



Established in 1936

The Doon School

WEEKLY



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2 CRICKET-
MIDTERM

3 PLAY
REVIEW

3 LOKPAL
REVIEW

4 MIDTERMS

Pakistani Visitors

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Dilnaz X Zaveri and Scheherazade Asdar Ahmad, from the Lyceum School, Karachi, Pakistan, who visited the School March 30 to April 2

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What made you come to The Doon School?

Dilnaz X Zaveri (DXZ) and Scheherazade Asdar Ahmad (SAA): We met Jayant Hari Har Lal, one of your teachers during a Round Square Conference. Now that our school has just become a member of the Round Square, we planned to visit the Round Square schools in India like Mayo College, Daly College and The Doon School to understand the best practices of these schools.

DSW: What are the similarities you see between your school and ours?

DXZ & SAA: Lyceum was actually the garden in which Aristotle used to teach. When Lyceum School was founded in 1987, it was meant to be only an A-level school (A-level is the last level of schooling which boys and girls go through). When the School was founded, it was meant to be slightly informal as compared to other schools and activities like community service were encouraged. When we entered your school and read Arthur Foot's words about the "aristocracy of service", we immediately wrote it down as it resonated with the philosophy of our school.

DSW: Tell us about your school.

DXZ & SAA: Our school is a day school and is in the middle of Karachi. It is around 25 years old. The exams are external and thus grades are greatly dependent on the children. You have to choose education that gives you knowledge or education that equips you, because there is a stark contrast there. We have awards similar to IAYP which encourage community service. Though a majority of the people do community service because of the incentives, they do the right thing for the wrong reasons.

DSW: How would you define education?

DXZ & SAA: Education is not just about knowledge from books; social skills play an important part as well. Education is the formation of an all-round human being. Your school is giving an all-round education which focuses on many spheres - community service, academics and sports.

DSW: Do you think that providing all these facilities actually helps the boys as the world is increasingly becoming grade-oriented?

DXZ & SAA: It is, but we definitely don't agree with that. We have seen people who are supposedly very well educated but you don't even want to be around them. Education should make you better than you could be. Education can have a major impact as long as it is not limited.

WORLD CUP FEVER

Raghav Puri comments on the atmosphere of the School after India's victory in the World Cup, 2011

It's been a long time coming, no doubt, but it's been worth the wait. How many times do we, as a school, suspend our activities, detach ourselves from the mundane routine, and sit glued to the 'idiot box'? It was the finest display of hypocrisy: even those arm-chair critics who call cricket a sluggish lacklustre sport were fervently dancing to the tune of the ball striking Dhoni's willow.

So much for those DoscOs (with master and dog) who had to go to Chandigarh on the pretext of *social service* to watch a World Cup game in a stadium; the atmosphere in School was sumptuous enough to fill even the greatest cricket fan's appetite. In the build-up to the final, moments of silence were observed in Common Rooms to pray for India's triumph. Several juniors had their faces painted with the tricolor and apparently, in a few houses, cheering squads were formed. Every sound of the ball striking the Indian batsmen's bats and every misfield by the Sri Lankans was greeted with a resounding applause. After hours of hooting and jeering, the 28-year long wait was over. India had won.

After India's victory, scores of students had to be carried off the fields by their Housemasters to maintain some semblance of a school. However, one Housemaster reportedly encouraged his students to celebrate on the Lower Skinners field. Let alone DoscOs (supposedly the wildest of creatures), the victory saw a number of teachers display their untamed sides! Several unreliable sources have reported that PVD, VKL and PMV left their cars to dance ecstatically with the locals on Chakrata Road!

The celebrations were unparalleled. Personally, I thought the only other time we rejoiced in such a manner was when the hail storm struck in 2007, when the entire school came together on the snow-laden Main Field. That night, all failures were put aside to celebrate that one long-awaited victory.

DEBATE UPDATE

Sachit Taneja, Rohan Shriram and Utkarsh Jha represented the School at the **Miss Saroj Srivastava Memorial Debates** held at **Welham Girls' School, Dehradun** on Sunday, April 9. Utkarsh Jha was adjudged **Best Interlocutor** and The Doon School stood **first**.

Congratulations!

CRIC-RESULTS

The **Senior School Cricket Team** played against **Merrut Public School** on Sunday, April 10. The School team **lost** the match by five wickets while Waseefullah Khan Sherwani was adjudged **Man of the Match**.

The **Junior School Cricket Team** played against **Merrut Public School** on Sunday, April 10. The School team won the match by seven wickets. Raghav Nath was adjudged **Man of the Match**.

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Cricket Tournament, 2011:**

Senior Cup:	Junior Cup:	House Cup:
1st: Jaipur	1st: Oberoi	1st: Jaipur
2nd: Oberoi	2nd: Jaipur & Kashmir	2nd: Oberoi
3rd: Tata	3rd: Hyderabad	3rd: Tata
4th: Hyderabad	4th: Tata	4th: Hyderabad
5th: Kashmir		5th: Kashmir

Well done, all!

JUNIOR CHESS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Junior Chess Competition, 2011:**

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

TALKS

Stewart Beck, **Canadian High Commissioner to India**, gave a talk on Wednesday, April 13. An interview runs in a forthcoming issue.

HOPETOWN FARE

The School participated in the **Izhaar-e-Hunar Festival** held in **Hopetown Girls' School** on Tuesday, April 12. The **School Orchestra** was placed **first** and the **School Dance Troupe** was placed **second**. Also the **School Quiz Team** was placed **second** and Sparsh Batra came **first** in the **Photography Section**.

Well done, all!

Unquotable Quotes

- When I lose my temper I lose it.*
MAK, Lost and Found.
- How many basketballs did the school score?*
Pranjalya Shukla, inquisitive.
- I am not a wide baller!*
Sachin Mehra, defends himself.
- Keep your shoes on the foot-rack!*
Digvijay Gupta, commands and conquers.
- What were you going?*
Shreyansh Chheda, demands answers.
- My name is not what it seems to be.*
Aditya Bhattacharya, we can see that.

Cricket Midterms

Harshvardhan Singh reports on the Junior Cricket Team's participation in the tournament held at the Pinegrove School during the mid-term break



On April 3, eighteen enthusiastic cricketers (escorted by VKL) left for Pinegrove School which is located in the midst of the Shimla hills. We reached there after a six-hour long journey and in spite of the exhaustion, we were extremely excited at the prospect of playing a day-night practice match the same day.

Without any delay, we were led to the ground where the proceedings of the match started. Luck was on the visiting team's side and after winning the toss, we elected to bowl first. The ground was as small as Ground Three of the Doon School, this promising to be a batsmen's delight. Even though we bowled well and restricted the opponents to a small total, we lost the match due to our unfamiliarity with the ground conditions. However, we were not too disappointed and instead took the opportunity to improve our fielding.

The next day we took to the field fully prepared and with some disciplined bowling, we were able to restrict the opponents to a total of 155 runs. For the second half of the match, we followed VKL's advice and showed a lot of restraint and discipline in our batting. We were pacing our innings well till Dhruv Prasad ran himself out (which further highlighted the importance of communication between the two batsmen occupying the crease!). Following the run-out, wickets started falling like nine pins and soon we found ourselves in a sticky spot. Had it not been for the efforts of Ashish Rao, the match would have not have gone down to the wire. In the last over, with Ashish Rao on strike, we needed ten runs to win the match. Credit must be given to the opposition bowlers for bowling so well, dishing out one toe-crushing yorker after the other and not allowing us to achieve the target. We fell short by five runs. It was back to the drawing board with VKL devising new strategies for our next match against Lawrence School, Sanawar.

The way we bounced back after our defeat against Pinegrove was praiseworthy. Raghav Bansal and I were able to trounce the opposition in the middle overs, sending seven batsmen back to the pavillion within six overs. Once we had restricted Sanawar to a score of 107 runs, Arjun Khanna took it upon himself to steer the team towards victory. He scored sixty-two runs off fifty-two balls and occupied the crease till the end.

With that, our cricket midterms came to an end, on a winning note albeit.

Abducting Maya

KV Arjun Rao reviews the Junior English Summer Production which was staged on Friday, April 1

Abducting Maya was performed in The Rose Bowl on April 1, traditionally a day of great beginnings at Doon. The Junior Summer Production too, has become a tradition of sorts and a welcome to the new boys and their parents to that hallowed venue, The Rose Bowl. This year's show, one of playwright Dario Fo's lesser known works, was received well, let me open with that. It seemed to be exactly what the audience needed that evening – comedy, farce that often bordered on offence, and a refrigerator.

The play opened slowly with Yash Dhandhanian playing the hapless secretary of the strong-willed corporate bully Maya, played to great effort by Yuvan Kumar. Maya's office is the venue for the kidnapping that is botched in a way only Dario Fo could have imagined and then the rest of the action spreads to a bizarrely minimalist warehouse. The play really picks up with the entry of the kidnappers, played to perfection by Arjun Sharma, Shivam Sharma and Aditya Gandhi. The two Sharmas are clearly the dramatic find of the year. Arjun played the goon, who is occasionally depressed, complete with a large mole and the most ridiculous mask that a costume designer could have thought up. Shivam on the other hand was bullied, beaten, shoved into

a refrigerator, electrocuted (oddly enough with a telephone wire). If any awards are to be given for this play, it is to him. The other players, Josh Pasricha and Mrigank Khemka were adequate but I fear suffered under the editor's scalpel.

Shrey Nagalia's note in the brochure for the Junior Summer Production opens with: "As a director, the first problem one has to encounter is that of finding a good script." I happen to know that SNA had been dying to perform this play for a long time and he finally got his wish. The show was minimalist and the context and adaptation worked, for the most part. I wish there had been more work done on the diction and movement of some of the players who did look confused occasionally. Oh, and please, for next time around, try and amplify the dialogue.

I guffawed through the entire production, mostly when the kidnappers were on stage. And I think I can speak for the entire audience that was present in The Rose Bowl. If I were to offer any advice, it would be to the team that is, I believe, touring with this show. First, to the actors. Speak up. If your audience can't hear you, then you've lost them at the beginning. Second, to the crew. Maya's role and costume could perhaps be adapted further to allow Yuvan to really develop this part. Third, to the director. Whatever happens, do nothing to the thieves or to that refrigerator. If possible, find a bigger one and put all three of them in there.

under the scanner **INDIA** Crusade on Corruption

In light of the campaign being lead by Anna Hazare, Vikramaditya Kapur reviews the Jan Lokpal Bill and distinguishes it with the older version that was drafted in 2010

Every student knows that corruption is the biggest impediment to India's progress. But our attitude towards this impediment has always been marred by hopelessness and pessimism. However, in light of the movement led by Anna Hazare to pass the Jan Lokpal Bill, one can say that there are heartening prospects of corruption being checked in the country. By empowering the people to prosecute bureaucrats and politicians, and bringing about swift action against corruption, the Bill is aimed directly at putting an end to the red tapism that pervades the nation.

plains from the public, but would only take up cases forwarded by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It stated that the committee would only be an advisory council and shall forward cases to other authorities. In contrast, the new bill shall empower the committee to take up criminal proceedings against bureaucrats, MPs and other Government officials. Furthermore, the Lokpal committee shall work actively with the CBI, with whom it shall share information directly to check corruption.


The Jan Lokpal Bill is in many ways stronger than the Lokpal Bill that was drafted in 2010. According to the older version of the Bill, the Lokpal committee could not consider corruption com-

It is interesting to note that the bill was first introduced in 1969 and failed to pass through the Rajya Sabha. Since then it has been raised in various sessions of parliaments but was never enacted.

Fortunately, the series of failures came to an end on April 9, when the Government gave into Hazare's demands to form a drafting committee. He stressed on the fact that the committee must not comprise tainted Government officials and that a co-chairman must be appointed on behalf of civil society. Currently, the committee comprises ten people: five ministers and five accomplished members of civil society such as RTI activist Arvind Kejriwal and renowned lawyer Shanti Bhushan.

This crusade against corruption has witnessed mass participation over the past few days. Anna Hazare's campaign saw thousands participating on the first day itself and also boasted the presence of public figures such as Baba Ramdev and Aamir Khan. The prospects of the bill being passed in the Parliament seem strong, considering the public support the bill has garnered. Still, there is a worry that the clauses of the bill may be watered down through amendments in the future. However, I am certain that Anna Hazare and his able supporters will prevent this from happening and shall continue fighting till they win the battle against corruption.

Although it is deplorable that it took a hunger strike to enact a bill under discussion for over four decades (akin to Gandhi's protests against the British Raj), now that it has been drafted, the future seems a little brighter.

Opinion  **oll**

Do you know what the Jan Lokpal Bill is?

Yes 35%

No 65%

Next week's question: Do you think reintroducing the House Cup is a good decision?

(311 members of the community were polled)

Midterm Rewind

Party members: B-Form (K House) and A-Form (T House).

Destination: Guptakashi

Escorts: MNP, ASH, AKS, TPB

Mihir Kiran

As soon as we reached Guptakashi, I was taken aback by the scenic beauty. We had heard about glaciers being depleted, environmental pollution spoiling the scenery of hill stations and yet, this hill station seemed to have retained its natural beauty. The area was rightly termed 'The Switzerland of Garhwal'. In a period of four days, we had trekked to Kalimath, Deoriatal, Chopta and Tungnath. Although all these villages had their own distinct differences in terms of the infrastructure and population, they were all breathtaking. All in all, our party managed to trek 24 kilometers. In my opinion, Tungnath is a place that has left an indelible mark on my mind. With its low slung village huts and its iconic temple, visiting Tungnath was a pleasure. The trek to Tungnath was particularly challenging, owing to the steep and slippery slopes and the rugged terrain. At the summit, nestled in the hills was the famous Shiva temple. Many of us saw snow and had snow fights for the first time! We also slid down the snow while coming back and finished our descend within an hour.



Midterms are . . .

- a very welcome break - **SSM**
- an integral part of school - **Shivam Sharma**
- much required - **Vatsal Agrawal**
- a reminder that there is more to school than studies - **Dhruv Sirohi**
- a good stress buster - **Udayan Sinha**
- a time void of school rules - **Ashish Varma**
- 5 extra outings - **Nakul Talwar**

Party members: C-form (K House)

Destination: Nachiketatal and Uttarkashi

Escorts: ANC , PDT and DNJ

Devansh Agarwal

With the midterm-break being cancelled last year, we finally got an opportunity to experience what is considered an essential part of life in Doon. We left school at dawn on April 3 and spent the night in Uttarkashi. We pitched our tents on uneven ground, and what an experience that was! The first part of our trek was to Nachiketatal, covering a distance of 8 km from Chaurungikha, leading to the destination. The following morning we packed our gear and set out for the rock climbing point. Upon reaching the location, we discovered that we had to scale a huge rock face and make our own foot and hand holds. PDT was the first to try the climb and managed to not only reach the top but also rappel down. We soon discovered that it was easier said than done; only a few were able to complete the task. The next morning we departed early for School. We stopped for lunch at a mountaineering institute where we were served an exquisite non vegetarian meal (after quite a long time). Finally, in the bus I tipped my seat back and relaxed, thinking about the great time I had had with my friends and dozed off.

Party members: Yash Agarwal, Rishab Kothari, Yash Johri, Yuv Vir Khosla, Rishabh Verma

Destination: Kedarnatha

Yuv Vir Khosla

The midterm-break was a welcome stress buster after our Board Examinations. Being our first private midterm-trek, with all the excitement and enthusiasm, we chose one of the most adventurous destinations on the list: *Kedarkantha*. With the responsibility of fetching the kerosene, cutlery and ready-to-eat items on our shoulders, for the first time the preparation had begun much in advance. With all the equipment packed, we left with mixed feelings of anxiety, worry and determination. The trek, was more adventurous than we had expected: walking on ridges with snow up to the knees; or even wearing socks on our hands to keep ourselves warm; retracing our path with the help of a dog! For me, sliding down the snowy hill, with an inclination of approximately sixty degrees was most memorable. No wonder we see our seniors dismayed when they cannot go for their private mid-terms.



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weekly@doonschool.com



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Editor-in-Chief: Kanishka Malik **Editor:** Abhinav Mittal **Senior Editor:** Raghav Puri **Hindi Editor:** Shivank Singh **Associate Editors:** Shashvat Dhandhania, Yuv Vir Khosla **Special Correspondents:** Madhav Dutt, Vikramaditya Kapur, Raniz Bordoloi, Kunal Kanodia, Utkarsh Jha **Correspondents:** Mihir Kiran, Arjun Kamdar, Harshvardhan Singh, Aditya Bhattacharya **Junior Correspondents:** Manan Pradhan, Devansh Agarwal **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Shrey Nagalia, Aaron Jacob, Arvindanabha Shukla **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya **Photo Credit:** Raghav Bansal (page 2), Digvijay Gupta (page 4-bottom left), Yuv Vir Khosla (page 4 - bottom right)