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# Editorial: Equal Sensibilities

*We are proud of the manner in which we represent our democracy. Our institution has, for many years now, upheld the very values that our Constitution stands for: liberty, equality, fraternity. Even so, is there something that we are doing wrong? At this point, I request you to open your minds and be willing to candidly self-introspect if you are interested in reading the lines that follow.*

*Let it be resolved that Doon will continue to be the epitome of brilliance, and arguably the model for high-school education that other schools in India will strive to emulate, or at least such is our fervent hope. Let it also be resolved that most, if not all of us, will take pride in being part of one of the most influential alumni networks in the country, one that has been critical in shaping this great country's image before the world. But the question that still requires clarity, is one which is extremely pertinent considering that what our country stands for, is also fast changing. And therefore, so must our institution.*

*Allow me also to clarify that the fact that our institution has moved, or rather changed, in the right direction over the last few years goes without saying. But it is still a work in progress in many respects. This is simply a comment on empowerment, and the extent to which we grant power in the hands of the subjects in society.*

*The prerogative of any governmental institution is to aid the people and be a vehicle for societal development. This is precisely the reason why the previous government marketed so vehemently its proposition of the RTI and other such reforms that aimed at mobilizing unprecedented levels of empowerment. But the crux of these reforms is that they give the people, or the subjects in society, the chance to question, and at times even indict the system. It moves responsibility and accountability in the hands of the people running the system, such that while acting, they don't underplay the fact that they are answerable.*

*Now the question is, to what extent are we promoting the same paradigm in our institution? Are we providing the subjects with the chance to question the enforcers? These subjects comprise everyone from junior students who might differ with the actions of Prefects, to students, who may differ with their Masters. This does not, however, mean that we must provide people with that power. After all, there is a reason that we are a school and not a governmental institution. But we would be fooling ourselves if we were churlish enough to not acknowledge the resentment this might lead to, justified or otherwise. What we desire is not always what we need and our wants are not always going to be beneficial for society on the whole. Had the latter been the case, we would turn into an anarchy gorging on pizza and Coke while classes would be non-existent!*

*It is safe to assume that almost all of us, over the course of our school life have engaged in lively, and sometimes emotionally charged discussions with other members of the community. However, seldom is it possible that both parties in such a discussion, always sit on a perch of the same height. These people might differ in terms of the value they add to the institution, or in terms of how long they have been affiliated to the institution. Even so, when the person sitting on a higher perch, provides the other with a chance to question his/her ideas, so long as they do so using logic, that person acquires respect. After all, this reinforces the idea that in our society, nobody is above question. So tomorrow, if the House Hockey Captain chooses to sit and explain to a junior why he isn't on the team, his job description perhaps doesn't require him to, but the fact that he still does, invites respect from the junior.*

*But as much as this wonderful act perpetuates, there are enough instances when members of our society might use their lofty perch, in simply saying "This is so, because I say it is so." It might well be the truth, but if only the person were to possess the moral courage to argue the issue out, with equal sensibility, with another person, perhaps he too would acquire respect. For instance, if the Captain chooses not to explain to the junior, there might not be enough that a junior could do about it, but he could certainly respect the Captain less.*

*The second of the two scenarios alluded to, is the time that our institution fails to perfectly emulate civil society. Of course, the fact that it doesn't need to emulate it perfectly goes without saying. But if we, as members of a critical and logical community, were to by choice follow the first paradigm, it would be appreciated more by those around us. After all, we must all be proud of our decisions just as we are of our institution, and therefore, we must possess the sensibility to defend them, even when we might not need to.*



## Regulars

### MATH COLLOQUIUM

The following are the results of the **Senior Mathematics Colloquium Prize Test:**

**1st:** Samarth Juneja

**2nd:** Sarthak Gupta

Congratulations!

### ON DUTY

Mrs Anez Katre was part of the technical official team at **Rescue 2014**, the **Life Saving World Championships** held in Montpellier, France this September. It was a matter of honour to be one of the two officials from India among over 250 from all over the world.

Well Done!

### SHANTI SWAROOP

The following is the result of the **Inter House Shanti Swaroop Essay Competition 2014:**

**1st:** Oberoi

**2nd:** House

**3rd:** Tata

**4th:** Kashmir

**5th:** Hyderabad

Congratulations!

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

There is a lot of unrest in Hong Kong because of the pro-democratic protests due to the Chinese Government's rejection to Hong Kong to elect their own leader by 2017. The Indian PM Narendra Modi is on a 5-day stay in the US for improving economic relations between the two nations. India's first spacecraft to Mars, 'Mangalyaan' entered the Mars' orbit on 24 September. A youth was mauled to death by a white tiger in the New Delhi Zoo.

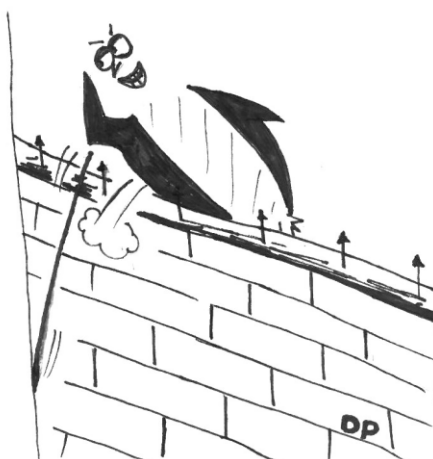
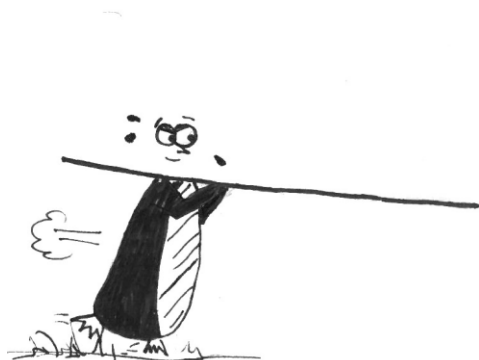
### *(Midterm) at Doon*

**Arth Gupta** reports on his midterm expedition to the Wellness Centre and back. The Weekly congratulates his team on completing the challenging trek!

While most DoscOs spent their valuable midterms amidst beautiful mountains and breath-taking sights, there were a few of us who chose the road less travelled. Unlike other midterm excursions which have parties consisting of DoscOs from a particular form, our party had representations from all forms. Where other parties were carrying first aid kits, we are proud to say that we were residents of an institution which is the mothership of these 'first aid kits.' We were, in the hospital. Four S formers, two A formers, four B formers, eight C formers and seven D formers comprised our midterm party, escorted by Dr Lanka. Everyone in the hospital suffered from conjunctivitis, and eye drops and tissue were the only tuck that was issued to us. In terms of communicational privileges, I think it would be fair to say that the Wellness Centre gave us the true midterm experience; we too had no access to e-mail, cell-phones, or even television for that matter. As far as sightseeing was concerned, we did go out for various medical outings and enjoyed the scenic beauty of the crowded streets of Dehradun. When it came to food, while other parties gorged on Maggi and local dishes of the hills, we had the privilege of the CDH food. Our days began at six in the morning with our daily dose of medicine, after which we had to "brush our teeth" and then have breakfast. At times luck was on our side, especially when we were allowed to go back to the house, or when, for a few hours we got to watch television in the hospital. However, the days used to end on a similar note, with our daily dose of medicine. I think it would be apt to say that by the end of our tenure in the hospital, we felt as glad to be going back to our respective houses as the boys who had just come back from gruelling excursions.

**Dosco Doodle**

Pole Busting  
Dhruv Pais





# ...And Miles To Go Before I Sleep

## Destination: Kauri Pass Rishabh Agarwal(S-Form)



Besides reading a sign on the roadside that said, "BRO, GO SLOW", the other unusual and unforgettable experiences for our mid-term group were: a driver, who, by our first ride had given us an 'adventurous thrill' that no amount of money could buy; posing for a picture in our bare torsos at temperatures below freezing point, and successfully pitching a tent with numb hands and dead fingers under the wrath of a hailstorm. Six of us, ready to face the snow and chills embarked on an ambitious trek to 'Kauri Pass', at a height of 4200m.

The first trek itself, though not very difficult on paper became quite challenging due to adverse weather conditions. But as daunting as the journey to Auli might have been, nothing could have prepared us for what came after.

After a few hours of tidying up our belongings and the campsite; we started our trek to the camp at 'Gailgarh'. This trek was unforgiving due its steepness, and we covered 10 km with an altitude increase of 1500m. We were more tired than we had ever been, but mustered enough energy to prepare lunch and rest, for there was more to come. After lunch, we set out for Kauri Pass.

Though said to be very difficult and challenging, we reached our final destination in half an hour, covering a distance of 3km. The slope was steep and the winds unrelenting, but we had our hearts set on completing the most gruelling trek on the School's midterm list, and so we did. Standing at the top, some of us took the opportunity to click the most perfect Facebook cover photo, while others just enjoyed each other's company, basking in success.

But it didn't end there. The journey downhill was no easy task, and believe it or not, it was the toughest part of the trek. Surrounded by slippery mud and loose stones on a steep incline, it is safe to say that we couldn't take a single step without worrying that something might happen, but it was these last steps that we cherished, knowing that this was a one-time experience. It might have been cold, and at times disheartening, but one thing is inescapable: it was the journey of a lifetime.

## Destination: Varanasi and Lucknow Arjun Singh(B-Form)

To enhance our knowledge of history and learn more about our national heritage, a group of 28 B-Form students, escorted by SNA, PNL and CRK embarked on a trip to two of the most culturally diverse and significant cities in India- Lucknow and Varanasi. Our arrival at Lucknow after an exhausting train journey was followed by a tour of the 'Residency' and *Imam-Baras* of the city; being some of the most important historical monuments of the city. This excursion proved to be a most fascinating one as we were able to learn about the first war of independence along with Shia-Islamic customs. Our guide was able to explain the historical significance and background of these monuments with academic proficiency, and had us listening intently in order to grasp every sliver of information provided. The following day we also visited the National Botanical Gardens and the Regional Science Center, but I must say that compared to the Residency and the grandeur of the *Imam Baras*, these proved to be places of comparatively lesser interest for the boys. Our outing in the bazaars led us to a dilapidated residence where Gandhi, Nehru and Jinnah frequently met to discuss the various details of the independence movement. The aura and prestige of the place, captivated us and



reminded us of the sacrifice made by our leaders in order to achieve independence. After a busy two days in Lucknow, we boarded a bus and headed to Varanasi. Considered as one of the most religiously significant cities of India, as well as the oldest city of India, we had our share of theological exposure, exploring the famous Buddhist site of Sarnath and the sacred Varanasi Ghats- where we witnessed the fascinating *Ganga Arti* after a boat ride on the river. That night, being the last night of our historical midterm was celebrated with two birthdays and a scrumptious dinner, marking the end of an exotic four day journey through this diverse country. The taste of *kebabs* and *pan*, train rides across the countryside and the knowledge we had received will remain etched in our minds forever; and we thank Humanities Department for reconnecting us with our roots.

# इज़ार तहेकरा: Playing on your Feelings

Yuvraj Nathani and Madhav Singhal report on the final two days of the Inter-House Music Competition, held on September 15 and 16

The Inter- House Music Competition, which got off to a flying start last term with the popular Dance and Band categories, had its final two days this month. Six categories, featuring soloists as well as the House choirs, made for an eventful couple of evenings. The extraordinarily high standards in the various categories made for performances that won accolades from audience and judges alike. What was notable was that all the performers showed a high level of engagement with their music and played with an element of professionalism, observing concert etiquette and recovering unperturbed after a few minor errors.

The first day began with the solo piano category in which we saw absolutely stellar performances. French composers seemed to be the flavour of the evening as Rishabh Agarwal and Yuvraj Nathani both played *Nocturnes* by Chopin and displayed great understanding of style and expressiveness. Shourya Kishorepuria's rendition of Debussy's *Claire de Lune*, captured the shimmering Impressionistic harmonies and mysteriousness of a piece which is one of the best-known of all piano music. Anuvrat Choudhary's interpretation of Mozart's C minor *Fantasie*, in turns lyrical and fiery showed his fine technique and musicality, and piano debutant Keshav Maliah's energetic interpretation of the high-voltage *Tarantella*, also showed fine pianistic potential. All the pianists played substantial pieces from the classical and the romantic era with flair, confidence and maturity.

In the instrumental section, Smrithi Nair played the popular pentatonic raga, *Hansdhwani* on the santoor, bringing out most effectively the dynamics of the compositions. The trio from Oberoi House consisting of Dhruv Johri, Dhruv Pais and Vallavi Shukla played *Raga Yaman* with great coordination and expression. This displayed a good example of the sounds of Western and Hindustani instruments blending together. Mrigank Khemka's soulful rendition of *Raga Miyan ki Malhar* was a treat for the audience. Hyderabad House's young debutant Mahir Kasewa's use of the vibrant jal tarang was a brave attempt at playing an instrument that has not been seen in School for over two decades. He was accompanied by Siddharth Goel on the guitar.

In the tabla section, Aditya Gupta and Vrindam Nagpal played a dazzling rendition of a composition in *teen tal*. Anant Mohan and Ajitesh Gupta displayed skill in their playing of *tukras* and *chakradhar*. Amol Pajni and Parth Vohra of Hyderabad House produced effective resonance from their instruments. Jaipur House's Keshav Maliah and Prabhav Maheshwari displayed the potential of the tabla as an instrument.

The final day of the Inter House music competition began with the vocal section. Nalini Malviya's interpretation of *Dhak-Dhuk*— a popular song was well supported by the ghatam, santoor, keyboards and glockenspiel. Vihaan Bhatnagar gave an impeccable performance singing a *thumri* in *Raga Bhimshadaj* with the *bol* 'Yaad Piya ki Aaye' and executed its many intricacies. Siddhant Gupta's soulful cover of *Phir le aaya dil* was a memorable performance. Suyash Raj Shivam and his ensemble won audience appreciation with his version of *O Re Piya* by Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. Harsh Dewan, Divij Mullick and Aryaman Agarwal (Tata House) put up an appealing performance of *Ik Tara*.

In the Drum Solo category, Tushaar Sharma displayed his creativity with the integration of improvised jazz beats and solid rock patterns. Vrindam Nagpal used the bass to provide a powerful pulse to the music over which he executed polyrhythmic patterns. Parth Vohra's experiments with the glockenspiel and energetic performance had the crowd on their feet. Anant Mohan's virtuosic rolls culminated in an exciting performance as did Jagjit Singh of Tata House with his virtuosic build-ups.

The choral offering was in the form of the Qawali— a centuries-old musical tradition, with responsorial singing, on the themes of love and devotion. With their colourful, embroidered jackets, the qawals of the Houses sang spiritedly, accompanied by rhythmic hand-clapping. From the Sufi chant of *Allah Hoo* (H House), the soulful Punjabi *Rab Maniya* (K House) to the matchless poetry of Mirza Ghalib (O and T Houses), the finale to the competition was a grand one indeed.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

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IPSS: All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand–248009, India. Published by: PK Nair, The Doon School, Dehradun.

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