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## LET'S GO SWIMMING!

*Anvay Grover reports on the recently-concluded Inter-House Swimming Competition*

This year, the Inter House swimming competition being broken. We also witnessed many veterans did not fail to live up abundant, with

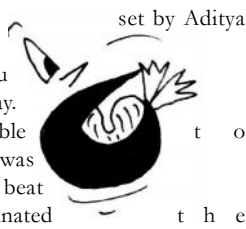
was rather spectacular, with a number of records promising swimmers in the junior forms, while the to our expectations. Anxiety and entertainment were a number of races ending with the gap of only milliseconds separating the swimmers.

The highlight of the competition was the number of records broken. Uday Nath Behl and Pratyaksh Parmar set up a delightful display in their 50m and 100m breaststroke competition till the very last hand stroke. Uday went on to break the 50m breaststroke record while Pratyaksh broke the 100m record. Another impressive performance was that of Nihaal Singh Mann, who broke the 100m butterfly record by a margin of seven seconds. We saw commendable performances by Varun Sehgal, Rahul Bhagchandani and Dhruv Johri. Hyderabad House comfortably managed to win the Junior Cup, with their victories in both, the medley and freestyle, relays.



In the Medium category, great potential was showcased by Abhishek Pai, Josh Pasricha, Ritvik Kar and Arunabh Utkarsh. Incredible performances were put up by Vinayak Chaudary and Rohan Agarwal. Vinayak won all the breaststroke events while Rohan won the 400 and 800 metres freestyle events. The 4x100 freestyle relay was won by Oberoi House and the 4x100 medley relay went to Jaipur House. Though there were no nail-biting finishes, the end result was extremely close with Oberoi House defeating Jaipur House by a whisker. In the minds of many Jaipur House had emerged victorious, until the addition of six points to Oberoi's tally after a video referral. In the House positions, the mediums category was the most closely contested, with Kashmir House not far behind the first two Houses.

The Senior category also witnessed a new record in the 50m breaststroke, set by Aditya Vikram Gupta, the school swimming captain, though he lost the 100m breaststroke to Zorawar Whig. If you weren't there to witness the event you missed being engulfed by the fervent cheering at the Swimming Pool that day. Though, quite a few found the 4x100 medley relay equally exciting. It was impossible to say whether it would go in Jaipur or Oberoi's favor, till the result of the race was actually announced. In the Individual Medley, Zorawar Whig convincingly beat Animesh Jain, last year's winner, which was rather unexpected. Raj Surana dominated the backstroke events while Sumer Sehgal won the short distance freestyle events with Yash Jalan finishing a close second. The long distance events are generally the least interesting, but they test the stamina of the swimmers most and Divyant Sapra displayed reserve in the 1500m, winning the race. In the overall points tally, Jaipur House clinched the Seniors cup and it resulted in them winning the House Cup with a mammoth lead of over a hundred points.



With such a successful Inter-House Swimming Competition and the hosting The Doon School Aquatic Meet in which we won the team championship, we can be sure that more students will be encouraged to swim and further improve the standard of swimming in School.



## CHUCKS NEWS

The following were the results of the various rounds of the **56th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Inter-School English Debates, 2012:**

### Preliminary Round:

#### Pool A

- 1st: The Doon School  
2nd: Vasant Valley School  
3rd: La Martiniere for Girls  
4th: Welham Girls' School

### Quarter-Final Round

- 1st: The Doon School  
2nd: Dubai Modern High School  
3rd: Welham Girls' School  
4th: Vasant Valley School

**Best Speaker (Pool A):** Shashvat Dhandhan

**Most Promising Speaker (Pool C):** Rahul Srivastava

### Semi-Final Round

Pool A (The Doon School vs Vasant Valley School)

**Best Speaker:** Rahul Shrivastava

**Most Promising Speaker:** Ujjwal Dahuja

**Winner:** The Doon School

**Final Round** (The Doon School vs Welham Girls' School)

**Best Speaker:** Rahul Srivastava

**Most Promising Speaker:** Gaurika Mehta, WGS

**Winner:** Welham Girls' School

Well done!

## AQUATIC MEET

The School hosted **The Doon School Aquatic Meet** between September 7 and 8. The following are the results:

Nihaal Singh Mann from The Doon School won the **Best Swimmer Award** in the **Junior** category.

The School won the **Team Championship Trophy** in the **Juniors, Mediums** and **Seniors** categories

The School was awarded the **Overall Championship Trophy**.

Well done, all!

## REMEMBERING MEENU

MHF

Meenu Devi Verma and I were more than acquaintances, but I would be stretching it if I were to claim that I was part of her circle of friends. Even then, she helped us with the production of the Diamond Jubilee Hindi play "*Jis Labore Ni Wekhye*", despite not being associated with the production in any official capacity. She did it out of her own volition as she sensed that I was new to Doon and still finding my feet. This was a truly remarkable trait in her, which she shared with her contemporaries of that time like Late Mr. Bhuvan Vaishnav and Mr. Sheel Vohra, ex-masters Mr. Jagdish Madnani, Mr. Babul Das, Mr. Janajit Ray, PMV and PDT.

A popular teacher and an even more popular hostess, her hospitality was extended to all and sundry without any apprehension. In her sad demise we have lost a genuine and a remarkable human being who lived life on her own terms.

## Opinion Poll

Are you willing to remove the words 'lend' and 'loser' from your vocabulary?



(354 members of the School community were polled)

**Next Week's Question:** Would you think twice before representing School before your House?

## Letter To The Editor

### For a Better Tomorrow

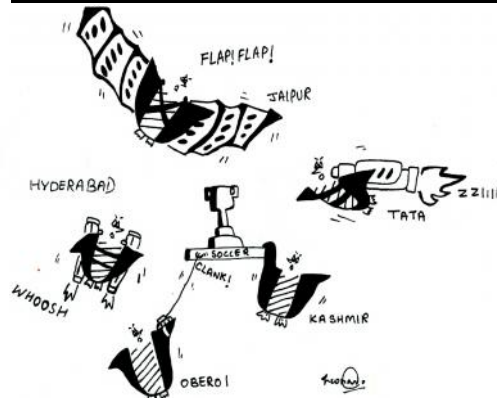
I would like to inform the school community that the word 'lend' has already been banned from usage in Oberoi House. This was something which we felt was extremely necessary to implement, not just in Oberoi House, but throughout the School.

In my formative years at Doon, something that really disturbed me was the way students were discouraged by their peers and seniors from pursuing what they were most passionate about. Having been affected by the same, I strongly believe that there is a need for change. The word *lend* is so negative that it easily discourages students from aspiring for comfortably greater heights.

In S-form second term, the boys who genuinely work hard are at times clawed down by the verbal pressure of the words *scopat* and *lend* that are bestowed upon them by their peers and seniors. In the junior forms I have seen boys opt out of certain activities and become uncertain about themselves, simply because they have been termed a *lend*. Unfortunately, such name-calling has become one of the characteristics of the Dosco Community and it is imperative for the problem to be addressed.

We need to provide a conducive environment, where the boys of the school can function without a mental barrier. Having spoken to the masters and students of Oberoi House about this, I feel it is about time that the rest of the School community addressed this issue.

Best,  
Yash Johri



| Report |  
**FROM AJMER,  
WITH ACCOLADES**

*Abhinav Kejriwal reports on the Silver Jubilee Debates and Multimedia Competition held between August 29 and September 1*

Participating in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of any school always has a different appeal to it. Hence, with great excitement we left for Mayo College Girls' School on August 28 to participate in the English and Hindi Debates and the Multimedia Competition. We were nine of us in all, escorted by PRC and MNP, for the competition that was to last till the end of the week. We reached Ajmer on the afternoon of the 29th, unaware of what had to be done.

That day we were spared from much activity, other than the draw of lots for pools and topics and we spent the day in our hotel rooms preparing for the competition the next day. Even though we had our topics with us, it did not seem as if we did. Our usual preparation time was lot lesser and we were comfortable with the motions we were dealing with.

The debates were the next day. Both the English and Hindi Debates had the same format for the First Round-modified Oxford format, with two speakers and one interjector. In the English debate the motion read, 'Satyagraha is a redundant tool'. Rahul Srivastava's sound reasoning and Shashvat Dhandhania's passionate delivery gave us enough ground to qualify comfortably for the next round. The motion for the Hindi debate read, '25% reservation in schools is a good step taken by the government'. The motion had been debated time and again and the arguments were not the problem. The Hindi debating team, comprising Ritesh Shinde, Yash Aggarwal and I made it to the next round without any great difficulty. In the Preliminary Round of the Multimedia Competition, the video made by Nivit Kochchar and Abhishek Bansal touched a chord with the viewers. They too made it to the Final Round with ease.

Only the English debating team had another round of debates that day. Our team was more comfortable with the Cambridge format and all the remaining rounds were going to be held the next day in that format. In the Quarterfinal Round the English debating team found itself opposing the motion- "We are slaves, not masters, of machines." Even though they were convinced about what they were saying, they felt a lack in the breadth of their matter. Fortunately, their opponents too did not have too many arguments. Hence, one again, making it to the next round was not much of a task. Pulkit Aggarwal and Rahul Srivastava received awards for the Best Speaker and Most Promising Speaker respectively.

With all the teams making it through, there was a lot in store for us. The next day the Semifinal Rounds were going to be held for both the debates and the Final Round of the Multimedia Competition. The Hindi debating team had another pool round to compete, where Ritesh Shinde's convincing debating earned him the Best Speaker's award and a spot in the finals for the team. Unfortunately, we were going to be facing the hosts in the final round. It was definitely comforting to know that we had beaten them in the previous round; but to be up against the hosts and the home crowd is certainly unnerving! Another debate to look out for was the Doon vs. Mayo Girls

English debate in the Semifinal Round. Their motion was, 'God is a myth, as no one has seen Him.' On the face of it, the motion was not challenging, but what proved to be extremely challenging was the way the teams decided to define God, especially for The Doon School team that was opposing the motion. It was a good debate though, the best of the competition as the Doon School team was adjudged winners by a narrow margin, Rahul Srivastava receiving yet another Best Speaker's award.

The Final Rounds proved to be a disappointment for us. In the Multimedia Competition we finished fourth, after both Abhishek and Nivit had delivered a flawless presentation and answered questions regarding their videos. In the Hindi Debates we were the Runners-up to the hosts, the only consolation being me getting the award for the Most Promising Speaker. We were debating against the motion, 'Laws Destroy Freedom', and were unable to prove how laws protect our sovereignty. In the English Debates we faced Mayo Boys, opposing the motion that read, 'Democracy in India has proved to be a farce'. Even though we articulated our content well and provided a cohesive understanding of how the Indian democracy is far from being a farce, it seemed as if we lacked the ability to convince the House that sympathized with the shortcomings of the Indian democracy.

However, despite the heartbreaks in the Final Rounds of these events, the trip in itself was extremely rewarding. We participated in various events, made it to the finals of each one of them, and, as is always the case with such events, met a whole lot of interesting people. Sure, getting a trophy back to School (as the winners) would have been the icing on the cake, but there's always a next time.

\* \* \*



## The Week Gone By...

*Vikramaditya Kapur*

Longer Assemblies can only signify two things- more successes or more indiscipline. The last week, other than the Assembly in the CDH, we have had various announcements commemorating various feats- our Page 2 stands witness to it.

But this last week had its share of sorrows as well. Firstly, there was Test Week. And then, we lost the Final Round of The Chuckerbutty Debates to Welham Girls' School; hard luck to our debaters. Three points can actually turn the tables. Not only does that take away the possibility of a post-Test Week holiday, but also carves a much deeper wound, having lost right in the last round.

Not far away, our swimmers made us really proud! In the first ever Inter-School Aquatic Meet, hosted by School, we won every category. But lets not get ahead of ourselves here, there's a lot more to come for the swimming team, and lets hope they have as successful a season as the soccer team is having; fingers crossed!

With Test Week underway, people's faces seem to be continually buried in books. If you're thinking that I'm finally going to tell you that Doscos are sleeping- lets forget about it. For once, in reality, cameras have actually caught people reading their books.

Considering that Test Week will be over when you read this, lets hope that you're ready for the perks that come with Test Week getting over- PT. So sleep as you like over the weekend, the Kings of the Main Field shall be waiting once dawn breaks on Monday morning.

| Book Review |  
**Chasing Dawood  
Ibrahim**

*Arjun Kamdar* reviews *Hussain Zaidi's* From Dongri to Dubai

Close on the heels of his previous two books, *Black Friday* and *The Mafia Queens of Mumbai*, Hussain Zaidi comes up with his magnum opus, *Dongri to Dubai – Six Decades of Mumbai Mafia*, from information that he has drawn from his decades of crime reporting for *The Mid-day*, *Indian Express*, *Asian Age* and other dailies. The cover page of the book is a picture of the dreaded criminal, Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar. Although the book focuses on Dawood; Zaidi takes us through mafia history in Mumbai from independence to the present day. It narrates the story of Mumbai through Haji Mastan, Vardharajan Mudaliar, Karimlala, and a number of other gangsters and their minions. The book illustrates the reasons why common men are lured to the Underworld; some do it for power, some to satisfy their ego and others for the money.

Zaidi starts the book as an answer to an important question: why the Muslim youth from weak economic backgrounds is attracted to a life of crime. However, at the start of the story, the focus shifts on how a son of an honest police constable graduated from petty crime and peddling fake watches to a global terrorist ranked 57<sup>th</sup> on the *Forbes* Power List of November 2011. Even though he is not in India, Dawood manages to run an empire of crime on its soil; many believe that it is Dawood's funds that form the skeletal framework of many industries in Mumbai. If this money was to be taken out from where it is, it would lead to many empires being brought to the ground.

Little did the police know that giving a young, testosterone - fuelled boy a bit of power to oust a fearless and ruthless gang of Mumbai, the Pathans, would turn out to be the monster Frankenstein creates. The book candidly exposes the power nexus between the law enforcers, the government and the underworld. The author describes the strengths and flaws of the Indian Intelligence, ISI linkage, and Bollywood connections to boot! The details of misuse of Government power and machinery are striking. The loopholes in our laws are identified and exploited by gangsters to gain wealth and power.

Peppered with details and facts, the style of narration only adds to its effect. In one of the chapters we read that during the negotiation of a peace pact, Dawood takes a lit cigarette from another gang leader's hand and crushes it between his own fingers and states "We know how to handle fire and when to crush it with our bare hands!". The author has kept a fast pace a fast pace which makes the book incredibly difficult to put down. Zaidi also sprinkles the book with a good deal of drama

and such great dialogues that it is already in the process of being made into a movie, *Shootout at Wadala*. Although the author has dramatised events and to a certain extent, romanticised the underworld, this book is a good read for those interested in the nexus between crime and law enforcement. However, this leads to many readers suspecting that the book has a lot more fiction than the author cares to admit. For instance, the narrative of the killing of Dawood's brother, Sabir, is strangely reminiscent of Sonny Corleone's assassination in the movie *Godfather*.

Black money, extradition, international crime organisations, government intelligence agencies, smuggling, politics, and drug money; this book covers it all.

| Poetry |

## Trust

*Agni Raj Singh*

Losing perception,  
Trying not to let go.  
An incessant fear  
Of losing everything.  
A common delusion  
Concealing everyone.

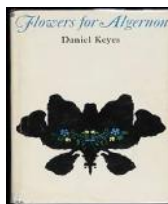
Compounded with many simples,  
Forming a heap; it's magnitude unknown.  
Moulded from lack of trust,  
Reigns the evil.

## Conquest

*Akansha Mohan*

Glancing through the remains, he stood  
Impervious to the heat.  
Guarded he was, by tradition  
By culture, by savoir-faire.  
But his iconoclastic thoughts provoked him  
To do what he never could have imagined.  
His mind, his soul, himself: he knew not of.  
His life, his family, his home: he knew not of.  
Nothing was left of him, except his bare body  
Covered in grime.  
His triumph was just a trivial  
Piece of land.

### BOOK OF THE MONTH



Flowers For Algernon  
**Author:** Daniel Keys  
**Publisher:** Harcourt, Brace and  
World  
*(Courtesy: The Library Council)*

**Online Edition:** <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>



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4. *The Doon School Weekly* Saturday, September 15