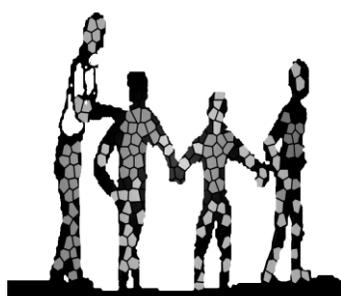


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A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

Arnaav Bhavanani reports on the History seminar conducted in School on April 25

"...Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me."

These words, spoken by Fidel Castro in 1953 before the start of his revolution, so to speak, in Cuba, often echo through my mind. These are words that encourage us to pick up on matters long past, and brush the dust off many a forgotten slice of history. Words, that hold power not only because they are eerily prophetic, but because they force us to revisit areas and form new ideas, new thought-processes about them. And it was with the intent of revisiting, and possibly recreating history as it is interpreted, that we at the Doon School held the first ever History Seminar in the School's history: Taarikh 2014.

Held on April 25, it was to be a marathon session, beginning at 10 AM in the morning to 6 PM in the evening, leaving many of us sceptical about its probable success. And yet, when the session began, it was truly something worth remembering. In essence, the main aim of the seminar was a paper presentation, where boys of S and SC forms read out their research papers to the audience. When the session officially started, each speech was followed by a barrage of questions, mainly from the panel of guest speakers present in the seminar. Being notable historians, they asked complex questions, going behind the facts and attacking the essence of each speech. The answers given by the authors were laudable, though at times the questions were such that it made the speakers falter before answering. Topics ranged far and wide in scope, focused on the socio-political history of India and some on happenings abroad. The 1948 Italian elections, the validity of Operation Blue Star, the role of the Scindias in the revolt of 1857 and the economic affairs of the Marwaris in the 20th Century were some of the topics covered. In these talks, a number of unknown facts surfaced, and some arguments were such that they forced us to rethink the past and adapt to new ideologies, which of course, was the main aim of the Seminar.

After a break for lunch, the seminar moved on from the students' speeches to those of the guest speakers. Being the versatile historians they were, the speakers enthralled one and all with their eye-opening insights and inferences from all the history they had studied and taught in the course of their lifetimes. Mr Aditya Pratap Deo was the first speaker, and his talk on the difference between 'history' and 'History' was truly enlightening. It was memorable because it invoked a deeper sense of the quintessence of history, leaving a lasting, indelible mark on us. Dr Narayani Gupta, a famous historian and retired professor, entrapped us with her sheer energy and presence. Her wry wit and well-placed humor was what kept us glued to each word she spoke. Mrs Sangita Singh, the most interactive with the student about their papers, spoke about Delhi University and how the course works there. She also showed us a small clip on the choices we have and the people who try controlling our choices. It was a satire on the political system, and was received well by the audience. She also explained the role of comics such as those of the Manga school in portraying history. The last presentation of the day was a joint one by Ms Niharika Gupta and Mr Vaibhav Chauhan, where they presented to us 'Sahapedia', a comprehensive and interactive search engine devoted purely to Indian history. After introducing this revolutionary site to us, it was Mr Chauhan who spoke to us about careers one could take up if one pursued History in higher studies, something important for anyone interested in the subject as a future.

Mr. Rashid Sharfuddin, in his concluding speech, emphasized the need to include the silent voices and the marginalised sections of every society within the mainstream of history, and hoped that Taarikh would become an annual feature in the school calendar, especially with the growing popularity of History as a subject among the S and SC forms. He summed up the developments in history over the years in these beautiful verses:

'Tareekh hazaron saal mein bas itni si badli hai. Tab daur tha pathar ka, ab log hain pathar ke'

It was, in the end, something far more than just an eight-hour sitting. The amount of history that came alive that day is a tribute to our dysfunctional past, where bloodshed and violence operate parallel to progress and happiness. In such a large planet, with the population graph growing steeper by the day, the importance of a few people who shaped our present is paramount, and even Elie Wiesel said that forgetting the dead would be akin to killing them a second time. Truly, she meant this for the massacre of Jews during the Holocaust, but it holds true in every aspect of history. For the decisions of the present may be wrong, but in the long run, history will always absolve the virtuous and condemn the sinners. And for this, we need to bring up the past more often. History is but a forum for us to study the past, which in turn affects our decisions for the present and those of the future. This seminar provided for such a forum of debate and of thinking differently, a window into the past: something to be treasured.



Regulars

ARTISTRY

The **School Art Team** participated in the Art Competition held at **Hopetown Girls School, Dehradun** on April 27. The following were the awards won by the boys in their respective categories:

1st Position: Fateh Pratap Singh Phoolka and Ratnaditya Singh Chawla

2nd Position: Sabir Singh, Shashwat Arya, Amartya Bhowmick and Naman Khurana.

Overall, the team won **5** out of **6** categories. Congratulations!

SHARPSHOOTERS

The School Shooting team, comprising Akshat Jha, Arjun Singh, Omar Chisti, Raihan Rajiv Vadra and Sarthak Chowdhary participated in the **All India IPSC Shooting Championship 2014**, held at Daly College, Indore. Raihan Rajiv Vadra was ranked **4th** and has been selected to participate in the **SGFI Nationals**. The team was ranked **4th** in the competition. Well Done!

BASKETBALL

The School Basketball team participated in the **All India Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament** held at Welham Boys' School from April 26 to 29. The team made it to the finals, **losing** to Welham Boys' School in a close match. Suhel Karara was adjudged the **Best Rebounder** of the Tournament. Well tried!

HOCKEY

The School hosted the **Council Schools Senior Boys Hockey Tournament**. The School Hockey team reached the finals and **won** against the Moravian Institute by 5-1 to lift the trophy. Congratulations!

SWIMMING

The School hosted a friendly swimming gala on the 25th of April. Anish Bhide **won** the 50 metre Freestyle and the 50 metre Butterfly in the Juniors Category. In the Mediums category, Nihaal Singh Mann **won** the 50 metre Butterfly, Udai Nath Behl **won** the 50 metre Breaststroke and Nehansh Saxena **won** the 50 metre Backstroke event. The Doon School **won** the 4 by 50 metre Freestyle Relay in all 3 categories. Well done!

The Week Gone By

Yuvan Kumar

Cupid has certainly worked his spell. He has helped many 'Aries' fall for many a different 'Aphrodite'! The last weekend saw the SCs of both Doon and Welham Girls strike quite some interesting talk and dance, notwithstanding the extended social that took place in

the Art and Media Centre a couple of days later. Of late, the School Hockey Team has been facing long days and short nights. Needless to say, every single player has been giving in their best: with some stellar hat-tricks from certain individuals. We truly are proud of you! Kudos!

The PT display undoubtedly took away the breath of all on the Main Field. This year witnessed quite some unique juxtaposition from O House, in addition to the efforts made by the rest of the houses to be in order. Despite tireless efforts by all others, the warriors in red managed to clinch the Senior Cup as well as the prestigious PT Gong. Rumour has it that their Senior PT Leader had been working out in order to lift the Gong alone!

The debating dais saw intense bouts of talking, bantering, and shouting even! You name it, we saw it. We absolutely enjoyed this interlude from all the physical action, not to say that this competition needs any less. At the end of the day, the Eagles, who had the best way with words managed to take the title.

To conclude, we believe it is about time for all to commit their pens to paper and start burning the midnight oil for Trials. With the inter-house hockey competition and the inter-house one act play competition around the corner, time is all the more a premium! In thorough theatric fervour-break a leg!

THE WHO?

Who is Rene Descartes?

Jehan Jhaveri-A mathematician

Sarthak Chaudhary-A Mexican racer

Devansh Agarwal-A Botanist

Aayush Chowdhury-A movie villian

Yasharth Goyal-A model

Arth Gupta-A famous psychotherapist

Madhav Singhal-An Italian chef

Rene Descartes was a 16th Century French philosopher, mathematician and writer.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

It's round in colour.

Rishabh Goel, the geometric artist.

I cut the short story long.

Pragun Agarwal, thinking the IB way already.

Can you see the smell?

Aryaman Aggarwal, sees beyond the mundane.

I will'nt be late for class.

Imaad Parvez, keep that promise for English?

The Yearbook is printed weekly, right?

Madhav Singhal, questions the impossible.

Let me get you the coffee book table!

Arjun Singh Kapur, don't spill any of it on the way!

| School Council Minutes |

Minutes of the School Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014

Tuesday, March 25th 2014 - 3:30 P.M. in the Kilachand Library

The Following were present for the meeting:

1. Dr Peter McLaughlin	Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Mr PK Nair	Assistant Headmaster
3. Mr Sameer Katre	Director of Administrative Affairs
4. Mr Vinay Pande	Senior Deputy Headmaster
5. Mr Kamal Ahuja	Deputy Headmaster (Academics)
6. Mr DK Sharma	Dean of Sports
7. Mr Ashad Qezilbash	Dean of Student Welfare
8. Mr Piyush Malviya	Dean of Public Affairs
9. Ms Stuti Kuthiala	Housemasters' Representative
10. Mrs Ranjit Kaur	Dames' Representative
11. Jai Ahuja	Secretary
12. Ishan Sandhu	School Captain
13. Suhel Karara	Prefects' Representative
14. Divyansh Goel	H-House Senior Representative
15. Yuvraj Nathani	H-House Senior Representative
16. Arjun Singh (Stand-in)	H-House Junior Representative
17. Anant Jain (Stand-in)	H-House Junior Representative
18. Krishna Lohiya (Stand-in)	T-House Senior Representative
19. Hussain Haider Abbas	T-House Senior Representative
20. Milind Khemka	T-House Junior Representative
21. Rishabh Goel (Stand-in)	T-House Junior Representative
22. Arjun Kamdar	O-House Senior Representative
23. Vrindam Nagpal	O-House Senior Representative
24. Tejveer Singh Kohli (Stand-in)	O-House Junior Representative
25. Devang Laddha	O-House Junior Representative
26. Aditya Vir Roy	J-House Senior Representative
27. Saksham Arya	J-House Senior Representative
28. Hitansh Nagdev	J-House Junior Representative
29. Ritik Chamola	J-House Junior Representative
30. Aditya Bhattacharya	K-House Senior Representative
31. Nihal Sharma (Stand-in)	K-House Senior Representative
32. Kushagra Kar (Stand-in)	K-House Junior Representative

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by **Arjun Kamdar** and seconded by **Husain Haider Abbas**.

Proposals of the Current Meeting

1. Cravats should be made available for colours in all activities (Kashmir House).

Aditya Bhattacharya raised the issue that Cravats had been given to boys who were awarded colours, but with the introduction of the New Colours Ties in April 2012, their distribution had been stopped with only a few houses awarding cravats along with House Colours. PKN informed the committee that the new designs had only been made for the ties and not the cravats. Further discussion on the matter brought out that Cravats are a formal neckware and should be reintroduced. VNP spoke about the regulation of colours' ties and cravats at school events and informed the committee that students are not allowed to wear these on outings. PKN said that designing the new cravats would take some time, and would be made in consultation with the School Captain and the School Council Secretary. Following this, the designs will be presented before the Council in due course of time.

2. Students should be allowed to wear memorabilia of events such as DSMUN, RSC, etc. on Sundays and Holidays (Jaipur House).

Saksham Arya felt that students who had purchased the memorabilia of school events such as DSMUN, RSC etc. should be allowed to wear the same on Sundays and holidays. The Chairman pointed out that memorabilia did not comply with the uniform regulation of the school and was supposed to be worn outside the school.

STK spoke about how the school attire was not regulated on Sundays and holidays due to the memorabilia of such events being worn excessively. Aditya Vir Roy inquired about the possibility of allowing school team shorts to be worn on holidays. The Chairman felt that this too was a breach of the uniform regulation of the school. Students were reminded and encouraged to wear this memorabilia outside school, which was the very purpose of this memorabilia being made. Ultimately, this proposal was not passed.

3. Café should be restarted for the whole school (Kashmir House).

Kushagra Kar raised the issue that a snack and refreshment after or during Toye would give students a relieving break from their studies. He also pointed out the possibility to distribute cafe' from one centralised location. Divyansh Goel also threw light upon the fact that Cafe used to be served for the entire school earlier and had been discontinued due to stealing. SDA informed the Council that café for the whole school had been stopped as students were eating café as an alternative to their daily meals, and that perishable food items such as sandwiches were being stored by students and spoiling, causing cases of food poisoning. The Chairman suggested that non-perishable food items such as chips and biscuits could be distributed instead. A sub-committee consisting of Jai Ahuja, Kushagra Kar, Aditya Bhattacharya and Yuvraj Nathani was formed to discuss the issue of café and bring their verdict back to the next meeting.

4. Macs should be allowed for the incoming S-Formers (Oberoi House).

Macs had recently been prohibited by the school for students in the incoming S-Form onwards due to the difficulty of blocking USB Ports and DVD Drives on Laptops that enabled students to view and misuse external data. KLA informed the committee about technology being misused in the Main Building. The Secretary felt that Macbooks were in essence the best technology available to high school students but if the misuse of these were to continue, laptops should essentially be banned for the community. The Chairman said that if the technology to counter this misuse and to block the USB Ports could be made available, Macbooks could be allowed for all once again. This matter was put on hold until a solution to block USB ports on a Macbook without damaging the software could be found.

5. There should be something to distinguish a Prefect in the Summer Outing Uniform (Hyderabad House).

Arjun Singh pointed out that juniors, especially D formers found it immensely difficult to recognize a prefect in the summer outing uniform and hence felt a distinguishment was needed. The School Captain explained his disapproval of this proposal, stating that students are expected to know members of the Prefectorial Body, and that a mark of identification would defeat the purpose. PKN mentioned that this proposal had been brought to the council earlier and that sample designs for this had been rejected. It was decided, on veto of the School Captain, that the motion would not be passed.

6. The outings policy should be revised, changes such as outings with friends' parents with an authorisation letter from the parents and outings with local guardians on holidays for all forms should be allowed (Tata House).

Krishna Lohiya expressed that outings with parents of friends of students, who are not local guardians should be allowed as Parents or Local Guardians may not be available at the time of an outing, and that a letter from the parents authorising the outing should be obtained by the Housemaster prior to this. The council felt that this could be made possible, especially in the event of an emergency. The Chairman expressed his concern and stated that the decision on this would be taken by the Housemasters' Council.

7. There should be clapping after Assembly Talks (Kashmir House).

Aditya Bhattacharya explained that if the audience clapped after an assembly talk, it would give the speaker a sense of achievement and completion, as it is not easy to give an assembly talk. Suhel Karara felt that this was unnecessary since people giving talks merely expressed their opinions on specific issues and applause was not a compulsion. The Secretary felt that this was not the case, since Assembly Talks fell under Public Speaking and clapping would only further recognise the efforts of all those who participated. The Chairman agreed with the reasons stated and the motion was passed with immediate effect.

8. All Honour Boards in the Main Building should be of the same design as those outside the Headmaster's Office (Oberoi House)

It was suggested new honour boards outside the Headmaster's Office should be put up in the Main Building in place of the existing Honour Boards. Discussion on the matter revealed that the honour boards outside the Headmaster's Office were of a different design as they showcased the most esteemed awards and positions of the school. The Director of Administrative Affairs stated that these boards were expensive and could get damaged subject to weathering. The Chairman said that if the student body felt it necessary, then they could be

changed. It was decided that the Administration Department would be consulted and the boards would be changed in phases taking the budget into concern.

9. Dramatics, Quiz, Debating and Chess Colours must be awarded by the Boys-in-Charge of these Activities (Secretary).

The Secretary stated that the Colours of Activities above should be awarded by the Boys-in-Charge of the activity along with a short speech as in the case of various Sports by their Captains. A speech would also inform the school on the various developments in the activity during the term. The Chairman said that if this was going to be introduced, then there had to be a schedule as to when colours were awarded, which conflicted with the fact that a student is eligible for colours when he obtains all points necessary, and shouldn't have to wait to be awarded them. After immense discussion, it was decided that the Boy-in-Charge would stand next to the HM, who would award the colours in assembly (similar to the IAYP System).

Other matters with the permission of the Chair

1. Toye desks for SC Form should be changed.

Arjun Kamdar stated that the current Toye desks for SC Form were oversized and took up too much space in the boy's study. AAQ informed the council that this problem was present in houses such as Oberoi House where rooms are comparatively smaller. The Dames' Representative said that if desks were too big then they could be shifted to the Trunk Rooms of Houses and be replaced with a smaller desk for the boy. It was decided that this would be dealt with at a house level as the sizes of rooms differed according to the structure of the house.

2. Phone timings in the house should be made more flexible

Vrindam Nagpal stated that due to the immensely busy schedule, boys were unable to contact their parents during the day. He suggested that hence, the phone timings can be extended until dinner on days when there is no evening toye. The Council felt that this was a valid point and unanimously agreed.

With no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

Sd/-
Jai Ahuja
Secretary

Sd/-
Dr. Peter McLaughlin
Chairman

EARTH DAY CONFERENCE

Arjun Kamdar reports on the recently concluded Earth Day Conference, held in School

The Youth Earth and Man Conference with the theme 'Changing Weather Patterns' was hosted by our school for the second time from the 21 to the 22 of April. Thirty-five schools participated including three from abroad. The aim of this conference was to sensitize the youth and create awareness about the importance of the environment among them. Each team gave a presentation on how, why, what could be and what is being done by their school to combat changing weather patterns. In the short span of ten minutes, they captivated the audience and left an indelible mark on them. From the Scindia School's pilot plan to reduce and recycle their waste to produce fertilizer, heat and little ecosystems to The Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya staging protests against the construction of illegal buildings in green areas; the conference was truly a productive one complete with heated debates and discussions taking place. It was interesting to witness the street plays and musical compositions that the schools performed in their respective cities to create awareness. The Headmaster, Dr Peter McLaughlin, in his opening address spoke about how the fear of the impending danger of climate change, unfortunately did not appeal to our primordial instincts the way the rustling of leaves did. The conference was also addressed by Dr Krishnamurthy, the Director of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing who spoke on weather forecasting and the need for us to pay heed to it. Mr Anand Sharma, the head of the Indian Meteorological Centre managed to mesmerize the audience with an antithetical view on global warming as well as suggesting that the architect of the Art and Media Centre be hanged for constructing a building in the tropics without any windows! The day concluded with a guided tour of the Forest Research Institute where the group visited six museums which showcased various forest products.

The final day of the conference was a lot more engaging due to the ice breaker round after which the delegates got to know each other and were more open. A host of questions were posed to the teams and this led to some excellent exchange of ideas taking place. The conference was then addressed by Ms Jodie Underhill, a 'Waste Warrior' who has taken up the Goliath task of solving India's waste problem as well as Ms Huma Syed, an author on environmental issues. There was also an environmental art exhibition which saw the work of various schools in the form of paintings, sketches, sculptures and posters. The day ended with a visit to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India where the delegates were told the journey that crude oil takes to become fuel and were shown a clock based on the principle of different densities of oil as well. The closing ceremony took place immediately after where the Headmaster, Dr Peter McLaughlin and the CEO of The Achievers' Programme, Mr Taranvir Singh declared the conference closed.

Death of a Conscience

Aditya Bhattacharya

My friend, I am sorry
To see you go. But God
Or some other higher power,
I know not which, took
You away to keep us apart.
Punitive? Perhaps. We did
Commit acts that warranted
Retribution. But only a little.

I remember fondly the long
Walks we took, in the park;
How they would gape at
Our indiscretion and fervor!
Disbelieving, dismissive of our
Woeful tales; to speak was to
Deceive. Very well. Let them
Stay apathetic to our bond.

We had our differences;
Not to worry, 'twas all in good
Humour and spirit. But now,
You reside not on Earth, or
Some other dinghy dwelling,
But in a cavern that has
Just lost its light, its bats
Taken flight. My cavernous heart.

Too soon was it to bid
Farewell, even sooner for
A lifetime. I shiver at the
Thought of the empty space you
Once occupied, shudder at the
Knowledge that 'twill be
Filled by one of no great
Import or any consequence.

Before I conclude, there
Is one last thing for
Me to convey to your
Departed soul. Like in my
Youth, I am lonely and in
Need of a friend. Save us a
Good seat up there. Not too
Close to the fireplace, though.

A Colourless Life

Hitansh Nagdev

Deep down lay my ruins,
For my uncountable committed sins,
Pinched me to feel love,
Made me blind to see above,
Got accustomed to the taste of sorrow,
And life soon went low.

Thoughts of ague assailed me,
As my fate I wanted to see,
But I sat down helpless,
As impossible was to clear this mess,
Giving up; the last resort,
I had to give it a shot.

“What is left in your useless soul?”
Asked death, ready to play its role,
In silence I introspected,
And to those colourless flashes I reflected,
Which conveyed that the colours of life deep
within,
Are pressed upon with every sin.

Celebrity

Yuvraj Nathani

You died rich, in a fancy house,
with pretty women all around;
Thousands watched you burn.
You had everything, like a king you were crowned;
Someday it will be my turn.

Decades have passed.

For some you are a memory, for others, just a
name.

You had everything, didn't you?
At least most said so. You said so.

All that you had remains.
But where are you?

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