What truly is the mark of a great institution? There is no definite response to the question. Having said so, the belief that this mark can be reflected in an institution’s purpose is perhaps an accepted one. But purposes are easier etched on the walls of foyers than actually served.

Moreover, what is equally difficult is to be able to freely comment on the extent to which an important publication has served its purpose. For the Doon School Weekly, which has for 82 years recorded School’s heartbeat, the purpose and its fulfilment remains every newly-appointed editor’s greatest dilemma. While editors of earlier times constricted the Weekly’s functioning to their interpretation of its purpose, the latter editors began introducing their own elements into the publications, possibly in an attempt to stamp their own mark on this legacy. Somewhere around this, I feel, the Weekly’s narrative saw a shift and its initial purpose (even in its loosest sense) was relegated.

The advent of the internet and its widespread usage in school initiated a phase of thinking that revolved around political and social issues. As a result of this, the pages that had once majorly accommodated commentaries on the life in School, now focused more on analyses of the natural and man-made atrocities that afflicted different parts of the world. Many of my seniors justified this transition by stating that these articles would be instrumental in creating an educated community. But what they failed to realise is that there already exist sources of information (increased availability of newspapers, the internet, and introduction of international curriculums that promote global learning), and consequently, our role to educate the community would certainly not be as active as we perceive it to be.

But this shift had still larger implications, which gradually started undermining the very credibility of our publication. The intellectual drive greatly reduced the archival role of the Weekly, and the Editorial Board took it upon itself to comment on issues beyond the walls of this school. This coincided with another intellectual phenomenon: the need to critically analyse everything in School and be the harbingers of change. In turn, this led to fewer opportunities for people outside the editorial board to articulate their views. Most of our Page 1 articles would now be an Associate Editor’s understanding of worldly issues that had already been covered in a national newspaper, or a Special Correspondent criticising a newly-adopted School policy. Rather than being individuals who eagerly contribute to the Weekly, students as well as masters now only served as the Weekly’s readership. The tag of being “elitist” was silently attached to our publication. Not surprisingly, the Weekly began to lose some of its relevance. The anticipation that accompanied every Saturday was conspicuously absent.

Now, it is our duty, as the custodian of this 82 year-old legacy, to bring the Weekly to conform to its envisioned course. Having said so, it is not a Herculean task, for it doesn’t warrant us to institute radical reforms. Small additions brought about through a consistent and conscious effort can reap fruits that even glorious endeavours may fail in. In this capacity, our primary aim is to foster a feeling of inclusivity revolving around the Weekly. For that, each time we discuss School’s policies and values, there will also be a platform for the community to voice its views in the form of an Opinion Poll, or our Doon Speak feature. In addition, we would also encourage juniors, seniors and masters alike to respond to such articles and engage in the debate. For those who wish to contribute but don’t feel comfortable writing, our only request is to have faith in the editorial board, which is (Continued on Page 3)
PASSING THE QUILL
The following is the Senior Editorial Board of the Weekly for the year 2018-2019:

Editor-in-Chief: Ansh Raj
Editors: Aryaman Kakkar and Divyansh Nautiyal
Senior Editors: Aryan Bhattacharjee and Karan Sampath.

The Weekly would like to thank its outgoing Editors for their commitment to the publication.

MATCH POINT
The following are the results of the Individual Squash Championship, 2018:

Under 14
Winner: Krishay Sutodia
Runner-Up: Tanmay Gupta

Under 17
Winner: Raghav Goel
Runner-Up: Shanay Sojatia

Under 19
Winner: Eshaan Bhardwaj
Runner-Up: Raghav Goel

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES
I’m idealess.
Bhai Kabir Singh, on probation.

Chestnut House was like a house.
Aryan Choudhary, School’s historian.

I freeze to death, but I’m lucky to be alive.
Firas Khullar, brain freeze.

The grass is greener where you water it.
— Neil Barringham

WELCOME
The Weekly welcomes Mr. Lenin Kumar Gandhi (LRG) who has joined the Mathematics Department as an Assistant Master.

We wish him a fruitful tenure!

IMPRESSIVE ELOCUTION
The following are the results of the Gombhar Speech Trophy Contest 2018:

Seniors
Winner: Aryan Bhattacharjee
Runner-Up: Aryaman Kakkar

Juniors
Winner: Tarun Doss
Kudos!

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Mr. Gyaneshwaran and Yash Gupta won the First Prize in the National Competition for Innovation in Computers for Physics (NCICP 2018).

Congratulations!

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Gasping for Air

Advaita Sood comments on the rising air pollution in the national capital.

Air pollution in Delhi reached dizzying heights on Monday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi recorded at 415, on a scale of 0 to 500, and gradually rose to 435 by the evening. By Tuesday morning, it fell to 403 due to a slight drop in moisture, which helped disperse the pollutants. Pollution monitoring agencies also mentioned that there was a perceptible drop in the extra load of pollutants released by stubble burning that flow in from neighbouring areas.

Smog has a widespread impact on the national capital. It arises from the deadly mix of fog and pollutants. A fundamental parameter that impacts air quality is the speed and direction of wind. For example, in the southern region of India, winds from the Bay of Bengal carry pollutants away. However, in Delhi, wind-speeds during winters range between one and three metres per second, which is nearly one third of the speed during summers and is much slower than those of cities located in South India. Compounding this is the fact that Delhi is a landlocked city, which aggravates pollution.

The capital city lies to the north-east of the Thar Desert, to the north-west of the central plains Himalayas. As winds arrive from the coasts, bringing with them pollutants picked up along the way, they get ‘trapped’ right before the Himalayas. The air pressure pushes from one direction, and the inability to escape quickly in the other direction allows the particulate matter to accumulate over the northern plains, making Delhi a fatal ‘bowl’ of pollutants.

Various other factors also affect Delhi’s pollution, including the high concentration of vehicles that populate its roads, and factories that emit harmful gases. Smog kills over one million Indians every year and Delhi continues to witness the worst cases. Regrettably, children suffer more than others as they breathe more rapidly, meaning their intake of pollutants exceeds the normal amount.

“A child who is born in Delhi is taking in gulps of bad air which is equivalent to smoking 20 to 25 cigarettes on the first day of his life,” said Arvind Kumar, a prominent lung surgeon. The particles that affect the citizens of Delhi are extremely small in size, so the citizens are more susceptible to inhaling them. This contributes to a slew of health issues ranging from coughing and wheezing to asthma attacks, bronchitis, heart attack, strokes, and even premature death in some cases. Despite being non-smokers, black lungs are common among many patients that complain of health issues.

The government has taken innumerable measures to curb the effects of air pollution. These include the suspension of construction activities, the ban on diesel generators, the imposition of a total of Rs. 30 lakh in penalty for violations, and a stringent restriction on bursting crackers. Evidently, however, such measures have not been able to achieve much, as they have not led to any substantial decrease in air pollution in the region. On Tuesday, a group of citizens assembled outside the office of the Environment Ministry to protest. They held placards displaying messages such as ‘Delhi air is poisonous’, ‘breathing is killing me’, ‘#MyRighttoBreathe’ and ‘Unbreathable India’.

These protests simply go to show that the people have finally woken up to realise the horrendous state that has gripped Delhi. A concerted effort and collaboration between various agencies and citizen groups may prove to be effective in pulling Delhi out of this menace.
Should Juniors be Sent on Exchange?

Point

An opportunity to represent our school on Exchange is something all juniors aspire to obtain. The Exchange experience, as we have been told by our seniors, is unparalleled. However, when the possibility of representing our school on Exchange has opened up in our junior forms itself, a large section of School has expressed its disapproval, based on grounds of whether a junior is equipped to represent School on Exchange. I feel that we are, and for good reasons. I applied for Exchange because I believe that an essential part of living is knowing how to adapt. Knowing how to do so in an entirely different culture and environment will be helpful not only in the remaining years of our school life, but also through our college years. In view of this, an Exchange opportunity in our junior forms will make more sense than one in our S-form. An Exchange in B-form will bolster our ability to adapt and adjust in School, while one in S form will be unproductive.

Going on Exchange in S-form is a menace. Our S-form classes are for more intense than ones in junior forms. While both B-form and S-form aggregate scores are mentioned in our transcripts, S-form scores hold more value in college applications. Therefore, in terms of opportunity cost, losing B-form classes seems more feasible.

Finally, by our S-form, we find ourselves more or less adjusted to our surroundings - we have been able to decide the kind of company we like to keep, and the kind of interests we would like to pursue, and we have an idea about what lies in our comfort zone. Keeping this in mind, an S-form boy would face more difficulties in adjusting to a new environment as opposed to a B-form one who is still more flexible in these terms. While a senior will only be able to contribute to the activities that he has made a conscious decision of prioritizing over other activities, a B-former will have the opportunity to experiment with a wider array of opportunities presented to him on Exchange. While doing so, a junior may also be able to discover some potential in him of which he was not aware and can build on it after returning to School. Sometimes, a different environment and a different ethos can stimulate new interests in a boy where the homely environment of one's own school might fail.

Aryan Bhandari

Counterpoint

Time and again, I have witnessed students arguing about the legitimacy of having an exchange opportunity in our junior years. Here, the basis of contention most often becomes the level students’ maturity. However, it is imperative to understand not only the essence of maturity but also the various other factors that actually prove how an exchange program for juniors does not serve the best interests of either the students or the School.

As representatives of this institution, we need to maintain the respectable reputation that our School has. Our engagement in various activities and our moral principles truly define the good standing of our institution. By the time we are in our S-form, we have experienced a lot in fields of our interest, for instance, football, or debating. As opposed to this, C and B-form boys find themselves at a stage where they are still trying to discover their own strengths. Consequently, it would be implausible to expect juniors to have anything valuable to offer to our international counterparts.

Furthermore, in our B-form, we are simply starting to get a taste of leadership as we get to experience it for the first time in our roles as junior captains. A leadership experience is pivotal to our time at our exchange schools. This leads me to my second point concerning the basis on which these representatives are to be selected. It is far too early to actually choose between applicants. Individuals develop gradually over their years in school, and a major chunk of this development takes place in our B and A-forms. Therefore, I feel that the selection process for this exchange opportunity will be unjustified if the merits of students are compared at such an early stage.

Regarding moral principles and maturity, S-formers unquestionably have a stronger conscience at their more advanced age. At this juncture of their lives, they have had to make some crucial decisions, and this has indeed enhanced their decision-making abilities which have unparalleled importance, especially when one is on foreign soil as a representative of School. Although B-formers have enough sense to make their own decisions, they are not always ready to face unexpected repercussions.

We are all ambassadors of this prestigious institution and we cannot get a better platform to show that than on exchange. Therefore, I believe that we should be no less than the best versions of ourselves when we do get the opportunity to represent our School.

Keshav Singhal
Thoughts On a Bird

Vivhaan Kothari

Okay, I have to write something. My essay is due in an hour and I have no idea where to start. I look out the classroom window. The sky is heavy with bleached, grey, clouds and the sycamores’ branches bend as if pulled by invisible strings. I hear the scratches of Mark’s pencil, Josie’s constant throat-clearing and a bird. What’s a bird doing out in this weather? The sycamore branch it rests on is pulled to creak and crack by its strings. Still, the mockingbird is out on a limb – quite literally – singing with his surprisingly loud voice.

If I were him, I would be quieter, to not draw attention to myself. He looks quite commonplace; with feathers a dull-brown color, a beak that doesn’t look like anything, and he can’t even come up with his own original tune. If he were a human being, he would probably go to jail for plagiarism. Yet, he sings at the top of his tiny lungs, which are probably the size of a corn kernel when full of air. How can he be so loud? I try to look away from the window, but my gaze keeps coming back. I will be in so much trouble when the teacher collects the sheets and reads this nonsense!

My thoughts wander. What makes this bird special is that he’s not. You cannot find a plainer, less interesting, less attractive bird than him. But boy, he can sing, and he knows what he’s capable of. He invests all his heart in it, in spite of what others may have to say.

Something just clicked. I know what my essay will be about. I crumple my paper and begin again on a fresh, blank sheet. I write non-stop for half an hour and hand it in. I hope I get an A+ on my essay about Susan Boyle.

The Classmates

Shreyan Mittal

Have you ever taken a moment during class to just notice your classmates? You may already know the usual ones, like the Nerd, the Teacher’s Pet, or the Back-Bencher. Today let me tell you about a few other types of classmates we all have.

The Sleeper Cell - Unnoticed in almost every class, this person tries to make up for sleepless nights in class. As soon as they sit, their heads automatically flop on to their desk, covered by their hands. These students are also the ones who are completely lost during exams, but somehow still finish the paper first and get some shut-eye.

The Know-It-All - Hated and feared by nearly every teacher, this individual is ‘too cool for school’. They already know everything being taught, and keep on adding unnecessary information of their own. Their motto is, ‘Know everything and let others know nothing’.

The Class Clown - Familiar to many, this person never gives up an opportunity to crack a joke. Never failing to lighten the mood, he is usually liked by all, till the time they become the butt of the clown jokes.

The Emotional One - Probably the most disliked student - these kinds of people have a fuse the size of an ant. One harmless joke and the harm’s already been done. Boom - 99/100. Rivers start flowing from both eyes. Not allowed to answer? Full out tantrum. If you do not have such a student in your class by some miracle, thank your stars and pray to God that you never do.

So as you can see from this extremely detailed and precise account of mine, every class has each of these types of students. The question left to be answered is - Which one are you?
Sixty years and counting, the Chuckerbutty Debates remain one of the most prestigious debating tournaments in the country. The debates this year saw widespread participation, with schools coming from all over India to showcase their skill. The competition did not only reflect the quality of young debaters in the country, but also how debating is growing and becoming increasingly popular, and finding scores of enthusiastic participants.

Being one of the premier championships in India, there were high expectations from the tournament. And it did not disappoint. Over a span of three days, 39 debates were held where debaters debated about various thought-provoking motions. These motions took into account relevant issues that afflict the society today, making the debaters think on their feet and come up with appropriate examples. For instance, while the motion given in the first round was “This House regrets the use of the term ‘moderate Muslims’ by Muslims to identify themselves”, the semi-finals motion was “In post conflict societies, this house would grant amnesty to perpetrators of crime rather than prosecution”. Such stimulating topics for debate made witnessing the event an absolute pleasure. On top of that, teams were given only an hour to prepare for impromptu motions and only fifteen minutes for the motions they had prepared and come for, which really pushed them to do their best. Most debates were neck and neck, with the results being a point or two more on one side- some debates were even less and had a difference of as low as half a point between them. After some intense debating, the Cathedral and John Connon School from Mumbai emerged victorious following a hard-fought debate in the finals against the Shri Ram School, Moulsari. The Doon School team comprising Devang Laddha, Yash Dewan and Karan Sampath showed exemplary performances in the prelims, winning three out of their four debates, but lost out to the winners of the tournament in a closely contested semi-final.

In my opinion, what really distinguishes this year’s competition from previous ones is the fact that this time the judges were all active debaters from Delhi University and not, as it was previously, the masters of the school. The judges’ experience was extremely useful as detailed feedback was given to the participants, with pointers on every aspect of their debating. The debaters took any feedback seriously and implemented it to good effect. The continuous drive in the participants to improve by executing feedback and their passion for this activity, as well as the fervour to come out on top in the end was evident throughout the debate. Not only did we see good reasoning and argumentation from all debaters but also excellent communication and teamwork.

The 62nd Chuckerbutty Debates did show promise, and inspired young debaters in school to have that never-ending strive to improve. Although our team could not win the tournament, I feel that the quality of the debates did go up and helped reiterate the fact that Chucks has been able to continue to improve the quality of debating and debaters, bringing out only the best in them.

Winner: Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai
Runner-Up: The Shri Ram School, Moulsari
“Faster, Higher, Stronger”


Fresh from founder’s break, Doscos waddled back into campus looking forward to the new term, not aware of the grueling routine the house Athletic captains had in mind for them. Much to the disappointment of our Dadi’s and Nani’s, in a weeks’ time every ounce of those ghee lathered aloo paranthas that nourished our bodies had been snatched from us.

This year’s Inter-House athletics competition kicked off on the October 31, although the school team preparations had begun last term itself. Despite the absence of their captain, the school team performed exceptionally well at the Districts Athletics Tournament. Many speculated that with the school football captain returning unscathed, the School athletic captain would endure the brunt of what awaited him. The paucity of time had a clear toll on the marching squads which were not up to the mark. The only exception to this was probably Oberoi house, which managed to get its squads to stop ‘slacking’; a miraculous feat which no other house was able to achieve.

In the junior’s category, Kapil Thapli claimed the track as his very own; winning a majority of his events and the best athlete. Shardul Raghuvanshi also gave a commendable performance winning both the 200 meter and 100-meter sprints.

This year, the mediums category was the most competitive, with a difference of milliseconds deciding the winners. Both Harsh Sethi and Ajay Pratap broke the 400-meter record, in the Mediums category, but the record went down on Ajay’s name. He further went on to win the award for the best athlete, for the second year in a row. However, to the disappointment of many, Paarth Tyagi was disqualified from the 1500 meters event due to his premature exit from the track. In the Mediums Shot put category, a commendable performance was put up by Tarun Bhide but the event was won by Kashmir’s powerhouse, Saksham Makin.

In the senior’s category two records were broken. Viksit Verma shattered the 100 meters record; set 35 years ago, by 0.2 seconds. Adhiraj Singh broke the Shot put record by hurling the shot put an impressive 12.94 meters. Siddhant Singhania ruled the longed distance events, lapping all other participants by a minimum of two rounds in the 5000 meters. With a broken foot that made the run-up impossible, Anish Bhide won the Javelin event by throwing 41 meters.

In High Jump, we saw exemplary performances from Lakshman Santhanam and Samarveer Mundi, but Oberoi House S-form hopeful Angad Sanghera won the category. On Sunday, Viksit Verma, along with Darsh Garg, showcased the dominance of Hyderabad House through their stellar performance in the Pentathlon. Viksit, as many anticipated, went on to win the Best Athlete of the year award.

Hyderabad and Kashmir had beenneck to neck for the Junior’s Cup and the relays were the decider. While Kashmir was able to win the 4x400 relay, Hyderabad House beat them by a hair’s breadth in the 4x100 meter relay; bagging the Juniors cup for Hyderabad house. In the Mediums 4X400 meter sprint, it seemed that Hyderabad House and Oberoi House were running a difference race all together, with almost a 100 meters lead on all other teams. The last 200-meter stretch got the audience on their feet as Harsh Sethi and Ajay Pratap had a showdown. In the Senior’s category, Hyderabad House won the 4x400 and 4x400 meter relay.

Overall Hyderabad House conquered the competition, winning all 4 categories- Mediums, Juniors, Seniors and the coveted House cup.

House Positions

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The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

At the very outset, I welcome my readers to this column, which (for the following year) will be written for by my humble self. My objective, in the coming months, is to use this space as an effective tool for humorous yet a meaningful chronological developments of each week’s developments. Most importantly, to present you, my dear reader, with a good laugh every Saturday morning.

PS- If anybody has any content they wish to be featured here, do let me know!

That being said, let’s move to this week’s business. Diwali, this year, was, especially vibrant with a wide range of ‘green firecrackers’ (if such things exist) looming over-head. Speculations about how much School spent on those crackers ranged anywhere between Rs 80,000 and 4,00,000; in any case, there was a profound sense of displeasure at the vast pollution we caused. The only things brighter than the sparklers were of course our masters’ residences; stocked with Coca-cola, chips and sweets in preparation for the Dosco onslaught.

The Weekly witnessed another senior board go by, with a new senior board now assuming the mantle of leadership. The Weekly’s appointments also surprised a sizeable number when an underdog seamlessly outplayed the heavyweight for the post of Editor. Anyway, congratulations to my fellow colleagues!

The boxing ring, too, has appeared on the old basketball courts with the competition right around the corner. It is again that time of the year where one would see Doscos taking rounds of the main-field clad in multiple sweaters at three in the afternoon! After passing a ‘rigorous’ screening process, we hope to witness some intense bouts this year; many lives are quite literally at stake.

Looking across the main-field, we congratulate ANC on a long and fruitful tenure as House-master of Kashmir House. I’m sure he’s taking with him lots of good memories; many of them were made (as I’m told) just this Diwali.

I wish the younglings in C and D Forms all the best for their PTM this afternoon. Some advice gathered after years of experience: plan the order of teachers you visit after careful thought; it could guarantee you a spectacular outing!

Crossword | The Ramayana

Across
2. Lord Shiva brought this goddess from the form of the Milky Way to a river.
5. This woman inspired Kaikeyi to exile Rama and make Bharata the successor of Dasaratha.
8. Although he was a rakshasa, he was considered wise and just. He was also the younger brother of Ravana.
10. Mistaking the sun for a ripe fruit, this god attempted to eat it.

Down
1. This demon had immunity from death after having performed penance for Lord Shiva.
3. This wife and charioteer of King Dasaratha saved his life in battle, leading Dasaratha to offer her anything she wanted.
4. The guru of King Dasaratha, he offers advice to the king.
6. Vishwamitra, a sage and writer of Gayatri Mantra, is said to have authored the ______.
7. This King is said to have found Sita in a furrow and raised her as her own daughter.
9. The husband of Parvati, this god is a part of the great trinity in Hinduism.

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