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After the Gong, for the 75th time!

Mihir Kiran reports on the 75th Inter-House PT Competition held on Thursday, April 28



Not much thought is given to the positive aspects of morning PT. In fact, most boys often crib about PT practices eating into their sleep hours. Sure enough, this year too, the squads were practicing early in the morning, before the daily schedule and also outside their houses after lunch for the prestigious gong. On the final day, all the houses were looking forward to give in their best, thinking that this would probably be the last time they would be doing PT for the rest of the year. Abhinav Kumar, the Additional-Secretary to the Government of Uttarakhand and an Old Boy was the chief guest for the event. The audience witnessed the

exercises being presented by the houses and appreciated the hard work put in by the boys. The senior masters even commented that the exercises performed this year had been more taxing as compared to those of previous competitions. Also, a large number of Sc-formers also took part in the competition. After completing all the exercises, the squads sat on the Main Field and anxiously awaited the results. Predictions were difficult to make as all the House squads had put in their best. In the end, Jaipur House was left shouting and screaming, celebrating their victory for the fourth consecutive year. They won the Senior as well as the Junior section and the Best PT Leader Award also went to their Junior PT Leader, Raghav Puri (who shared the award with Virein Chabra). The event, celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary was an important one in the history of the School and the PT leaders, School PT Leader, MLJ, NTC and the ground staff must be given credit for successfully hosting this competition.



PT Over The Years...

“Unfortunately, PT competition is confined to School today. Earlier, more outsiders witnessed it” -- ASH

“As compared to earlier days, PT has become physically more challenging” -- DCB

“The standard of PT has remained the same even though there are fewer days of PT today” -- PBR



PT, the old way: A scene from 1956 (Image source: Chhota Hazri Days by Sanjiv Bathla)

House Tally

(the following is a record of the number of times each House has won the PT Gong)

House	Wins
Jaipur	22
Tata	21
Kashmir	17
Hyderabad	10
Oberoi	04

HINDI DEBATES

The following are the results of the second round of the **Inter-House Hindi Debates, 2011:**

Jaipur vs Kashmir

Winner: Jaipur

Best Speakers: Ritesh Shinde and Abhinav Kejriwal

Tata vs Oberoi

Winner: Tata

Best Speaker: Revant Nayar

Well done, all!

GAMES

Anmol Jamwal has been awarded the **Games Blazer**.
Congratulations!

VIKRAM SETH

The following are the results of the **Vikram Seth Junior Statesman Poetry Recitation Competition** held on Monday, May 2:

Seniors:

1st: Raghav Puri

2nd: Abhinav Mittal

3rd: Revant Nayar

Well done, all!

Juniors:

1st: Pulkit Agarwal

2nd: Shivam Sharma

3rd: Abhinav Kejriwal

HOCKEY ROUND-UP

The School Hockey Team played against Oak Grove School in the **S Kandhari Memorial Inter-School Hockey Tournament** on Monday, May 2. The match was drawn at 1-1. The School Hockey Team played against RIMC in the semi-finals of the **S Kandhari Memorial Inter-School Hockey Tournament** on Monday, May 2 and lost the match 3-0. Well tried!

ENGLISH DEBATES

The following are the results of the Preliminary Rounds of the **Inter-House Senior English Debating Competition, 2011:**

1st: Kashmir

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Tata

4th: Jaipur

5th: Oberoi

In the **Semi-Final Round**, Kashmir House emerged **winner** while Tata House emerged **Runner-Up**. Kanishka Malik was declared the **Best Speaker** while Vihan Khanna and Shashvat Dhandhanian were awarded **Most Promising Speaker**.

Well done, all!

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Madhav Dutt



TEE-OFF

The following boys went for the **Albatross Golf Tournament:** Zahaan Qureshi, Sumer Sehgal, Shivam Goyal and Anant Singh Maan.

The following boys went for the **Junior Golf Tournament:** Jayadityavir Singh, Varun Sehgal, Jaiveer Puri and Dhruv Johri.

PT POSITIONS

The following are the results of the **75th Inter-House PT Competition** held on Thursday, April 28.

Seniors:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Oberoi

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Kashmir

5th: Tata

Juniors:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Tata

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Hyderabad

5th: Kashmir

Jaipur House won the **PT Gong** while Raghav Puri and Virein Chabra were awarded the **Best PT Leader Trophy**. Well done, all!

Unquotable Quotes

I'm not bother.

NTC, slacking.

Get the dorms.

Madhavan Saklani, anything else sir.

Doon speak me.

Udbhav Agarwal, how about we unquote you.

Dont you slimy.

Eeshat Tiwary, ok, he won't.

Bellad of Father Giligan.

Shubham Agarwal, Agasthya Bellad?

Shut down his eyes.

Kanishka Malik, Chief-Ed?

SPORTS AT BALBIR

70 students from Balbir Road and 15 boys from School took part in a sports event on April 23, 2011.



| Report | Rating Slaters

Shashvat Dhandhania reports on the School's participation in the **Reverend Dr Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational Inter-School English Debates**



The Reverend Dr Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational Inter-School English Debates have a reputation around the nation. The topics for these debates are out a month prior to the competition and everyone reaches Bishop Cotton School, prepared. Sachit, Utkarsh, Vikramaditya and I left on the 26th, with Benjamin Dawes, unprepared. Unfortunately, we had not received the list of forty-three topics from which we were going to debate on a few.

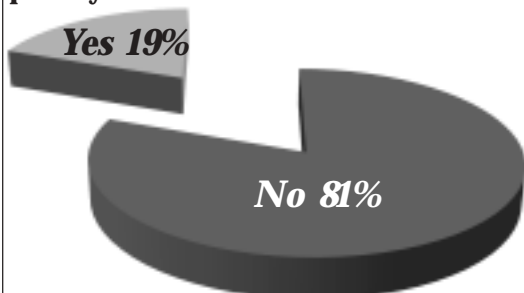
On reaching Simla, we found out our draw that evening and spent the night researching. Our first debate was against the host school and the hostile audience made it a little difficult to debate against a well prepared home team. We were proposing the motion- *Debating Accomplishes Nothing*, and debating on it! We lost the debate in a close call, though I was happy to be awarded the Third Best Speaker. Our next debate was against Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai. We were proposing the motion once again and this time the motion read *Developed Nations Should Only Expect Skilled Migrants from Developing Nations*. We won the debate; Sachit and I were awarded the Best Speaker Award and Second Best Speaker Award respectively. Our third debate in the Pre-Quarter Finals was against RIMC, Dehradun. *Social Networking is Anti-Social* had to be debated upon and we were opposing the topic. We had to win this debate to qualify to the Quarter-Final Round. With Sachit being awarded the Second Best Speaker and Utkarsh the Third Best Speaker, we scraped through. This year, like the year before, we were facing Loretto House, Kolkata in the Quarter-Final Round. The motion was: *Man has the Prerogative to bring God into Existence*. We were proposing the motion, giving ourselves the advantage as we could define the motion as we saw fit. Much like last year, we were unable to pull off a victory and proceed to the rounds ahead.

We were disappointed with the results, but the host school did everything in its capacity to make us feel at home.

That was the end of our debating in Simla. On the trip though, we managed to visit Mall Road and attend the picnic which was arranged by the host School. I'm pretty sure we doubled the revenue of their school tuck shop during our visit. The highlight of the trip though was our escort's fascination with the Royal Wedding!

Opinion oll

Are you in favour of social service being compulsory?



(312 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Are you in favour of mandatory cheering?

ERRATA

In Issue No. 2280 of the *Weekly*, dated April 23, 2011, in the article titled *Inter-House Cricket Round-Up*, Virein Chabra's name was excluded from the 'highest wicket takers' list. He took 8 wickets in the competition and was the highest wicket taker. The *Weekly* regrets this error.

| Report |

Road Runners

Devansh Agarwal reports on 'Running and Living', a marathon held on April 23 at Corbett National Park

The dwindling tiger population in the country has alarmed conservationists and citizens alike. To show our support for tiger conservation, the School visited the Corbett National Park to participate in a marathon aimed at raising money for tiger research.

On April 22, BND escorted 21 of us to participate in the event. After a six-hour long journey, we reached our destination and having found our hotel, we freshened up and had dinner. Despite the tiring bus journey, we slept very little as we were to wake up at three the next morning. To our dismay, we reached the Marathon Point an hour early. However, we at least got sufficient time to warm-up.

The run started with the wave of a red flag. Most of us started the run with a brisk jog while some others started it with a sprint. It was a fairly challenging run as we had to run at an incline and had to cover a long distance. Soon we realized that it was not a walk in the park. Most people had stopped mid-way for a break while only a few were able to maintain a steady pace. At the end, BND emerged first, finishing the run in 27 minutes. Karan Singhal came third, with a time of 38 minutes. Arnav Matta was the fifth to reach the finishing line and completed the run in 53 minutes. I was the last Dosco to be in the top ten (seventh position) with a time of 67 minutes. Most of us managed to be in the top 25 positions.

After a "well-deserved" treat, as BND called it, we returned to School, having thoroughly enjoyed the run and the podium finish.

The Minutes of the School Council Meeting

(In the Nandlal Kilachand Library at 12:20 PM on March 26, 2011)

The following members were present:

Peter McLaughlin
Philip Burrett
Sameer Katre
MC Joshi
DK Sharma
PK Nair
A Qezilbash
Piyush Malaviya
BK Chamola
Sandip S. Mann
Anuroop Jauhal
Udit Kapur
Vihan Khanna
Sumaer Sandhu
Rahil Badhwar
Raghav Chandra
Guruansh Singh Gambhir
Daksh Bhatia
Angad Singh
Raniz Bordoloi
Gaurav Kothari
Arth Gupta
Prabhjot Singh
Dhruv Sirohi
Aditya Bhattacharya
Ritvik Kar
Abhinav Mittal
Yuv Vir Khosla
Harsh Vardhan Singh
Arjun Kamdar
Vikram Kejriwal
Ishan Sandhu
Hussain Haider

Headmaster(Chairman)
Dy. Headmaster
Director of Administrative Affairs
Dean of Activities and Social & Community Service
Dean of Sports
Dean of Studies
Dean of Students' Welfare
Dean of Public Affairs
Housemasters' Representative
Teachers' Representative
Dames' Representative
Secretary
School Captain
Prefects' Representative
Hyderabad House Senior Representative
Hyderabad House Senior Representative
Hyderabad House Junior Representative
Hyderabad House Junior Representative
Jaipur House Senior Representative
Jaipur House Senior Representative
Jaipur House Junior Representative (Stand in)
Jaipur House Junior Representative
Kashmir House Senior Representative
Kashmir House Senior Representative
Kashmir House Junior Representative
Kashmir House Junior Representative
Oberoi House Senior Representative
Oberoi House Senior Representative
Oberoi House Junior Representative(Stand in)
Oberoi House Junior Representative
Tata House Senior Representative
Tata House Junior Representative
Tata House Junior Representative

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Sumaer Sandhu (Prefects' Representative) and seconded by Vikram Kejriwal (Tata house Representative) and accordingly passed.

2. Proposals and Issues for the Current Meeting:

a) School tie should be changed: The Secretary stressed the importance of the school tie and said the present one was drab, colourless and needed to be changed. Dhruv Sirohi stated that the material of the tie was of poor quality and the school tie should be the best tie the school has to offer. Prabhjot Singh and Sumaer Sandhu felt that the School tie should have a school emblem on it. PBR also felt the need for a change in tie, he informed the council that he would get in touch with the Tie Makers and the Art school for designs and material quality and then get back to the council.

b) Internet for Sc-formers should be till 11 pm: Sumaer Sandhu informed the council that all Sc formers required the internet till 11 pm as it was essential for SAT and College applications. Mr. Chamola (The Housemasters' Representative) felt the same way and after a short discussion it was decided that internet for Sc's would be made available till 11 pm.

c) T-shirts instead of Singlet's for PT: The issue of moving to T-shirts for PT was raised. This was rejected as the council felt that there should be some distinction between the Games and PT outfits and that T-shirts for PT was not a good idea. The council did feel that the rough woolen singlet had had its day and should be immediately replaced by House vests.

d) Dance colours should be introduced: Rahil Badhwar felt that boys in the dance squads do not get any appreciation as there is no award to recognize their efforts and talents. However, the Chairman pointed out that having colours for every single activity is not the answer and would devalue the colours. Sumaer Sandhu suggested that dance should come under music and recognition to dancers should be given in the form of music colours, which was passed by the members of the council.

e) House feasts should not be scheduled and invitation to boys from other houses should be open: After a long discussion it was decided that one house feast per term would be scheduled in the calendar while the other would be slotted by the House. For the unscheduled house feast, the houses will be required to register a date one week in advance with Mrs. Bhatia. Only captains of the activity or sport for which the House is celebrating the feast concerned may be

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invited along with only one boy from the AV squad.

f) Repair of the Squash Courts: Mr. Sharma and Sumaer Sandhu informed the members that the Squash courts needed urgent repairs as the flooring was in poor condition. The Chairman and Mr. Katre informed the members that the cost of this project would be added to the budget of the school; they also informed the members that some repairs would be done in the summer holidays.

g) Walk-ins should be reintroduced: Prabhjot Singh and Dhruv Sirohi informed the members that Walk-ins had been an integral part of the school tradition but were discontinued some years ago. The Chairman supported the stance and informed the members that walk-ins are something that happen in schools all over the world. He also reminded the members that this requires self-discipline and some responsibility on the part of Sc formers. The members agreed with the Chairman and therefore the proposal was passed. Some rules regarding the correct decorum for Walk-ins are as follows.

- Only the house teams are allowed to walk in provided the house wins the house cup.
- The team should only enter from their respective house entrances.
- The housemaster and Dy. Headmaster should be informed before-hand.
- This will also be followed in case of Major inter-school victories with the permission of the Dy Headmaster.
- No individual Walk-ins would be allowed.

(h) All escorted outings should be turned into night-outs: Ritvik Kar brought to the notice of the house that all escorted outings should be turned into night outs as most parents come from far away to meet their boys for a short duration of time. The School Captain felt that two Night –Outs per term were sufficient and any more would unsettle boys and disrupt their schedule in school. Other members felt the same and therefore the proposal was not passed.

3) Other matters raised with the permission of the chair

a) Mr. Burrett showed the members a sample of an Adidas floater as a replacement to the present one. This was put to vote and was passed by clear majority. Therefore the matter will be looked into.

b) The Prefect's Representative brought to the notice of the house the change in positioning of the water cooler in the main building. He said that the cooler was too near the toilets and asked for a shift in location. Mr. Katre said that he would look into relocating the cooler.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

| Viewpoint |

Disputing a Right

Kunal Kanodia and Madhav Dutt comment on the Right To Education talk conducted at Welham Girls' School on May 1, 2011

Perhaps one of the most contested legislations in recent Indian history has been the addition of article 21(A) to the Constitution of India. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act guarantees every Indian child primary education and has come under criticism from people from different walks of life due to various reasons. The Right to Education Act has the potential to drastically change the education spectrum as we know it; it can alter society both socially and psychologically.

On Sunday, May 1, we had the privilege of listening to Ajeet Prakash Shah, the ex-Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. He is known for his bold rulings, most famous being the one which decriminalised homosexuality in India. Justice Shah is a staunch advocate of this proposed legislation and had been invited to present his views in favour of the Right to Education Act.

The talk was funded and organised by the Ratan Tata Fund and The Latika Roy Foundation. The Latika Roy Foundation is an NGO which deals with the empowerment of disabled children and adults. The lecture was attended by eminent educational institutions, nearly all of them being private schools. Ajeet Prakash Shah expressed his concerns over whether "elite schools like The Doon School" would ever accept disadvantaged children from different social backgrounds. He narrated the story of his schooling in a government school in Solapur, Maharashtra, where the fee was a bare minimum but the quality of education was very high. Due to the low amount of money required, as well as the absence of reputed private schools, both rich and poor were educated there. The healthy camaraderie was visible and was something that he felt was vital in a society like ours.

Justice Shah, from our perspective, only appreciated the spirit of the RTE, not its characteristics. While reminiscing about his days in Solapur, he extolled the positive aspects of children from varying social backgrounds getting educated under one roof but Justice Shah also expressed his disappointment at the RTE only making education free and compulsory for children upto the age of 14 and maintained that the minimum age should be at least 18, if not 21. He criticised the RTE for reducing the previously advised reservation rate of 50% in private schools to only 25% and it not being "com-

Justice Shah also expressed his disappointment at the RTE only making education free and compulsory for children upto the age of 14 and maintained that the minimum age should be at least 18, if not 21. He criticised the RTE for reducing the previously advised reservation rate of 50% in private schools to only 25% and it not being "comprehensive" enough.

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prehensive" enough.

The Right to Education Act is being resisted by most private educational institutions including our own. Our governing body has questioned the policy of not screening students before admitting them to schools. This shall only degrade the standard of education imparted in these schools and the Chairperson of the Indian Public Schools' Conference and the Principal of the host school, Jyotsna Brar refuted the RTE stating that if there were no screening, "schools would find themselves in danger of being accused of unfairness and subjectivity in selection".

This statement brings us to the elusive question on the pros and cons of the RTE as it stands today and while it is a laudable step on the part of the Government to further its agenda of 'inclusive growth', it remains controversial and partially impractical.

| Viewpoint |

Changes under the Light

Madhav Dutt highlights the changes that have taken place in School over two generations

Even before I took The Doon School's entrance exam, I seemed to know everything one needed to lead a student's life at school. My father, a proud Old Boy, had already drilled me about the goings-on in School and the various facets of a Dosco's life. I had been filled to the brim with a million and one anecdotes which my dad could recount a million and two times: how they played sports, what clothes they wore, what nicknames they had so graciously bestowed upon the masters, all the pranks that were ever carried out and could be carried out and so on. In the few days left before I joined school, I could not wait to make my own set of friends and carry out some of the pranks which my father had.

Now that I have spent 3 years in School, I can compare the school I study in and the school my father so vividly recreated through his stories; the school now and the school 25 years ago. Be it the people or the buildings, a lot has been modified, rebuilt, changed or demolished. And I thought to myself that it might not be a bad exercise to put down a few differences that might emerge when one talks of the school my father went to and the school I am in.

Firstly, at the risk of sounding pompous, I would say that the boys who join now, including those in my own batch seem to be a bit more disciplined, or atleast restrained to say the least. My father told me how they used to tie boys *narras* around their beds so that when they woke up they would almost certainly get late for PT! He also spoke about how boys' beds used to be put under the shower in the middle of the night and the helpless boy would either wake up stuck in the bathroom in the middle of the night or at times the following morning! I don't think the beds would even fit through the bath room doors now. Another thing in vogue that time was the bribing of CDH bearers to get more food. Escaping from seniors was a great deal easier because there were no *jaalis* and DoscOs used to tie bed sheets and climb out of changing room windows with ease. The wooden lockers in the rooms used to be massacred by crackers on Diwali and leaving mugs full of water over the bath room doors was a daily affair.

I don't think the present DoscOs carry out any of these mischiefs. Now whether these pranks actually have a place in The Doon School of today or whether they are to be viewed as dangerous, law-breaking deeds is for you or maybe the authorities to decide. Or maybe these pranks fall in that area where the authorities certainly do frown a bit but nevertheless, treat the culprits sympathetically.

My father's take on Socials is especially fascinating. He told me how the DoscOs used to line up in front of the MPH stage and the Welhamites would walk in and as soon as the socials would start, the DoscOs would blatantly ignore the Welhamites and pounce on the food! However, very little has changed as far as this tradition is concerned. Food is still a Dosco's first love.

So did this wild 'Dosco Mentality' actually have an impact on the all-round development of the boys studying then? Did they pass out as uncouth ruffians, devoid of any manners or social graces? Maybe not. According to me, this indiscipline, or rather youthful energy actually didn't make any difference and the DoscOs of that time are doing just as well as the present ones.

The career paths being taken by DoscOs have undoubtedly changed over the years. In my father's time, a boy who would be going to the army was highly respected. Now however, the mentality and perspective is entirely different. When one thinks of a *fauji*, one thinks of the financial problems which creep in rather than the service to the country and the patriotic spirit in the man. Corporate jobs are what majority of the boys get into and with each passing year, we see fewer DoscOs getting into politics, the defence forces or the civil services.

Having tried to figure out all the changes that have occurred over the years, I can't help but wonder how much the School will have changed when I come twenty five years from now!

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