

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, October 17, 2009 • Issue No. 2231



REGULARS

2

IN CONCERT

3

DOON TOON

4

POETRY

4

The Doon School Weekly wishes the School community a bright and happy Diwali

## EDITORIAL

*A soporific chill has descended upon us as we prepare ourselves for the cold spell ahead. Its lateness notwithstanding, the change of weather has prolonged our morning lethargy. It's time, once again, to bring out our blazers and quilts and put up with the pungent naphthalene odour at night. Diwali is here, the eve of which we celebrated as is customary, with an appetite and enthusiasm that transcended manners and etiquettes! Many of us are availing this opportunity to go for our first outing in a long time. Emotions are swelling and receding, and here I am, avoiding clichés like the swine flu.*

*It was my ambition to see my name join the ranks of the many great writers who have inspired me, and this is merely a premature realization of it. Unlike the fickle weather, and the cruelly unpredictable seasons this year, my ambition has been resolute, and perhaps, the same goes for the Weekly's ambition of keeping our literary lamp's wick well-trimmed and prepared. Keeping this in mind, it is time to start afresh, guided by nothing but our dreams of greatness and love for writing. We must also remember that the brilliance we seek is spawned by ambition that can survive reality, and steadfastness that never falters.*

*It is also our duty to carry on the creative tradition that we had begun, to awaken our desire to write and make us rise to meet the intellectual challenges that we have sought. But to do this, we must banish any hint of complacency. Our written words are permanent, and we will eventually share space in the Archives with many eminent writers. It is time we make ourselves worthy of this honour. If we would like to call upon our legacy, we must make ourselves comparable to it and, in turn, enrich it. The surrogacy of our prestige through our past laurels is a delusion; let's make no mistake about that.*

*Our pens and our spirits have been tempered by past trials and tribulations. While seeking and valuing public opinion, we have learnt not to give in to public pressure. With our biggest year ahead, it is time we rose to the occasion. And so, we have begun. Let us write our own tale. Like any other, this one, too, begins with a word.*

## Offside! *Spandan Agrawal reports on this year's Inter-House Soccer Competition*



*Takes two to tackle...*

September 4 saw the start of one of the major inter-house events of the year, the much-awaited soccer competition. Boys had been practising for this event since the beginning of term. The members of the School team had performed brilliantly in a series of matches, and they hoped to carry on their fine form into the competition. With that in mind, they hoped to secure the much-coveted soccer shield for their respective houses. But one of the main problems during the start of the competition was that many players, senior and junior, were admitted in the hospital due to seasonal flu or viral fever. Consequently, the houses found it difficult to form their teams.

In the junior competition, although many were unable to play, the matches were nonetheless interesting. Jaipur House took a sizeable lead right from the beginning. They also beat Hyderabad House, with their strong forward line, and were also the favourites for the Junior Cup. Tata House performed well, but could not keep up with Jaipur House. Kashmir and Oberoi Houses were disappointed at being unable to create goal-scoring chances. Aditya Vir Roy, Dhruv Agarwal, Yash Johri, Arjun Parmar, Siddhant Sachdev and Khalid Alawnah displayed noticeable talent.

The senior competition commenced on the morning of September 6. Tata and Oberoi Houses started their campaigns with a bang by winning their first matches by a considerable margin. The competition continued for a few days, before being halted suddenly, due to a swine flu scare. This disrupted the momentum. Amidst all the confusion, there were rumours that the soccer competition had been cancelled. It was surprising to see that the boys were not at all scared of falling ill, but certainly disappointed due to the suspension of the competition.

The School reopened on September 21, after having enjoyed a 'mini-vacation'. The captains were told that the competition would restart in a few days' time, and word spread very quickly throughout School. The boys got a few more days of practice, and now that most of the players were back, the houses could form their proper teams.

*(contd. on page 4)*

## LAURELS EARNED

Arnav Sahu, Abhishek Jain and Shrey Gaurishankar have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Vidur Vij, Sriyash Kishorepuria, Aaditya Vicram Gupta, Skand Swarup, Nikhil Sinha, Harnaresh Singh, Piyush Gupta, Archit Kumar and Melvin Michael have been awarded their **Games' Blazers**.

The following boys have been awarded **Art Colours**: Ranjai Sodhi, Sharad Lal and Piyush Gupta (re-awarded)

The following have been awarded Colours in **Soccer**:

### Full Colours:

Nikhil Sinha  
Skand Swarup  
Shiva Gururani  
Melvin Michael  
Vahin Khosla  
Amit Gupta (re-awarded)

### Half Colours:

Karanbir Dhariwal  
Aazam Jauhal  
Vidur Vij

The following have been awarded the **PT Commendation**: Aditya Sukhia, Aashray Patel, Archit Kumar, Anuj Bhatia and Vidur Vij

The following have been awarded **PT Jerseys**: Tarang Khurana, Devvrat Patney, Harnaresh Singh, Aruj Shukla, Sriyash Kishorepuria, Vedant Chandra and Aaditya Vicram Gupta

The following are the results of the **Individual Chess Tournament**:

**Winner**: Sarthak Gupta

**Runner-Up**: Harshit Tiwari

Congratulations!

## INTER-HOUSE WINS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Soccer Competition**:

### Junior Cup

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

### Senior Cup

1st: Oberoi and Tata  
3rd: Jaipur  
4th: Kashmir  
5th: Hyderabad

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Basketball Competition**:

### Junior Cup

1st: Tata  
2nd: Jaipur and Hyderabad  
4th: Kashmir  
5th: Oberoi

### Senior Cup

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

Well done!

## Opinion oll

Are we really 'blocked' from the outside world?



**Yes 83%**

**No 27%**

(225 members of the School community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Do you think the present test week serves any academic purpose?

## ATTENTION!

*The Doon School Weekly* will continue with the Editors' Choice section featured in the Founder's Day Edition, dated October 10 (issue no. 2230). The best articles that we receive over the next year will be reprinted in special editions of the *Weekly*. This is to encourage contribution from more members of the School community. All pieces, excluding Letters to the Editors and reports will be eligible for consideration.

## TAKING CHARGE

The following are the appointments for the forthcoming year:

Shatrunjai Rai Dewan, Devansh Khaitan and Viren Kapoor have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge** of the **Audio-Visual Squad**.

B Dinesh Reddy has been appointed Boy-in-Charge of the **Cooking STA**.

Devashish Singhal and Trivikram Singh have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge** of the **Stage Committee** for the following year.

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

## EDITORS, 2010

The following are the appointments to the Editorial Boards of the various publications for the forthcoming year:

**The Doon School Weekly:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Vivek Santayana

**Editor:** Shashank Peshawaria

**Senior Editors:** Arnav Sahu, Bharat Ganju, and Chandrachuda Shukla

**Associate Editors:** Kanishka Malik, Abhinav Mittal, and Arjun Singh Badal

**Special Correspondents:** Arifeen Chowdhury, Shashvat Dhandhania, Yash Mall and Shivank Singh

**Correspondents:** Rahul Srivastava, Utkarsh Jha and Kunal Kanodia

**Graphics Editor:** Madhav Dutt

**The Yearbook:**

**Editors-in-Chief:** Jayant Mukhopadhaya and Abhishek Jain

**Chief of Production:** Nilesh Agarwal

**Senior Editors:** Uddhav Prasad, Udai Bhotra and Anmol Jamwal

**Associate Editors:** Aashray Batra, Gursehej Oberoi, Sachit Taneja and Vigya Singh.

**Senior Correspondents:** Siddhant Sachdev, Arjun Parmar, Eeshat Tiwari, Sanchit Thakral and Arjun Khaitan

**Correspondents:** Devesh Sharma and Madhav Dutt

We wish them a fruitful year ahead.

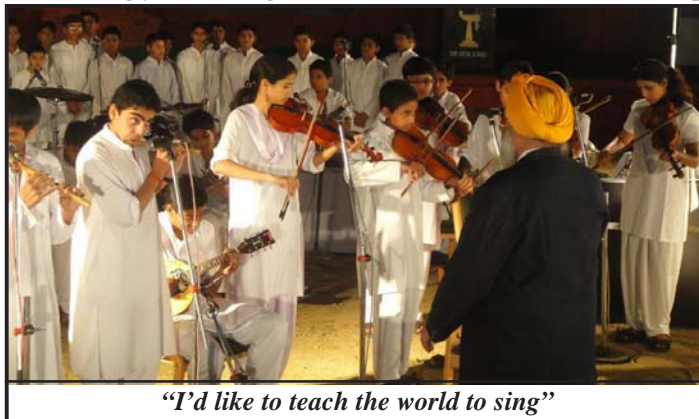
## ERRATA

In the **90's Club** printed in the Founder's Day Special Edition of the *Weekly* dated October 10, 2009 (issue no. 2230), **Arpan Agarwal**, who scored 93%, was inadvertently omitted on the ICSE list and **Pranav Kapoor**, who secured 92% in the ISC, was also not mentioned. The *Weekly* apologizes for the omissions.

# AND THE SHOW WENT ON...

*Priya Chaturvedi* reviews the musical performance which took place on Founder's Day (October 10) in the newly-rennovated Rose Bowl

The announcement that the scaled-down Founder's Day celebrations would include the concert caught us, if not exactly on the wrong foot in musical preparedness, certainly not in the usual state of readiness for performance. However, the well-worn saying, 'The show must go on', was quite in keeping with our attitude, and so, on the show most certainly did go. One of the upsides was that we were performing, after many years, in the Rose Bowl rather than on the Main Field, and the setting and acoustics made for a welcome difference. The 'new-look' Rose Bowl thus, fittingly, was inaugurated to the sounds of music, and quite an eclectic range of sound it was too.



*"I'd like to teach the world to sing"*

The choir and orchestra were on stage first, performing *Raga Bhatiar*, in an arrangement by GSS. This last performance by the Director of Music bore all the hallmarks of his unique blending of tradition and innovation, though, (due to the fact that our performance time was limited) without the solos on violin, flute, piano, guitar, tabla and drums. However, the orchestra provided rich tonal texture. Lyrical and fluent playing from the violinists, led by Aditi Joshi, was at the heart of the instrumental section, ably balanced by the soaring lines of the flutes and firmly anchored by the tablas. The

slow build-up of the *alap* by the choir was masterly in the thoughtfulness with which this most melodious raga unfolded and revealed its character. The basses, with fine singers like Yashvardhan Jain, Amit Gupta and Arjan Maini (in their last School performance) were able to hold their own in this challenging section and the trebles (many of whom were making their musical debut) were meticulous in their entries and co-ordination. The upbeat tarana was again taxing in its rhythmic intricacy and dexterity. The musically-charged atmosphere carried on to the Percussion Ensemble which was directed by ABC. While it is fair to say that the School Music Captain Vedant Chandra's *tabla tarang* was the highlight of the composition, the ensemble witnessed many remarkable solo performances which, despite scintillating rhythmic and tonal flourishes, did nothing to disturb the cohesion of the piece. This year's percussion performance was a creative as well as judicious mix of melody and rhythm. The number of instruments ranging from bells to drums and incorporating folk instruments like the *daffli* made for an excellent layering of sound.

The smaller Chamber Ensemble which followed proved to be a mettlesome group of players. The *Sinfonia* from Handel's oratorio *Solomon* was given energetic but elegant treatment. Baroque chamber music does not lend itself, by its nature, to amplification of sound or large-venue performance, but, in this case, it was pulled off successfully. The two pianists, Nikhil Sardana and Shatrunjai Dewan, the three violins and clarinet (Vihan Khanna) played some tricky scale passages with great aplomb and musical understanding of the polyphonic style, their phrasing, rhythm and tempo all combining to create the desired light-hearted effect. I had transcribed this work for chamber format and was, myself, surprised (pleasantly, needless to say) by the quality of performance.

More demanding was the Ensemble's (joined here by flautist Prannoy Bohra) rendition of the Septet in C minor, *To Ludwig, In Stone*. This work saw School Captain Sriyash Kishorepuria in his avatar of composer-conductor. A dramatic, suspenseful work in the traditional sonata form of three movements, it began with rushing arpeggios as an underpinning to a slow melodic line, with the clarinet providing a plaintive counter-melody. A relentless and forceful rhythmic line drove the music on to its sudden change to the subtle and touchingly tender second movement in dance-like triple time. The music was held together by superb conducting, something which makes all the difference to a complex piece, (which is the answer to a question I am often asked: 'What does a conductor actually *do*, apart from waving his arms about?'). The finale saw a return to the hammer-blow dissonances of the opening, which faded away, via an elegaic little melody played by violinist Aditi Joshi, to a unison chord which, hauntingly, remained suspended. This was a composition obviously inspired by the music of Ludwig van Beethoven, as the name suggests, but it was also a highly original work of great depth and promise.

In lighter mode, the Jazz Ensemble next took the stage; directed by DES, the guitars, drums and that quintessential jazz instrument, the alto saxophone (played by Sumaer Sandhu), gave a spirited account of the jazz-shuffle, adapted from a big-band piece. The reiterated motif, with some inspired improvisation by Ankan Dutta and Vidur Yadav on lead guitar, made the audience foot-tappingly familiar with the sound of syncopation and the feel of swing. Jazz is as much an attitude as a genre of music and the performance bore this out in the ease with which the musical dialogue was carried out.

Not that we needed any reminding that this was GSS's final music production in School, but Vedant Chandra's composition, entitled *For You*, did bring it home! Conceived on an ambitious scale, featuring orchestra and choir, *For You* showed the influences Vedant has imbibed in his years in School. The structure was broad and impressive and the mood, initially processional. There was some striking melodic material, which, though simple in its chord progressions, was expansively developed, with interesting secondary themes. Clearly an emotional work, Vedant had also used skill in his sequential repetition to generate tension, resolving convincingly through his cadences. The ebb and flow of the

*(contd. overleaf)*

music was thus maintained and a pointed rhythmic force kept the music from becoming harmonically static. The choir's *Ahida* piled the emotion on and the composer earned a well-deserved handshake from GSS at the end. During the creation of this work, Vedant had said very firmly that he wanted no input from the Music Department faculty; this was to be the students' tribute to GSS. I heard the work in its entirety for the first time at this performance and was convinced that the (undesired) 'input' could not have added anything to it!

And finally, finally, it was the School Band to close the show, with one song (the time was ticking by and dinner awaited) – *The Joker and the Thief*. It was, as expected, an exuberant performance: Arjan Maini once again showed his interactive stage persona, the instrumentation was skilful and the song delivered with style and panache.

To sum up, there was, apart from the expected fine performances by Sc form veterans, some truly promising new talent this year in the choir and among the instrumentalists like Akshay Sharan, Hamza Khan, Arpan Agarwal, Sumaer Sandhu and Ashray Batra, to name just a few.

Earlier in the evening, the Headmaster, in his speech, had speculated about the kind of 'report card' S.R. Das would have given the School. I think we can safely presume that the quality and level of participation in Music would have met with his approval.

## doontoon



"Teach us, good Lord . . ."

(contd. from page 1)

The junior matches were more exciting as the players who were sick earlier were fit and allowed to play. The junior competition got over quickly as most of the matches were played before the leave. It ended with Jaipur House taking the Junior Cup home.

The rest of the House XI matches were played in the senior competition, which were as captivating as the English Premier League. All houses gave up their holiday sleep to watch the matches and cheer for their teams. Aditya Sukhia, Vahin Khosla, Sumer Singh Boparai, Skand Swarup and Nikhil Sinha performed brilliantly for their respective houses, with Vahin Khosla being the highest scorer of the competition, scoring a total of nine goals (including two impressive hat-tricks). He had performed extremely well in the inter-school fixtures also, and Oberoi House benefited from his excellent form. Tata House too had the support of many School team players, which resulted in their winning nearly all their matches. Hyderabad House finally broke their jinx by winning a House XI match. Kashmir House, however, did not have much luck, and did not perform well in the competition. Jaipur House, regardless of their strong defence, could not keep up with Tata and Oberoi Houses, who, with their excellent attack, played aggressively and dominated throughout the competition. A set of matches were washed out due to rain towards the end of the competition. The last and final matches were played on the morning of October 2, which resulted in Tata and Oberoi Houses jointly bagging the coveted soccer shield.

The performance by the juniors this year shows a bright future for the school team. I am sure that this year's Inter-House Soccer Competition will go down as one of the best ever, and will remain in everyone's memory in the years to come.

\* \* \*

## Silent Walker

Arifeen Chowdhury

Walking down the highway of life,  
A silent whisper calls me.  
It comes from a dark road,  
Branching from the highway of life.

It calls my name seductively,  
I move towards the darkness,  
Thinking twice about what I've done.  
It shows me things I've never seen,

I try going back to where I've come from,  
But it's too late.

I have become a victim of my own actions.  
Life will never be the same,  
As it was on the highway.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/magazine>

[weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



IPSS® All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248009, India. Published by: Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Vivek Santayana Editor: Shashank Peshawaria Senior Editors: Chandrachuda Shukla, Bharat Ganju, Arnav Sahu Associate Editors: Kanishka Malik, Abhinav Mittal, Arjun Singh Badal Special Correspondents: Arifeen Chowdhury, Shashvat Dhandhania, Yash Mall, Shivank Singh Correspondents: Utkarsh Jha, Kunal Kanodia, Rahul Srivastava Graphics Editor: Madhav Dutt Guest Editor: Dhruv Velloor Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Stuti Bathla, Priya Chaturvedi, Arvindanabha Shukla Special Assistance: K C Maurya Photo Credit: Piyush Gupta, Sookrit Malik