



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## MUSICAL MOMENTS

*Hamza Khan and Agni Raj Singh report on the recently-concluded Inter-House Music and Dance competition*

The first month of the term got off, musically speaking, to a flying start with the two categories in the competition that feature participation in large numbers and across all forms: dance and Popular Band. The interestingly titled themes of the dances were an indication of the kind of thought that went into the choreography, music and lighting. Oberoi inaugurated the competition with their dance, Divine Intervention, a tribute to the country's armed forces and their vital role in rescue and relief operations recently in the devastating floods. Jaipur House's Synergy was an eclectic mix of styles, and saw fine performances by the House juniors. Sleep Away, the evocatively titled dance by Hyderabad House, featured innovative dance formations, an effectively portrayed poignant story-line and well-chosen music to complete their presentation. Kashmir House's dance was exuberant, full of joyous energy, Bollywood-style, and some interesting vignettes like a modern take on the traditional Kathakali dance. Tata House's Sangam had a UV-lit finale which had the the wholehearted appreciation of the audience—truly, it was a 'magical' performance.

Expectations were high on the evening of the band performances and the Houses lived up to expectations. Oberoi's Tum hi ho and Linkin Park's Castle of Glass utilized their formidable keyboards' strength to excellent effect, creating complex harmonies. Jaipur House revived the pop era with the Backstreet Boys' Incomplete and the movie hit, Sun raha hai tu. With some fine vocals, ably supported by a wide range of instruments, it was a performance to remember. The iconic, anthemic Rock You Like a Hurricane had the audience demanding more, and H House's Otherside by the Red Hot Chili Peppers was a clear success. A tight ensemble, some skilful guitar riffs and solos by Imaan Mehta, and soaring vocals by Navraaj Randhawa and Siddhant Gupta made the performance one of an exceptionally high calibre. Kashmir House chose a number by one of the all-time great Brit bands, Radiohead, and Gotten by Slash. High and Dry was a deserved hit with the audience and Namanshree Jain's guitar playing drew forth gasps of admiration. Madari and Sun le re were Tata House's songs to round off a much-enjoyed evening. Effective percussion support and Ashish Rao's vocals were successful vehicles for conveying these two recent hit songs.

As the competition went into the following month, September, soloists and choirs began feverish practice sessions. Of the two final days, the first featured piano, drums and tabla. The piano solos this year were of an exceptionally high standard, no doubt giving the judges a hard time. Harshvardhan Bansal's fiery rendition of the dance-like Andaluza by Granados, followed by the complex polyphony of Handel made for a fine performance. Shourya Kishorepuria's technical mastery was evident in his rendition of the charming Blumenlied with its swift cadenzas, as was his mature musicality in Schubert's demanding Moment Musicale. Yuvraj Nathani displayed his versatility with a virtuoso Mozart sonata, followed by the gentle, contemplative second movement of Schubert's Sonata in A. Rishabh Agarwal chose a work by the great master, Beethoven, and gave a fine interpretation of the second movement of the Pathetique. His well-balanced repertoire then featured the light-hearted but technically brilliant Waltz in C sharp minor by Chopin. The piano section was given a rousing end with Anuvrat Chaudhary's performance of Pirates of the Caribbean, in a virtuoso piano arrangement, and Dohnanyi's beautifully sonorous piece, Canzonetta. An evening of percussion followed. Exhilarating, power-packed performances on the drums had the audience clapping throughout. Vrindam Nagpal's command of polyphonic rhythms, and his masterly use of the bass to provide a powerful pulse to his intricate solo made for a riveting performance. Suryansh Kainthola's short solo (prepared at short notice, due to Tushaar Sharma's unfortunate injury) was a truly praiseworthy attempt. Parth Vohra's experiments with the glockenspiel, cow bells and wood-block made for some interesting effects. Anant Mohan's precisely timed and powerful drum rolls earned him much audience appreciation. Jagjit Singh, the young drummer from Tata House, displayed clarity of stick-work and dexterity that made for a highly commendable performance from a C former. In the tabla section, the opening duo of Vrindam Nagpal and Aditya Gupta provided a sparkling beginning with an Uthaa. Parth Vohra and Amol Pajni's partnership was a dazzling one, most evident in the Peshkara with its demand for perfect coordination of both hands. C-former Keshav Malliah gave a good account of himself with his confidently delivered bols and clean finger-work. Another partnership, of Anant Mohan and Ajitesh Gupta, showcased different rhythmic patterns. Ending this section were Devansh Sharma and Shubham Dhiman, who made a noteworthy stage debut with kayadas and tukdas, delivered with strength, purity, clarity and sheer precision. The final day's performance began with Vihaan Bhatnagar and Vallavi Shukla's vocal performance of Rageshri, which effectively conveyed the mellow evening mood of the raga. Suyash

(contd. on page 2)

## MATHEMINDS

The following are the results of the **S L Sharma Senior Math Colloquium**:

**1st:** Saumil Agarwal

**2nd:** Samarth Juneja

Congratulations!

## SAVING LIVES

Mrs. Anez Katre represented the school at the **Common Wealth Life Saving Championships** held at Canberra, Australia between September 3rd and 9th. She was chosen to take the oath for the officials at the opening ceremony. Well Done!

## DOWN TO BUSINESS

The Business Club organized the **1st Young Entrepreneurs Conference** on September 21-22. **The Doon School A Team** comprising Siddharth Sethi, Vireshwar Singh Sidhu, Aashim Bansal and Ashutosh Goyal secured **2nd** position in the **Advertisement Activity** and **3rd** position in the **Theme Based Presentation**. They secured **2nd** position overall. **The Doon School B Team** comprising Kartikey Luthra, Vinayak Chowdhury, Parth Khanna and Sarthak Gupta **won** the **Simulation Activity**. Congratulations!

## IAYP

The following have been awarded various levels of the **IAYP**:

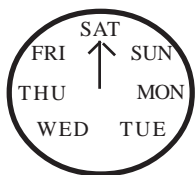
**Bronze:** Raghav Gupta and Akarsh Tiberewal

**Silver:** Shivam Sharma

**Gold:** Shubham Agarwal

Shubham Agarwal has also been awarded the **IAYP Blazer**.

Congratulations!



## The Week Gone By...

*Varun Sehgal*

This week saw the end of a long awaited and drastically needed holiday-full of relaxation, social service and trekking. The School looks different now that we are back, probably due to the new structures that have been made to give it that final touch in preparation for Founders.

Just two days ago, the legendary West Indian cricketer, Brian Lara, visited the school and was greeted by us with a loud round of applause at lunch. He addressed a group of selected boys and answered questions on his cricketing career. The School Cricket Team later went on to play against the Lara XI.

Speaking of sport, one can see dozens of people running rounds and practicing their events on the main field for the upcoming athletics competition. Gandhi Jayanti was a welcome break for all of us except the actors and the writers! To end with, it looks like everybody is working hard and is "stretching their arms towards perfection".

## COLOURS

Abhinav Kejriwal and Yash Raj Agarwal have been awarded **Hindi Debating Colours**.

Congratulations!



## Around the world In 80 Words

This week The United States government shut down non-essential services for the first time in 17 years, leaving 800,000 workers unemployed at a cost to its economy of \$1 Billion a week. In the Vatican, Popes John XXIII and John Paul II will be declared saints in April. Closer to home, in China, 72 fishermen went missing after 3 Chinese boats sank due to stormy weather caused by a typhoon 330 kilometers off the coast of the Chinese island of Hainan.

*(contd. from page 1)*

Raj Shivam and Vinnet Puri's duet in Raga Malkauns displayed their mastery of fast taans. Siddhant Gupta's soulful and skilful rendition of the 'bandish' set in a 9-beat cycle, of the rarely heard Raga Vachaspati, was a musical treat. Aditya Maheshwari's and Nalini Malaviya's Raga Shyam Kalyan also brought out the flavour of the 'shringar-rasa'. With his deep and resounding voice, Divij Mullick gave a fine rendering of Raga Desh, with its unique character brought out with great maturity and understanding. Hindustani instrumental music followed, and a wide range of instruments and talent was the highlight of this section. Vishesh Khaitan's intricate fingerwork on the mandolin in Raga Desh was greatly appreciated. On that highly demanding instrument, the violin, Hamza Khan played Raga Marwa and effectively captured its mood in the 'Madhya-Laya'. The interesting combination of the sarod (Namanshree Jain) and santoor (Smrithi Nair) was an effective one in conveying the many intricacies of the compositions in Raga Bihag. Krishnamit Bhargava's short and crisp performance of Raga Kirwani on the santoor was a soothing treat for the audience. Mrigank Khemka's impeccably delivered Raga Malkauns was outstanding for its clarity, phrasing and musicality. A fine solo stage debut! The MPH was transported to the deserts of Rajasthan with the colourful 'saafas' and sashes sported by the singers, and the accompanying ensemble of folk musicians from Rajasthan, playing khartaal, dhol, dholak, harmonium and the ravanhatta. The House Choirs conducted with flair and enthusiasm by Vrindam Nagpal, Hamza Khan, Imaan Pariat Mehta, Abhishek Kakkar and Mrigank Khemka, had the undivided attention of the audience. The songs featured a wonderful variety of emotions and moods: the joy of spring-time, the teasing in the dialogue between young lovers, piety and devotion to the saint Rama-pir, the enthusiasm of celebration of the festival of Holi, and the humorous recounting of the attacks of hiccups caused by being remembered by a lover. From the Mewar, Marwar and Hadouti regions, the songs were sung with evident enjoyment and received with enthusiastic appreciation. It was a fitting finale to a year's work, practice and development of skill and musicality in School.



# mid terms

## **C-Form - Siddharth Mishra and Devansh Sharma**

*Destination:* Chakrata

*Escorts:* RLR, ARD

We left for Chakrata at eight o' clock in the morning on 25th of September. We were very excited about midterms, as we had heard a lot about this destination from our seniors and were eager to visit the much talked about 'Tiger Falls'. We reached at about one o' clock on the same day. Later, we went for a nature walk through pine-tree forests surrounding us. The next day we went to a place called Kanasar, where there were many pine and fir trees. We had a first-hand experience of the beauty nestled in the Himalayas. The next morning we left for Ramtaal where we saw numerous orchards and flower plantations, amongst them we saw an apple orchard where we saw a large honeycomb and a magnificent pond. That night we performed a skit, which was humorous and well-appreciated by the audience. The following day we visited Tiger Falls, which is one of the largest waterfalls in Uttarakhand. We had a swim at the bottom of the waterfall. In all, our midterms were exciting and enjoyable. The trip shall be cherished by us forever.

## **S, A-form - Anvay Grover**

*Destination:* Thatyur

*Escorts:* NTC, PVD, SRT, MCJ, ADN

Our midterm party left for the small town of Thatyur on 25th of September. Along with us were the S-Forms of Tata and Oberoi Houses. The first day we settled into our rooms and decided to take a look of the nearby village called Satagarh where we would be working. Our work involved clearing the debris which had gathered inside and outside the local village school. Though it initially appeared an enormous task, we pushed ourselves with the masters offering moral support and managed to clean the interiors of the school. Each day after working for about 5-6 hours, we would relax and recuperate in order to be ready for the next day. At the end of the third day the amount of work done was incredible for such a short period of time. This midterm, we fulfilled what we had set out to do, and though it involved a lot of labour on our part we were extremely satisfied with the end result.

## **B-form - Varun Sehgal**

*Destination:* Varanasi, Lucknow

*Escorts:* PDT, MNP, ATB, MIA, VVK

Our group left for Varanasi on the 23rd of September. Historical midterms involved a lot of sightseeing and of course, feasting. Starting off with a 20 hour long train journey to Varanasi left us exhausted, and the next day we had a hectic schedule. Ramnagar Fort, Banaras Hindu University's Art Museum and a boat ride along the banks of the Ganga were some of the things we did. The next morning, we left for Lucknow. We stopped at Sarnath on the way, where we saw the Buddha Temple and the Art Museum. In Lucknow, we visited The Bada Imambada, Chota Imambada, The Residency and the Crocodile Park. We also had the pleasure of eating the famous *Tundai Kebabs* in the local *dbaba*. In all, we had a very fruitful and unique experience.

## **S, A-form - Husain Haider and Yasharth Goyal**

*Destination:* Uttarkashi

*Escorts:* MTS, KLA, MMR, VNP, MPT, AGS, MGP, UDV, IDS

"Gone were my mules. A loss of just 80,000 rupees. Gone was my father. A loss of infinity."

These are the words of Rajesh, a survivor of the catastrophic disaster that devastated Uttarakhand this June. The recent calamity has led to an innumerable loss of life and has damaged several villages in the state. Being a socially responsible institution, it was the responsibility of our school to participate in the reconstruction campaign in the affected areas. Our group, comprising of A and S-formers of Hyderabad and Kashmir house, and A formers from Tata house eagerly awaited an important and socially-provoking mid-term experience. Our first day in Uttarkashi was marked by a visit to the 'Nehru Institute of Mountaineering' where we got the opportunity to interact with Colonel Ajay Kothiyal and 20 'brave hearts' who had managed to survive the disaster. This experience provided us with a detailed first-hand insight into the calamitous consequences faced by the local people.

For the remaining days, we worked in a nearby village called Ganeshpur, transferring silt and clearing debris from the village areas. Our work was well appreciated and admired by keynote speakers such as the district's development officer. The experience helped us learn the importance of serving our society. We realized the significance of responsibility and helping others in need. Overall, our social service mid-term ended on a highly positive note.



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# Letter To The Editor

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*Amaan Kazmi*

The Doon School prides itself over its great tradition of service and for good reason too. Few schools across the globe provide their students with opportunities even remotely equivalent to those provided by Doon in the given field. Service in school has progressed by leaps and bounds in the last few years with Doscocs continuously coming up with creative and ambitious ideas. However, as in any human endeavor, there is a huge scope for improvement and much is yet to be learned in the aforementioned activity.

Firstly, what is the aim of the school in continuing with such an activity and giving it the exalted position it does? Is it to revolutionize the slum? Is it to transform the backward Indian village into a modern one within a few hours? Sadly, such utopian dreams are impossible. One needs to keep aside flowery and colorful glasses to assess the situation in its entirety. People who think that school-going teenagers can make a tangible difference in the economics textbook sense of the term are gravely mistaken. We face a thousand limitations and the aim is not to make philanthropists of us all. The goal is to 'sensitize' people from privileged backgrounds such as ours to conditions we would never have experienced normally. A man does not need to burn himself to understand the pain associated with it. The creator has bestowed a powerful brain to the human race for fathoming that. This aptly explains the reason why thousands of people unaffected by any catastrophe leave their high paying jobs and work for the betterment of humanity. No doubt everyone has a certain set of goals, objectives and vested interests to satisfy, but the fact remains that at the end of the day it is these very people who manage to make the world smile.

How many would actually study if the school was to abolish examinations? I think we all know the answer. A young child learns table manners (pardon me for an absurd parallel) by actually sitting at the table, by observing and by experiencing. He is reprimanded for being ill mannered and applauded for being civil. It is this way that a child of Adam understands the value of something as seemingly insignificant as table manners. Social responsibility has to be inculcated in the very moral fabric of the "aristocracy of service" envisioned by that great sculptor of the ethos of our institution, Arthur Foot. It is what defines us and separates us from other business ventures in today's so called "education market".

How should we inculcate "social responsibility"? With all respect to the given activities; certainly not by playing soccer or music. One needs to venture out into the garbage pits of society to get a working understanding of the ground realities prevailing for the masses. The social service done by a teenager need not be revolutionary, rather, it is meant to be an education of sorts for him. It requires resilience on our part, used to the comforts of life as we are, to venture into remote villages and work there. More often than not, things do not work out according to our expectations. However, that does not give anyone a charter to judge without substance. It is easy to point out problems but personally I would desist from doing so without viable solutions. Focus should be shifted from "non-changeables" to "changeables" and Doscocs should be helping the school in this.

The world is imperfect; it is but human nature to work towards goals and objectives. Many in school play or do things for recognition, for popularity and the list of objectives goes on endlessly, but it does not in any way negate their hard work. I don't think that any responsible and level headed human should dictate the terms of morality to others as no human is 'selfless'. Out of the many things one can learn from school, imbibing a positive attitude is an essential one. Be it an expedition or be it a village development program, the, "I just want to get done with it" attitude is detrimental to all. It is this prevalent attitude that has to be changed and change has to come from the student community; it is this very attitude that has been the focus of the numerous workshops we have been made to attend, albeit sulkily. I believe that most polls would prove my point.

For once, we are getting the freedom we often crib about to actually give shape to our ideas through this excellent platform provided by the school and we should make the most of it. The world is realizing the importance of service with laws being formulated for all corporate houses to spend a certain amount on service to society every year. India is no exception to this new development. Doon too is keeping up with the world by incorporating mandatory service in the curriculum. Anyhow, there will always be people with varied views; such is the beauty of humanity: the beauty many of us seek to enhance and improve at so many levels. I believe that the least one can do is complete the hours mandated by the school with just a little heart and appreciation.

It is a fact that anyone who wants to change the institution of service in school for the better is welcome to give in his inputs. Change will not come from blind critique. Social Service is the moral duty of people such as us and drawing room 'chitter-chatter' won't do the world any good. The need of the hour is then, 'to walk the walk' and not to, 'talk and talk'.

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