public gatherings and Central Government orders internet and communication restrictions in various places across the country.

## 19

DECEMBER

**21**  
DECEMBER

**Bhim Army Leader Chandrashekar Azad Arrested**

Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekar Azad placed under arrest by the police. 18-year old Amir Hanzala beaten to death. Of the six arrested in this connection, two are reported to belong to fringe Hindu organisations..

**German Exchange Student Deported**

Delhi records second coldest night in the past 100 years, but women protestors at Shaheen Bagh continue their indefinite protests against the Act. A German exchange student from IIT Madras deported from the country for participation in the protests.

**29**  
DECEMBER

**31**  
DECEMBER

**Kerala Legislative Assembly blocks CAA**

Kerala Legislative Assembly passes resolution with absolute majority to block the CAA from being implemented in the state with only one MLA, belonging to the BJP, opposing the resolution. Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad raps the Kerala Government; tells them to 'seek better legal advice.' New Year celebrations turn into protests in the capital.

**A Band of Masked Goons Attack JNU Campus**

Masked goons enter the JNU campus armed with rods and sticks and run a rampage through the hostels, injuring multiple students. JNUSU President Aishe Ghosh hospitalised after heavy injuries to her head. The ABVP (RSS student youth wing), affiliated to the BJP, is allegedly responsible for the attack. Reports speculate that the attack was committed in retaliation to the ongoing protests against the fee-hike and the CAA.

**5**

JANUARY

**10**  
JANUARY

**The Citizenship Amendment Act Comes Into Effect.**



**Section 144 Imposed in Parts of the Country**

Delhi High Court reprimands the police and grants bail to Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekar Azad; tells them to stop behaving as if 'Jama Masjid is in Pakistan'. Section 144 imposed in parts of the country. Mangalore sees massive crowd of around a lakh on the streets in protests against the Act. Countrywide death toll rises to 27

**15**  
JANUARY

**22**  
JANUARY

**Supreme Court Admits 143 Petitions**

Supreme Court admits 143 petitions into hearing; gives the Central Government four weeks to respond. Chief Justice SA Bobde refuses to stay the Citizenship Act.

# The Week Gone By

**Sriman Goel**

When I arrived at School, I was convinced that not much will happen in the first week, and that I could take this usually uneventful time to gradually settle in for the long term ahead. I was mistaken. A lot has happened in the week that has gone by.

An uncommon afternoon in the Rose Bowl turned the odd, unreliable rumour to cold reality. I had a rare moment of *déjà vu* as the traditional assembly-held-during-classes hit for the second time in my School life and we learnt of the Headmaster's resignation. We will surely miss him, as he takes on a

new direction and moves his life's ladder to a new wall. On behalf of the School community, I hope he finds success in his future journey.

But the show must go on, and so it does. Frantic preparations plague the houses, as about half of School faces daunting papers and the other half faces flying cricket balls. Construction continues around the campus, and the new open-air playgrounds gymnasiums provide more entertainment than exercise.

The AT Form and S-ISC batch have been pent up for a week longer than the rest of us and temporarily enjoyed the gentle warmth of blowers before the raging cold forced the appliances away. The brief taste of comfort now lingers over them, taunting them as they ache for what they cannot have. The AT Form nears

the 'IGCSE Boards Battlefield', from where martyrs have emerged just last year. As they test their footing with the Pre-Boards and wish them well for the bloodier battle ahead.

The comfort we saw in this week was the satisfying lack of PT and 1st school, which allowed for some escape from the terribly low temperatures. We're going to miss this sliver of 1st school freedom in the coming week, and will simply have to brave the elements for the next month or two.

The prefectorial body is away for their workshop, giving the juniors a little more freedom than warranted, but spending some dedicated time with the Headmaster as his School life concludes.

*"Parting is such sweet sorrow that I shall say goodnight till it be morrow."* – William Shakespeare

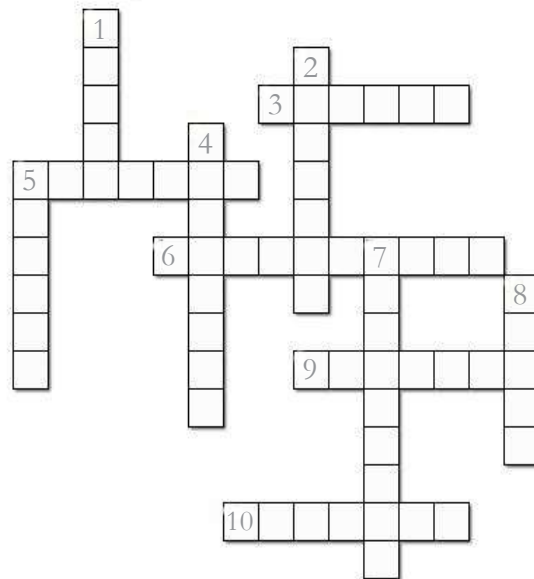
## Crossword | Most Significant Events of the Past Decades

**Across**

- 3. In 1903, the \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers invent the first powered aircraft.
- 5. In 1911, this Yale professor discovered Machu Picchu.
- 6. 1930 was the first year of the Great \_\_\_\_\_, following the Wall Street Crash.
- 9. In 1990, Nelson \_\_\_\_\_ was released from prison after serving a sentence of 27 years.
- 10. This rock band featuring John Lennon and Paul McCartney announced that it was splitting up in 1970.

**Down**

- 1. This globally most wanted terrorist was killed by US troops in 2011 in Pakistan.
- 2. This American singer came under the limelight after first appearing on The Ed Sullivan Show in 1956.
- 4. This social media website, which has recently been receiving criticism for invasion of privacy and misuse of personal data, was founded by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg in 2004.
- 5. On November 9, 1989, the \_\_\_\_\_ Wall, which had divided East and West Germany for nearly 30 years, was broken down by protesters.
- 7. In 1969, the \_\_\_\_\_ riots were started by LGBT community against the anti-gay legal system.
- 8. In 1941, Japan attacked this American harbor, thus causing the USA to enter World War Two.



Answers to This Week's Crossword	
<b>Across</b>	3. Wright
	5. Bingham
	6. Depression
	9. Mandela
<b>Down</b>	1. Laden
	2. Presley
	4. Facebook
	5. Berlin
	7. Stonewall
	8. Pearl
	10. Beatles

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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