Where Are We Headed?

Madhav Dutt writes on the new developments in School

As times change, so do people. And as people change, so do the things around them. Doon is an embodiment of this transformation. In my own 5 years in Doon, I have seen infrastructural, systemic and societal changes take place. New ideas are implemented, curriculums are tinkered with and the entire focus of the school changes. Small changes in large quantities could change the school beyond recognition. This change begs the question: is our School headed in the right direction?

This School shapes the boys it takes. Doscos are unique because of the values and characteristics that they absorb in their time at Doon. Forgive me for being a little quixotic, but are these years still shaping great ‘leaders of the future’? Saying the school shouldn’t change at all is a gross exaggeration. If Doon stayed the way it was in 1935, it wouldn’t be in the position it is now. The point of contention is not the fact that we are changing, but the fact that the ‘Doon School ethos’ is. This ethos, which everyone talks about, is that indefinable entity that makes a Dosco who he is.

One very evident change is the career and college-centric approach the School has applied. Less than 30 years ago, Doscos used to play hard, eat like pigs and sleep like kings. Even though boys from those ages have succeeded in life, the fact is, the School is now facing threats from a host of other equally proficient schools from all over India. These schools are pushing the standards up in every sphere of education, be it co-curricular activities or sports. Thus I believe this excess emphasis given to careers is justified, mainly because it is getting harder and harder to get into colleges that would result in a good job.

The senior-junior relationship in Doon is transforming as well. In my opinion, this is also a change for the better. There is a smaller gap between the forms, and juniors are friendlier. In my initial years of School, everyone used to be petrified by the seniors. Now, the awe and respect given to seniors stands, but the fear has diminished. This transition is slowly leading to a more egalitarian society in Doon. Obviously, the occasional disciplinary action taken by seniors is justified and necessary, but as a whole, the bond is developing and growing in the right direction.

The topic of specialization is also one which can affect the Dosco ethos. Since its creation, this institution has endorsed an all-round education. I believe that specialization in sports is unneeded in school. All boys should play all sports, as that is how it has been done. If some boys are extraordinarily talented in other sports, they should be allowed to practice that sport as well, but besides these exceptions, school should hold set sports for the community.

The penultimate element that has evolved in School is social service. Social service has never been carried out with zeal in School. Now, in accordance with Arthur Foot’s sentiments, social service is done selflessly and is growing exponentially in School. Boys travel to the corners of Dehradun to help society. They teach lesser privileged children math, they donate blood in clinics (a relatively new initiative), they build villages, and now Doscos even teach lesser privileged boys how to play soccer! Some boys do it for the hours, while others do it because they genuinely enjoy it; but in the end, we are making a difference.

The final change, one that I look upon unfavorably, is the to-be implemented daily schedule. Changing the daily pattern would result in changing the way boys work, and the way they are working right now is acceptable, to say the least. Though discussions about this new schedule are not concrete, the details are fairly public now. The new schedule, in which the day starts later, disturbs the balance that the current schedule has managed to strike in terms of hours of work a day and amount of time put in for studies, sports and activities respectively. Having sports on alternate days is not sensible, as boys need adequate practice in sports to improve. Right now, after lunch there is an equal amount of time given to activities (two hours, after lunch) and sports (the next two hours, till toye time). The current schedule is an ideal one. However, the fact that I am already complaining about this is unjustified as we will only know the new schedules true worth once we have actually followed it!

Doon is an institution that takes pride in its tradition. Things in school are changing, and I am sure that in less than a decade, the school would have evolved even more. But one thing is for sure, if the school has survived for so long, the right choices are being made. All in all, the school has altered its focus to fit the changing world. In essence, this institution is the same; it is merely adapting to survive.

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I. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 17
Regulars

SHOOTING STAR
Samarjit Singh participated in the All India G.V. Mavlankar Shooting Championship held from November 3-11. He shot a total score of 282 out of 300, securing 1st position and winning Gold.
Congratulations!

SCIENTISTS
Shivam Goyal and Gaurav Garg participated in the International Asteroid Search Project and contributed in generating important scientific data for Near Earth Objects.
The following are the results for the Dipankar Sen Science Quiz, 2012:
Seniors:
1st: Mahak Sharma and Gaurav Garg
Juniors:
1st: Omar Chisti

INTER-HOUSE NEWS
Following are the results of the Inter House Tennis Competition 2012:

Juniors:              Seniors:
1st: Hyderabad       1st: Hyderabad
2nd: Oberoí         2nd: Oberoí
3rd: Kashmir         3rd: Tata
4th: Tata            4th: Kashmir
5th: Jaipur          5th: Jaipur

House Cup:
1st: Hyderabad
2nd: Oberoí
3rd: Kashmir
4th: Tata
5th: Jaipur

The following are the results of the Inter-House Basketball Competition, 2012:

Juniors:              Seniors:
1st: Tata            1st: Jaipur
2nd: Hyderabad       2nd: Tata
3rd: Kashmir and Jaipur 3rd: Hyderabad
4th: Oberoí          4th: Oberoí
5th: Kashmir         5th: Kashmir

House Cup:
1st: Jaipur
2nd: Tata
3rd: Hyderabad
4th: Oberoí
5th: Kashmir

The following are the results of the Inter House First Aid Competition, 2012:

1st: Jaipur
2nd: Oberoí
3rd: Kashmir
4th: Tata
5th: Hyderabad

The following have also been awarded First Aid Medallions: Arnav Joshi, Dilsher Brar, Lanka Adarsh, Utkarsh Jha and Vishal Tummala

In the Foot-Martyn table tennis friendly fixtures, in the singles team event, Foot House beat Martyn House by 3-2 and in the doubles event, Martyn House beat Foot House 2-0.
Well done all!

Opinion Poll
Do you think that some sports in the Autumn Term should be shifted to the Spring Term?

Yes 86%
No 14%

(386 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Are you aware of the recent developments in Israel?

APPOINTMENTS
The following are the appointments for the forthcoming year:

Art: Pritika Sundhu
Doon Stock Exchange: Anshul Tibrewal
Hindi Dramatics: Ritesh Shinde
Robotics: Sahbiya Katia
Motor Mechanics: Shubham Agarwal
Yoga: Arnav Joshi
Trophy Squad: Suyash Bishnoi
Paper Recycling: Madhav Dutt
IAYP Programme: Madhav Dutt
Weather Reporting: Arjun Sharma
Archives: Apeshit Goel
Boys bank & Tuck Shop: Jai Singh Yadav
Rahul Srivastava has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the DSIR.
Kunal Kanodia has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Econocrat.
Ritesh Shinde has been appointed Hindi Editor of The Doon School Weekly.
We wish them a fruitful tenure!

ACCOLADES
Arjun Parmar and Shantanu Seth have been awarded the Games Blazer.
The following are the Photography Prizes for the year 2012:

Portrait Section:
1st: Abhishek Pandle and Shreshtha Verma
2nd: Orijit Chatterjee

General Section:
1st: Pranav Kothiwal
2nd: Orijit Chatterjee
3rd: Aditya Vir Roy

Congratulations!

Around the world in 80 Words
News from around the world: Tension has been building up in the Middle East as an Israeli airstrike has killed the leader of Hamas’ military wing. While Europe is disturbed by the repeated revolts against the government’s austerity measures in Greece, Spain and Portugal, China is ready to unveil its new set of leaders as Xi Jinping has taken over from Hu Jintao as the head of the Communist Party. In the USA, Obama has stood firmly for raising taxes.

2. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 17
Minutes of the School Council Meeting
Thursday, August 9, 2012, 2:15 pm in the Nandlal Kilachand Library

The following were present for the meeting:

1. Dr. Peter McLaughlin Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Mr. Philip Burrett Deputy Headmaster
3. Mr. Samir Katre Director of Administrative Affairs
4. Mr. PK Nair Dean of Studies
5. Mr. Deepak Sharma Dean of Sports
6. Mr. MC Joshi Dean of Activities
7. Mr. A Qezilbash Dean of Students' Welfare
8. Mr. Piyush Malaviya Dean of External Affairs
9. Mr. Debashish Chakrabarty Housemasters' Representative
10. Mr. AK Mandhian Teachers' Representative
11. Mrs. Sarahjeet Sandhu Dames' Representative
12. Yuv Vir Khosla School Captain
13. Siddhanth Sachdev Prefects' Representative
14. Nabeel Shah SH House Senior Representative
15. Rohan Chaudhri SH House Junior Representative
16. Saksham Goyal SH House Junior Representative
17. Karan Singh JH House Senior Representative
18. Karan Pratap Singh Kairon JH House Senior Representative
19. Rahul Chamola JH House Junior Representative
20. Abhishek Bansal JH House Senior Representative
21. Shourya Kishorepura JH House Junior Representative
22. Aviral Gupta JH House Senior Representative
23. Raj Surana JH House Senior Representative
24. Manan Pradhan JH House Junior Representative
25. Nabeel Shah OH House Senior Representative
26. Nakul Talwar OH House Senior Representative
27. Arjun Parmar OH House Senior Representative
28. Nikhil Saraf OH House Junior Representative
29. Smayan Sahni OH House Junior Representative
30. Devansh Aggarwal KH House Junior Representative
31. Ashvin Solanki KH House Junior Representative
32. Devansh Aggarwal KH House Junior Representative
33. Pratik Mehta KH House Junior Representative

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting
The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Arjun Parmar and seconded by Aviral Gupta.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

1. IB Classes should be equipped with functional technological facilities
   The Secretary informed the Council that after the recent Technological Council meeting, the necessary action was being taken.

2. Ties
   Siddhant Sachdev inquired about whether the new ties would be used at Founders’ Day and if all boys who had ties previously, would have to use the new ones. Mr. Philip Burrett explained that all boys would have to use the new ties and this would be in effect from Founder’s.

3. iPods should be allowed for S Formers
   The Chairman reminded the Council that many boys were abusing the School IT Policy and S Formers could not be allowed iPods, under such circumstances. Mr. MC Joshi also brought to the notice of the Council that juniors are being bullied to help them escape the restrictions that are placed on them. It was decided that it would take longer to see whether S Formers should be allowed iPods.

4. The Academic Council should have at least one student representative
   Mr. PK Nair informed the Council that the Studies Council had been formed and it will have meetings during the course of the term.

5. JAM Session for the entire School on Golden Night
   The Chairman apprised the Council about the pending decision from the Housemaster’s Council about having a JAM Session for the entire School on Golden Night as School closed a day early for holidays last term and everything could not be accommodated for.

Proposals for the Current Meeting

1. Shelves should be placed in the CDH for bags
   Abhishek Bansal pointed out that the school bags outside the CDH during meal times looked most shoddy and hoped to see shelves as a possible solution. The Chairman felt that a creative solution was necessary, as having shelves for all students would not be aesthetically appealing either. Mr. Samir Katre reminded the
Council that this would also not be a feasible solution. The Council felt that keeping bags outside the CDH during meals is convenient and would not bother the community to a great degree.

2. Improvement of medical facilities
A viral Gupta requested the Council to look to improve the machines used for ‘heights and weights’ by the Hospital. Also, Arjun Parmar asked the Council to consider making the physiotherapist available at more approachable hours, for the benefit of all those who required their attention. There was no further discussion on the matter and the Chairman believed that these changes could be looked into.

3. There should be no ‘no outing’ weekends
Madhav Dutt questioned the idea of having no ‘no outing’ weekends and said that if some boys were to stay back for particular reasons, others should not be stopped from availing outings. Siddhant Sachdev added that there should be enough outing weekends to allow boys to take all their outings. The Chairman expressed his concern that boys should stay in School to avail the opportunities that school provides, which helps preserve the boarding school ethos and such no outing weekends are necessary.

4. Renovation of the green room in the Rose Bowl
Karan Singh mentioned the constant inconvenience experienced by the cast and crew of plays. Abhijeet Karwa also mentioned the inconvenience in storing props. The Chairman was okay with the matter and Mr MC Joshi also expressed his concern by saying that the green room really needed refurbishing.

5. PT should be cancelled during the second term
Sahir Choudhary told the Council that the PT, without PT Leaders and an incentive of the PT Competition was not helping the students and if the reason to hold PT was to ensure that boys do not get late for classes, other more constructive ways could be adopted like having morning toyes. Nabeel Shah also requested the Council to look at the possibility at having sports practices for swimming and other sports during the same time. The Council decided to look at the possibility of changing what happened during PT and not to cancel it altogether.

6. Pets on campus should be supervised
Arjun Kamdar brought to the notice of the council that pets roam around campus unsupervised. He requested the Council to look at the possibility of ensuring that the pets are supervised. There was no further discussion.

7. A more efficient system should be devised to replace the current G-store chit system
Abhijeet Karwa hoped the Council would be able to look at the prospect of having a digital system being followed in the G Store, like the Library and the Boys Bank were following as it would be a lot more convenient. The Chairman said that the possibility of having such a system would be looked into.

8. Students interested in shooting should be allowed to visit Jaspal Rana Shooting Range
Abhijeet Karwa told the Council that quite a few boys were interested in visiting the Jaspal Rana Shooting Range and it would be a good opportunity to learn a new sport. Siddhant Sachdev added that shooting could take the same course of action that golf has taken in School. Mr Deepak Sharma explained that before looking at the possibility of sending boys, we would have to see how many boys could go to the range and how practical it would be. He said he would report to the Council in the next meeting.

Other Matters with the Permission of the Chair

1. Uniforms
Mr. Phillip Burrett updated the Council about the new uniforms. He said that instead of changing the suppliers (which would increase the costs by up to seventy percent), the current suppliers would be able to improve their quality with a marginal increase in the cost.

2. Diving should be restarted
Siddhant Sachdev wished to restart diving as a sport in School. Mr. Deepak Sharma pointed out that diving had been stopped due to an accident in the swimming pool and the lack of a professional coach. Also, the swimming pool has an infrastructural problem; it was not deep enough to allow students to dive in it. The Chairman concluded the matter saying the feasibility of restarting diving would be looked into, but it would not be possible if the swimming pool was not safe for diving.

Secretary
(Shashvat Dhandhania)
Chairman
(Dr Peter McLaughlin)

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This week saw the Boxing Competition come to an end. It was rather two-sided, with Hyderabad winning five and Jaipur House four of the categories and Kartikay Kardam being the only spoiler, winning his Light Flyweight category for Tata house. Diwali fell on the 13th, barely four days before the trials.

A Barbeque dinner (unfortunately vegetarian), the Fireworks’ display (some procured their own, don’t know how) and the cakes from the Headmaster’s residence however, uplifted the moods of all. The autumn term is always a busy one, and the back to back Inter-House competitions are now behind us. We’re done with the scoping season and the ‘sent’ last few days for the SCs as SCs are numbered. With trials on our heads, it is time we find our books, dust them clean and dig deep to study what we probably didn’t know existed in them.
Footy’ in India

Vireshwar Singh Sidhu

expresses his views on India and its association with association football

We all know how Sergio Aguero’s goal in the dying moments of the City–Queens Park Rangers game clinched the Barclays Premier League title for the Blue Half of Manchester, but do any of us know that with only six games left in the Indian League in the previous season, as many as six teams were in the running for the championship? Probably not. The likes of Robin van Persie and Iker Casillas are household names but why have Baichung Bhutia and Sunil Chhetri been the only ones to penetrate through our mind barriers?

The answer is simple enough; the promotion is just not enough to pit football against cricket in our homeland. Indian League, or the I-League as it is called, is by far the country’s biggest football competition, consisting of names such as Mohun Bagan and United Sikkim, but unless you are a die-hard fan of any of these clubs; the way most of us support Chelsea and Manchester United, the competition passes unnoticed. After all, we are dealing with a market where Maradona visits on the invitation of a jeweller rather than a football stakeholder. The All India Football Federation, the body governing Indian football, signed a contract with IMG Reliance for a period of 15 years, worth 700 crore, the mandate of the deal being that IMG Reliance shall promote the game; in every way possible. Unfortunately though, IMG Reliance has been quiet up to task. The I-League highlights are not broadcasted on television; the main supporters of Indian football, namely, Nike, Panasonic and Coca-Cola end their deals this year, with the renewal of their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would receive nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would see their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would see their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would see their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would see their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would see their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh. The first 14 matches were followed by a 13 day break for Dussehra holidays. If this is to be, then the leagues across the globe would see their respective contracts yet to be thought of. It has been two years since the deal was signed and the blame game has already started with many fingers being pointed at IMG Reliance for not doing enough to promote the game. Truth is that the tournament schedule itself receives nothing more than a laugh.
As the term comes to an end, the long awaited announcements have begun. Those announcements which made sure that an S form was panuncanual. Those announcements which made sure an S form was well dressed… Yes, while more announcements are to be made, scooping season is officially over. So, being the Editors of the Weekly and enjoying the privilege of wielding the pen, how could we resist the opportunity to lay bare the facts?

Firstly and most importantly, the School Captain race is finally coming to an end. The campaigning is now officially over and so is the scooping. In this long and tiring campaign (which, however, did not cost six billion dollars) we find it pertinent to mention a few candidates who, according to our exit polls, have a high chance of taking office. For starters, the American (possibly taking inspiration from President and President Elect Obama) took the drastic step pertinent to mention a few candidates who, according to our exit polls, have a high chance of taking office. First and most importantly, the School Captain race is finally coming to an end. The campaigning is now officially over and so is the scooping. In this long and tiring campaign (which, however, did not cost six billion dollars) we find it pertinent to mention a few candidates who, according to our exit polls, have a high chance of taking office.

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