Abstract form and thought are integral parts of theatre, thus making it a medium that not only requires a lot of physical engagement but mental as well. Theatre is not just about dialogue and body language, rather, more importantly, it is also about interpretation, innovation and analysis of the character and context of the play. This interpretative power is what defines a good actor.

Mr M.K. Raina, an eminent actor and director who graduated from the National School of Drama with the Best Actor Award held a two-day theatre workshop in School. The aim of the workshop was to equip us with the tools required to understand the medium better and then translate this understanding into performance. After a short induction ceremony we immediately launched into a discussion of the various aspects of theatre. We discussed the various fundamental dramatic skills that are required to be a good actor: skills of interpretation and comprehension, cooperation, and an informed understanding of the medium. Quoting Mr. Raina – “A play is like a seed. Just like a seed contains time and space, a play too possesses the same. A good director, or actor for that matter recognizes the relationship between the two and implements it suitably in the play.”

After the discussion we moved onto some basic theatre exercises such as coordinated movements within a circle without breaking the figure and movement without losing your partner's gaze. These were followed by an interesting mimicry exercise that required us to work in pairs, with one member acting as a mirror to the other member. A modified version of the exercise required the entire group to imitate a single person who played the 'leader'. After a lot of running, laughing and mimicking animals, we settled down to commence the next task.

After the second day commenced with us continuing our work on form. We were divided into groups and had to arrange our shoes in varied ways. After each arrangement we had to interpret its shape. The interpretative exercise was made more complex when we were asked to add mundane props to the shoe arrangements, thus requiring us to factor in more things while trying to interpret. Each one of us came up with contrasting interpretations, thus highlighting the highly individualistic and complex nature of the act of the interpreting.

Further on, we were asked to choose different props and use them in different ways, thus requiring us to be creative. The exercise was rather entertaining and helped us stretch our powers of imagination. People were using a mop as an electric guitar and flowers as arrows! This was followed by another very unique exercise in which we were told to utilize contemporary dance moves to express our emotions while standing on tables. This exercise incorporated elements of coordination and creativity.

After a hearty lunch we again assembled for the last session of the workshop. It kick-started with us painting anything we wished. We were divided into groups and took about an hour to paint our 'masterpieces'. Each group had to draw connections between different paintings and create a larger story. Following this we had to perform the story in the form of a skit. Each group gave a commendable performance and as the workshop came to an end, we sat down for one final discussion. We discussed the two most important aspects of theatre: time and space. Mr. Raina drew us a graph with time and space as the two axes, corresponding to the epic 'Ramayana'. The conclusion we drew from this representation was that a director should use maximum space and the graph should never drop.

Theatre involves thinking out of the box and sometimes being abstract in our thoughts. Though the idea seemed rather perplexing at first, we did manage to get a glimpse into the though process that goes into the making and performance of a play. We thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and hope that more such workshops will take place in the future.
Well Done! in Tanmay Nautiyal and Madhav Nath Gurtoo stood joint Contest. Congratulations! Delegation Award. Overall, the Doon School delegation Honourable Mention. Best Delegates School MUN: The following won awards at the 4th: 3rd: 2nd: 4th: 3rd: 2nd: We wish them a fruitful tenure! for the Juniors Chess Captain. The results of the  the 3rd Mayo College Girls School MUN: Best Delegates: Ishaan Kapoor and Nikhil Saraf Most Outstanding Delegates: Gaurav Kohari, Hussain Haider and Arunabh Utkarsh Honourable Mention: Tushaar Sharma Overall, the Doon School delegation won the Best Delegation Award. Congratulations! MCGSMUN The following won awards at the 3rd Mayo College Girls School MUN: Best Delegates: Ishaan Kapoor and Nikhil Saraf Most Outstanding Delegates: Gaurav Kohari, Hussain Haider and Arunabh Utkarsh Honourable Mention: Tushaar Sharma Overall, the Doon School delegation won the Best Delegation Award. Congratulations! MATHEMINDS Vatsal Bora stood first in the Pascal’s Mathematics Contest, 2014. Tanmay Nautiyal and Madhav Nath Gurtoo stood joint first in Cayley Mathematics Contest, 2014. Well Done! APPOINTMENTS Sarthak Gupta has been re-appointed as the School Chess Captain. Ashish Varma has been appointed the Boy-In-Charge for the Senior Chemists STA. We wish them a fruitful tenure! INTER-HOUSE CRICKET The results of the Inter House Cricket Competition 2014, are as follows: Juniors: 1st: Hyderabad 2nd: Tata 3rd: Kashmir 4th: Jaipur and Oberoi Seniors: 1st: Oberoi 2nd: Tata 3rd: Kashmir 4th: Hyderabad and Jaipur Congratulations! POETRY RECITATION Following are the results of the Inter-House Poetry Recitation Competition 2014: House Positions: 1st: Kashmir 2nd: Jaipur and Oberoi 4th: Hyderabad 5th: Tata Individual Positions: 1st: Mihir Kiran 2nd: Syarish Raj Shivam 3rd: Vrindam Nagpal Well Done! TABLE TENNIS The School Table Tennis Team played friendly fixtures against District Sports Club and The Aryans School. Against the District Sports Club: In the Junior category, the team lost 2-3 In the Senior category, the team lost 1-3 Against the Aryans School: In the Sub-Junior category, the school won 3-2. In the Junior category, the team won 3-0. Well done! WSMUN The following won awards at the Woodstock MUN 2014: Best Delegates: Madhav Mall, Savar Khanna and Vedant Agarwal. Honourable Mentions: Sarthak Juneja, Aditya Bhardwaj, Parth Khanna, Mukul Goyal, Atrey Bhargava, Yasir Nizam, Karan Dhillon and Tanmay Gupta Congratulations! The Week Gone By Yuvan Kumar The past week has seen the inhibition of a habit amongst the students of schools. Call it a knack. Call it what you like. It’s positive and it’s delightful. And we sure want it to continue! Be it at Ajmer, for the MCGS MUN, or on our very own Main Field- our boys have surely bagged victory consistently in the past two weeks. The School Hockey Team has trumped many schools, including Colonel Brown School, Summer Valley School, The Aryan School, Moravian Institute as well as The Asian School. Mind you, these have not been small victories! Brandishing their sticks, padding up their shins, we wish our troopers luck for the finale. The MUNners also gave many a school a run for their money at Mayo College Girls School, Ajmer: winning the Best Delegation award for the second time in a row. Some stellar performances were displayed by the boys, considering the strength of each committee. The Doon School Literary Festival, a first in school’s history, was witnessed this week. The day saw various guests, ranging from other schools in the city to accomplished authors. Commendable performances were seen by boys of the Hindi Dramatics Society. Ms Priyanka Bhattacharya and Dr Hammad Farooqui gave the audience a magnificent look into Indian theatre towards the end of the evening. We think it is a small beginning, but believe that it will grow exponentially next time around! We are on the run up to Socials and more importantly, Trials. With PTMs all around us, everyone is urged to use their weekend(s) to study; and maybe to revise their people skills! ERRATA Through editorial oversight, the front page article last week omitted mention of Ruchir Sharma’s book ‘Breakout Nations’ as a source. The Weekly deeply regrets this error.
Congratulations! Delegation Award. Overall, the Doon School delegation Haider and Arunabh Utkarsh won awards at the School MUN: 4th: Ashish Varma has been appointed the Chess Captain. Sarthak Gupta has been re-appointed as the School MUN: Gaurav Kothari, Hussain Agarwal. Best Delegates The following won awards at the 2014 Tata Inter House Cricket Competition: 1st: Parth Khanna, Mukul Goyal, Atrey Bhargava, Yasir Woodstock MUN 2014: Won the Phoenix trophy against the Woodstock MUN team and played friendly fixtures against other schools in the city to mark the end of the evening. We think it is a small beginning, but these have not been small victories! Brandishing their sticks, padding up their shins, we wish our troopers luck these have not been small victories! Brandishing their sticks, padding up their shins, we wish our troopers luck...
A Hungarian Fantasy

Madhav Singhal reviews the piano recital held in the Music School on April 17

The performance in the Music School by the renowned Hungarian pianist Balázs Fülei was one to remember, not only for all of us who play the instrument, but also for everyone present. The concert was organized by Spic Macay and the Hungarian Cultural Centre in Delhi and presented by the Doon School Music Society. The youthful Mr Fülei already has a string of achievements and awards to his name. He made his debut at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. He was the 1st prize winner at the 10th National Competition and was awarded the Junior Prima Prize, the highest felicitation for young musicians in Hungary. He has also recorded and performed with prominent European orchestras.

The Hungarian composer Franz Liszt was a legendary virtuoso pianist whose works are so technically brilliant, that to play his music requires a complete mastery of the instrument. The artiste began with Liszt’s concert Etudes (Etude means technical study, which of course implies the use of exceptionally difficult technical devices). The two pieces bore evocative titles – Murmurs in the Forest and Dance of the Goblins. Under his fingers, a forest full of whispering trees, rustling grass and gurgling streams seemed to come alive. The graceful leaps and twirls of the second piece also brought to life a host of fairy-creatures dancing on tip-toe.

It was an evening of enchanted poetry in music. The artiste then performed a piece aptly titled On Wings of Song. The song’s lyrical melody, as well as the flowing accompaniment, seemed impossible for just ten fingers to convey and left us mesmerized!

Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsodies are amongst the most popular and well-known pieces for the piano and we were eagerly waiting for Mr Fülei’s performance of Rhapsody No. 6. A piece with many moods and variations on a theme, it swept us all away and led to the virtuoso getting a spontaneous standing ovation. Very contrasting but equally riveting was the next piece, Allegro Barbaro, by the 20th century composer Béla Bartók. The composition was in a typical Bartók style, using themes from Hungarian folk music and incorporating both the pentatonic and chromatic scales. Another 20th century composition based on folk themes was the lively finale to the concert – Zoltán Kodály’s Dances of Marosszék. The composer was also a renowned educationist whose methods of musical education are widely used by teachers worldwide.

Mr Fülei gave us a glimpse of what being master musician truly is. He brought out the potential of the instrument and showed us possibilities which we had never imagined. The dynamic shading and the absolute control over the keys expressed the pieces the way the composers would have wanted them to be. One thing notable about his performance was his complete immersion in the music he played. Later, when this was mentioned in a question, he replied by giving a piece of advice to all the aspiring pianists in the audience: musicality and technical skill should not be divided. When asked what made him reach his eminence, his reply was simple: “A lot of hard work”.

We were really privileged to have a concert pianist such as Mr Balázs Fülei perform for us and hope his performance inspired many budding pianists and even non-musician alike. The concert titled A Hungarian Fantasy was truly one that left us dreaming, and will do so for a long time to come.