 Tomorrow. The curriculum sets and fixes time for various activities so important to our development into young leaders of a school can have. Rightly so; we have all come here to go through a toning-up of our bodies and freshened us for the cerebral activities of each day. In order to keep your body healthy you need to keep your bones and muscles in constant use, failing which they will grumble and groan! The Doon School has one of the busiest schedules that are necessary, particularly for those who maximize the use of brain and brawn.

The extra oxygenation, stretching of our muscles, being out in the fresh morning air; all of this is essential for us to be ready for the morning activity, which encourages on that little bit of extra sleep which everyone so desperately craves. Yet, these regimented exercises are necessary, particularly for those who wish to use the ability of brain and brawn.

To hear the resounding sound of a gong, its peaks outpouring from a distant corner, is the song of triumph. Triumph over the elements, triumph of the human spirit, triumph of order over chaos. And the PT competition this year was all of this and more.

For someone who hated PT in his own time and indeed in the times of all others, Spring Term is always ruined. No taking time to smell the flowers for our young men and (for the first time this year) women. Mornings are spent running towards the whistle, jumping violently as the birds sing overhead, probably looking down upon rows and rows of white singlets, wondering if we have, in fact, finally lost our marbles.

Every year I hear complaints from all around me about how tedious this task of rising in the morning to stretch, twist and learn how to run with your knees up to your chest isn’t an option, it’s a necessity. The squads worked together as a team, coming together in a beginning, keeping together in progress, and working together is success. I am thankful for the task and multiplies the success. "Unity is strength" and that is what we learnt in this institution. This year, we saw exceptionally high standards of synchronization and coordination from the participants.

I wish to thank my team of PT leaders without whose immense dedication and efforts we could never manage this important activity. I must thank Mr. M. T. C. Bhamian for his time and dedication, the ground staff for maintaining the fields, all housemasters and matrons, and Mr. N. N. Pandey who assisted in appointing the judges. I would also like to thank Dr. M. D. Aghlin and Mr. R. M. Burret for having faith in us. Most importantly, I would like to thank our master in charge, Mr. Michael James, who worked extremely hard and helped each one of us to raise the standards of this essential activity. Last, but not the least, I would like to thank all you Doons, who willingly came for PT in the mornings and will continue to do so in the future.

(Shreya Vardhan Swaroop)

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**The School Senior PT Leader’s Address**

A very warm welcome to you all at this closing ceremony of the 74th Inter-House PT Competition. I am privileged to have heard the maximum number of groans, curses and “take it easy” for this morning activity, which encourages on that little bit of extra sleep which everyone so desperately craves. Yet, these regimented exercises are necessary, particularly for those who choose to use the ability of brain and brawn.

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**For Whom the Gong Tolls**

KV Arjun Rao recounts the Inter-House PT Competition held on Wednesday, April 28
**Visiting Bard**

Vishvajit Singh (ex 641-T ’64) recited poetry from his book Kuch Shahid Kush Lakenon on Wednesday, May 5, in the Kilachand Library, as part of the Shruti Pottre event organized by the Library Council.

**Making Music**

A concert of choral music was held in the Music School Auditorium on Monday, May 3. The concert featured performances by the D form and C form choirs and the School Choir. A report will run in a forthcoming issue.

**Mathemagic**

M Preetham secured the first position in The Doon School held at Utkarsh Jha were placed second in the Programming Category 19, 2010. Arpan Agarwal was placed third in the Digital Photography and Editing category.

**Social Service**

On May 4, a village festival ‘Umang’ was organized by PVD, SRT, KPS, MIA, MPT, NPY, Dvaswah Singal, Khalid Alawneh, Abhijit Karwa, Arnav Matta, Apekshit Goel and Deepanshu Upadhyay at the Saper a Basti Slum School.

**IT Fest**

The School took part in the Suryodaya IT Fest 2010 held at Scindia School, Gwalior, between April 17 and 19, 2010. Arpan Agarwal was placed third in the Programming Category and Akshat Kumar and Utkarsh Jha were placed second in the Digital Photography and Editing category.

**Slater’s**

The School was represented by Abhinav Mittal, Shoumitra Srivastava and Vivek Santanay in the 15th Rev Dr Samuel Slater Memorial Inter-School English Debates held at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, between April 28 and May 1. The School won all three of its pre-quarterfinal debates and lost in the quarterfinal round. In the four debates the School participated in, Abhinav Mittal won one Second-Best Speaker, Shoumitra Srivastava won one Third-Best Speaker and Vivek Santanay won four Best Speaker awards. Vivek Santanya was also adjudged the Most Promising Speaker Overall.

**Cracking Success**

The School Hockey Team played its initial matches in the Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament and won against Welham Boys’ School (5 – 0) on April 3, lost to St George’s School (2 – 1) on April 4 and won against the Oak Grove School (5 – 0) on April 5. Well played!

**Career Call**

The Careers’ Notice Board will feature Aeronautical Engineering as a career option this week.

**Opinion Poll**

Are you annoyed by the number of student-wards on your descomail account?

- [ ] No 26%
- [x] Yes 74%

(343 members of the community were polled)

Next Week’s Question: Do you feel night cafes and house drinks provide sufficient refreshment?
For the Motion

Vivek Santayana reports on the School’s participation at the 15th Rev Dr Samuel Slater Memorial Debates, 2010, held at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, from April 28 to May 1

"Rule number one", we were told, "never fall in love with your fellow debaters." That is one lesson we learned on one debating team’s return from Dubai. Indeed, if there was one thing we got ourselves emotionally involved with, it was debating itself: we went to Slater’s to win the trophy, not hearts. However, on both these fronts, all four of us (SRY, Shoumitra, Mittal and I) were anything but disappointed, despite our premature exit from the competition in the quarterfinals. If there was one thing I regret, it was that we never faced La Martiniere for Boys, St James’ or Dubai Modern High School, and I lost the opportunity to level scores and keep our long-standing friendly rivalry going.

BCS discloses topics a month in advance. At Doon, on the other hand, we focus entirely on impromptu debates. If we were to consider Slater’s a prepared debate, we were underprepared. Predictably, the three topics we wanted vetoed were the three topics we were to debate in the pre-quarterfinals. (Lesson number one, never trust your luck!) That was not our only handicap; we have also sidelined issue-based debating: we have got into the habit of defining vague motions as even vaguer principles. Our knowledge bank too, was, unfortunately, restricted.

We made up for that with frantic googling and comprehensive brainstorming, yet from the feedback we received, we were not convincing as a team. We were, as the judges remarked, "on the wrong side of the motion" for practically every debate. The first one, India has lost the battle to save the tiger – the ‘This House believes’ protocol was not followed – saw us debating against the motion and countless facts and statistics, with only optimism and hope as our weapons. We conceded that the condition of the tiger was in a crisis: it was a losing battle, but, we argued, but not yet a lost one.

In the second pre-quarterfinals, we debated Developed countries have a moral duty to spread democracy across the world, using force where necessary. We took full advantage of our being the proposition: we began with a definition that expanded the scope of democracy to any inclusive form of government. We then argued morality in the Hindu context of dharma, where one must perform one's duty above all else. We also defined force as not just military intervention, but force in the form of diplomacy, negotiation, reason and morality by setting precedence for other nations. Finally, we debated on principle, restricting the debate to ideal circumstances and the morality of spreading democracy by force.

I found the motion for the third debate rather open-ended: Young India has what it takes to take on the world. We were to defend the motion; we defined ‘Young India’ as a zeitgeist, characterised by a buoyant spirit of risk-taking, adventure, industry and novelty. We contrasted this with the generation before and highlighted how the changed times and the renewed, youthful spirit will see India becoming a world leader. The defence of our case faltered on numerous occasions, but the contention against us was also weak as it was substantiated entirely through stereotypes, generalizations and hasty assumptions.

In the quarterfinal debate, we defended the motion Economic growth is the solution to climate change. Building on the right to definition, we rejected a GDP model of economic growth and discussed one that is sensitive to the environment and accounts for the social costs borne. The opposition’s stance that an individual’s effort towards saving the environment is the real solution to climate change, rather than economic growth, perhaps lost us the debate and we were eliminated.

The picnic to Chail went a long way in raising our spirits and the cheerful chaos on the dance floor kept things lively. The motions for the next day’s semi-finals were more of the kind that we are used to. In fact, one of them had been debated in our Inter-House Competition: Stop and smell the roses. The topic for the other debate, Life cannot be summed up in numbers, was my personal favourite. The motion for the finals was Terrorists should be treated as prisoners of war. The debates were ferocious on both sides, and La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata, won with their well-presented case (although through a tiebreaker). The finals were a fitting end to a competition of such intensity although some would consider the jam session to have been worthier of that honour!
Poetic Evening

Uday Shriram reports on the poetry reading session, Shruti Poetree, held in the AV Room to commemorate World Book and Copyright Day through an interactive poetry reading session that reached out to teachers and students alike. We were celebrating creativity and encouraging young voices amongst boys to come up and present their pieces.

Vivek Santamna began proceedings with a sonnet on Potriety (which, he conceded, was an English assignment!) and his award-winning poem, The Stranger, which, he said, had nothing to do with Camus’ novel The Outsider. Prateek Agarwal was next and he whetted the audience’s appetite (which, he conceded, was an English assignment!) and his voices amongst boys to come up and present their pieces. We were celebrating creativity and encouraging young voices amongst boys to come up and present their pieces.

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Shashank Peshawaria took the stage next. His poems, with their titles like ‘Navjat Paudhe ka Sangharsh’ and ‘Bandar aur Magar ki Dosti’, were already published in the primary school Hindi textbook, and fittingly so as the fable of the Monkey and the Crocodile in ‘Bandar aur Magar ki Dosti’.

His poem, we were told, was also chosen to feature in a book and copyright day through an interactive poetry reading session that reached out to teachers and students alike. We were celebrating creativity and encouraging young voices amongst boys to come up and present their pieces.

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