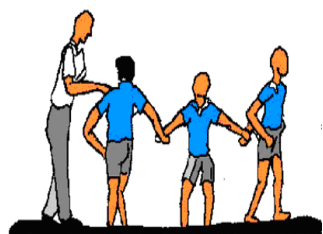


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The Doon School WEEKLY



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WALKING THE RIGHT PATH

The Doon School Weekly interviewed the newly-elected School Captain, **Yuv Vir Khosla**

DSW: What does being the School Captain mean to you?

Yuv Vir Khosla (YVK): To be frank, throughout my junior years in School, School Captaincy was the epitome of fame. I have always looked at the position with a sense of awe, but from a naïve perspective. Having been School Captain for a little longer than a week now, the whole notion is changing. All the responsibilities and expectations have started to sink in. More than anything else, there is always an optimistic belief of bringing about change, which in itself seems daunting. Then again, there is a tight rope that needs to be walked, which adds to the difficulty of the task.

DSW: How did you feel when you finally became an elected School Captain?

YVK: Hearing my name being announced at the Special Assembly I was elated. Noting the ‘finally’ that you have used in your question, it came as a pleasant surprise. Honestly, I pictured myself on the other side of the table, taking the interview of the School Captain as a member of the editorial board of the *Weekly*.

DSW: Can you give us a brief note on the leadership style that you imagine yourself using?

YVK: I wish to give more responsibility to the House Captains and Prefects of each House. I would also want to optimize on the capabilities of senior students who can mentor the junior boys on a personal level. At the end of the day the best scenario, for me, would be to see a self-disciplined community with minimal interference from authorities, both Masters and students.

DSW: Do you wish to experiment with a system where you may have to suspend punishments to implement and ensure your vision of having a self-disciplined School community? If yes, how would you make it a success this time round?

YVK: In my B Form, I remember the then School Captain, Sriyash Kishorepuria, had experimented with a ‘no punishment’ week. It was a fairly effective one and I would want to try it again, but in a slightly different manner. I believe that not much time was given to the School community to adapt to the change, and if implemented now, I would keep it for a longer duration. Also, more than the number of punishments being the focus of the experiment, I think emphasis should be laid on explaining to the community the brighter side of this experiment, if it succeeds.

DSW: Given your plan, Prefects might have to confront the mob. What advice would you give to a Prefect in such situations?

YVK: The Prefectorial body did talk at length about this issue during the Prefects’ workshop and we did reach a consensus: bringing about a change will always entail criticism. All of us would need to ignore this and think from a larger perspective. I would also urge them to act as they believe and earn respect instead of instilling fear.

DSW: What are your views about the increase in the importance given to certain activities in School, say social service and career counseling?

YVK: I think these activities have not been given their due importance for a long time, and these are steps in the right direction, especially when we wish to make Doon a world-renowned school. On the other hand, we must maintain the fine line between giving emphasis and overdoing these activities. Other activities which Doon has been known for should not be side-lined by any means.

DSW: Do you think that the compromise on time for activities like debating, publications, clubs and society meetings has led to these activities witnessing lesser participation?

YVK: I have sensed resentment from people who have been involved in activities which have been ‘so-called compromised’. As I said earlier, we need to keep the balance so that these ill feelings are not given way to. I do think that some of these feelings are justified in their own way, and need to be addressed.

DSW: Considering that you are now School Captain, would you still work, as Editor, for *The Doon School Weekly*?

YVK: (Laughs...) If not on Thursday evenings (and Friday mornings!) I.... (Cb. Ed.: Sorry, I didn’t hear the last part)

LEADERS, 2012

The following is the **Prefectorial Body** for the forthcoming year:

School Captain: Yuv Vir Khosla

Hyderabad House

House Captain: Siddhant Sachdev

Prefects: Ujjwal Dahuja, Raghav Nath, Abhishek Bansal

Jaipur House

House Captain: Dhruv Agarwal

Prefects: Zorawar Whig, Shantanu Seth, Udit Rungta

Kashmir House

House Captain: Nivit Kochhar

Prefects: Aditya Vikram Gupta, Arjun Khaitan, Alawi Singh

Oberoi House

House Captain: Yash Johri

Prefects: Adhiraj Singh, Shubham Dhingra, Animesh Jain

Tata House

House Captain: Arjun Midha

Prefects: Arjun Parmar, Aviral Gupta, Adhiraj Thakran

School Social Service Secretary: Aviral Gupta

Boy-in-Charge of LAMDA: Aditya Vikram Gupta

Boy-in-Charge of the Astronomical Society: Tushar Mohan

Boy-in-Charge of the Business Club: Aditya Vikram Gupta

Boy-in-Charge of the Doon School Stock Exchange: Vidit Sidana

Boys-in-Charge of the Boys Bank and Tuck Shop: Abhishek Pande and Neelansh Khurana

Boy-in-Charge of the Aeromodelling STA: Shivam Goyal

The following are the various appointments in the **Art School** for the forthcoming year:

STA In-Charge: Rayhaan Imam

SUPW In-Charge: Alawi Singh

Editor-in-Chief of DSAM: Shrestha Verma

Art Secretary: Abhijit Karwa

The following are the various **Sports Captaincies** for the following year:

Cricket: Siddhant Sachdev

Hockey: Dhruv Aggarwal

Soccer: Yuv Vir Khosla

Athletics: Arjun Midha

Basketball: Adhiraj Thakran

Table Tennis: Raghav Kothiwala

Tennis: Raghav Nath

Boxing: Nivit Kochhar

Badminton: Abhishek Parasrampur

Swimming: Aditya Vikram Gupta

The following is the editorial board of the **Infinity** for the forthcoming year:

Editor-in-Chief: Aditya Vikram Gupta

Chief of Production: Aviral Gupta

Secretary of the Historical Circle: Yash Johri

Boy-in-Charge of the Robotics STA: Sookrit Malik

Secretary of the Technology Council: Nivit Kochhar

Secretary of the Library Council: Sanat Kumar Thakur

The following are the appointments for the **Music Society** for the forthcoming year:

School Music Captain: Yuv Vir Khosla

Orchestra Leader: Yash Mall

Western Band Leader: Dhruv Singhal

Choir Leader: Rishab Nautiyal

Music Society Secretary: Harsh Singhania

We wish them all a fruitful tenure!

WELCOME

We welcome two new masters, **Vivek Kumar (VVK)** and **Pranshu Shekher Mishra (PSM)**. VVK will teach in the Biology and is attached to Kashmir House as a tutor. PSM will teach Physics and is attached to Tata House as a tutor. Interviews with them will feature in following issues.

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

Aloke Tirtha Bhowmick (ATB) is holding an **art exhibition** in the Art School, from the 7th of February to the 12th of March.

We also welcome **Prasun Kanti Bhattacharya**, a Professor at the Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan, who is holding a Textile Design Workshop for students.

We hope he has a pleasant stay!

SCHOOL TRIPS

Seven boys, escorted by SJB, attended a **golf clinic** at the **Butch Harmon Academy for Golf** in Dubai, between December 15 and 21, 2011.

The **School Under-17 Cricket Team** travelled to Kolkata and played matches against St. James' School, Don Bosco School, La Martiniere College and the Videocon Academy. The team beat St. James' School.

The School hosted the **Round Square International Service Project, Katapathar** between December 7 and 22. The School was represented by Abhishek Pande, Gaurang Ahuja, Shivam Goyal, Ujjwal Dahuja, NTC, MCJ, AKS and Dr Lanka.

Akansha Mohan represented the School at the **Round Square International Service Project** held at Cambodia between December 6 and 23.

BKC represented the School as a Deputy Project Leader at the **Round Square International Service Project** held at Thailand between December 5 and 22.

ASH and STK represented the School at the **Round Square Leadership Training Programme** held in Cambodia between December 6 and 23.

PMC and AKS represented the School at the **Round Square Annual General Meeting and Friends of Round Square, South-Asian and Gulf Region** between January 11 and 14 at the Daly College, Indore.

The **Thar Desert Expedition** consisted of a team of twelve boys, who were escorted by ASH and PKJ. The team covered 165 kilometres from Mehrsar to Sanchu on the Indo-Pakistan border.

Congratulations, all!

Opinion oll

Given the weather conditions, do you think P.T. should be cancelled?

Yes 97%

No 3%

(378 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Should room heaters be allowed for the boys in School?

In Conversation

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, who addressed the School in November last term. The following are excerpts.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Do you see a double-dip recession happening globally?

Montek Singh Ahluwalia (MSA): One of the problems with forecasts is that every forecast has a probability range around it. I guess most forecasts today would include the possibility of a short double-dip, and would give it a higher probability than they would have a year ago. Personally, I think the US and the UK will be able to avoid a double-dip. I am less confident about what is going to happen to the countries on the periphery of Europe, like Spain, Portugal and Italy. The probability for a double-dip recession in Europe has increased greatly at least for the first half of next year. What is more, the prospects for growth after the recession are poorer than they were six months ago. But remember, we are talking about probability. As Yogi Berra is reported to have said “it is very difficult to make predictions, especially about the future!”.

DSW: Considering the political situation in the United States, do you think the American Government will be able to recover from its debt?

MSA: What we are seeing in the United States, in my view, is dysfunctionality in politics, something which we are familiar with. I expect that after the Presidential Elections next year the situation will be back to normal. This is just a bump and they will have to bear it. The US economy is actually reasonably strong in many ways. The US corporate sector and their banking system is sound. The real problem is that the unemployment rate is not going to go down any time soon, so the society will suffer from lack of social cohesiveness. This is a challenge for political leadership.

DSW: Since the opening up of the Indian economy, we have seen agricultural growth plummet and farmer suicides escalate. What steps must be taken to revive agricultural growth?

MSA: Liberalisation started in the mid 1980s and accelerated after 1991. The first ten years of liberalization saw fairly good agricultural growth. After 1996, it slowed down quite substantially and that is something which we are trying to correct. It is a complex challenge especially since agriculture is now diversifying away from food grains and the development of non-foodgrain agriculture e.g. horticulture, dairying, fisheries etc depends upon the development of logistics and marketing chains downstream. This is because the products are perishable and post-harvest technologies are crucial. I would like to point out however that agricultural performance has improved in the Eleventh Plan compared to the Tenth. But we must do better.

DSW: Don't you think this was coincidental with India's entry into the World Trade Organization?

MSA: Not at all. I know that's often said, but there is no evidence for it. Remember, the WTO is just the new word for the old GATT, and we were a founder member of GATT for 50 years. The less than expected performance of agriculture in recent years, in my view, is because successive governments over twenty years have followed the wrong policies to support agriculture. Agriculture needs many inputs, but the most important input it needs is water. We should have been investing money to use water most effectively. In fact we subsidise chemicals and fertilizers which need more water and we provide very cheap power to farmers which only encourages them to over-use ground water. If we focus on the supply side constraints on agricultural productivity, we can overcome our problem even though we are part of WTO.

DSW: There are some parts of India, such as the North-Eastern states and the Andamans, which have remained unnoticed in terms of development. What has the Planning Commission done to bring about progress in these regions, keeping in mind their unique social and cultural identities?

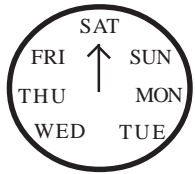
MSA: The Planning Commission is giving a lot of attention to these states. These regions need a lot of special attention and I think we have been late in realising this. However, in the Eleventh Plan, for the first time, we had a separate North-East infrastructure development plan and we're making quite a lot of progress in that. Of course, it takes about two decades to develop infrastructure, but the good news is that the process has started. One of the things that has happened is that Assam, which is part of the North-East and was earlier poorly connected, is now much better connected. But North Eastern states rightly say that Assam is not the only state. It is the other states which need much better connectivity with roads, rails and air. This is very important geo-politically and is very high on the agenda in the Eleventh Plan and also for the Twelfth Plan.

DSW: With all due respect to the Planning Commission of India, what do you think is the reason behind India not improving according to the United Nations Development Programme's, Human Development Index?

MSA: We should certainly do better in Human Development than we have done but we should recognize that we have improved our index values. The reason why our ranking has not improved is that many small countries have been added to the UN list, and they are above us. We should remember that per capita income is a very important element in the HDR and as long as our per capita income is low we will be in the lower group.

DSW: The primary education and healthcare sectors need to be improved as well, in order to see a more rounded development of the nation. Why has the Planning Commission allocated more resources to subsidizing the industrial sector than trying to boost these sectors?

MSA: That is not true. We are actually increasing the budget allocation to healthcare and education sectors very substantially. In fact there is very little Plan expenditure on industry. We do spend on infrastructure, but developing infrastructure is not a subsidy to industry. It is a developmental support to all of the economy.



The Week Gone By...

Yet again a new spring term starts with the ungodly smell of rain on the cold, dry ground, bringing with itself a new beginning. At last, we all were given a break from, what seemed to be a never-ending, scoping season, although only momentarily. Let us also take this opportunity to congratulate all the House Monitors who have fortunately, or unfortunately, received their due acclaim. On the other hand, a few have not been able to recover from the trauma of the setback(s) they have received over the last week. Hopefully, they will, soon enough!

As most of us try to fathom how terrible life will be without heaters (but a few School Council representatives in their speeches have promised to bring about a change), others are busy keeping their books warm. The only perk of being an AT former is that they are exempted from attending P.T (other than the fact that they don't have classes, no lights out, no compulsory talks, no changes-in-break, no social service etc. etc. etc.). We hear, a few of us have been relieved of the luxury of our heaters and hot water bottles which we optimistically brought to School. Obviously, we cannot afford to cancel P.T. as it would unnecessarily hurt the feelings of a few. Luckily for us, P.T. Leaders haven't yet been appointed, because then, even God would not have been able to save us! Also heard, O-House boys are working extremely hard on a daily basis to ensure that they are extremely fit. What's more, Tata House, is going to follow suit. But more than the boys, who actually pity themselves, the Masters are the ones who are doing the hard work.

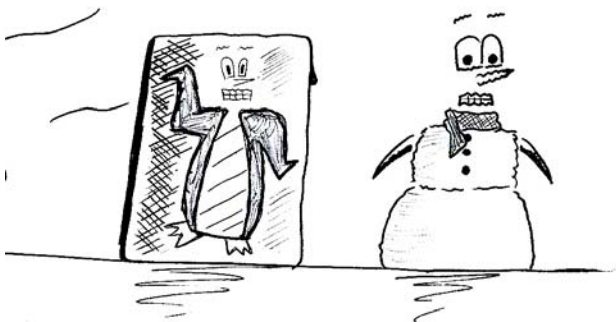
Cricket is in season at Doon. For some reason we feel that only half of the resources are being availed, maybe because Upper Skinners is being preserved for something better.

The School still seems to be in the process of comprehending what the new Prefects expect from them. Evidently, it will take time, but we must, to save ourselves, adapt quickly!

Happy freezing!

doontoon

Madhav Dutt



Frozen Penguins

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| Report |

RSIS Cambodia

Aakanksha Mohan reports on the RSIS Project she was a part of, held in Cambodia between December 6 and 23, 2011

On the 5th of December, I reached Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for an RSIS Project. With a briefing session on the itinerary for the next three weeks by David McLellan, our activity leader, I was introduced to the other members of the project. First on the list was our visit to the Genocide Museum of Cambodia, where we saw the results and ramifications of Pol Pot's regime, the Killing Tree and the Great Memorial, which contained more than 15,000 skulls of innocent victims.

We visited a number of schools for the underprivileged, including The Banyan Learning Tree School. On the second day of the trip, we were taken to our work site in Takeo. It was barren land with a small toilet, a water pump and a tent where the construction workers were staying. All of us were assigned different tasks by the head of the construction workers. We worked from eight o'clock in the morning till four o'clock in the afternoon, doing most of the construction work, from carrying sand and gravel to wiring poles for pillars. I must admit, it was not easy to get used to the hours and the food. On the other hand, it was enriching to discuss the political positions of the different countries we belonged to.

On the sixth working day, we left early in the morning for a short trip to Siem Reap. Here we visited the famous temple Angkor Wat, about which I had heard a number of stories. Having finally reached, I spent the day at the temple, exploring it with great enthusiasm.

We headed back to Takeo the next day where we carried on with the assigned task. Having come close to accomplishing our goal, before the opening ceremony of the school, we drew the logo and decided a name for the school: 'Brighter Beginnings'. The motto was 'For Tomorrow'.

Other than the tasks assigned to us, we visited the local market to buy vegetables and learnt how to cook a traditional Khmer meal. The final part of our trip had arrived sooner than I expected— Christmas at the beach. We left for Sihanoukville, a beautiful resort city with amazing beaches, and spent Christmas like the Cambodians!

We went back to Phnom Penh on the 26th. Before we left for our respective countries, we visited the Royal Palace of King Norodom Sihamoni. The trip has been a great learning experience, not only in respect to the service, but also as an enriching experience about the culture of Cambodia, which is said to have been revived after the Khmer Rouge.