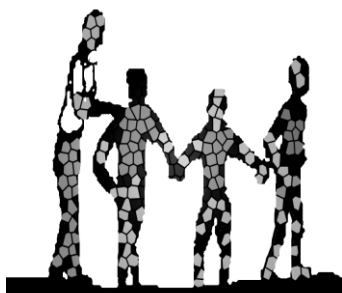

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The Doon School WEEKLY

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The Joy of Theatre

Rudra Srivastava reports on the recently concluded theatre workshop held by MK Raina.

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 inauguration 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 one single person who played the 'leader'. After a lot of running, laughing and mimicking animals, we settled down to commence the next task. We were startled to see Mr. Raina crumpling an unused sheet of paper and giving us instructions to do the same. After we had done so, we were told what we were supposed to do with these crumpled sheets of paper. We were to create some sort of a form from the crumpled sheet of paper, interpret it and create the same thing using our bodies! We realized this exercise combined our interpretative skills with our physical bodies. Further on, we were supposed to create characters and then respond to some blaring music being played while maintaining character. It turned really chaotic but we realized how difficult and important it is to remain in character and respond to everything only through the medium of the character we have assumed. With a great deal of work done, we ended day one of the workshop.

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 further 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 then 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 thought process that goes into the making and performance of a play. We thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and hope that more such workshops take place in the future.



Regulars

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: Suyash Raj Shivam

3rd: Vrindam Nagpal

Well Done!

MCGSMUN

The following won awards at the **3rd Mayo College Girls School MUN:**

Best Delegates: Ishaan Kapoor and Nikhil Saraf

Most Outstanding Delegates: Gaurav Kothari, 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

House Cup:

1st: Oberoi

2nd: Tata

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Kashmir

5th: Jaipur

Seniors:

1st: Oberoi

2nd: Tata

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Hyderabad and Jaipur

Congratulations !

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.

TABLE TENNIS

The **School Table Tennis Team** played friendly fixtures against **District Sports Club** and **The Aryan 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 **Aryan 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.

Honorable Mentions: Samarth 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 imbibition 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!

भारत और साम्प्रदायिकता

• रोहन हुंडिया

आज के युग में साम्प्रदायिकता की समस्या एक बीमारी की तरह फैलती जा रही है। हर दिन किसी न जगह साम्प्रदायिक दंगों का समाचार ज़रूर मिलता है। इसीके कारण हज़ारों-लाखों लोगों की ज़िंदगी दाँव पर लग जाती है और दंगापीड़ित शहर श्माशान घाटों में तब्दील हो जाते हैं।

आखिरकार इस रोग के लिए कौन ज़िम्मेदार है? सभी दंगे थोड़े से भ्रष्ट और स्वार्थी नेताओं द्वारा प्रायोजित किए जाते हैं। पैसे, संपत्ति, मत आदि के लालच में आकर और जनता के हित में क्या है, यह भूल कर वे स्वार्थवश साम्प्रदायिकता का समर्थन करते हैं। दया और ममता आदि गुणों को चूल्हे में झोंक कर ये लोग अपना ही अपना सोचते हुए ऐसे काम कर देते हैं जो आम आदमी के लिए बहुत दुखदायी साबित होता है।

साम्प्रदायिकता एक ज़हर की तरह है। एक बार इसका घूंट ले लिया तो बहुत दुःख और पीड़ा को झेलने के बाद ही और बड़ी मुश्किलों से इसका उपचार हो सकता है। कई बार इसका उपचार भी नहीं हो पता और भारत जैसे देश में, जहाँ चिकित्सा भी बहुत महंगी है और बिना हाथ गर्म करे कोई काम नहीं होता, वहाँ तो ऐसी बीमारियों का इलाज और भी कठिन हो जाता है। यह बात कोई इन मानवता के शत्रुओं को समझाए। खैर, आज कल यह ज़हर हमारे समाज में इस कदर और इतनी गति से फैल रहा है कि इसे रोकना मुश्किल हो रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में साधारण लोग इस समस्या का भार अपने सर पर ढोते हैं, जिनके दुखों और समस्याओं को सुनने वाला आज कोई नहीं बचा।

अब तो साम्प्रदायिक दंगों में संगठित अपराधी गिरोहों की भूमिका भी बढ़ती जा रही है। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदहारण हाल ही में मुज़फ़्फ़र नगर, मेरठ, शाहपुर आदि स्थानों दो अलग अलग धर्मों को मानने वाले जन-समुदायों के बीच हुए दंगे हैं। कितनी संख्या में लोग मारे गए, कितनी महिलाओं के स्त्रीत्व के साथ खिलवाड़ हुआ, कितने घरों में आग लगा दी गयी थी इसका कोई हिसाब- किताब ही नहीं है। सबसे अधिक दुःख की बात तो यह है कि हमारे ज़िम्मेदार लोगों ने इन्हें रोकने में कोई भूमिका नहीं अपनाई, बल्कि समाचारों में तो यह लिखा आया था कि कई हिन्दू और मुस्लिम नेताओं ने

इन दंगों को इसलिए नहीं रोका क्योंकि इन दंगों के कारण उनके मत ज़्यादा आते हैं।

हमारे 'लीडर ऑफ़ द यूथ' समेत अनेक नेतागण दंगाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में पधारे थे इन शहरों में समस्याओं का 'हल' ढूँढने। मुझे तो नहीं लगता कि कोई हल वाकई में निकला है, लेकिन क्या कर सकते हैं, अभी हम मतदान के लिए ज़रा छोटे हैं।

साम्प्रदायिक दंगों पर काबू पाने के लिए स्वार्थी तत्वों की चालों से जनता को सावधान किया जाना चाहिए। लोगों के बीच जातिवाद और साम्प्रदायिकता के भाव का उन्मूलन करना चाहिए। दंगे धर्म के नाम पर कराए जाते हैं, पर कोई भी धर्म दूसरे धर्म से घृणा करने की शिक्षा नहीं देता है।

यह बात सभी को समझनी और समझानी होगी। इन दंगों का प्रभाव किन पर पड़ता है? हम पर, देश के सभी आम लोगों पर। हमें सामजिक रूप से सक्रिय होना होगा। इन शांतिर नेताओं की बुरी करतूतों को रोकने का एक यही तरीका है कि हम इनके बुरे विचारों को साकार न होने दें। तभी हमारी राष्ट्रीय एकता ठोस बनेगी और तभी देश की प्रगति होगी। सभी को यह समझना होगा कि विविधता में एकता जीवन का सार है।

(अंजली कोहल पंचायत-घर में स्कूल के छात्रों के द्वारा शिक्षित होनी एक बालिका हैं। इनकी पठन-पाठन और विशेष रूप से कविता लेखन में बहुत रुचि है। प्रस्तुत कविता उनकी ही एक रचना है जिसमें बचपन के विविध आयामों को सुन्दरता के साथ प्रस्तुत किया गया है।)

बचपन

• अंजली कोहल

बचपन की दुनिया भी थी मेरी अलबेली,
साथ खेली जिनके थी, भाई, बहने और सहेली,
बचपन में किताबों से लगता था बहुत डर,
दोस्तों से मिलकर खेल ही खेल आता था नज़र।
पढ़ना लिखना सब था फ़िज़ूल,
जेल लगता था स्कूल,
सोचती थी कि हो जाऊँ बड़ी झट से मैं,
और बड़ी हो कर चलाऊँ सब पर हुकुम,
लेकिन आज मैं बीते बचपन में
वापस जाने के मार्ग खोजती हूँ।
अब हकीकत सामने आई,
जब जानी जीवन की सच्चाई,
जब पीना पड़ा जीवन का कडवापन,
फिर बहुत याद आया, बचपन का भोलापन।

| Report |

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.



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weekly@doonschool.com



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