



Established in 1936

The Doon School

WEEKLY



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EDITORIAL

"It's pretty cold for late [November]. / The [winter] wind is creeping in. / The summer sun packed up, it's long gone. / There's a whole lot of leavin' goin' on." (Bon Jovi, Whole Lot of Leavin', with the original references being to September and autumn respectively, altered to suit the context). I chuckle as I fight the temptation to bid an early farewell to those leaving us. That sentiment should take form later, in the melancholy silence of departure, rather than now, when adrenaline makes us oblivious to our emotions. Until then, there are other thoughts that take precedence. But while the winter wind does grow colder, it amplifies the sound of the whispering eucalyptus and the oak, without compromising their individual timbre. We sometimes forget the beauty of our estate, owing to our insatiable appetite, an appetite for food, yes, but also one for challenges and experiences that will highlight who we are; in other words, our 'ambitious appetite'.

We end our School year with an unnatural lull that has swept all activity off the games' fields. We have been calmed by academic pressure, and this is the one time when the entire School gets down to studying. There is silence. The peace is a very unfitting end to the chaos of the "strange year for the world", the consciousness of which has reflected in a number of us. We had faced a number of issues recently: media hype that almost derailed our School's functioning, rumours that threatened to make matters worse and, although we may not find it a big deal, getting back to normal against these odds took effort and management. Indeed, despite a sudden, strangling constriction of time, we managed to celebrate a Founder's Day, keep the Music Competition from getting cancelled, finished the Inter-House Soccer Tournament and conducted Boxing, Quiz and Athletics, which required a great investment of time. If we have proven one thing, it's our resilience against nearly every imaginable circumstance and heartbreak.

Before we go back, it'd be best we reflect upon everything that has happened this past year, everything we have done and everything we have learned. There will be a lot in store for us next term, since, as we grow from one year to another, our responsibilities escalate, along with expectations and pressure of the excitement and extravagance of a Platinum Jubilee year. From the myriad experiences we have had, a number of them unpleasant, we should distil the wisdom we will carry forward to the next year. In that aspect, the Weekly has reflected the zeitgeist over the course of the term: we have dared to differ, question and argue, and we have learned from the many experiences we have had and the opinions we have heard. We have faced a number of issues boldly, and we are keeping alive that restless spirit of the devil's advocate. We still have a long way to go, and Lao Tzu could never have been more inspiring: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Roving Eye: Stop the Presses!

Ed and Ch Ed on the Publications' Dinner

There were journalists everywhere. Of the 94 invited honourable guests, 130 were present (a statistic based on the number of plates available and the number washed and reused).

And we heard (how could we not hear!) all of them engaged in deep, intellectual discussions about their publications (we felt out of place). Rumour had it that there was a new sports publication on the drawing board. After all, a number of illustrious sportspersons filtered through to the Dinner with their technical insights on swimming, tennis, boxing, lacrosse and even physical training. The publication might require an abnormally large (perhaps superfluous) editorial board to 'edit' all incoherent folderol, but the prospect looked good, owing to the number of takers. Of course, many cooks make better broth. And on that culinary note, a publication on the CDH is already at the presses, which seems to be run entirely by juniors. Such absurd ideas couldn't have manifested themselves anywhere else but at this year's Publications' Dinner. This bears testimony to our Headmaster's statement that Doscors would make excellent media men.

Well then, what is it that makes us such 'excellent media men'? We already have the prerequisites: a knack for sensationalism and fabrication, addiction to scandal and the basic journalistic principle of selective representation of facts: "If nothing good can be said about [et cetera, et cetera], nothing should be said at all." (And the Weekly learnt never to debunk the system it is part of. As a matter of fact, as nothing good can be said about the quality of guests at the Dinner, we choose to say nothing at all.) But most obviously, our hunger is our driving force. We're all so hungry. Hungry for kebabs, biryani and better uniforms (wherein lies the



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Regulars

APPOINTMENTS

The following are the various appointments for the forthcoming year:

Editor-in-Chief, *Srijan Prayas*: Prateek Agarwal

Editor-in-Chief, *Yuv Arpan*: Devashish Singal

Boy-in-Charge, *Hindi Dramatics*: Samarth Jaiswal

Editor-in-Chief, *Echo*: Uday Shriram

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

COLOURS GALORE

The following boys have been awarded **Colours** in various sports and activities:

Dramatics: Aruj Shukla

Table Tennis:

Half Colours

Ujjwal Singal

Yash Jalan

Full Colours

Devansh Khaitan

Sagar Agarwal (*re-awarded*)

Boxing:

Half Colours

Amit Gupta

Sarthak Singh

Abhinandan Rajan

Pranoy Bohara

Vigya Singh

Full Colours

Arvind Sharma

Trivikram Singh

Anmol Joshi

Badminton:

Half Colours

Abhishek Parasrampur

Arjun Khaitan

Full Colours

Archit Kumar

Aayaan Patel (*re-awarded*)

Athletics:

Half Colours

Uddhav Prasad

Vigya Singh

Tushar Gupta

Lakshit Joshi

Udai Bothra

Chandrachuda Shukla

Virein Chabra

Kamran Cooper

Jai Sharma

Aashray Patel

Full Colours

Vedant Chandra

Vidur Vij

Aayan Patel

Amit Gupta

Squash:

Half Colours

Arvind Sharma

Tushar Aggarwal

Piyush Gupta

Full Colours

Sumaer Sandhu

Congratulations!

AWARDS

Devvrat Patney has been awarded the **Sunil Rawley Prize for the Most Promising Swimmer.**

Arush Sood has been awarded the **Sunil Rawley Prize for the Most Promising Tennis Player.**

Tushaar Gupta, Jai Sharma, Devvrat Patney and Ayaan Patel have been awarded the **Games' Blazer.**

The following boys have received the **Best Musician Award** in their respective forms:

Sc form: Aditi Joshi

S form: Shatrunjai Rai Dewan and Divyam Agarwal

A form: Pranoy Bohara and Aashray Batra

B form: Yash Mall and Yuv Vir Khosla

C form: Sumer Saigal and Hamza Khan

D form: Parth Vohra and Suyash Shivam

The following are the results of the **BP Chandola English Essay Contest:**

Winner: Itihaas Singh

Runner-up: Vivek Santayana

English Literary Society Short Story Writing Contest:

Winner: Revant Nayar

Runner-up: Itihaas Singh

English Literary Society Prize for Poetry:

Winner: Vivek Santayana

Runner-up: Devashish Singal

Bakhle Memorial Literature Prize Test:

Winner: Revant Nayar

Runner-up: Kanishka Malik

Ishaan Das Historical Circle Essay Contest:

Winner: Sarthak Singh

Runner-up: Dhruv Velloor

French Language in C-Form:

1st: Varun Pais

2nd: Rishabh Chadda

3rd: Pranay Raj Kapoor

French Language in D-form:

1st: Anmol Jain

2nd: Ashutosh Goyal

3rd: Vibhav Gupta

The following are the prizes for **Photography** in the various categories:

Architecture

1st: Vivek Santayana

2nd: Utkarsh Jha

Portrait

1st: Shivam Katyal

2nd: Sparsh Batra

3rd: Nilesh Agarwal

General Section

1st: Utkarsh Jha

2nd: Utkarsh Jha

3rd: Utkarsh Jha

Congratulations!

ALUMNI NEWS

Aditi Chaturvedi (ex-429 H, '06) and **Parag Rastogi** (ex-458 H, '06) (former Chief of Production and Editor of the *Weekly*, respectively) were married on November 21, 2009, at Williamstown, USA. The *Weekly* congratulates the newlyweds and wishes them the best of luck for their life ahead.

| Interview |

Fond Farewell

The Doon School Weekly's interview with **Basant Lal Ahuja** (BLA), who will be leaving us at the end of the term

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): How long have you been at Doon?

Basant Lal Ahuja (BLA): I have completed 19 years in the School now. I joined School in the first term of 1991, though I was appointed in '90. I could not join School earlier because I had certain commitments in the GRD Academy.

DSW: Where did you teach before ?

BLA: I started teaching in 1965. I taught for 8 years in Ghana. After that I taught for 15 years in Nigeria. In total, I taught for 23 years in Africa. After that I joined the GRD Academy. It is during my tenure at the GRD Academy that I came to know about a vacancy in the Chemistry Department of The Doon School.

DSW: In the nineteen years you have taught here, what changes have you experienced?

BLA: I have experienced a lot of changes during my tenure in The Doon School. The students now have a different outlook. The students have also become less respectful compared to the previous batches. Overall the behaviour of the students has declined. I have also seen new methods of teaching develop. Subjects like Computer Science were also introduced during my stay. Computer-related teaching has also developed. New buildings such as the MPH, the Physics Block and the Biology Block have also been built in front of my eyes.

DSW: Could you comment on the 'Dosco'?

BLA: The 'Dosco nature' a few years ago was very different from what it is today. Doscos were very respectful and hard-working. They also used to take part in SUPWs and STAs because they *wanted* to, not because of the name they would earn. Doscos also used to respect the teachers and appreciate their teachings. We, as teachers, also used to respect them. Therefore, it was a mutual feeling.

DSW: In nineteen years how has Doon School changed you?

BLA: Because of The Doon School I have become much more punctual. When I used to escort the students to many places I used to learn a lot from the children. I also acquired my sense of social service in The Doon School. Doscos also hardly used to be late. I remember that a gentleman used to carry a book and come to each class to note down the name of the late comers. He used to finish his duty within ten minutes. This exemplifies efficiency, which is another quality I learnt at The Doon School.

DSW: Now that you are leaving School, what do you plan to do?

BLA: I have taught for 40-45 years now. Now, I plan to retire. I also have children and grandchildren abroad, whom I have not spent enough time with. I plan to meet them now. I will also have more time for my friends.

DSW: What two changes would you suggest to improve School?

BLA: The Doon School is appreciated throughout the world for its traditions. The students should preserve these traditions and not lose them. Discipline has also been on the decline and the School should take efforts to stop that. The boys should also become more polite. They often do not greet a teacher as the previous batches used to. The students should also try and not disturb the class. When a new student joins School, he is usually very polite. But, after six months, his behaviour changes. This is because of his interaction with other students

DSW: How would you sum up your time at Doon?

BLA: My stay in the School has been pleasant. I have enjoyed teaching here. I have gained a lot of knowledge and my colleagues have helped me a lot. They have helped me hone my skills and talents. I am grateful to the authorities who had appointed me and to all the fice Headmasters under whom I have served: Dr Ramchandani, Mr Shomie Das, Mr Mason, Dr Bajpai and Dr McLaughlin. I feel as if the School community is my family.

A Tribute to BLA

When I joined The Doon School in 1997, it took me very little time to settle down, and, amongst many factors responsible for this, one was the presence of two stalwarts in the Chemistry Department: Dr S Ganguli and Mr B L Ahuja. Their support and guidance made my landing quite smooth.

My heart is sad as I write about Mr Basant Lal Ahuja (BLA), who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mr. Ahuja joined The Doon School in 1991, after having worked in Ghana and Nigeria for about 25 years. He brought with him immense experience and guided Doscos for almost two decades. Boys taught by him cannot forget his zeal, enthusiasm and dedication. Several batches of ICSE and ISC students benefited from his vast experience and his willingness to help anybody and everybody.

If the Chemistry Department exhibition during Founder's was popular, it was largely due to his initiative and hard work. I have seen him spending days and hours preparing the boys for the exhibition, helping them with their charts and chemical preparations.

If you have been taught by Mr. Ahuja, how can you forget his pinches on the ear and his famous one-liners? Doscos acting smart with him were often shot down with "You think you are very cool? You are bloody fool!" And for those catching up on some sleep in his class, one of them was told, recently, "Arpan, khol apni aankhon ke darpan!"

Mr. Ahuja's absence will be hard to fill. We, in the Chemistry Department, will miss him a lot. Fortunately Mr Ahuja is based in Dehradun, and we hope we will see him during School functions.

Sir, your departure is a big blow for me, personally. In you, I had my mentor, guide and friend. On behalf of the entire School community and the Doscos who have been blessed by your teaching, I wish you all the very best.

(Vinay Pande)

| Interview |

Moving On...

The Doon School Weekly's interview with **Arvind Chalasani (AKC)**, who will also be leaving us at the end of the term

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): How do you think the School has changed over the years?

Arvind Chalasani (AKC): The School has changed a lot over the past twelve years. In terms of infrastructure and the quality of life, there is a quantum change. But as the batches of DoscOs have passed out, the level of respect for staff has gone down. I feel that, over the years, DoscOs have moved from having all-round personalities to those running after specialization, marks and percentages. The true spirit of a Dosco is getting corrupted in this mad rush for marks.

DSW: Where do you plan to go?

AKC: I am going to head the Al Yasmin International School, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

DSW: What were the activities that you really enjoyed in School?

AKC: It is actually tough to choose. I enjoyed doing my Round Square activities, service projects and my paper recycling in the initial years. I was really proud when the Slum School Project was started and am happy with the way it has developed over the past year. The Fatehpur project was something that I really enjoyed being a part of.

DSW: What do you think are the best qualities of a Dosco and what should he improve upon?

AKC: A Dosco is someone whom you can rely on against all odds. You can always depend on a Dosco to wriggle out of any trouble! A Dosco's time-management skills are commendable.

DoscOs really must learn to respect each other. I feel that mutual respect for each other in the community is lacking these days.

DSW: What do you feel about your tenure in School?

AKC: Very fruitful and exciting. I learnt something every day of my tenure here at School. This is a wonderful place to learn and experience the ups and downs of the profession.

DSW: What is your most cherished moment and another that you would like to forget.

AKC: Every moment I spent in the school was cherishable and I do not wish to categorize them as the best and the worst. I wish to treasure all the moments I spent here as my best moments and leave with no regrets.

DSW: What do you envisage for the School?

AKC: I feel that Doon will still be leading and at the forefront of the Indian educational system.

DSW: What would be your final words for the School community?

AKC: I have always admired the spirit of a Dosco and that spirit should live on...

Letter To The Editor

A Half-and-Half Approach

Rejoinders seem to be the flavour of the season at Chandbagh, so please bear with this final one this issue! Mr Velloor's clarification-cum-rejoinder to my LTTE (*In Clarification*, Issue 2235) was welcome indeed. Why the *Weekly* chose to run a part of a 'Point-Counterpoint' debate is not clear to me. One would assume that the Point would precede the Counterpoint! I do not know what is more surprising: the *Weekly's* inadvertently embarrassing its ex Chief Ed, or the ex Chief-Ed's spilling the beans about the 'context'! The *Weekly* might have apprised Mr Velloor about the missing 'Point', and he might have made appropriate changes in the piece. This brings us to the matter of Mr Velloor's assertions about his crusades, and his confusing being a part of a general *system*, with a formal *panel*. Whatever "qualms" Mr Velloor might have had about the award, he might have shared with other panellists during the discussions that followed the interviews. Else, he could have *refused* to be part of the whole process, and then gone on to criticise the awards in all public fora.

I have an issue with this half-and-half approach to things. Perhaps the article was ill-timed: appearing as it did right after the interviews had been conducted, with Mr Velloor a part of a few panels, the message it sent was odious. It's like this: any lay person can criticise the working of the PM's Cabinet. However, when a Cabinet member decides to debunk the working of the Cabinet while he is part of the government, matters become complicated! I hope I have explained my position. I am all for young people, who dare to forward a critique, but mindless debunking of an established system, *while* being party to its institutionalised bodies, is not acceptable. If we follow Mr Velloor's prescription, we might have members of the School, House, Library Councils writing funny pieces about their working systems while being on the councils. Housemasters and members of the Academic Council might follow suit! What a merry mayhem that would be! The *Weekly* would be on a roll with Points and Counterpoints, with or without missing appendages, clogging its arteries!

As for the scathing comments I am supposed to have made, they were directed at Mr Velloor's ethical stance *vis a vis* the Reading Awards, and not at his "character". A debater of his mettle should not confuse the axes of arguments in this wilfully naive manner! And could the missing 'Point' please stand up and be counted?

(Debasish Chakrabarty)

The Minutes of the School Council Meeting

October 27, 2009, 2:30 pm, in the Nandlal Kilachand Library

The following members were present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. Peter McLaughlin | Headmaster (Chairman) |
| 2. Mr. Philip Burrett | Deputy Headmaster |
| 3. Dr. M.C. Joshi | Dean of Social and Community Service |
| 4. Mr. P.K. Nair | Dean of Studies |
| 5. Mr. D.K. Sharma | Dean of Sports |
| 6. Mr. A. Quezilbash | Dean of Students' Welfare |
| 7. Mr. S. Katre | Director of Administration Affairs |
| 8. Mr. Sandip Singh Mann | Teachers' Representative |
| 9. Mr. Sanjiv Bathla | Housemasters' Representative |
| 10. Mrs. Meenakshi Tripathi | Dames' Representative |
| 11. Aruj Shukla | Secretary |
| 12. Sriyash Kishorepuria | School Captain |
| 13. Aditya Sukhia | Prefects' Representative |
| 14. Arjun Kapur | 'H' House Senior Representative |
| 15. Nilesh Agarwal | 'H' House Senior Representative |
| 16. Sookrit Malik | 'H' House Junior Representative |
| 17. Rahul Srivastava | 'H' House Junior Representative |
| 18. Archit Kumar | 'J' House Senior Representative |
| 19. Arnav Sahu | 'J' House Senior Representative |
| 20. Gopal Singh Mann | 'J' House Junior Representative |
| 21. Ritesh Popat Shinde | 'J' House Junior Representative |
| 22. Aseem Kumar | 'K' House Senior Representative (Stand-in) |
| 23. Vidur Vij | 'K' House Senior Representative |
| 24. Arjun Khaitan | 'K' House Junior Representative |
| 25. Nivit Kochar | 'K' House Junior Representative |
| 26. Sagar Agarwal | 'O' House Senior Representative |
| 27. Yuv Khosla | 'O' House Junior Representative |
| 28. Divyant Sapra | 'O' House Junior Representative |
| 29. Jayavardhan Singh | 'T' House Senior Representative |
| 30. Jai Sharma | 'T' House Senior Representative |
| 31. Shashvat Dhandhania | 'T' House Junior Representative |
| 32. Arjun Parmar | 'T' House Junior Representative |

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. Proposed by Arjun Kapur (Hyderabad House Representative) and seconded by Aditya Sukhia (Prefects' Representative) and accordingly passed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

a) Renovation of the MPH

The Council decided that all minor repairs including leakages, lighting problems and the installation of a new water cooler, would be done as soon as possible. If the budget permitted, then the re-flooring, seating and acoustics would be looked into.

b) Sc-Formers should be allowed Laptops in the second term

The Chairman felt that this was a complex issue and needed to be discussed with the Technology Council. A new IT policy would have to be drafted and there were issues of pornography and misuse too. The Chairman had his reservations but nevertheless the matter was left pending to be looked into later.

c) iPods should be allowed for the Sc-Form

Aruj Shukla and Jayavardhan Singh formulated a set of rules for the usage of iPods by the Sc-form which were accordingly passed and duly signed by the entire form. This was put into effect immediately.

d) School Bus

The Director of Administrative Affairs looked into the possibility of having a school bus and came back to the Council with the running cost and the logistics behind purchasing a new bus. He reported that a 24-seater would cost 7.55 lakh, and a 30-seater would cost 8.35 lakh. This worked out more expensive than hiring a bus but only for the first 3 years after purchase. After 3 years, losses would be recovered. Since there were mixed reactions, nothing substantial was decided about the matter.

e) Printing and Photocopying systems in the houses

The sub-committee, comprising Arnav Sahu and Shashvat Dhandhania, reported that having a reprographic facility in the houses would be a feasible option. A black and white printer could be installed in the houses which would be placed in the Housemaster's Study and would only be accessible in Night Toye. It was decided that if there was any damage to the printers, then the money would be deducted from the House

(contd. overleaf)

Common Room Fund and thus, on an experimental basis, this facility could be started in Kashmir House as the Housemaster already possessed a computer in his Study.

f) Jets in the House bathrooms

The Council assured that all the repairs and installation of jets in the bathrooms would be done in these winter holidays.

g) Cycling should be restarted in School

The Council decided that it was feasible to restart cycling in School. It was agreed that twenty cycles will be bought and a Master-in-Charge and Boy-in-Charge will be appointed. Cycling would become an STA from next term onwards.

3. Proposals and Issues for the Current Meeting:

a) The School Blazer material should be changed

Jayavardhan Singh said that the School Blazer was often made three sizes larger so that it lasts for a minimum period of 2 years. Also the inner lining of the blazer was larger than the blazer itself and fell out from the arms and from the back of the blazer. Threads often came out from the material and blazers lost shape after a year only of wearing it. A blazer was shown to the Council which had all these problems. PBR said that the Raymond's tailor had in fact sent the blazers to another tailor to be manufactured but since the tailor was not good, the quality was not up to the mark. Jayavardhan Singh also asked the Council if they had ever seen any member of staff wearing a blazer of that material. As there was no reply he came to the conclusion that if given a choice, a person would choose not to wear a blazer of such material. Consequently, the issue of the school trousers was also brought up. Archit Kumar showed a pair of trousers that was made of better material to the Council. The Chairman and PBR decided that they would bring samples of a new blazer and new trousers to the next meeting. It was also requested that a few students should be allowed to try out the new uniform so that they could come back to the Council with their feedback.

b) Science block bathrooms should be renovated

It was noted that many of the Science Block bathrooms did not have lights, locks or door-handles. Also a bathroom in the Physics Lab had a window from which one could see inside. Jayavardhan Singh informed the Council that the bathrooms in the Main Building could not be locked. The Secretary was asked to show the Head of Administration all the bathrooms which had problems and in turn they would be renovated in turn within the course of the winter holidays.

c) The School tie's design and material should be changed

Jayavardhan Singh informed the Council that the ties were of sub-standard quality and often were not even cut properly. It was also noted that the tie was the same colour as the rest of the uniform which made it dull. SSM informed the Council that the original school tie was not gray with blue stripes but blue with gray stripes. The Chairman said that an average tie only lasts for a maximum amount of 50 wears. As ties in school were worn for around 400 days, it was realized that new ties needed to be issued at shorter intervals and of better quality. PBR would come back to the Council with sample ties of a better material and new designs.

d) Renovation of ABJ's classroom

Arnav Sahu reported that ABJ's classroom was falling apart and needed immediate repair. Jayavardhan Singh said that the classroom had already fallen apart. PKN and SSM agreed but insisted that most of this damage had been done by the students themselves. The Chairman said that the basic repairs would be done during the course of the holidays.

e) Reduction of the School Fees for Sc-Leavers

Jayavardhan Singh and Aditya Sukhia informed the Council that Sc-Leavers were charged a full term's fee, even when they did not have classes. Therefore, the students recommended that the fee for Sc-Leavers should be reduced. Aditya Sukhia and Arjun Kapur proposed that the amount could be charged in small amounts to the rest of the school. SSM and the School Captain felt that this amount would add up to the same in five years and thus it would have no effect on the reduction of the fee. The Chairman felt that this was a very complex issue and had budgetary constraints. However, he assured the council that he would take up the matter to the Board of Governors and see if anything could be done.

f) Colour Printer in the Resource Centre.

Arjun Kapur said that more people used the Resource Centre in a day than the IT Centre and the colour printer in the Library was often out of order due to extra load. Thus, the possibility of buying a colour printer for the Resource Centre was proposed, but SSM pointed out that the purchasing of a new printer and working charges would amount to a lot. AAQ said that this would be more feasible and therefore PBR agreed to transfer the colour printer from the IT Centre to the Resource Centre on a trial basis and if the community still felt that they required a new colour printer, it could be purchased.

g) There should be an alarm system in school

Jayavardhan Singh informed the Council that the School had been organizing a number of drills which included fire, earthquake and terrorist drills, but the School did not have an alarm system which could be utilized if such an event was to occur. SJB said that Jaipur House did in fact have an alarm system but it was dysfunctional. It was unanimously agreed that such an alarm system was required in all buildings in the School. It was decided that this would be done as soon as possible, and for the time being house bells would be kept with the guards at night.

h) Delhi party should go back home by bus

PBR said that this had already been done for this year but asked why the school felt that this should be done. Jayavardhan Singh and MCJ said that this was much safer and it ensured that other travellers are not disturbed.

4. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair:

a) Cross-country should be restarted

Sagar Agarwal recommended that Cross-country should be restarted in School. As it was felt that going outside School was not safe, it was agreed that this could be done inside School itself. DKS said that this would be discussed in the Games' Committee and he would get back to the Council with the decision.

b) Problems with the Scholar's Blazer Scheme

Arjun Kapur felt that people who often deserved certain points were not given those points. PKN said that this matter was being raised as it dealt with one particular case. He asked Arjun Kapur to talk to him personally about the problems.

c) Counselling in School

Aseem Kumar believed that even though the School's Counsellor is very approachable, many students fear approaching him as they consider him a part of the teaching staff. PKN said that the Counsellor was brought to School not to teach but to counsel students. The Chairman said that all schools around the world had a Counsellor who was not a part of the staff. Jayavardhan Singh and PBR said that School also had other counsellors like KEN and Sushant who could help students at any given time and this was not seen as much of a problem.

d) House Colours disqualification

Aditya Sukhia informed the Council that there were many problems with the disqualification rules for House Colours. PBR said that these rules had been made by the students themselves, and if a change was needed, an amendment would be made which would only be enforceable from the next term. A sub-committee consisting of Aditya Sukhia, Arjun Kapur, and Gopal Singh Mann was formed to look into the matter.

e) Functioning of the Fountain

Jayavardhan Singh requested that the fountain should be turned on more often as it had only been turned on once previously and was not even turned on on Founders' Day. This would be done immediately.

f) Change in the Honorary Scholar's Blazer scheme

The Secretary felt that it was high time that the school raised the bar for awarding the Honorary Scholar's Blazer from 90% in ISC to 95% in ISC because getting 90% had become far easier than it was when the rule was made. PKN agreed to the proposal and felt the same. He said that he would take this matter up to the Academic Council and get back to the Council.

As there were no other matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary
(Aruj Shukla)

Chairman
(Dr Peter McLaughlin)

The Stranger

Vivek Santayana

(Winner of the English Literary Society Poetry Writing Competition, 2009)

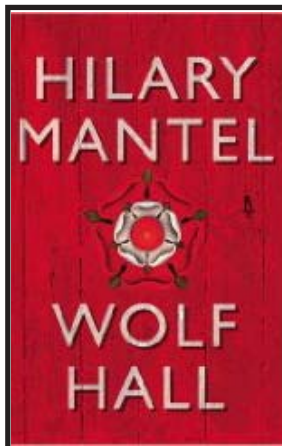
A stack of unsent postcards lie
In dusty silence, in the corner,
With letters addressed to no one known
And faded faces on polaroid.
A diary too lies discarded,
Like unknown days left far behind,
With scattered, browning sheets of scribbles
Among a dog-eared Bible and a tattered Gita,
Illegible, incomprehensible,
Bearing alien names and dates
And all forgotten memories.
The pen beside is inkless and capped.
His mother is buried with strangers, somewhere.
He doesn't remember his father.
He is searching for himself,
Or someone else to become:
A face or a name to wear,
Something that is recognized.
His desk is empty, save his mess.
We know nothing about the stranger.
He knows even less.

(Contd. from page 1)

point of this 'whole' exercise). Then, there's good old experience: we've expended our sweat, speech and our invaluable time in bringing out the 40,000 total pages of the School's few 100,000 licensed publications, following the Journalistic Code of Ethics to the period (although not far beyond that). We're all well-versed with everything our respective publications require. For instance, the artists went on endlessly about the use of loud, clashing colours and formless elements in the Impressionist movement and how Dadaist paintings achieved the aesthetic objectives of the respective schools of art (one thing they definitely did *not* discuss was soccer, especially why Steven Gerrard should be the Chief Guest next year). Then there's our skill at getting places (especially to those we're not supposed to). One could only imagine the consequences of having the Dinner at the Deputy Headmaster's residence! Another thing we manage seamlessly is the delegation of work (it's often done so seamlessly that the publication seems to compile itself beautifully, starting from the Editorials to infinity).

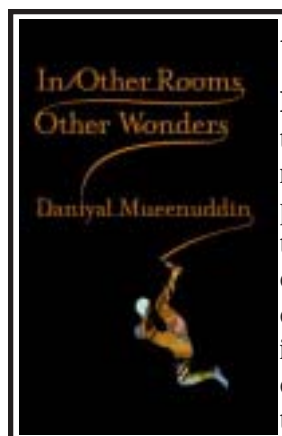
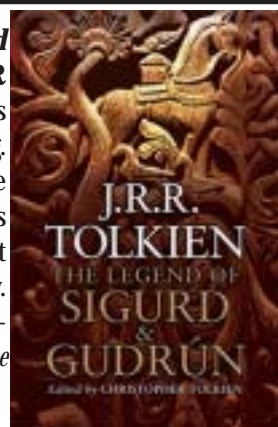
Anyway, all said and done, we had a good time (since everyone who was supposed to, got to eat *gulabos*). Let's not say anything (at all). Boys were licking their fingers simply because there wasn't enough food left to fill their plates.

Holiday 'Bookings'



Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel – Why else would you like to read this book but because the author is this year's Man Booker Prize winner? It's a gripping narrative of Thomas Cromwell's rise to power and also the Reformation. It has already elicited promising reviews and positive reactions.

The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun, J.R.R. Tolkien – The author's name precedes everything. Of course, what is the most intriguing is that this is a narrative poem that retells Norse mythology. This was also his inspiration for *The Lord of the Rings* series.



In Other Rooms, Other Wonders, Daniyal Mueenuddin – Through this anthology of short stories, Mueenuddin sketches a picture of feudal and contemporary Pakistan, its social structure, shocking change, dissolution of old ideas, sufferings and identity crises. It has already earned the author critical acclaim.

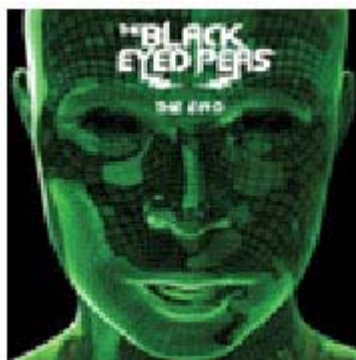
Cloud 9 Minus One, Sangeeta Mall – Akin to Chetan Bhagat favourites, it's a story of a reunion of college friends and the subsequent emotional tangle. Written by Yash Mall's mother, it's best read in the same vein as Bhagat. This would certainly be an interesting and entertaining read.



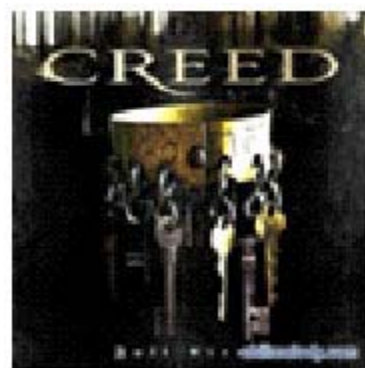
Shuffling Music



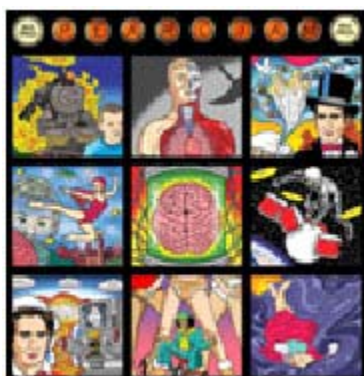
The Circle, Bon Jovi



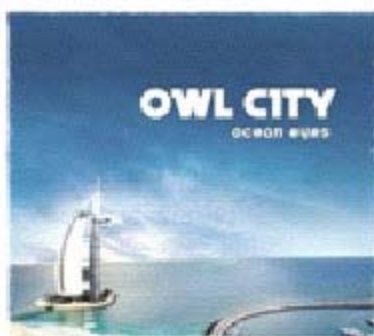
The E N D, The Black Eyed Peas



Full Circle, Creed



Backspacer, Pearl Jam



Ocean Eyes, Owl City



Christmas in the Heart, Bob Dylan

(Sourced from the internet)

F o r t h e 'H a l l s'



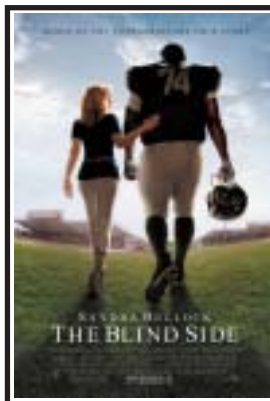
2012 – Roland Emmerich has given movie watchers several apocalyptic films in the past including *Independence Day*, *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Godzilla*. He offers another look at the end of the world in 2012.

Starring: John Cusack, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Amanda Peet, Oliver Platt
Directed by: Roland Emmerich

Avatar – This one is a must-watch for its special effects and trailer. It promises the breathtaking scenery of 'Pandora' and the action of extraterrestrial conflict. On the other hand, it is also a moving, *Titanic*-like love story (Cameron's versatility must be commended), where love will conquer even the most meticulously-planned and high-tech extraterrestrial colonization.



Starring: Sam Worthington, Zoë Saldaña, Sigourney Weaver, Michelle Rodriguez
Directed by: James Cameron



The Blind Side- The movie depicts the remarkable true story of Michael Oher, a homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family who help him fulfill his potential.

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, Quinton Aaron
Directed by: John Lee Hancock

Sherlock Holmes – The *Sherlock Holmes* series is already a must-read, and that, perhaps, carries on to the movie. It's perhaps worth having high expectations of this one, if at all we'd like to see the character of Holmes come to life.

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Rachel McAdams, Jude Law, Mark Strong
Directed by: Guy Ritchie



Planet 51 – *Planet 51* squanders an interesting premise with an overly-familiar storyline and stock characters, with potentially offensive humour.

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Jessica Biel, Justin Long, Seann William Scott
Directed By: Jorge Blanco



Invictus – Morgan Freeman plays his most fitting role (perhaps second only to 'God') this holiday season. This obvious match (and striking resemblance) makes this another film to be anticipated.

Starring: Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, Clint Eastwood
Directed by: Clint Eastwood

Ninja Assassin – The movie is about Razo who is one of the deadliest assassins in the world. Taken from the streets as a child, he was transformed into a trained killer by the Ozunu Clan, a secret society whose very existence is considered a myth. The movie is action packed.



Starring: Rain, Naomie Harris, Ben Miles, Sho Kosugi
Directed by: James McTeigue

Red Cliff – The movie features some impressive battlefield action. In the movie, John Woo returns to Asia to perform in this lavish and slick historical epic. For a historical movie, it sounds quite intriguing.

Starring: Tony Leung, Zhang Fengyi, Chang Chen, Chi-Ling Lin
Directed by: John Woo

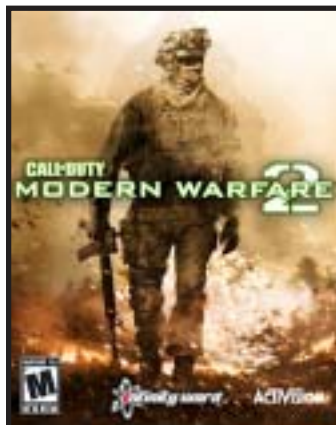


Fantastic Mr Fox – Roald Dahl's work comes to life yet again. And this time, it's not Johnny Depp or Danny Devito, but George Clooney. Of course, one would expect this to be as big as the former productions.
Starring: George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Owen Wilson
Directed by: Wes Anderson

(Sourced from the internet)

Game on!

Uday Shriram suggests a few games for the holidays



Call of Duty – Modern Warfare 2: It made \$310 million in the first 24 hours of its release, selling 4.7 million copies in the US and UK alone. Probably the best First Person Shooter ever made. This game requires a page-long review to itself.

Developer: Infinity Ward
Consoles: PC, PS3 and Xbox 360.
Release Date: November 10, 2009.

The Beatles: Rock Band - Wii paradise for all. The *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* series have made the Wii worthwhile and this is the latest on offer. Catch all the old tunes and Abbey Road moments and, if you happen to have the hardware required for these games, call me!

Developer: Harmonix
Console: Wii, PS3 and Xbox 360.
Release Date: November 9, 2009.

James Cameron's Avatar: The Game – The film will be the most expensive one ever made and the game should do likewise. You can buy this on the first day of the holidays, so get on it!

Developer: Ubisoft
Console: PC, PS3 and Xbox 360
Release Date: December 1, 2009.

Assassins Creed II – After playing the first game, missing this would be a crime. It's a hybrid between God of War and Prince of Persia, with some of the coolest graphics ever invented by man with every 'bloody' detail imaginable.

Developer: Ubisoft
Console: PS3 and Xbox 360
Release date: November 17, 2009



FIFA 10 – Not a giant leap from the one last year, or the year before, but a must-have for sheer bragging rights. Works best on a PS3. Enjoy.

Console: PC, PS3 and Xbox 360
Release Date: October 20, 2009.



Prototype – Shape-shifting dude with a hoodie and jeans, battling it out in one of the most realistic city environments ever seen in a game. Play this one just for the graphics and gore.

Developer: Radical Entertainment
Consoles: PC, PS3 and Xbox 360
Release date: July 9, 2009.

Mario and Luigi: Bowser's Inside story – This one is only for your Nintendo DS, but it plays like a classic Mario title: what more can I say? If you are unfortunate enough to own a DS, then this just might make your life a little better.

Developer: AlphaDream
Release Date: November 14, 2009.

Napoleon: Total War – For all those who have played *Empire: Total War* or *Rome: Total War*, this is the next step; strategy gaming at its best. Watch out for it in the beginning of 2010 and it might just set your PC on fire.

Console: PC.

Bayonetta – Female protagonist: need I say more? She's a reborn witch with guns for all occasions. Expect action, witchcraft and a lot of dead enemies.

Console: PS3 and Xbox 360
Release Date: January 2010.

Chuck Norris: Bring the Pain – The first review for an iPhone game in the *Weekly*, for the sheer delight of having Chuck Norris mentioned in it. Yes, if Chuck Norris made the *Weekly*, then he would make it come out every day and still call it the *Weekly*. It's the only decent iPhone game to come out in a long time.

Console: iPhone
Release Date: November 17, 2009.

And the rest of the list:

Left 4 Dead II	Braid
Battlefield: Bad Company II	Bioshock II
Uncharted II: Among Thieves	The Saboteur
The God of War Collection	The Sims III
Dante's Inferno	Star Trek Online
Borderlands	Tony Hawk Ride

(Images sourced from the internet)

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