DSW: What do you think makes the IAYP so popular in 144 countries and territories?

JMY: I think it’s because the award hasn’t changed since I was 14. What the award does is that it provides a set of experiences and opportunities for young people that compliments the academics and studies and it’s pretty much the perfect co-curriculum program. So, my personal view would be that particularly in schools that don’t have the same range of natural experiences that you have at the Doon, the award provides a structure to co-curricular activities. So, it gives young people an opportunity to experience a different range of things. That’s first. The second thing that makes the award so special is that, I’m sure you’ve heard the saying, “It’s a marathon, not a sprint.” Young people often want instant gratification; with the internet, Youtube and Facebook, everything happens ‘now’. Great thing about the award is that you have to make a commitment and you have to really spend time on something and you’ve really got to put your heart into it. Which means that when you’ve finally been given your badge, it means something.

DSW: If we’re not wrong, is the IAYP going to be put up online? Is there going to be a new system?

JMY: You’re right, there is going to be a new system which will start functioning around November or December this year, officially, that will allow young people to manage their award online. The handbook will still be available, but young people will be able to log in and record their experiences on the internet. So that provides us with an opportunity to have a feel of reality of how big the organization is around the whole globe because if you were to say to me, “How many participants are there in the award in the world today?” I truly can’t answer that question. I don’t know. People keep on giving me numbers, but I can’t be certain. We talked about 7 million young people taking part in the award, but how many are doing it right now, I don’t know.

DSW: How do you plan to oversee this change with the online system, where people no longer need to use their handbook, but can go online?

JMY: The way it will work is that it will be down to the Individual National Authorities to decide how they will manage that shift. Clearly, what’s right for Australia will not be right for Uganda. So you’ve got to choose the right pace and to a certain extent to how broad broadband is and how accessible technology is. So Individual Award Authorities will have to sign when they want to move on to this new system and some will continue with the dual system, so people will be able to use the handbook and then leaders or people in the national office will be able to transcribe the information from the handbook onto the internet. Ultimately, every national award association can at a press of a button give or gain a report that says how many young people are involved in the program, how many bronze, silver and gold awards have been awarded and also begin to have a feel that the online system is just not an online handbook but also a complete management system for the award scheme within a country. It’s a big thing.

DSW: What is your vision for the program?

JMY: We’ve been doing a lot of talking about that over the last few months. It’s very simple. It would be a little presumptuous to think that I have a vision different from the world’s leading youth development programs. This is an extraordinary program, and I’m just the secretary general. But, I experienced it as a young man and I know the transformation and what I see is that even though we are in over 144 countries and territories, we are nowhere near accessible to every young man. And my vision, and that is shared by the trustees of the International Award Organization is that in due course, we should grow the award so that it is accessible to every young person in the world. I’m not saying that every young person has to do it, they have a choice and for many it may not be the right time or the right place to take part in the award. Maybe you’ll be too busy with your own soccer or whatever you want to take part in, but you should have the chance. So my job over the coming years is to grow the awareness of the program and the places where it might be available, so that it contributes excessively to every young person. And if you look at what you can do here at the Doon School and what you are going to experience this afternoon that young people from the community have had the opportunity to take part in the award which they wouldn’t have had otherwise. So in many ways what is happening here is pioneering. I would like to see that happening around the world.

DSW: Do you not think that it is a bit idealistic, especially in a nation like India where the government is not being able to provide the basic necessities of life to most children in rural areas? How do you think you will try and extend the award to everyone to pursue?

I. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, April 14
**Howzat?**
The School Cricket Team played a match against the Pilibhit Team. The School Team lost the match by 17 runs.
Well tried!

**Smashed**
The School Badminton Team played matches against The Summer Valley School. The senior team won seven matches out of ten and the junior team won three matches out of seven.
Well done!

**Checkmate**
Sarthak Gupta took part in the Naurang Memorial International Rating Chess Tournament. He played nine rounds, winning five of his matches, losing two and drawing two.
Congratulations!

**Book of the Month**
**April**
Title: Wicked
Author: Gregory Maguire
Publisher: Harper Collins

(Courtesy: The Library Council)

**Unquotable Quotes**
A ditya G upta is the commonest pair.
Parth Aggarwal, nomenclature.
Pass the both, them.
Raghav Bansal, to you?
Stop offending him.
Nachiket Jain, touchy.
He is very nice.
Manan Pradhan, and you are?
What a lovely new grass!
Akhil Ranjan, getting ready for hockey.
You want a half a pigeon eagle?
Vikramaditya Kapur, what?
You is you.
Harshvardhan Singh, are you?
Circle is a hollow circle
Siddharth Sethi, going around in circles.

**Opinion Poll**
Do you think that the School needs to provide more support to the technological staff for better maintenance of computer equipment?

**Next Week's Question:** Do you think laptops should be allowed for junior forms?

(451 members of the School community were polled)

**Doontoon**

Madhav Dutt

**Wicked**
Title: Wicked
Author: Gregory Maguire
Publisher: Harper Collins

(April) (Courtesy: The Library Council)
Cricket in Scindia

Arjun Midha writes about the School Cricket Team’s performance at Scindia School, Gwalior

The School Cricket team took part in the H.H. Madhav Rao Scindia Memorial Cricket Tournament held between March 29 and April 2. Though the team failed to qualify for the semi-finals, they played with unity and showed a great understanding of the game.

The team began its journey towards Gwalior, a tiring and somewhat uncomfortable seventeen-hour bus trip. Reaching a day before the tournament, we used the spare time to rest and do a light evening net practice session.

The school team, in all, played three matches, out of which the team won one, and ended the other two in such a way that neither side was sure who would win until the last over.

The first match was played against Y.P.S., Patiala. Due to the match starting late in the afternoon, the team was worried about the weather conditions as the temperature could reach 40 degrees. The team began by bowling after losing the toss and although the players gave in their best, the team from Patiala ended up with an amazing 197 in 25 overs. Reshail Tiwary bowled with a great sense of responsibility. When the team went out to bat, it required a batting run rate of 8 runs per over. Both openers, K. abir Sethi and Adihanj Singh showed exceptional batting performances. K. abir went on to achieve a score of 78. Though the team lost, this match helped each player understand his weaknesses and get used to the conditions of Gwalior.

After a narrow loss, the school team adjusted quickly and won its second match. The match was against the host team, The Scindia School, Gwalior and this added to the joy of the victory. The bowlers showed a great deal of discipline and resilience and held off the host team from even reaching triple figures. Dhruv Agarwal displayed exceptional bowling talent with an economy of less than 2 in the match. The low total made it easy for the batsmen to chase the score of 93 and they did this very comfortably.

The last match was a decider and was contested fiercely by both the teams for the last slot in the semi-finals. Losing the toss, the team was put to bowl and restricted the opponents, M.N.S.S Rai, Sonipat to a total of 169. Adhiraj Singh took five wickets, sending down tremors through the opponents’ batting line-up. When the team was put to bat the Sethi twins showed their true skill as batsmen, with Siddharth making 60 and K. abir scoring a half-century. This was a closely contested match and the team lost only by five runs.

All in all, this tournament proved to be a learning experience for the school team. Even though we failed to book a berth in the semi-finals, there was one fact that we cherished; From December 6 to April 1, we had finally managed to play as a team and as the captain had told us before the first match, “We win as a team and we lose as a team and a team of true sportsmen is what we aim to be.” The team played with unity and surpassed all expectations when compared to other teams who play cricket year round.

IH JUNIOR CRICKET HIGHLIGHTS

Devansh Agarwal and Naadir Singh write about the recently concluded Inter-House Junior Cricket Competition

This year’s Inter-House Junior Cricket Competition was one that saw a more enthusiastic start as compared to previous competitions, primarily due to the intense pressure on juniors due to the senior competition. Winning has always been considered essential but this year whether you won or lost it didn’t matter because all teams had put in their best efforts.

B formers along with their captains also had to set an example for their juniors. Practices started early this year to ensure that both seniors and juniors got enough time to practice and develop their skills. Having juniors train with seniors was a blessing, this way junior’s experienced a relatively higher standard of cricket. Practices came to an end, stakes were sky high and with the house cup in sight, towards the ending of March the much anticipated inter-house junior cricket competition began.

The first few matches displayed somewhat of a nervous start by all teams primarily because the level of competition could not be gauged before the actual start of the matches. However, some teams kicked off with an awesome start, winning their matches with a comfortable margin, on the other hand some teams were having trouble finding their feet. Due to the matches being held on the main field, players had a tough time adapting to the comparatively larger boundaries, nonetheless it was only a matter of time before players got the hang of it and soon boundaries as well as sixes were seen.

The format now being changed to T20 resulted in closely contested matches and amidst the various matches played, Tata Scindia School, Gwalior and this added to the joy of the victory. The bowlers showed a great deal of discipline and resilience and held off the host team from even reaching triple figures. Dhruv Agarwal displayed exceptional bowling talent with an economy of less than 2 in the match. The low total made it easy for the batsmen to chase the score of 93 and they did this very comfortably.

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Finally, after a set of nail-biting finishes Tata house emerged victorious with an undefeated Juniors 2 team led by Nitin Sardana.

On the whole, the inter-house junior cricket competition was a huge success and now juniors are capable of representing their house and in due course of time their school in various matches to come. Also, after watching the inter-house junior cricket competition this year we can say without a doubt that juniors will be able to carry on the school legacy in their senior years.
We embarked on a twelve hour journey to Harsil at 4 o’clock in the morning. With quick stops for breakfast and lunch, we reached Harsil, an enchanting hamlet situated on the banks of the crystal clear Bhagirati, surrounded by pines and snow capped peaks. After settling into a GMVN Guest House which was situated on the bank of the river, we looked around the place, coming across a scorpion in the process.

The next day we went on an excursion to Sat Tal, a group of seven lakes situated on a nearby mountain. However, of the seven lakes, we could see only two, for a few had disappeared and a couple of them were beyond our reach as we had to turn back due to the weather turning bad.

On the way back we saw quite a few finches flitting from tree to tree and agama lizards scurrying into the gaps between rocks at our arrival.

The next day, we went on a day hike to Gangotri, the origin of the holy river, Ganga. Our guide kept us away from the water by telling us that a Dosco had drowned only the year before, and we too would end up drowning if we did not listen to him!

The next morning we went for a walk to explore Harsil and ended up seeing an unoccupied Buddhist village, evident by the Tibetan prayer flags fluttering in the wind. We then boarded our bus to go to Uttarkashi where we stayed for the night, leaving for School the next morning at dawn.

Accompanied by SSW and ARM our form left for Dodital in the early hours of the morning on the 3rd of April. We travelled by bus for 6 hours to Uttarkashi where we stopped for a meal. We had to go further down to Sangamchatti which was another two droning hours. The same day we trekked for about 6km and reached a village called Agoda where we stayed for the night. Early next morning, we faced a tough trek of 5km with the steep slope up to Manjhi, which was our base for the night. The 10 km trek up and down to Dodital was wonderful as we came across a lot of snow, which was perilous at times. The lake is the birthplace of Hanuman, and it lived up to its name with its breathtaking beauty. Unfortunately we were unable to trek up to Darbatop, the peak as the area had been cordoned off due to a lot of snowing the previous night. We had a snowball fight amongst ourselves with the masters also joining in at point of time for about an hour or two. Due to predictions of bad weather we had to trek further downhill deviating from the original plan and camping in Agoda instead of Manjhi.

The next day we trekked down to Sangamchatti where we boarded our bus for Uttarkashi, our abode for the night. On the last day of our midterms, we set off for School before stopping at Ashley Hall for some fast food. Overall, it was a fantastic midterm and one of the best we have had so far.
The reading was lauded by members of the audience. It received great appreciation for being an entertaining and well-produced reading. Even the students, a hard group to please, enjoyed the play and loved its intense drama, not to mention the fun the performers had. In the end, I would like to say that the play embodied the spirit of not only the World Theatre Day, but theatre itself.

THE JUST ASSASSIN

Shubham Khemka elaborates on the Dramatized Reading that was held in school on March 27.

World Theatre Day carries a special meaning to all those involved in dramatics. This year, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World Theatre Day, the Hindi dramatists of School decided to stage a dramatized play reading to demonstrate the magic of this performing art. Under the direction of MHF, ten students performed a reading of not only the World Theatre Day, but theatre itself.

Between the play there are references to the biggest Indian revolutionary, Bhagat Singh as Aditya Dhingra reads out quite a few of his letters including his death sentence.

Firstly, this was not a full-fledged play but rather a dramatized reading, with limited movement and no action at all. The protagonist of this play, Vimal Kumar or Vimi (Shubham Khemka), along with a revolutionary group consisting of O'kkaar (Saif Ali), Sukhen (Shubham Dhingra), Vivaan (Sanat Verma & Himanshu Todi) and Devikia (Vidit Sidana), plot to assassinate the British governor. The task is given to Vimi who is a new member of the group to the dissatisfaction of Sukhen. Vimi is rearing to go but is unable to do it the first time as the governor's niece and nephew are sitting in the car with him. After a lot of debate it is concluded that Vimi was right in not throwing the bomb and is given a second chance. He does not let go of this opportunity and does the job. He is then taken to jail where he befriends Fazal the prosecutor (Rishabh Sharma). He then undergoes an interrogation by the chief of police (Shivank Singh) and the guard (Mihir Kiran). He is also confronted by the governor's widowed wife (Sanat Verma). Ultimately, he is given the death sentence for pleading guilty and not disclosing any information.

The main aim of the play was to question violence and whether violence led to peace or more violence. The actors convinced the audience through the power of their voice alone. The play was about rebellion against something that is truly worldwide in terms of the program. It is unique because of that. By being a participant you want this to come to a minimal level? JMY: I think there's a question of quality assurance and to a certain extent the work that we do. But ultimately, the only person that you're fooling is yourself. You're not getting a financial reward for undertaking the award, you're given a little pin badge and a piece of paper. Of course, it has some currency, but you're fooling yourself and it's my view that it will be very hard if you didn't do the right thing particularly amongst your peers in school and to wear that pin badge if you personally feel that you haven't earned it. I think it's about trusting people.

Secondly, the use of hours is to have some kind of understanding of a commitment that has been spent reaching the award standards. So, I think I remain in favor of counting hours.

DSW: There is a possibility of someone not actually doing something and counting hours. How do you want this to come to a minimal level?

JMY: It is an interesting question. There's a balance to be struck between the length of time that you've spent doing something and the effort you've put in. I've spent my life often spending hours sitting at my desk daydreaming and not actually having anything productive for the team. You might have sat on a desk trying to do some work in the past and you've put lots of hours into it and nothing comes out really well. However, there's the other end of the spectrum. So the way to make sure of the award is to set standards. It is only when you achieve those standards that you will have successfully completed your award. I don't think that works either, because when I was taking the bronze award as a young person, I was not very sporty. No hand eye coordination. It was really difficult for me to achieve the necessary standards for my bronze, where as my best friend, who was very sporty was able to achieve it straight away with no effort at all. So that is not right either. You know, it's about doing your best and it's about putting the right commitment for yourself. It's a marathon, not a sprint. The award is achievable by everybody whether they are differently abled, whether they have learning difficulties or whether they are highly academic, highly physically abled. So the use of hours, is to have some kind of understanding of a commitment that has been spent reaching the award standards. So, I think I remain in favor of counting hours.

DSW: To end, would you like to say something to all the young people in school?

JMY: First of all I'm so delighted that people have made the commitment to be a part of the award. It is something that is truly worldwide in terms of the program. It is unique because of that. By being a participant you are joining a family of young people around the world who share the same desire to become committed citizens ultimately.
O B I T U A R Y

Utkarsh Jha

You may call this an ode
Now they rest in heavenly abode
For here I mourn the death of three close friends
Who were anyway very near their ends
Namely Mr. Manners, Mr. Ethics and Mr. Common Sense
They had crossed every boundary, every fence
I knew them really well,
They were not hard to sell,
In schools they would appear
And win the hearts of all the children without any fear.
Yet towards their end they faded,
And humanity in pools of blood washed.
Manners; he was with us for many years
He taught us things throughout our years.
To meet and greet,
To respect our elders by touching their feet.
But towards the end of his life, he grew frail.
His policies began to fail.
His influence began to fade, and there arose another cult.
Suddenly it was all right to insult an adult.
Mr. Manners who taught me to say "Thank You"
Was now like the flu.
Something that needed to be shrugged off your shoulders.
After all I felt the need to be cool even to my elders.
Mr. Ethics, he was quite a quiet man.
Another good friend of mine, who towards the end wore a tan.
Mr. Ethics taught me it was wrong to steal, wrong to lie.
What I am about to tell you, I will regret till I die.
I found it tough to face the truth and therefore I started lying.
If he heard this he may be crying
He taught the people not to exploit.
And yet they do and at that too they are very adroit.
Lastly, I would like to talk about Mr. Common Sense.
Whose actions in a few words I cannot condense.
We lost him very early.
We lost him when the world turned surly.
When we lost Mr Common Sense, it began to spend more than you earn.
And yet for houses beyond our means, yearn, yearn, yearn
It became alright for laws such as "Stand Your Ground"
I found it tough to face the truth and therefore I started
Mr. Ethics taught me it was wrong to steal, wrong to lie.
Even though because of this many a dead body will be
And humanity in pools of blood washed.
Their entire family, Prudence, Reacon, Logic, Faith
Already await them in Heaven.
The doctor said they died a natural death.