Basketball, in itself, is a game of skill, stamina and sheer determination. These are required to push one to the limits - and even stretch oneself beyond, at times. Every shot at the hoop, every lay-up taken, speaks of the hours of practice and dedication that have gone in behind it. Every time that ball falls through that rim, and when that swish of the netting is heard, the person who just took the shot smiles, for that is his reward.

At the end of the day, it is not just the talent that the player possesses, but also the amount of hard work he puts into it, to hone his skills to near-perfection. Scarcely had a majority of the school returned from midterms, when basketball teams from other schools started arriving here for the annual Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament, 2007.

The first match the school played was against Mayo College, Ajmer. In a match filled with tense moments, The Doon School beat Mayo convincingly. Eshaan Puri, Shaleen Chikara and Ayyappa Vemulkar outshone the opposition with their solid defence and swift and effective offence.

The school team continued their good form. In the match against Cathedral School, the team inflicted a crushing victory, raising everyone's spirits, and boosting their confidence. However, the next match against Delhi Public School, Delhi, did not go as well and the team lost, even though it tried hard. The DPS contingent displayed excellent team co-ordination and were an audience's delight to watch.

The school seemed to regain its rhythm with a close victory over Welham Boys' School. The atmosphere was tense as the two rivals met. The cheering from the sides became louder as the game progressed, as the game was exciting and tight to the very end. The one extra point on the 'Doon' side of the board made the difference.

Our semi-final match was played against New Public School, Chandigarh. This match was rather one-sided, and they won quite easily. Now, the school had to fight it out against DPS for third position. This was the last match that the school team played and everyone was hoping for a win. Hopes, however, do not always take shape, and it was definitely the case here. DPS beat us yet again, and left everyone disappointed.

Even though we had not qualified for the finals, quite a few Doscos turned up for the match between BKSP and NPS. They were richly rewarded with an intense game which could have gone either way. The final score said it all. BKSP finally won the tournament by one point after extra time had been declared. It was a great victory, and was well deserved.

Shaleen Chikara of The Doon School was awarded the Most Promising Player of the tournament while Shaun of BKSP was adjudged Most Valuable Player. The Doon School basketball team was also given a special prize for fair play by the Uttarakhand Basketball Association.

The training undertaken by the boys showed their will to fight to the end, giving their very best and never giving their opponents an easy time. Even when the team was losing, it fought hard to try and win the match back - or, in other words, they fought like true winners.

The tournament concluded with speeches given by the chief guest, Afzal Khan's father and JNX. New talent and skills were showcased in this competition, a potent promise of the greats we are sure to see emerge in the future.
REGULARS

GLOBAL EDUCATION
The ‘Diploma Programme’ (DP) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) commenced in Doon School on March 28. The first batch of the IB students kick-started their CAS programme on March 29 by joining the other Doscos at the social service camps and by later moving on to the hills for their midterm. The IB academic classes commenced on April 9 after the midterm.

QUIZ WHIZZES
Ashish Mitter, Skand Goel, and Ramakrishna Pappu represented the school in the Miss Russel Memorial Nature Quiz held at Welham Girls’ School on April 16. Twelve schools participated in the event. The Doon School stood first. Congratulations!

DEBATING NEWS
The Doon School debating team consisting of Shikhar Singh, Ashish Mitter and Sachin Uppal qualified for the semi-final round in the Saroj Srivastava Debates held at Welham Girls’ School on April 16. Ashish Mitter was adjudged the Most Promising Speaker in the Preliminary Round and the team was judged the highest scoring team of the entire debates. Well spoken!

RISING WRITERS
The results of the Smt. Mirchandani Hindi Essay Competition for Juniors are as follows:
1st: Chandra Narain Deo
2nd: Vatsal Khandelwal
3rd: Ateendra Pandey

The results of the B.P. Chandola Hindi Essay Competition for Seniors are as follows:
1st: Archit Kumar
2nd: Saurabh Tiwari
3rd: Aruj Shukla
Well done!

MATHEMAGIC
The results of the Junior Math Colloquium held on April 12, 2007:
1st: Vivek Santayana
2nd: Abhishek Patel
Kudos!

‘MASTER’PIECES
The following are the results of the Art Gala for Masters held on March 31, 2007:
In the drawing section:
1st: KPB and MLB
2nd: PBR
3rd: VSM

In the painting section:
1st: AAQ
2nd: SJM
3rd: HMD and SMV
Congratulations!

CAREER CALL
The careers’ notice board will focus on Chartered Accountancy this week. All those who love to play with numbers should definitely look it up.

Opinion Poll
Do you think there should be a School Discipline Committee?

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<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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350 students participated in the poll

Next week’s question: Do you think the quantity of shares per person in the CDH is sufficient?

LIBRARY FOCUS
The following are the latest additions to the Library:
Fundamentals of Environment - K. Khanna
Sunderban’s Inheritance - Bittu Sehgal
Ocean to Sky - Kunal Verma
That Summer in Paris - Abha Dawesar
Love is Life - Haridatt Bhatt

In the 17th Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament, BKSP, Dhaka, emerged victorious in a closely contested final against the New Public School, Chandigarh, who were the runners-up. The final score was 92-91 in favour of BKSP.

Over the last two weeks, the school Senior and Junior teams took part in the Districts Basketball Tournament, and reached the finals in both the Under-18 and Under-13 categories.

In the finals played at St. Joseph’s Academy on Sunday, the school emerged runners-up in both the junior and senior categories.

The players were awarded certificates and individual prizes. Keep it up!

Unquotable Quotes
Tuck your buttons in.
SBL the smart dresser.
Opaque glass.
Tejasvi Mathur describes his unique spectacles.
Don’t unquote my quote.
Aditya Gupta, makes a special request.
I have seen the Red Fort, but not the Lal Quila.
Akshay Nihalani, the colonial cousin.
W hat did I ditch you.
Piyush Upadhyay digs his grave.
They are serving Britannia biscuits.
Chandrachuda Shukla imports his snack.
Can you stop flippering?
Nikhil Sardana’s tongue is ‘slippering’.
Give me a favour. Call me Parabjot.
VKL sends for help.

2. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, April 21
At times, one finds instances in life when one has worked very hard with a reward in mind, and finds that the hard work done, the reward has been taken away. Such thoughts were passing through the minds of the fifteen S formers, escorted by MCJ, NTC, and for a while MNP, who had been chosen to build toilets at a village called Jataonwali between March 28 and April 2. The board exams had just concluded and everybody wanted to head home.

We were still rueing our luck at being the first batch in a while to have our leave cancelled after ICSE, when our bus reached the destination. There was a brief stop on the way at Hassanpur and then our journey continued. A five-minute walk brought us to the small house where we were to stay. As the weather was quite warm, most of us decided to sleep outside or on the roof.

We were given instructions on how we were to behave and what we were supposed to do by AKC and MCJ. We were then given the rest of the day off to settle in. The real work began the next day with all of us being allotted pits (which had already been dug out by the villagers). Our service was carried out on a standard schedule - wake up at 9 a.m., work till 11 a.m., take a break of 20 minutes, get back to the work sites, work till 1 p.m., have lunch and rest till 3 p.m., then work till 5:30 p.m.

We proceeded to carry bricks to the building sites, which were already being worked upon by a mistri each. This took most of the day, and had us all tired by the end of it. The pits were roughly 7-9 feet deep, and were circular in shape. Bricks were laid in a circle inside the pits till they were level with the ground. The gaps between the walls of the pit and the wall of the tank of bricks were then filled in with dirt by us. After this was done, a frame of wood, plastic bags and iron rods was made to cover the tank. Over this covering, a concrete top was put in place. All these jobs demanded tremendous amounts of hard work, but everyone rose to the challenge. An informal inter-group competition helped speed up the work a little as well. Soon, we could see the fruits of our labour take shape.

When the business of the pits and tanks was done, areas were prepared for the actual toilets to be made near the tanks. The mistris started work on these, and made cubicles which we could unfortunately not see completed due to the shortage of time. Still, everyone felt satisfied with the substantial amount of work that they had completed. On the last day after picking up the boys working at Dhandapur, we entered school and went straight into preparing for midterms.
Nbt Just A Play
Shoumitra Srivastava reports on the junior Hindi play

In my opinion, Hindi plays are not received with the same enthusiasm with which English ones are. So I was in for a pleasant surprise when I decided to go for Natak N aihin, the play which was being staged in the Rose Bowl, on April 13, and found the crowd at the venue buzzing with excitement, a fair number of them parents. Since it was a junior production, the play consisted of boys from the C and D forms, and was directed by V.K.L.

One by one, as the props came on the stage, a general picture about the play’s theme began to form. We could tell that the play dealt with the lower strata of society. Even the name of the play suggested that the main issue would be of relevance and serious concern in today’s world. The loudspeakers crackled into life and the crowd was greeted and briefed about the play by Skand Goel. The play began with four urchins singing, or rather, begging at the top of their voices. It was about four beggars, who used the bus stop shelter as their home, and their perception of life. It was a window into their world, their thoughts, and their lifestyle. As the play unfolded, different scenarios confronted the lives of the protagonists and the plot of the play lay in the way they dealt with them. Their reactions and attempts at obtaining money were amusing and at the same time conveyed a deeper dilemma.

The four beggars were played by Samarth Jaiswal, Vatsal Khandelwal, Taran Saxena and Prabhjot Singh. With every new situation, the characters of each one of them became clearer. There were several other minor characters in the play who did not have much to speak but still held importance in the play, for example, Ashvath Kunadi, who was a betel leaf vendor. His presence was important as his reactions and situations were connected to the major characters in the play who did the major acting. There was Nikhil Narain, too, who portrayed a drunken driver’s and his girlfriend’s tragic accident. He was followed by Varun Gupta who recited The Race which was a sort of didactic poem about getting up every time you fall, by an anonymous poet. He spoke with much confidence which showed that he had really practised hard. The momentum gained as Ashray Batra came up and recited Patrick Barrington’s amusing poem, Am N ot A V egetarian, with much vigour. Nikhil Nairan, too, put up a commendable performance which got the crowd buzzing.

After the junior section came to a close, the enthusiasm certainly didn’t wane as Vivek Shah gave a riveting rendition of T.S. Eliott’s poem, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock. Rishi Sood jolted the crowd with an extremely powerful excerpt from My Fair Lady. Rohan Gupta got the audience smirking with reciting The Commentator which was a commentary of children playing a roadside cricket match as if it was an international match. Chinmay Sharma recited My Last Duchess as if she was his own.

The contestants were marked out of a 100 points. The breakup of the points were Expression (25 ), Delivery (20), Pronunciation (20), Tempo (5), Stress (10), Memory (10), Choice of poem (4) and General effects (6).

The contestants, as ARY brought to the audience’s notice, lost marks mainly because they were using too many hand and head movements during the recitation. There has to be a distinction, he thought, between drama and elocution. The competition though, as KPB pointed out during the prize giving ceremony, had a selection of poems mainly pertaining to English and American poets. The diversity of poems could have come from many languages translated into English as well. He also gave a piece of advice to the boys about reading something about the poet’s life so that they could interpret why and in which context a poem was written. In conclusion, the Contest, was an extremely good performance and I’m sure it will keep getting better over the years.

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6. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, April 21