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The Doon School WEEKLY

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Editorial: A Rambling Nostalgia

Arnaav Bhavanani

I wrote this on a Thursday night, a day before the *Weekly* goes for print. There was very little time, and with so much to do I was getting a bit apprehensive. I didn't want to sound clichéd, and I didn't want to come across as didactic, asking students to buckle up because this term is going to be busy. What's the point? I racked my mind for hours, thinking perhaps I should write on events that occurred during the holidays, or maybe the changes that I can see in School.

I have never had to put so much thought into an editorial before. When I realized that I was staring at a blank page (the contents of which had been deleted several times), it hit me.

Why was it so hard? Because saying goodbye to something you love is always the hardest thing to do. This is the first issue of the term, but for Anvay, Devansh, and me, this is like a slow closing of a chapter in our lives. We've been in this together since B-form, and our experiences together have been forged not on the playing fields or the vociferous debates in English HL class, but right there in the *Weekly* room. We've faced dictatorial regimens, unnecessary blame games, and *naukarpani* of a kind we have yet to find somewhere else in School. The *Weekly* has somehow come to define most of our School lives, and though by now we've taken different paths in SC form, those daily meetings always bring us back to where we once stood: inexperienced, naïve, and perhaps a bit afraid.

When I look at one of my junior's faces when I'm yelling at him, I see not his fear, but my own as it used to be. When I'm laughing and joking around with them, I remember the times when our meetings lasted for hours and turned into normal social interactions rather than work related issues. When I walk into the room and see a whole cluster of boys gathered around one computer, sometimes late at night, I remember the marathon sessions we had in Shashvat's time to complete a 92-page Founder's Issue that was finally halved in length.

I understand that the hours it took me to write this are testament to what the *Weekly* means to me. Perhaps a bit too much; perhaps I have let my journalistic inclinations define me too much at an age where I should simply be exploring my options. Is it healthy to have such a clear focus so early on in life? Many people would commend it, but there's always that curiosity that drives our evaluation of our choices.

I do often wonder what really drove me to keep working for the *Weekly*. It certainly did not help my social life, in fact in many little ways, I felt different from the rest. Initially, this scared me. I was used to conforming myself to fit other's expectations; it was easy. Being on the *Weekly* changed all that.

And now it's nearly over. With around 10 issues left, I'm already at a loss for words. I do plan to write more, but I dread it now, not because of time constraints, but because each word is another that seals the inevitability of the last one. I know what I have written seems to serve no purpose but nostalgia, something that should be reserved for the very last days, but it's a way of making every word a remembrance.

This term is truly going to be the toughest, be it in terms of studies, college applications, extra-curriculars, or Founder's preparations. In the coming issues, there will be fierce debates, which I hope will elicit their fair share of LTTEs. A lot has happened over this year, and there's a lot more to come. S-form *scoping season* is in full swing already (we should know!) and as always, every moment counts. So this is it. The beginning of a new term, the beginning of greater experiences and longer journeys. It's also getting closer to the end of a saga, as it does every year. What makes this one different? Nothing. That's the beauty of it.



Regulars

Welcome Aboard

We welcome Mr Gyaneshwaran (**GYA**), Ms Mercedes Alonso Garcia (**MAG**), Mr Dheeraj Kumar Upadhyay (**DKY**), Mr Deepankar Sirohi (**DSI**) and Mr Hemant Choudhary (**HCY**) who will be teaching in the **Science Department, Languages Department, Hindi Department, Physical Education Department** and the **Humanities Department** respectively.

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

Round Square

The School hosted the **RSIS Rudraprayag Social Service Project** from **June 1 to June 10, 2015**. A group of **23 students and teachers** from **Four Regional Round Square Schools** participated in the project. The participants assisted in the reconstruction of **Takshila Public School**, which was destroyed during the 2013 Uttarakhand Floods. Ananya Shukla, Niveditta Ghughthyal, KCM and AKS represented the School at this project.

A group of ten students escorted by AKM and MNP attended the **Young Round Square Conference** held at **The Emerald Heights International School, Indore** between **7th and 11th June** this year. The Doon School delegation was appreciated by many for their conduct and active participation.

Well done!

Young Scientists

A group of **ten students** escorted by AKM and CRK participated in the **Science Summer Camp** held at **National University of Singapore** from **28th June to 4th July, 2015**. The group participated actively in various science learning sessions and activity labs including forensic science, food chemistry and science demo labs. Devansh Mittal was one of the members of the winning team in the science quiz held on the last day of the camp. He was awarded the **gold medal**.

Congratulations!

"If you cannot do great things, then do small things in a great way."
-Napoleon Hill

Cyclists

The Doon School organized a 'High Altitude Mountain Cycling Expedition from **Manali to Leh Ladakh** between **June 15 and June 26, 2015**. The team left from Manali on 16th June. The team also crossed **Tanglang La**, the world's second highest pass. 12 boys and 1 girl, escorted by ASH, NTC and MMR took part in this expedition.

Kudos!

Exchange Students

We welcome exchange students Kane Brunjes from **Toowoomba Grammar School, Queensland, Australia** and Louis and Jean Luc from **St Edwards School, Oxford, England**.

We wish them a fruitful stay!

Obituary

Mr. Ashok Mohan Bhavnani, ex-231T, class of 1949 passed away on 25 July, 2015, at home in New York City, USA. He was 81 years old. He succumbed to complications from lung cancer. He was a noted architect in the US and designed many buildings of note in and around the New York City area, being especially active in the designs of theaters, schools and affordable housing. He is survived by his wife of nearly 53 years, Marjorie Bhavnani, his son, Raoul, his daughter-in-law, Savitha Reddy, and his grandchildren, Nikhil and Nina, all of whom reside in New York City. He was the son of Mohan and Enakshi Bhavnani of Bombay who were well-known as a film director and a writer of important books on Indian dance and crafts, respectively.

The Weekly mourns his passing, and the family has our deepest condolences

Dosco Doodle

'The Missile Man' Anirudh Popli



'Tour de Leh'

Aditya Vardhan Bhardwaj and Shashwat Arya report on the *High Altitude Cycling Expedition from Manali to Leh* conducted during the Summer Vacation.

On the 15th of June, a team comprising 13 students and three masters arrived at Naggar, a small town near Manali knowing fully well that the following week would prove to be one of the most physically demanding challenges that they were ever likely to face. For the first time in its recent history, our School had planned a cycling expedition on a route described even by expert cyclists as one of the toughest and most scenic in the world.

In Naggar, we were explained the basics of mountain biking by our instructors who were part of a larger unit of about 20 people who would be addressing our needs over the course of the journey. Owing to our lack of experience, getting to grips with the sophisticated bikes took some time, but we were finally able to do a 20 kilometer test ride between Naggar and Kullu. Apart from a couple of spectacular falls which simultaneously scared and amused the rest of us, the test ride remained quite uneventful throughout.

The next morning we prepared our gear and traveled to a point beyond Manali from where we would begin our ride. Day one was extremely difficult for most members, mainly due to the relatively steep uphill climb for the majority of the 35 kilometers that we rode. We camped that night in Marhi, a village about 18 km below the Rohtang Pass.

We began the next day with a grueling uphill climb to the Pass (13050 ft), the first of five which we would be encountering during the course of our journey. However, what made the intense climb worth the effort, just as it did for the entire journey, was the beautiful road that we encountered upon crossing the pass. This was a particularly risky road because of the high end traffic. Though the energy level was high, the



team moved under high pressure of the traffic and altitude problems. The night was spent in the shade of towering Deodar trees in Sissu, one of the most beautiful camp sites of the route.

The next couple days followed a similar pattern – an exhausting steep climb followed by a cruise through the lush mountainside adjacent to Ladakh. By the time we camped at Don Zing Zing Bar on the 5th day, most of the altitude sickness issues affecting the team had been ably dealt with. As we cycled towards Ladakh, we experienced an entirely different landscape from the one we had just passed through. The barren region emanated an almost surreal kind of beauty, one that was accentuated by the occasional sightings of army check posts and civilian settlements, some of them abandoned after the Kargil War. However, the beautiful surroundings did not take away from the physical and mental demands of the journey which only increased as we progressed. From covering 30-40 kilometres a day, we had progressed to riding about 50-60 kilometres through increasing altitudes, which brought with them breathing complications as well as the threat of slippery roads due to snowfall.

However, credit must be given to the team for not having been found wanting at any point over the course of the journey. One of the major reasons behind this was the proficient support team travelling with us, who were catering to all aspects of our stay, right from the excellent food to the efficiently arranged camp sites. Beyond their obvious roles as organizers of this expedition, our instructors developed a sense of camaraderie with us, something which only increased our comfort and confidence with each passing day. Moreover, in the final couple of days of the journey, the team was able to manage the 70 km distances with relative ease, aided by a newfound sense of expertise as well as the palpable excitement of nearing Leh.

After 9 days of exhausting yet rewarding cycling, we reached Leh, a small city in the Indus Valley, home to tourists from across the world at this time of the year. Even though the city itself was beautiful, we were all a bit nostalgic at having completed the journey; after all, when you have just passed through some of the most beautiful, untamed regions on Earth, a city, however picturesque, holds little of significant interest.

Some of the highlights of the trip included: the Gata Loops, a gruelling 21-loop climb on Day six; Tanglang La pass (17480 ft), the second highest pass in the world, and the 'More plains', a picture-perfect 40 kilometre long and 35 kilometre wide stretch of plain road with endless hills on either side.

As we flew back to Delhi, each of us returned with our own fond memories of the expedition. Although the 'unforgettable' tag is a rather clichéd one, I think it's safe to say that it would take something truly special for any of us to beat this experience in the future.

Debating off a Ski Slope

Rahil Chamola reports on the WSDA Debate Training Camp, held at Slovenia during the Summer Holidays.

On the 25th of June 2015, a group of 10 boys escorted by DEB, left for the town of Kranjska Gora, in Slovenia, to participate in a ten day intensive debate training workshop, formally known as the World Schools Debate Academy. The workshop was an experience like no other, one that I whole heartedly enjoyed, and I shall proceed to outline exactly why it is worth attending for any student, if they have the time, or the least bit of inclination.

If one wants to learn to debate, whether or not one has done so before, what better place to do so than at the foothills of the Julian Alps, in summer? This year, there were 156 participants from 23 countries. A lot of them were highly skilled, treating WSDA as a training camp in preparation for the World Schools Debating Championships. The opposite was also true, and many beginners were present there as well. Yet, all these

debaters had one common goal, as did I: to better themselves at the end of day. Having had no experience in public speaking whatsoever, let alone debating, I had come here anxious to learn, yet the prospect of becoming tongue-tied had left me petrified. All those fears, however, vanished after the first day. People were sorted out according to their skill level, and proficiency in debating, as I soon learnt, was no barrier, since many of the rookie debaters ended up debating members of various national teams, and coping surprisingly well at the end of



those ten days! The schedule was meticulously planned out, stressing on maximum utilization of time, yet one was given enough leisure time as well, in order to interact with their newfound friends. Lectures were conducted on topics such as Basic Argumentation, Case-building Strategies and Opposition Anticipation, at the end of which one would put the skills learnt to use through exercises. The instructors were outstanding, and every one of them was internationally qualified. Not only that, but they were also close to our age group, and this allowed all of those present to bond with them further. For example, I became very friendly with the Croatian National team coach, an energetic young gentleman called Filip, after having him judge one of my debates (the topic was "THBT Google should report suicidal searches to authorities"). The clinical precision with which the coaches dissected the flaws in our style was valuable indeed, and gave us a goal to work towards at the end of each day. Despite this, the coaches were very close to us outside the class. Filip, for example was the DJ at the dance that we attended on the last night!

Now, the lectures were great, but there was something that appealed to me even more – the electives. Over 10-12 different electives were offered every day, and one could attend any elective of one's choice. The purpose of these electives was to expand one's knowledge base, and there was no elective that seemed the least bit tedious to me. Other than electives that taught us the finer points of debating, there were also content electives, where we were given crash courses in key topics that often popped up in debates and in general discussion. I attended, over the course of two days, electives on the refugee situation in Europe, Feminism, Demography and Game Theory. Of course, there were many more, each one more enriching than the other. Also, various practice debates were held during which one could team up with people from any country they wanted. At the end of seven days a tournament was held so that one could pit their skills against the rest of the debaters.

Now, all work and no play does make for a dreary schedule, but thankfully that was not the case. The organizing committee ensured that not a moment was wasted in the course of this trip. We were taken on nature walks and biking trips and also visited various places such as the picturesque Lake Bled. The hamlet of Kranjska Gora was ours to explore, an exquisite place with a beautiful church that played host to evening performances, and hospitable people who went out of their way to make us feel at home. Not one of the debaters ever felt lonely, since we were what we were supposed to be; rivals at debating yet friends off the podium. There was a country exhibition that took place at the venue, where people from each country took time out in order to teach their new made friends about their homeland. On other days, there was a treasure hunt, board game evenings and most exciting of all, a kitsch party where everyone dressed up in odd combinations, and attended a dance session. The coaches had fun too. Along with attending sessions on debate training, adjudication and organizing competitions, they went on cycling and driving expeditions. DEB apparently cycled off with other coaches to a certain lake at the border of Italy and returned breathlessly excited.

When we finally had to leave, there was not one of us who did not wish that they could have stayed a bit longer. It had indeed been an unforgettable experience, one that taught us more than we could have imagined, turning even inept speakers into confident, level-headed ones. After a half a day stopover in Ljubljana, the City of Dragons, and the capital of Slovenia, we made our way back home, exhausted yet satisfied, eager to meet our families and to share tales of our European adventures—both verbal and physical.

The Clinicians

Devang Laddha reports on the NUS Science Summer Camp, held at Singapore during the Summer Holidays.

On the 28th of June, a group of ten boys along with two masters went to the National University of Singapore for a five day Science Summer Camp. The summer camp was attended by about 120 students from over ten countries. All of us, were divided into 6 groups and were assigned guides, who showed us the campus and pointed out its salient features. We all stayed on campus, in a residential college with all of us assigned specific rooms.

Every morning, we attended lectures on topics ranging from Forensic Science to Nanotechnology to The Internet of Things. They informed us about the current research being done in the fields and how they have impacted the world. We were often surprised by the effect and extent of the research and how they had led to the advancement in their respective fields. We also discussed about future scenarios and how the world could change in the near future, from the recent projects that had been undertaken. The lectures helped us understand more about science and broadened our perspectives about science.

For further insight, we attended workshops in which we performed certain tasks and then gave scientific reasoning behind our work. We often performed or witnessed experiments in the workshops. Experiments for concepts like super-conductivity and DNA separation were fascinating to watch and learn about. The experiments often left us in awe as well as a little perplexed. We learnt how to use scientific apparatus like the Electron Microscope and saw the tiniest of objects. While we worked in our workshops, we also interacted with other members of our group and got to know about their lives in foreign countries. The workshops tested our capabilities but proved to be a fruitful learning experience.

After the workshops, on several occasions, we went off campus. We went for a city tour, to the Madam Tassauds Wax Museum and the Animal Museum. The Animal Museum housed three gigantic dinosaur skeletons which were a marvel to look at.

On the last day, we had a quiz in which one of the doscos won a gold. We returned to India on the 3rd of July after an enriching and rewarding week of learning.

Swagatam

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr Dheeraj Upadhyay who recently joined the School as a Hindi Master.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you please tell us a bit about yourself, your career and teaching experience?

Mr Dheeraj Kumar Upadhyay (DKY): My name is Dheeraj Kumar Upadhyay. I belong to Bhopal, Madhyapradesh. I started my teaching career in 1999. I started from a government school then I joined a private CBSE school in Mumbai, I served there for four years. Later I joined Sanskar Valley School, Bhopal. I worked there for four years and then decided to shift to Hyderabad to teach IB DP and ICSE. I worked there for another four years. Recently I got an offer from The Doon School and I decided to come here.

DSW: As a Hindi teacher, what are your views on the previous row caused by a government decision over language usage, that raised questions as to the precedence of Hindi and English?

DKY: Language is a measure of an individual. Though we are in a scenario where English is an international language so one should be very good in English if they want to go and study abroad later on in life, we can't ignore our mother tongue. The government rule is that a student must study a second language. For a second language, the student can opt for their mother tongue. The mother tongue is the best means of learning. Whatever the scenario is now, it is alright because it is a good thing that there are so many young people who can speak good English.

DSW: In light of a globalized and developing world, should children be learning English prior to their national language?

DKY: It should be happening because these days one must have knowledge of languages such as English. One must have knowledge of Hindi as well so as to be able to have respect for the language, but yes, students should be learning English.

DSW: What is your favorite piece of Hindi literature? How does it exemplify virtues for young people?

DKY: My favorite piece of Hindi literature is *Godan* by Munshi Premchand. *Godan* is an epic novel and it talks about village life. We can find so many characters in *Godan* who we can compare to ideal characters. I would recommend this book to all youth.

DSW: Apart from teaching, which areas do you plan to contribute in during your tenure in school?

DKY: Apart from teaching, I plan to contribute to all other literary activities such as debating or creative writing, essay writing, drama and others. Apart from that, I have an interest in badminton and I can play cricket and soccer. I also have a little bit of knowledge on marching. I'll try to contribute in all the possible areas that I can in School.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

While the rain seems to have taken time to settle in, most of us continue to work towards our respective activities, whether it be DSMUN or the Chuckerbutty Debates, Founders or football, (not to forget the *scoping season*). As time has proven, the second term is one that never fails to sizzle our brains.

The school football team is a prime example of hard work and commitment; they can be seen on the field, whether rain or shine, preparing for the upcoming IPSC tournament. Early morning practices are bound to pay off, and we wish the team the best of luck for this season, the last one for a number of our brilliant players.

The stage is set for S form. Unlike last year, *scoping season* seems to have employed simple tactics, a major example being the rush for a chance to sit beside 'you know who' during breakfast. But as always, this is just the lull before the storm, there is lot more that will be accomplished in the months yet to come.

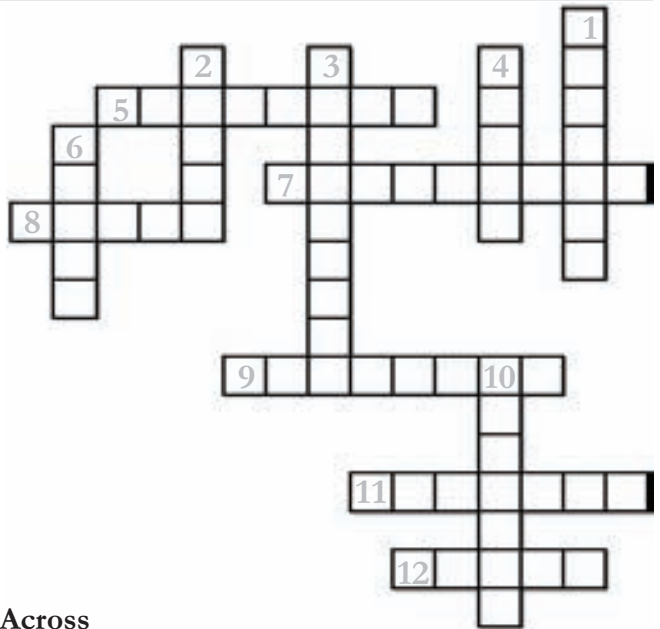
DSMUN is awaited by one and all, while the secretariat gears up for this year's edition, our Chairpersons have been spotted regularly in the gym, justifying the fact that we Doscos work hard for what we "love" the most. This year we host a few international schools as well, thereby making it both unique and exciting for all those taking part. Though this year's MUN is smaller than last year's, we foresee higher levels of debate and social interaction (fueled by the SC form)!

The last item on our checklist is Founders Day, which plays host to brilliant performances by our lads. A lot of people are looking forward to this year's English play which happens to be an adaptation of the famous movie, "Dead Poets Society". Practices for music and drama are long and taxing, but the performances have never failed to amaze us.

The SC's are supposedly saving their best for the last, thereby making it important for them to manage themselves well in terms of both academics and co-curricular activities. Six years have gone by in a flash, but the last term will always be the one that is remembered by all. College applications are nearing completion, work seems to be at its peak, but memories will continue to be made.

Apart from activities, it only remains for me to warn everyone about the upcoming weeks, which will comprise late nights and dreary days. Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst!

Crossword



Across

5. This space probe is the farthest man made object from Earth.
7. This is the previous name of Ethiopia.
8. This Indian tennis player was recently awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.
9. This famous scientist was offered to become Israel's second Prime Minister.
11. This painter was nicknamed 'Jack the Dripper'.
12. He is the only Indian Prime Minister to have signed a bank note.

Down

1. The remains of the Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370, were recently found on these islands.
2. This is the least peaceful country according to the Global Peace Index 2015.
3. This man invented Coca-Cola in 1886.
4. This is known as making petty and unnecessary objections.
6. In one of her letters, this famous author referred to Mohandas Gandhi as 'Mickey Mouse'
10. This country's parliament is the oldest functional legislature in the world.

Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword:	
Across	Down
1. Voyager 1	1. Reunion
2. Abyssinia	2. Syria
3. Mirza	3. Pemberton
4. Einstein	4. Cavi
5. Polpck	6. Naidu
6. Singh	10. Iceland

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