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DEBATES

The School Senior PT Leader's Address

Respected Chief Guest, Headmaster, Masters, staff and fellow students,

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 encroaches on that little bit of extra sleep which everyone so desperately craves. Yet, these regimented exercises 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 curriculum of each day as we warm up before each game, but little do we realize that our morning PT has already started the 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 a school can have. Rightly so; we have all come here to go through a process so important to our development into young leaders of tomorrow. The curriculum sets and fixes time for various activities throughout the day; keeping us fully occupied, with PT being the first on the agenda, which boosts the students for a new day. The energy you 'waste' by exercising in the morning will sustain you through the day and also have a hand in speeding up your metabolism.

Most importantly, Physical Training is another form of self-discipline, which is the ability to force yourself to do something productive, that you know you must do, even if you don't like it. In other words, self-discipline is the ability to get yourself to take action regardless of your emotional state. This helps us classify PT into five pillars, namely acceptance, will-power, hard work, industry and persistence, and I am proud to say that we Doscos were successful in adhering to the five crucial pillars this year, with a lot of sweat and hard work. When you live for a strong purpose, hard work isn't an option, it's a necessity. The squads worked together as a team. Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success. Team work divides the task and multiplies the success. "Unity is strength" and that is what we learn 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 Nitin Chauhan for his time and dedication, the ground staff for maintaining the fields, all housemasters and matrons, and Mrs Namrata Pandey who assisted in appointing the judges. I would also like to thank Dr Peter McLaughlin and Mr Philip Burrett 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 our Dean of Sports, Mr Deepak Sharma, without whom this event would not have been a success. Lastly, I would like to thank all you Doscos, who willingly came for PT in the mornings and will continue to do so in the future.

(Shreyvardhan Swaroop)

For Whom the Gong Tolls

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



To hear the resounding sound of a gong, its peals 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 odious this task of rising in the morning to stretch, twist and learn how to run with your knees up to your chest is. And every year when I suggest that we put an end to it all, I am greeted with an emphatic, "No!"

And this year was no different. PT leaders were appointed, who took their troops on to the Main Field in search of the Gong that would, they all hoped, adorn a corner of their Common Rooms. As March turned into April and the sun began to rise earlier, so did our boys. They pushed themselves harder than they ever had and learnt to clap in time. The discipline that we all believe is so lost in this "awful, spoiled, new" generation is right there in the various PT squads, an ability lost in schools around the world ages ago. And this is what is so brilliant about what we do here in Chandbagh. Just when we believe that they can't, our boys go out there and surprise us time and again, allowing us to walk with our heads held high.

As the competition drew near, beautiful locks began to disappear, to be replaced by the severity of a buzz cut. Shoes became whiter and new shorts appeared as all the Houses began to imagine the sound, sheen and splendour of the Gong. On the morning of the competition, the PT leaders were quiet, saving their voices for the afternoon, where they were going to judged right there, along with the rest of their squads.

The competition was fierce. Oberoi House was up first and as always, with their clinical precision, dazzled the

(contd. on page 4)

VISITING BARD

Vishvajit Singh (ex 641-T '64) recited poetry from his book *Kuch Shabd Kuch Lakeerein* on Wednesday, May 5, in the Kilachand Library, as a part of the *Shruti Poetree* 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 contingent of the **Math Olympiad**. Congratulations!

SOCIAL SERVICE

On May 4, a village festival 'Umang' was organized by PVD, SRT, KPS, MIA, MPT, NPY, Devashish Singal, Khalid Alawneh, Abhijit Karwa, Arnav Matta, Apekshit Goel and Deepanshu Upadhyay at the **Sapera 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**. Well done!

SLATER'S

The School was represented by Abhinav Mittal, Shoumitra Srivastava and Vivek Santayana at 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 Santayana won four **Best Speaker** awards. Vivek Santayana was also adjudged the **Most Promising Speaker Overall**. Well done!

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 oll

Are you annoyed by the number of student-forwards on your doscomail account?

 **Yes 74%**

 **No 26%**

(343 members of the community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you feel night cafe and house drinks provide sufficient refreshment?

INTER-HOUSE RESULTS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Art Competition, 2010:**

D Form

Painting

1st: Vallavi Shukla
2nd: Nitin Sardana

Drawing

1st: Aarya Tamrakar
2nd: Shashwat Agarwal

Clay Modelling

1st: Sabir Singh
2nd: Anvay Grover

B Form

Painting

1st: Vishal Tummala
2nd: Orijit Chatterjee

Drawing

1st: Pritika Sandhu
2nd: Madhav Dutt

Clay Modelling

1st: Kartikeya Luthra
2nd: Abhijit Kejriwal

S Form

Painting

1st: Anshuman Bhargava
2nd: Vaibhav Gupta

Drawing

1st: Vatsal Modi
2nd: Mohit Gupta

Clay Modelling

1st: Saptarshi Biswas
2nd: Nipun Batra

Mixed Media

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

Junior Cup:

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

C Form

Painting

1st: Amartya Bhowmick
2nd: Sudhansh Agarwal

Drawing

1st: Mrigank Khemka
2nd: Rishavraj Das

Clay Modelling

1st: Yash Upadhyay
2nd: Amartya Bhowmick

A Form

Painting

1st: Shrestha Verma
2nd: Shivank Singh

Drawing

1st: Sanat Verma
2nd: Arifeen Chowdhury and Raj Surana

Clay Modelling

1st: Shubham Dhingra
2nd: Parth Gupta

Sc Form

Painting

1st: Saarthak Singh
2nd: Shashank Peshawaria

Drawing

1st: Nipun Mohan
2nd: Saarthak Singh

Clay Modelling

1st: Nipun Mohan
2nd: Arvind Sharma

Poster-Making

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

House Positions:

House Cup:

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

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Table Tennis Competition, 2010:**

Senior Cup:

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

Junior Cup:

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

The following are the results of the **Inter-House One-Act Play Competition, 2010:**

Best Director: Uday Shriram and Shashank Peshawaria
Best Actor: Angad Singh
Best Supporting Actor: Uday Shriram

House Positions:

1st: Hyderabad
2nd: Jaipur
3rd: Tata
4th: Kashmir
5th: Oberoi
Well done, all!

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,

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!

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

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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!

| Report |
Poetic Evening

Uday Shriram reports on the poetry reading session, Shruti Poetree, held in the AV Room to commemorate World Book Day on Wednesday, April 23

Poetry is an aural art form; hence, the name *Shruti Poetree*. The objective of the evening was 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 Santayana began proceedings with a sonnet *Posterity* (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 with '*Cheekh*' (which, MHF confessed, gave him sleepless nights). This was the second time he recited this poem, the first being at the Inter-House Hindi Poetry Recitation Competition. His other poems '*Umang*' and '*Akelapan*' also reflected great introspection. We then had Sanat Kumar Thakur who presented his rendition of 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 primary school Hindi textbook, and fittingly so as the fable is a popular one. The imagery was simple and a conscious effort was made to emulate the style of children's poetry. Shashank Peshawaria took the stage next. His poems, *While You* and *The Seed*, were already published in the *Weekly*, but to hear them 'straight from the poet's mouth' was a treat in itself. Poetry is best heard than read. Parth Gupta was next, with '*Navjat Paudhe ka Sangharsh*', and certainly met the audience's expectations.

The Masters too, delighted us; and I, personally, could relate to KAR's *Supporting Actor*. One could tell his poetry, though prosaic in terms of imagery and form, came straight from the heart. DEB's 'first attempt at poetry' reflected his years of "ripping [verse and prose] apart". Admittedly, it was written in one school, and it was a forced attempt. Nonetheless, it was a great attempt, with interesting imagery of blank verse and the blankness of one's mind. MHF ended the evening by reciting a few short poems from memory, though they were not his own. The poetry read to us spanned many themes, with Vivek and Prateek talking

about alienation and guilt and Sanat punctuating the anguished verses with his witty fable. As far as the reading was concerned, it was a delightful evening. Most importantly, unlike a piece of poem recited for LAMDA or the Vikram Seth Poetry Recitation Contest, the event was done for the love of poetry, and not as a competition or an examination. There was no pressure involved.

It felt like the event was over just as I was getting in the mood. I had just one thing to say as we walked out of the AV room – we should do this more often. There is no dearth of talent or enthusiasm. Shivam Goyal's poem *One* (published in last week's edition of the *Weekly*) was, in fact, written with the intention of reciting it at *Shruti Poetree*. Unfortunately, the evening drew to a premature close and Shivam did not get the opportunity he wanted. But that was just the first time, and, given not only his talent and keenness, but also that of everyone else in the community, creative writing can go a long way. Perhaps if the evening could have been spent in discussing poetry as an art or writing as a craft, we would have gained more from the experience. But that, I guess, we can look forward to doing at the next session.

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(contd. from page 1)
spectators. "Surely, there can be no one better than this!" we all thought, sitting comfortably in the Pavilion. But then came Hyderabad, led by the School PT Leader, Shreyvardhan Swaroop, who amazed us all by raising the level of the competition even further. Kashmir House worked through the table with ease and Jaipur, defending their title, desperate for the Gong for a third year in a row, was confident and added those small quirky movements, devised so cleverly by their PT Leaders. Tata House brought the competition to a close, with their loud clapping and exact timing. The Pavilion was abuzz. We had no idea where this was going to go and pitied the judges their task.

Eventually, as is with these things, someone won and others didn't. The Gong went back to Jaipur House and Shreyvardhan lived up to his reputation by winning the award for the Best PT Leader. But something else happened on the Main Field that balmy afternoon. There was a renewed respect for the notion of PT and for what it can do for our boys. It turns them into disciplined beings, patient and orderly. And allows the rest of us to congratulate ourselves on not having got rid of it after all.

doontoon

Madhav Dutt



The opium of the masses

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