



Established in 1936

# The Doon School

# WEEKLY

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## Blazing Baskets!

*Dhruv Velloor reports on the recently held seventeenth annual Afzal Khan basketball tournament*

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 practise 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 Doscors 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 Shaan 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: SJB
- 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.

## SWISH!

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.

*What did I ditch you.*

**Piyush Upadhyay** digs his grave.

*They are serving Brittanica biscuits.*

**Chandrachuda Shukla** imports his snack.

*Can you stop slipping?*

**Nikhil Sardana's** tongue is 'slipping'.

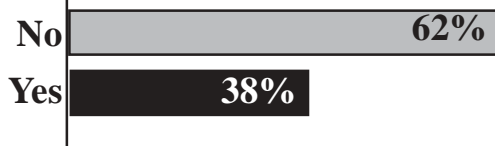
*Give me a favour. Call me Parabjot.*

**VKL** sends for help.



## Opinion Poll

Do you think there should be a School Discipline Committee?



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

# BUILDING LIVES

*Shaurya Kuthiala reports on the S form Social Service project at Jataonwali*

*Abhaas Shah reports on the S form Social Service project at Fatehpur*

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 ruing 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.

On a hot and sultry day, at the end of March, fourteen Doscors were sent to Fatehpur on a social service project right after their board exams. Everyone was cribbing, but some of us planned to make the best out of the situation. En route we witnessed the opening of a new school in Hassanpur, which our school boys had helped build and were awed when we heard our Headmaster, the chief guest at the event, make an eloquent speech in Hindi.

Fatehpur turned out to be a small village with a meagre population, living in well-built houses and enjoying basic necessities. We reached late in the night and slept in the courtyard of a house vacated by some kind person.

The next morning, we commenced our

work. We had to make the roof of an unfinished house. It would have been easy if we had had five days in hand, but the roof had to be laid with cement and if it was not finished in one day, the cement would dry and harden. The job involved carrying a mixture of sand, gravel and mud from a storage point to a place next to the construction site. We then had to bring water from a nearby stream and keep pouring bucketfuls till the right mixture of cement was formed. All this was done in good spirit and every piece of work was done in a chain-format. It was a tough day, with small breaks, and everyone was tired by the end of the day. We spent the next day doing some light work, and in the evening played soccer by the river, followed by a refreshing bath there.

Everyone was irritated due to the heat, and the tyrannical sun sent heat wave after heat wave, down on us. Everyone wanted to go back to school, and most of us felt, for the first time, the unique feeling of being school-sick. Our pleas to that effect were obviously turned down. ANJ was most understanding and pleaded with us to bear with the place for a few days. One consolation was the food. The meals were excellent, regular and filling, and everyone awaited meal-times eagerly. On the third day we discovered that the river we were bathing in contained gross, black, tiny creatures which when discovered by one person, set everyone off into inspecting their bodies. After that, we had our baths in a nearby temple pond, which was extremely clean and cold.

The third evening brought NTC to our site, who got us up and about early in the morning. He was an efficient slave-master, who succeeded in inventing large amounts of new work and was even more proficient in getting it done. The long-awaited final day arrived and we headed back to school. It was a useful trip and taught us about the true life in Indian villages, an experience we will probably never forget.



## Not 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 Nahin*, 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 VKL.

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, Tarang 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 played a betel leaf vendor. His presence was important as it added to the milieu. Other notable actors were Kartic Sharma, Varun Gupta and Umang Newatia.

*Natak Nahin* was a short play and finished in about half an hour. I left the Rose Bowl amidst tumultuous clapping, impressed by some memorable performances; adding to the feast was the ever-so-melodious Vatsal Khandelwal's singing. A critical analysis of the play led me to think that what was left unsaid in the play, was actually more important than what had been explicitly stated. All in all, I think that the purpose of the play was fulfilled. It managed to keep the audience enthralled with adequate punches of humour. It dealt with a contemporary issue, that of the street people and their daily struggles, which has touched people the world over and is sure to pose problems in the near future, as it is doing in the present. So, in conclusion, kudos to the cast and crew of the play, who have been working hard day in and day out and have ensured the success of the entire performance.

## Elocuting with Elan

*Bharat Ganju recaptures an evening of poetry*

On Sunday, April 15th, weeks of practice, hours of selection and immense courage became one. I am not referring to a marathon or a cross country; I am referring to the Vikram Seth Poetry Recitation Contest which requires all the above three criteria in substantial measure. As the name suggests, this competition is in celebration of one of the greatest poets The Doon School has ever produced. One does not realise just how enjoyable such an event can be until you get a chance to listen to some of your favourite poems being recited with such feeling and passion.

The event, held in the Kilachand Library, kicked off with Shashank Peshawariya setting a high standard by reciting *Moonlight Ride* by an anonymous poet which was about 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 Aashray Batra came up and recited Patrick Barrington's amusing poem, *I Am Not A Vegetarian*, with much vigour. Nikhil Narain, too, put up a commendable performance which got the crowd buzzing.

After the junior section came to a close, the enthusiasm certainly did not wane as Vivaan Shah gave a riveting rendition of T.S. Elliot's poem, *The Love Song Of J. Alfred Prufrock*. Rishi Sood jolted the crowd with an extremely powerful extract from *My Fair Lady*. Rohan Gupta got the audience smirking by 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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