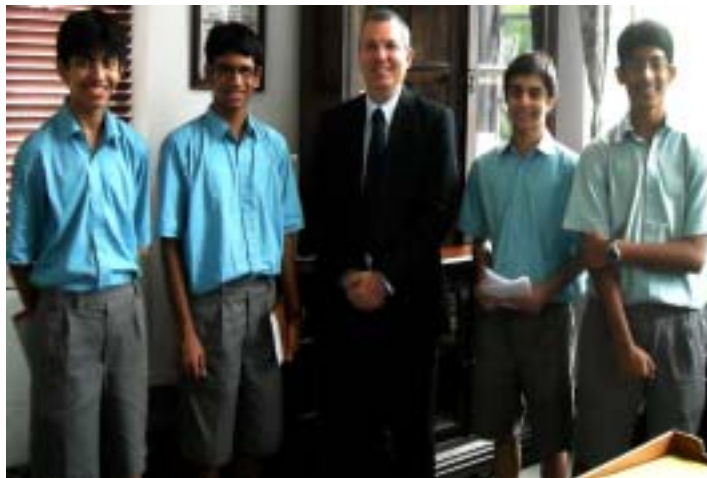


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## IN OFFICE

The Doon School Weekly's interview with the new Headmaster, *Dr Peter McLaughlin*



**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What are the three things you would like to change in School?**

**Dr Peter McLaughlin (PMC):** The first thing that I would like to say is that I like the School as it is already. However, I would very much like to bring technology into School. I don't really like gadgets or toys, but things like the introduction of smart classrooms is something that I feel must be done. I want students to have whatever technology you need to help you out in all activities in School. The second thing I noticed was that in this school, the child is either considered an intellectual, or he is a good sportsman. I want students to

understand that they can be both, and balance both these aspects of life in School. The third change that I would like to implement concerns the buildings. I would like to see the renovation of the older buildings without changing the atmosphere and feel of the place. An example of this is the new gardens near the Main Building which look modern but still manage to maintain the School's atmosphere.

**DSW: What are the three things you would like to keep the way they are?**

**PMC:** I would like the School to remain an all-round educational institution. I believe that other extra-curricular activities like drama, debating and so on should be given as much importance as sports and academics. Secondly, as I said before, I would like to maintain the feel of the School. I would also like to maintain the prestige of the School. Twenty years on, I wouldn't want to hear someone saying, "Doon used to be a good school." I want the School to always continue producing high quality alumni.

**DSW: In your view, is technology an aid or a distraction in School?**

**PMC:** I don't want technology to be seen as a big deal in School. I mean, once upon a time a ball-point pen used to be seen as technology! Still, technology can never replace an inspiring teacher who is passionate about their subject. I want the students to have whatever technology they require at their disposal to use in any activity in School. Also, not all forms of technology are distracting. For example, you cannot describe a digital camera as distracting. I am aware of the fact that people do abuse the technology provided to them. Still, computers are not going to go back, so we must learn how to make the best and most productive use we can of them. We must learn how to use technology with the right discipline but we cannot afford to be afraid of it.

**DSW: You have headed all-boys', all-girls' and co-educational institutions. Are single-sex institutions still relevant?**

**PMC:** Yes, possibly even more so for an all-boys' school. The biggest problem for boys worldwide is motivation. Even though research shows that students flourish best in single-sex institutions, this cannot take place if the institution is not one of quality and calibre. One of the advantages of an all-boys' school is that you can be yourself. One's friendships become stronger. In a co-educational school boys can lose friends as their attachment towards girls increases. Also, boys and girls learn very differently, and so it is difficult to teach them together.

**DSW: So would you consider making Doon co-educational?**

**PMC:** If the Board of Governors told me to turn this School into a co-educational institution, I would have to carry out their orders. Personally, I wouldn't change the current system. If you look around the world, you would notice that the greatest schools in history have been all-boys' schools. The other problem would be their accommodation. It would affect sports as well as friendship between the students. The financial burden would be huge and, though I do not have a grudge against co-educational schools, I wouldn't agree with the idea.

**DSW: Do you feel that it is now time for the Dosco to become more international-minded? In this respect, do you feel that Doon should exclusively affiliate itself with the IB?**

(contd. on page 3)

## Regulars

### WELCOME

**Sameer Katre**, who served School as the Financial Controller and Administrator from 2001-2005, returns to School in his new capacity as **Director of Administrative Affairs**.

**Manu Mehrotra** (MMR) rejoins the school faculty to teach Mathematics after doing his Master's degree in the US. **KV Arjun Rao** (KAR) returns after a term's sabbatical to resume teaching History and his duties as Assistant Housemaster of Oberoi House.

**Shatam Ray** (SRY) has recently joined the faculty and will be teaching History.

**Anuroop Jouhal** and **Sarabjeet Sandhu** have joined the School community as Dames of Oberoi and Kashmir Houses respectively. On behalf of the School community, we would like to welcome them all to Doon and wish them a fruitful tenure.

### ON EXCHANGE

**Harmillan Oberoi**, from St. George School, Vancouver, **Alexander Lovell** from Harrow School, England, and **Alexander Grew** from Boogham School, York, England are on student exchange to Doon. We wish them a pleasant stay.

### DELHI DEBATE

The School was represented by Govind Singh, Dhruv Velloor, Arjun Badal and Vivek Santayna in the **9th Annual Shri Debates** held at the Shri Ram School, Moulisari between July 28 and 31. Dhruv Velloor and Govind Singh were awarded a **Best Speaker** each in the preliminary round. Govind Singh was also adjudged **Best Speaker** in the semi-finals. Arjun Badal was adjudged **Best Speaker** in the finals. The School finished **Runner-Up**, losing to the host school in the finals. Well done!

### BEE SEASON

Rahul Srivastava, Rishabh Pande and Piroune Balachandran took part in the **ESPN Spelling Champs** during the summer vacation. While Rishabh Pande reached the third round, Piroune Balachandran was the winner of the competition. Well done!

### CLIMBING HIGH

The School organised an expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro between May 31 and June 11. Ten students and two teachers were part of the team. Jaiveer Jakhar, Shivam Pal, Devashish Singhal, Sriyash Kishorepuria, Rajit Garg, PKJ and ASH reached the summit. Rohan Nath Behl, Prahlad Singh, Vinayak Aggarwal, Sachit Taneja and Shivam Katyal reached an altitude above 5200 m. Kudos! A report runs in this issue.

### IAYP

The following boys had achieved the various levels of the IAYP at the end of last term:

**Bronze:** Yashasvi Havelia, Dhruv Mahajan, Ishaan Khanna, Rohan Shriram, Vibhav Gaur, Ateendra Pande  
**Silver:** Devansh Khaitan, Viren Kapoor, Vinayak Agarwal

**Gold:** Ayaan Patel

Ayaan Patel has been awarded the **IAYP Blazer** for having completed all three levels of IAYP. Well done!

## Letter To The Editor

I have only recently read the issues of *The Doon School Weekly* dated April 11, 2009 as well as April 18, 2009 wherein I came across the article titled *Sparing the Rod* by Sriyash Kishorepuria and *Do we need punishments?* by Arjun Badal.

At the very outset, kudos to the engineers of this outstanding initiative. I sincerely hope that we see many more idioms which express the efforts adopted by the student community towards the development of the practices followed at Doon.

Before embarking upon the 'modes of punishment', it is crucial to know the 'reasons for punishment'. The act of giving a punishment is not only essential towards developing the character of the receiver but also that of the giver. Further, the motive behind giving punishments has to be accurate and the effects well comprehended. The general principles governing the cause and effect of punishments is based on four theories; namely, Deterrent, Preventive, Reformative and Retributive.

**Deterrent:** to make the wrong-doer an example and warning to all who are like-minded with him. According to this theory, offences are a result of a conflict between the interests of the wrong-doer and those around him. The aim of punishment is to dissolve the conflict of interests.

**Preventive:** to deter by fear, punishing a wrong-doer in a manner which becomes an example for other members of the community thereby discouraging them from becoming wrong-doers.

**Reformative:** to strengthen the character of the man so that he may not become a victim of his own temptation. The ultimate aim here is to try to bring about a change in the personality and character of the wrong-doer, so as to make him a useful member of the community.

**Retributive:** formerly based on theory of revenge: 'tooth for tooth' and 'eye for eye'. One might consider this theory to be outdated and behind times. However, it still has its effects when used in consonance with the other theories.

Based on the above (and perhaps a bit more research!), the Prefectorial body may choose to decide as to which modus will prove to be the most effective system. I wish the School Captain and the Prefectorial body all the very best in their endeavours.

**Shiv Sapra**  
(ex-408 JB, '99)

### Opinion Poll

**Do you think that the shortening of the autumn term by 15 days has made it too hectic?**

**Yes**  19 %

**No**  81 %

(356 members of the School community were polled)

**Next Week's Question:** Are you alarmed by the increase in the number of H1N1 (swine flu) cases in the country?

(contd. from Page 1)

The School has always been international, much more than what one would think. Yet, the Indian examination system is of a very high level. There are many schools which follow both the domestic as well as the IB curriculum. Also, the IB is still a very young programme. Eventually, many of you will go abroad for which you should be prepared by the school itself.

**DSW: Do you feel that cultural differences could be a problem while heading the School?**

**PMC:** I am not someone who suffers from culture-shock. A school is a school, no matter where you go in the world. Schoolboys will always be the same. But one of the biggest challenges in any society is language. I am learning Hindi, but, at the moment, I speak like a baby. Also, parts of Dehradun, like Suicide Alley, resemble Cairo.

**DSW: In a press article, you had said that you do not want Doon to be the 'Eton of India'. What do you want it to be?**

**PMC:** The journalist asked me whether I would like to make Doon like Eton. Well, I would like to keep The Doon School, The Doon School. Mr Foot and Mr Martyn have done a great job here. We don't want people to think that we have copied a school abroad. What we really want is others to say, "This is The Doon of England," or "This is The Doon of Australia".

**DSW: What are your views on the traditions of Doon that are frowned upon?**

**PMC:** I was quite shocked to hear what Vikram Seth said in his Founder's Day Speech. As far as bullying is concerned, what with the way the world is changing with the anti-ragging policy, we will certainly have to look into the matter. Still, boys will be boys and we cannot classify every second thing as bullying. Yet, we cannot have people persecuting others in our School.

**DSW: Do you think students should have a say in making school decisions?**

**PMC:** I am sure that the best decisions are made after consulting the people whom they really affect. In Cairo, the students as young as six years of age were discussing the design for the buildings along with the architects. As children are going to reside in this school, everything should be modified to suit them. Also, children have a different perspective on things and often observe things that we adults don't.

**DSW: What would be your mission as Headmaster?**

**PMC:** I would like to review the entire curriculum. I would like to bring forward an international approach of developing the school. We should constantly be critical of ourselves without being too harsh on the school. I also believe that any good school must have good academics, sport, as well as extra-curricular activities. What I would like to bring is a perspective from outside the country and also teach us to be content with what we have. We must handpick the good bits of other societies and try and implement them in our lives. I also want to ensure the School is a happy place. What I would like is a school of a high reputation, where every student is expected to be hard-working and loyal. What you turn out to be once you pass out is what maintains the reputation of the School.

With self belief, one can be extremely successful in life. In such a case, one can achieve almost anything one dreams of. The school helps you build confidence in yourself. I believe that Doscocs should be, above all, courteous, generous and hospitable.

**DSW: Would you give the entire credit for a student's personality to the School?**

**PMC:** Besides the school, the parents are also to be credited with the type of child that leaves this school after six years. After all, they sacrifice considerably to see their child spend six years away from home. It is the parents that give us what we have to work with in the children that they send and, along with the system, we simply accelerate the process and make Doscocs who they are.

**DSW: Do you see yourself teaching again?**

**PMC:** Teaching is the most enjoyable part of this responsibility. I usually teach the Board classes, but with all of the hectic meetings and adjusting to the new environment, I haven't been able to get down to that task yet. Even though the Board of Governors have been really understanding and tried to let me stay in school for as long as possible, I haven't found time as of now. When I find my feet though, I am sure to give it a shot.

## wordsearch

Find hidden below names of the world's ten most expensive cities to live in

H	N	W	O	C	S	O	M	S	K
E	E	G	N	I	J	I	E	B	R
R	W	G	E	N	E	V	A	X	O
O	G	N	A	S	N	A	J	G	Y
P	N	O	H	H	I	A	S	F	W
A	I	K	C	L	N	Q	M	O	E
G	J	G	I	U	Z	E	R	J	N
N	Z	N	R	S	N	F	P	M	C
I	Y	O	U	L	O	Y	K	O	T
S	V	H	Z	A	K	A	S	O	C

## Unquotable Quotes

*English ki angrezi bahut tough hai.*

**Netesh Dev** laments bilingually.

*I've been walking in a straight circle.*

**Narinder Kapur** defies geometry.

*Give me some sip.*

**Nilesh Agarwal**, thirsting for more.

*I have these long hair.*

**Nilesh Agarwal**, the hirsute lad.

*I've got the second highest aggregate total in class.*

**Pranjal Singh**, R.I.P.

*His shoots are accurate.*

**Ashish Rao**, the crack-shot.

*What it doing?*

**Arjun**, we not knowing.

*All brothers are my brothers and sisters.*

**Devansh Khaitan**, strong on familial bonds.

*War means war.*

**Vikram Aditya Kapur**, the war-monger.

## चरमदास चोर पर प्रतिबंध

सलोचन पांडे

साहित्य जगत के लिये इससे बुरी खबर क्या हो सकती है? जो नाटक पूरे भारत में जगभंग तीन दशकों तक न केवल मंचित किया जाता रहा अपितु हर बार लोकप्रियता की ऊँचाइयों को भी छूता रहा उसे अचानक एक दिन सांस्कृतिक मूल््यों की पहरेदार छत्तीसगढ़ की सरकार ने अपने प्रदेश में प्रतिबंधित कर दिया।

यह प्रतिबंध केवल नाटक के मंचन पर ही लागू नहीं होता बल्कि उसके पाठ पर भी लागू होता है। इस प्रतिबंध के कारण - राज्य के सत्तानामी समुदाय का मानना है कि इस नाटक में उनके चिह्न-पुरुष श्री घासी राम का अपमान किया गया है। इससे साफ पता चलता है कि आज़ादी के इतने वर्षों बाद भी भारत में साम्प्रदायिक सहिष्णुता और सद्भाव की संस्कृति विकसित नहीं हो पाई है।

साहित्य यही दिखाता है जो संसार में घटित होता है। अगर ध्यान से देखें तो पता चलता है कि सरकारों की जातिगत व सम्प्रदाय आधारित घोट की राजनीति ने इस प्रकार के संवेदनशील और आधारहीन मामलों का आवश्यकता से अधिक तपज्जो देकर अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से साहित्य की जड़ों में मट्टा डालने का काम किया है।

इस नाटक का कथानक कथाकार विजयदान देवा की देन है जिसका प्रख्यात रंगकर्मी हबीब तनवीर ने नाट्य रूपांतर किया। इनका चरमदास तीन शतों से ऐसे बंधा है कि सुन्दर स्त्री और राज-ऐश्वर्य उसे डिंगा नहीं सकता। यह नाटक आज के स्वार्थी राजनेता और नैतिकता के झूठे ठेकेदारों के मुँह पर तमाचा है। यथार्थ की कटु सच्चाई है। इस देश में साहित्य और कलाओं को राजनीति से नहीं जोड़ना चाहिये। राजनेता इसमें लाभ - हानि न देखें। मेरी व्यक्तिगत राय यह है चरमदास चोर को पुनः नए सिरे से देखा जाए। आज के सन्दर्भों में परखा जाए और फिर से इस विषय में विचार किया जाए। न केवल हबीब तनवीर के प्रति बल्कि सम्पूर्ण साहित्य सृजन की परम्परा के प्रति यही सच्ची निष्ठा होगी।

## हाँ में हाँ

अरुण सुपना

'तू जो बोले हाँ, तू जो बोले ना' हिन्दी सिनेमा प्रियतमा का यह गीत आज भी हमारे कानों में गूँजता है। इस गीत को अगर चक्रवर्ति के सन्दर्भ में ही देखें तो बस इतना पता चलता है कि अगर प्यार में सफलता पानी है तो प्रेमिका की हाँ में हाँ मिलाने चाहिए। प्रेमिका की बात मानना और उसे तुरंत अपना लेना इस तरह मामलों में सफलता के लिए काफी ज़रूरी हो जाता है। अगर सही कहें तो आज के युग में हाँ में हाँ मिलाना सफलता का मूलमंत्र बन गया है।

बचपन से ही हमें कहा जाता रहा है कि किसी से बहस मत करो, जैसा कहा जाए वैसा ही करो। बड़ों को ना में जवाब मत दो। अपने परिशेषों की हाँ में ही आपकी हाँ होनी चाहिए.....पगैरा...पगैरा। यही आज का धर्म बन गया है। चहे संस्कार बन गया है। शाब्द इसी लिए आज सफलता की पुँजी भी बन चुका है। आम हो या खास पर हर किसी की जिन्दगी किसी न किसी की हाँ में हाँ मिलाने में ही निकल जाती है।

इस प्रवृत्ति के मूल में हैं हर किसी को खुश रखने की कामना। बस को खुश रखना हो तो 'बस सर', पत्नी को खुश रखना हो तो 'बस डाँडिंग', मित्रों को खुश करने के लिए उनके थके हुए घुटकुओं पर ठहाके और वाह-या। कहीं धूम हो गई तो न घर के रहे न घाट के। इस कामना के फन्दे में फँसे हम कई बार बह भूँज जाते हैं कि सच्चाई तो यह है कि जीवन में हर किसी को खुश रखना सम्भव ही नहीं है।

परंतु यह भी मत सोचिए कि हाँ में हाँ मिलाना आसान काम है। यह एक जिंगरे का काम इसलिए है क्योंकि अगर एक व्यक्ति में थोड़ी सी बुद्धिमत्ता और विवेकशीलता है तो वह किसी न किसी बात पर किसी न किसी से असहमति व्यक्त अवश्य करेगा। इस दुनिया में कोई ऐसा महापुरुष पैदा नहीं हुआ जिसके विचार बाकी सबसे मिलते जुलते हों। एक बात के लिए सौच भी जें कि ऐसा हो सकता है तो दुनिया कितनी नीरस होगी जब किसी बात पर विचार विमर्श की या बहस सुबाहिसे की गुंजाइश भी न होगी। ऐसी प्रवृत्ति वास्तव में मनुष्य के विचारों को, उसकी बुद्धि को तथा उसकी तार्किकता को मार रही रही है।

सफलता प्राप्त करने के लिए हाँ में हाँ मिलाना सुनने में जितना आसान दिखाई देता है वास्तव में उतना आसान है नहीं। आपके वरिष्ठ के दो कौड़ी के सुझाव पर जब *हाट एन आइडिया सर जी* कहना पड़ता है, तब अपनी आत्मा पर पढ़ने पाँजे ज़ोर को सहना आसान नहीं होता।

इसी कड़ी में अगला विचार यह है कि क्या सच में हाँ में हाँ मिलाने बिना जीवन में आगे नहीं बढ़ा जा सकता। अतीत में अनेक जोग हो गए हैं जिन्होंने किसी की हाँ में हाँ नहीं मिलाई। हमेशा अपना रास्ता खुद चुना और हर तरह से सफल भी हुए। उन्होंने दिखाया कि हाँ में हाँ मिलाना सफलता पाने का एक रास्ता तो हो सकता है पर यह एक मात्र रास्ता कतई नहीं है।

अगर विचारों में आस्था और दृढ़ता हो तो हर काम हो सकता है। प्रारम्भ में विरोध तो होगा। सम्भव है कि कोई हमसफर भी न हो। पर प्रवाह प्रवण हो तो धारा स्वयं बनी बन जाती है। किसी शावर ने कहा भी है -

**हम भी दरिया हैं हमें अपना हुवर माफूम है।**

**जिस तरह भी बख पड़ेगे रास्ता हो जाएगा।**

हम मानय इसलिए हैं क्योंकि हममें विरोध करने की शक्ती है और तर्क भी प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। अगर सब जगह हाँ में हाँ मिलानी हो तो हममें और पशुओं में कोई अंतर नहीं रह जाएगा। अपने स्वाभिमान एवं मौलिकता को खंडित होने से बचाए रखना किसी भी सफलता से अधिक महत्त्वपूर्ण है। कहते हैं कि अकेला घना भाइ नहीं फोड़ सकता पर इसका यह भी तो अर्थ नहीं है कि वह अपना रूप ही बदल ले।

आज के आर्थिक संकट में हाँ में हाँ मिलाने को सही ठहराया जा सकता है क्योंकि इससे आपकी नौकरी बची रहती है। पर ऐसा जीवन भी क्या जीना जहाँ घुंटा होगी, अपनी बात कहने में गजानि होगी और गजत को जानते हुए भी स्वीकारने में पीड़ा होगी। सही या गलत में से एक हमें चुनना है। इसके लिए जो सबसे ज़रूरी बात है वह है सफलता के सही मापदंड का चुनाव। यह मापदंड हमें अपने लिए अपने आप ही निर्धारित करना होगा। शाब्द आज के समय की यही सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है।

# Kilimanjaro, Conquered!

*Shivam Pal recounts the expedition to Mt. Kilimanjaro during the summer holidays*



Kilimanjaro is an extinct volcano and is the highest mountain in Africa. It is also the highest free-standing mountain in the world at 5895 metres above sea level. Kilimanjaro is among the 'Seven Summits' of the world, the others being Mt Everest, Elbrus, McKinley, Aconcagua and Kosciusko. The two volcanic masses of Kilimanjaro are Kibo and Mawensi, which stand about 11 km apart, connected by a broad saddle at a height of about about 4600 metres. Although Kilimanjaro lies just three degrees south of the equator, it is covered by ice all year round. There are seven conventional routes to climb to the highest point of Kilimanjaro, which is called Uhuru.

We chose the Marangu route. This route has diverse vegetation, ranging from a rainforest region, moorland and alpine desert to the ice-capped summit.

The members of the Doon team were: Jaiveer Jhaxkar, Prahlad Singh, Sachit Taneja, Rohan Nath Behl, Devashish Singal, Shivam Katyal, Vinayak Aggarwal, Sriyash Kishorepuria, Rajit Garg (Student Co-ordinator), Mr. Pankaj Joshi, the team leader Dr. Aravindanabha Shukla and myself.

The preparations for this expedition were as grand as the expedition itself. The team got on with the physical fitness training about six weeks before the trip. We, under the guidance of Dr. Shukla, a veteran mountaineer, made ample effort daily to increase our chances of reaching the summit. Dr. Shukla made us take rounds of the Main Field followed by sprints, stair-climbs and brisk walks. What he wanted us to do was to change our attitude towards life. To put it in Thomas Fuller's words, he wanted to make us realize that '*all things are difficult before they are easy*'. By the end of May, a rough and tough team was prepared for this historic expedition.

On May 31 we all met at Indira Gandhi International Airport. We had to fly to Bombay from here, followed by the flight to Nairobi and then a short flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport. There were two huge Land Cruisers waiting for us at the airport. They soon loaded our bags and we were off to Ilboru Safari Lodge, our base for the next few days. At night, after a light dinner, an equipment check was conducted and missing equipment was provided to us.

The first destination, Mandara at an altitude of 2700 m was 12 km from the Marangi gate and it took the team a good 3 hours 20 minutes to complete it. The trek was through a rain forest. We saw lush vegetation and peculiar insects on our way. On arrival at the first level, we were served tea and dinner that comprised a diet rich in proteins and carbohydrates. This really helped us to recover from our fatigue.

The next morning after having a hearty breakfast we left for our next destination, Horombo, at an altitude of 3720 m. The trek was long but quite enjoyable. We had to cross the rainforest and enter the moorland. The moorland was an area where there were small trees and small shrubs. As the altitude increased we started seeing less vegetation.

Dr. Shukla and our head guide, Paul, had decided to acclimatize us the next day. We stayed in the camp that day and the next day went for a hike to a nearby place called Zebra Rocks. They were at an altitude of 4100 m.

If one wants to acclimatize, one has to walk at a slow pace so that all the systems of the body get used to the atmosphere. This was the main aim of the walk and all the members abided by this simple principle. On reaching the destination, some members of the team walked further on and reached the top of a ridge, from where the Kilimanjaro Massif was visible. It was undoubtedly a very beautiful sight.

We then hiked back to Horombo. We were free for the rest of the day and this time was adequately utilized by the team. Some were busy talking to their parents, while some others enjoyed a game of cards.

The next morning we left for Kibo. It is at an altitude of 4700 m. We had to cross the moorland and enter the alpine desert. This trek was 15 kms long and took us around 6 hours and 30 minutes to finish. On our way we noticed that the vegetation had reduced to mere grass and some cacti!

We were served a packed lunch on the way. On our way we saw a sign which read 'Last Water Point!' Most of us thought that this was to scare the public but to our horror that was truly the last water point! Our guides assured us that there was nothing to fear as the porters were carrying water for us. From then on the stretch was a bit tough as the gradient had increased and the terrain had become more rocky and sandy.

We had scarce time on our hands to rest, as we had to push for the summit at 11:00pm. Our main aim was to reach the summit before dawn so that we could see the sun rise.

*(contd. overleaf)*

At around 6:00 pm we were woken up for dinner by the guides. The guide then briefed us about the trek. Dr. Shukla spoke to us about the probable problems and difficulties while trekking at that elevation in the night and their solutions.

We had three hours to rest and everyone 'tried' to sleep. But the thought of attempting this Herculean task kept us awake! At 10:00 pm we were woken up and told to get ready. The head guide informed us that at night there were sub-zero temperatures and as the altitude increased the air would become thinner and could lead to altitude sickness. Everyone wore several layers of clothes. All the physical and the mental strength gained in the past two months was about to be tested in the next 14 hours.

The trek finally began at 11:00pm. The moon light shone over the barren and beautiful landscape.

We walked slowly and steadily, following our head guide. The temperature was constantly falling and the water in our bottles started freezing. The trek became even more difficult when our toes and finger tips became numb. At 3:00 am we crossed the 5000 meter mark. The whole team managed to accomplish this feat. It was now that some people started feeling the discomfort and were in a dilemma whether to go forward and scale the summit or to turn around and go back to Kibo. Paul insisted on walking together. Some of us were terribly tired and slow and reluctant to continue. We realised that at this pace no one would be able to reach the summit.

At this point, Dr. Shukla took a leader's call and instructed Paul to divide the team into three groups. These divisions were made on the basis of the speed, stamina and performance of the people. Some fast walkers proceeded with Dr. Shukla and Mr. Joshi for the summit. The second group, which consisted of slow walkers, proceeded for the summit with two guides. Some boys who did not want to continue were sent back to Kibo with one assistant guide.

It was already 4:30 am by now and only seven out of twelve people continued towards the summit. At 5:50 am five people reached Gillman's Point (5685m). They were Dr. Shukla, Mr. Joshi, Sriyash, Devashish and I, along with Paul. After resting for 10 minutes we left for the summit. Only 200m had to be gained but the last stretch seemed unending.

Dead tired, I finally reached the summit (5895 m) with Sriyash, Devashish and Paul at 8:00am. Reaching the summit was a big achievement and Dr. Shukla with Mr. Joshi, who were waiting for us, watching our progress since 7.00 am congratulated all of us. There was a great sense of joy and satisfaction. After a short photo session on the peak, we began our descent.

On our way back to Gillman's Point we came

across Rajit Garg and Jaiveer Jhakhar. They were looking tired but were determined to reach the summit. Dr. Shukla, who by now, had a fair idea of the terrain, atmosphere and the strength of the two boys, gave them a deadline of one hour and strictly instructed their guide to return as soon as the deadline was over. He had a feeling that the weather was going to deteriorate soon. His suspicion proved right, as later it snowed heavily for hours and covered the mountain in bright white. They also reached the summit successfully within the given time.

After a successful climb the group of seven, triumphant and exuberant climbers reached the Kibo huts and were greeted by every one.

The Doon School is one of the first schools in India to organize an expedition to Kilimanjaro. This itself is a great achievement for the school and has made us Doscocs proud. Thank you Doon for giving us this magnificent opportunity!

\* \* \*

## | Poetry | Midnight

*Abhishek Choudhary*

Waking up at midnight,  
To a different world come alive.  
The sky a deeper colour, a darker blue.  
The moon out in its full glory.  
The stars pinpointing the sky.  
I hear an owl in the distance,  
Hear its mournful cry.  
He shall go to sleep in a while.  
All is peaceful on this night  
As the world sleeps.  
One soul listening,  
As even the night has a couple of sounds.  
Wondering what's in the surrounding dark,  
Wishing someone else was awake as well,  
Yet glad for it's all yours to cherish.  
Just for a while, for morning is to come.  
As the sky starts to lighten,  
The shadows melt away,  
Yet you have a lasting memory,  
A memory of waking up at midnight.

## CAREER CALL

This week, the Careers' noticeboard will post information on what career options one can explore with a degree in **Economics**. All those interested should look it up.

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