



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, September 10 | Issue No. 2444



Point-
Counterpoint 3

Red, Armed
and Resilient 4

A Sterling Streak 5

The Week
Gone By 6

Amidst the Debris

Kanishkh Kanodia *analyses the plight of children in the current conflict in Syria.*

Soiled with dirt from head to toe. Face engraved with dread. Clothes smeared with blood. Sitting at the back of an ambulance - dazed and stupefied - staring at the emptiness of the world that lay in front of him. Too stunned to cry or to talk. This was the picture of a five-year old that shocked the world, and brought to the limelight the horror caused by wars on innocent children.

Omran Daqneesh, rescued from the debris of a building destroyed by Russian or Assad forces carrying air strikes on the Syrian city of Aleppo reflects the inability of the world to stop the carnage - the carnage of the bloody war in Syria. This isn't the first time an image of a young boy has chilled the nerves of the people around the globe. The sight of Alan Kurdi, the three-year old whose corpse was washed up on the shore of Turkey is still not forgotten. The photographs of body parts of small children being pulled out from the rubble of buildings in Syria, and the images of injured and dead children broadcast on social media everyday are a constant reminder of the angst of the people in Syria. It is a symbol of the horrific misery suffered by innocent civilians during any conflict. For the children of Syria, there isn't much choice; either way the consequences are harsh and unforgiving. If they stay: Omran, if they leave: Alan. Between the fights of 'men', these children are left helpless and hapless. They have grown up only knowing war. It has hindered their education and their learning. Moreover, it has scarred their childhood and potentially their entire life. Imagine having a childhood replete with only blood, terror, guns, seeing people around you getting slaughtered ruthlessly and always being in a state of anxiety about your own life. This is what the toddlers in war-torn Syria are facing today, and the world has been quiet about it.



Every time a picture like this goes viral, it results in likes, shares, hashtags, people changing their profile pictures and writing a two-liner on Facebook and Twitter. It mobilizes the NGOs and the charitable organizations. The leaders of nations condole with the families and vow to bring a halt to it. People get out on the streets holding sheets of papers in their hands, scribbled with a word or a phrase that hardly means anything to them. However, over time these images are forgotten like particles of dust wafted into thin air. Alan and Omran become the victims of some distant tragedies that hardly concern 'us'. The pretentious humanitarian sentiments are only restricted to the ambit of social media and beyond that is deemed to be 'someone else's job'. People forget it until the image of another Alan Kurdi or Omran Daqneesh surfaces and goes viral, and yet again all the sentiment and feelings are futile and fleeting. This cycle keeps on continuing year after year. More people die, more children die, more defenceless toddlers die.

These deaths have been the result of the walls that have been erected between communities –religious or social. These lines have to be blurred in order to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring. This has to be ameliorated by us. It is us, who have to consider any remark or comment that breeds communalism, a taboo and take measures against it. This might sound very idealistic but the world today has become fragile and it is these ideals that define the path to be traversed by us in order to achieve a better, more tolerant and pluralistic world. This has to be done quickly, otherwise the earth will continue to spin; albeit without an entire generation of Syrians.

1. The Doon School Weekly **Saturday, September 10**



Regulars

Mariners

The School participated in the **6th Mr P.A Kidd Inter-School Invitational Swimming Competition** held at **Wynberg-Allen School**. The results are as follows:

Juniors

Tarun Bhide won a **bronze medal** in the **50m freestyle**.
Aditya Jain won a **silver medal** in the **50m backstroke**
Jayaditya Dahiya won a **gold medal** in the **50m breaststroke**.

Advaita Sood won a **bronze medal** in the **50m breaststroke**.

The **medley relay** team comprising Aditya Jain, Jayaditya Dahiya, Aryan Agarwal and Advaita Sood won a **silver medal**.

Mediums

Anish Bhide won **two bronze medals** in **50m backstroke** and **100m freestyle**.

Shiven Dewan won a **silver medal** in the **50m breaststroke**.

The medley relay team comprising Rishit Thakur, Adithya Kapoor, Bhai Meer Singh and Shiven Dewan won a **silver medal**.

Seniors

Rishabh Goel won a **silver medal** in **50m backstroke**.

Kudos!

Euclidean

The results of the **S.L.Sharma Senior Math Colloquium Prize Test** are as follows:

1st: Kanav Agarwal

2nd: Madhav Gurtoo

3rd: Tanmay Nautiyal

Kudos!

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
-Edmund Burke

Belletrists

The following are the results of the **B.P. Chandola Senior Hindi Essay Writing Competition**:

1st: Atrey Bhargava

2nd: Siddharth Mishra

3rd: Chinmaya Sharma

The following are the results of **Smt. Mirchandani Junior Hindi Essay Writing Competition, 2016**:

1st: Konark Malhotra

2nd: Samarth Mehra

3rd: Ansh Raj

Congratulations!

A Game of Moves

The School recently hosted the annual **Doon School Chess Tournament, 2016**. **Modern School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi** emerged as the **winner** and **Sanskriti School, New Delhi** was declared the **first runner-up**. The **Doon School A-Team** was declared the **second runner-up**.

Well done!

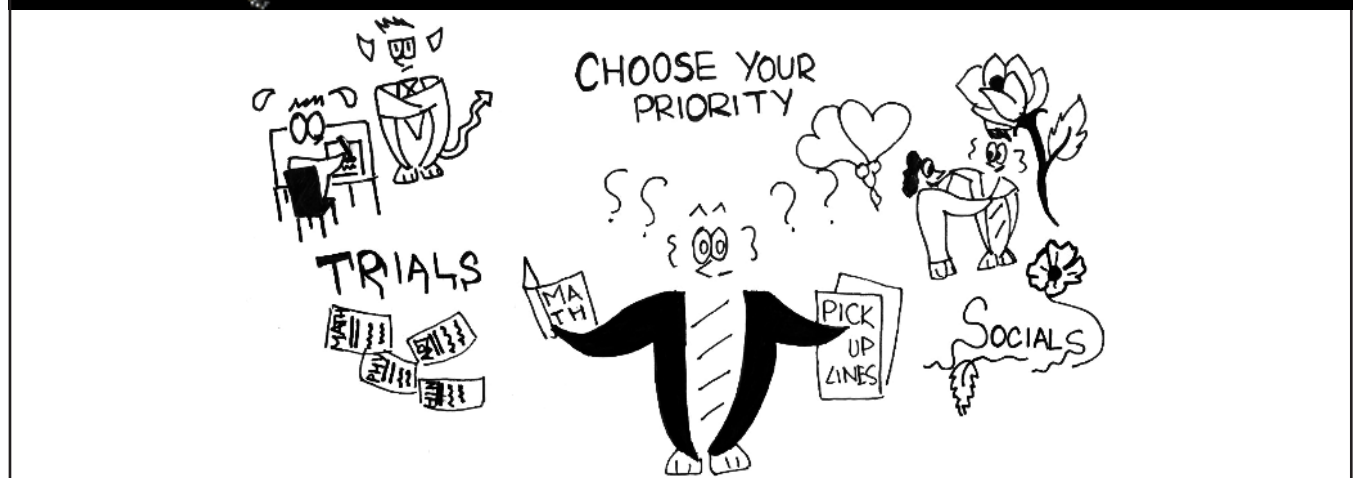
Around the World in 80 Words

Hungarian prosecutors filed charges on Wednesday against a camerawoman accused of kicking and tripping migrants fleeing police. At a Ganesha idol immersion in Mumbai, a policeman was attacked while holding his head under water by a volunteer. Drug-resistant bacterial infections are increasing in Thailand because of poor policy and absence of regulation. An Indian scientist developed genetically modified cotton seeds following success with mustard. Facebook executives confirmed that the website's faulty algorithm resulted in users being exposed to new concepts.

Dosco Doodle

Choices...

Ujjwal Jain



Old Habits Die Hard?

A debate on whether the school should revert back to its old daily schedule.

Point

Nehansh Saxena

There is a growing consensus in School that the current schedule is not designed for a proper flow of activities over the day. I don't need to stress on the imperfection of our time-table; those who experience it are the ones to judge. Change in this schedule is inevitable. I strongly feel that reverting to a system similar to the one followed till 2012 would benefit the School by increasing the productivity and in mitigating stress.

The basis on which the School authorities vied for a 'late start' in 2013 was the sleep deprivation problem faced by boys. I feel that the way the problem had been dealt with was not right. We did not eliminate the root cause, which was boys sleeping late; instead, we simply delayed the start of the day by an hour and removed the 'afternoon rest hour' in the process. This only led to the boys not getting adequate sleep. Medical experts say that teenagers should follow a strict daily schedule and take a nap in the afternoon. Waking up early in the morning at 6:00 AM is not a bane, as it is perceived to be. Instead, we need to make sure the boys sleep on time. An early start leads to an early end, paving way for the much needed recreational time.

The 'rest hour' (before it slowly lost its grip on boys) was enforced by the housemasters and prefects till 2009. This left students refreshed enough to get down to their evening activities with ease, unlike this overstretched time-table that refuses any down-time. Reinstating early morning P.Ts and rest hours would be a boon for the schedule. Currently, the day ends with the cumulative exhaustion of more than twelve hours of activities.

As these two are the pivotal, determining factors for changing the schedule, I stressed on early mornings and the need for a rest hour. Nevertheless, the school will witness change, one way or another.

Counterpoint

Salman Mallick

The merits of our old daily schedule are widely known throughout the School community. However, there are disadvantages in the old schedule, which need to be addressed in any schedule that is introduced.

Firstly, there is great popularity in School for the 'rest hour' that existed in the old schedule. Even though this time was labelled as rest hour, it was anything but that, as the people who were present during the time the schedule ran would know only too well (which would only be the present S and SC forms). This rest hour was used for co-curricular activities, STA and SUPW time, fitness, and sports. In fact, even now the schedule has an hour (3 PM to 4PM) in which one would have been able to do what he likes had it not been for co-curricular activities.

Many students talk about waking up at 6 AM as if it is a walk in the park. Only those who do wake up at that ungodly hour know exactly how bad it is, with many of the School's football and basketball players having a rather rough time in the classes after lunch. Also, during the first two months of the spring term, in which P.T is at its peak, the cold and dark mornings would certainly give many of the students the chills.

A large amount of deliberation is required on this matter, as the daily schedule has a huge effect on the productivity of the students. Clearly, there is a schoolwide consensus that this schedule should be dropped for the previous one. However, some simple changes in wording may make this schedule as attractive as the last one. One change I would advocate would be to simply label the time between 3 PM and 4 PM as 'self-directed work', and not allow any sort of rehearsals or practices to be held during this period. To conclude, I would stress upon making small changes and seeing if the problem can be fixed before revamping the entire schedule.



doonspeak

A change in the weekly schedule for you would be...

- "A relief" - Ishaan Kapoor
- "Welcomed" - Divij Mullick
- *sighs* - Tushaar Sharma
- "Exciting" - Keshav Maliah
- "A correction" - Ananay Sethi
- "Insignificant as it won't change much"

- Dhruv Aggarwal

Opinion poll

Do you think the School should revert back to the previous daily schedule?

Yes 67%

No 33%

(111 students of S and SC forms were polled)

Red, Armed and Resilient

Zoraver Mehta interprets the Naxalite movement in India.

Several hundred kilometers behind the national border in Chhattisgarh, India effectively ends. Local police units are lined up frantically behind the thousands of acres of Naxalite and Maoist occupied land. Over the years, these—revolutionists, idealists, renegades; however one may describe them, have evolved into a potent and lethal insurgency who now have considerable influence in twenty states of the country.

Most people mistake Naxalism for Maoism and fail to trace the tangle differences which lie between the two groups and their ideologies. Naxalism originated as a rebellion against marginalization of poor forest dwellers in rural parts of eastern India. The Maoists in India however, want to take control of the government and enforce their ideology upon the whole nation. Their aim is to fundamentally transform India into full scale communist while Naxalism is a culmination of the anger and sufferings of the tribal community. At present, the Naxalites work almost entirely under the influence of the maoist led Communist Party of India. Maoists spread anti-establishment propaganda amongst the people of the remote disconnected villages of Chhattisgarh. As of today, almost all the ancient tribes and ethnic groups in the area are more than convinced of communism's workability and have all joined this rather



intemperate revolution. The Maoists promise the uninformed Naxals a somewhat leftist version of egalitarianism and have persuaded them that true equality could only be possible if they overthrow the corrupt and apathetic government. This fierce coalition kills thousands of people each year to promote and further their ideology.

Reports reveal that Maoist leaders have been clandestinely visiting China's Yunnan province for arms training and that the country has even set up a weapon manufacturing facility for them. What is even more dangerous is the growing proximity of the Maoists with Pakistan based Islamic terror group Lashkar-i-Taiba. Wikileaks and the Intelligence Bureau have already apprised the Indian Home Ministry of the growing links between Maoists and ISI. The infamous gangster turned terrorist Dawood Ibrahim has also been accused of paying the radical Maoists to conduct terrorist against the Indian nation. What is ironic though, is that even though the Naxalites inhabit the poorest of districts, the areas are also the richest in minerals like coal, bauxite and iron ore. Private illegal organizations; the mining mafia, are said to be in control of this land.

The Maoists have declared their goal of overthrowing the government in New Delhi in two decades, though these plans are mere day dreams, the Indian government has declared this Left Wing Extremism as the single biggest internal security threat for our country.

While one condemns and lambasts this fugitive braking of order, the widening Naxalite-Maoist insurgency offers a moment of reckoning about the country's democracy and has ignited a sharp debate about where and if it has failed. The widespread corruption, political instability and the inefficient government bureaucracy are all testament to its non-fulfilment. However, I believe that this—very existent non fulfilment—should be countered and resolved through effective, worthwhile reforms without doing away with the essence and character of our nation's constitution.

It is distressing that many tribes of India are turning out to be mere pawns in politicians' underhand agendas attribute to their unscrupulous duplicity. A recent incident in this light took place in Maharashtra, when nearly 2000 tribal people were imprisoned for demanding ration cards and the implementation of the Forest Rights Act to help them claim the land they had been tilling. In lieu of justice, they served one week in judicial custody in filthy conditions despite the fact that many of them were women. With such increased feeling of deprivation, tribal uprising may be described as a cumulative of such political and also public apathy. The aforementioned also makes it that much easier for the 'real terrorists' to turn the tribes against the government and instigate revolt. Hence the root of the problem, and its solution lies in governance of our nation.

Former President A P J Abdul Kalam believed that a solution to this Naxalite problem lies in land reform and expeditious implementation of sustainable development in these tribal areas through the system called PURA--Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas. The Naxalite subject is multifaceted, widespread and rooted in local factors. It is different from the student uprising in Assam or even the Jammu and Kashmir militancy. The government cannot resolve the issue by sending the military into villages and jungles. While they plan on modernizing law enforcement agencies and taking steps to prevent further environmental degradation, the Naxalites gain further influence.

A Sterling Streak

Arjun Singh reports on the recent *Oliphant Memorial Inter-School English Debates*.

In what has now become an annual affair in our debating calendar, a team comprising Chaitanya Kediya, Ishaan Kapoor, Devang Laddha and I participated in the 26th Oliphant Memorial Inter-School English Debates hosted at Welham Boys' School last week. Having taken home the trophy last year, the onus was on us to defend the title for a consecutive annum – a stratospheric goal that we, with all our frantic preparation, hoped to accomplish over the two-day debate-athon we were soon to face.

The plenary session on Friday was quickly followed by our first round. Held in the modified British Parliamentary Format, the method of debating was certainly a departure from the World Schools' Format that we had adopted at School in recent years; now we would debate in four teams with two speakers (rather than the familiar system with two teams of four). The more salient difference, however, was the style of argumentation. Rather than adopting three or four broad arguments (as is usually done in the World Schools' Format), we were instead expected to build a case with six to eight arguments along with rebuttals; that too presented over two speeches of a shorter duration. Fortunately though,



we'd received our motion the night before which gave us time to adjust ourselves to the complexities of parliamentary debating. Up against our three competitors, Ishaan and Devang took to the floor as the Closing Government for the motion "This House will ban the release and continuation of addictive videogames such as Pokémon Go!" while the rest of us served as researchers. In arguing against the game's various socio-psychological and health hazards, coupled with establishing the effectiveness of a ban, we were able to secure the first rank, with Devang being adjudged the Best Speaker.

Shortly afterward, we received our second motion "This House will reserve seats for transgender people in schools, colleges, government jobs and the parliament", speaking again as the Closing Government. Here, Chaitanya argued for the symbolic need of reservations for an oppressed community, while I – as Government whip – outlined the efficacy of such reservations in practice. The debate ended on another triumphant note, with Chaitanya being adjudged as the Best Speaker. After a short (but much needed) break for lunch, we soon delved into preparation for the final round of the day on the motion "This House would limit the powers and freedoms of social media." As Closing Opposition, Chaitanya presented arguments cementing the importance of social media, both as a method for gaining awareness and support for ideas, and as a peaceful outlet for grievances which serves as an alternative to physical outburst. Ishaan - the whip and last speaker - replied to the debate and effectively refuted the opposing side. The debate ended with a coupled success, for we emerged not only with the first rank, but also with a joint-Best Speakership that was shared by our two teammates. Later that night, we attended an ambient 'candle-lit' dinner at the school's Staff Club, which certainly helped in bringing all some relief from a hard day's work!

After a swift (and short) Saturday breakfast, we headed out again for the next leg of the tournament. Having led the preliminary league, we were pitted in the Semi-Finals against three more competitors: soon to experience one of our most challenging, yet thoroughly interesting rounds. As Opening Government, we spoke to defend the motion "This house will not eat meat". Elaborating on our humanitarian responsibility towards animals vis-à-vis our occupation of their habitats and the economic impact of meat consumption, the debate proved to be quite interesting, and despite facing a challenge mid-debate from the Closing Opposition, we managed to retain the top spot; the judges sealing their approval for our team's stately speeches, in which Chaitanya added another Best Speakership to our tally.

Advancing to the final round, we were presented with the motion "This House Believes That universal primary education in developing countries is a misallocation of resources". While we did recognize the importance of primary education, our team argued that developing nations should primarily allocate resources to deliver priority short-term goals first (i.e. poverty alleviation through economic growth) and not long term goals that require primary and secondary education. Suggesting an alternative, we advocated for short-term vocational training instead, which would provide people with much needed occupational skills in lieu of, for the time being, complete education.

Our efforts bore fruit, and after two exhaustive but truly enjoyable days of debating, we emerged victorious: lifting the trophy for the second consecutive year and taking home a considerable cash prize, with Chaitanya being simultaneously declared as the competition's Overall Best Speaker. Having put (or brought back) our first piece of silverware this season, the debate was truly a success, and in my hope, will serve as a prelude for successes yet to come.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

Before I begin, I would like to thank and congratulate a somewhat excited and enthusiastic faculty member for attempting to write this column last week. However last week's WGB has made me eager and inspired me to write.

Football commenced this past week and like every year, there are always certain unprecedented events that take place on ground one. This year, Oberoi house managed to outshine their opponents in what will definitely go down as the biggest shock of the tournament.

The weather has been on our side and the clouds always seem to make it on time for the match, thereby allowing the players to enjoy the relief of not having the sun shining down on them for ninety minutes.

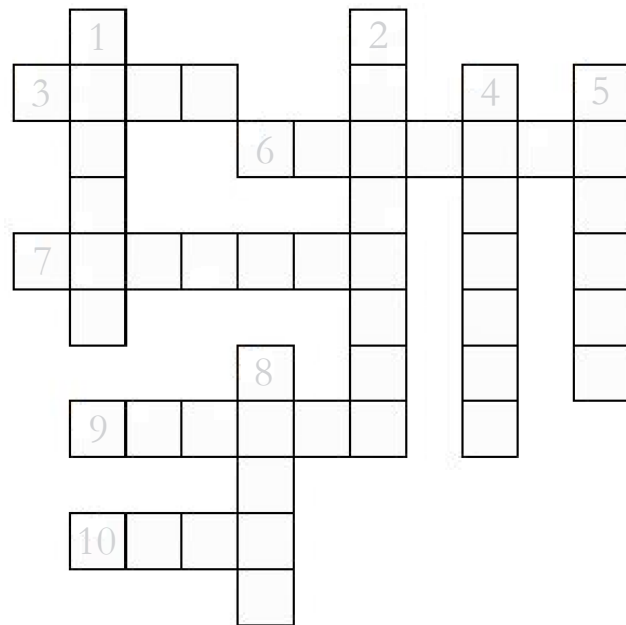
The Individual Observation experiments are always a cause for excitement in School as it offers a platform for teachers to showcase their full potential. For the boys, it is their one chance to showcase good student behaviour, that is, bringing their notebook, carrying a pen and being responsive in class! All of a sudden there were regular lists, worksheets and notes being handed out and classes were being conducted with a brilliant flow.

Trials begin next week and the SC's seem to be worried about their study time. Their concern even had many SC's discuss how they could skip attending socials. Some have planned and drawn up study schools, which are reset due to inability to execute. Some have begun group studies. But there are some who a planning to burn the midnight oil. The two day break before trials has come as a blessing.

The School has made provisions for odomos and everyone seems to be in an 'outing' mood. While our parents seem to be worried about our health, we still deem it necessary to keep to our comfortable ways of inviting all mosquitoes to spread their love in order for us to miss out on us giving Trials next week. Here's wishing Dosco's the very best for the upcoming Trials!

Crossword

Unbelievable Facts



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

Across

3. Name of the 507 year old Mollusc which was accidentally killed by scientists.
6. This famous freedom fighter was never removed from the US terror watch list until 2008.
7. She was the first licensed armless pilot.
9. This substance was initially used to treat people addicted to morphine.
10. This football player brought the Nigerian Civil War to a halt.

Down

1. This dictator led the first public anti-smoking campaign in modern history.
2. This US agency has a plan for combating a zombie apocalypse.
4. Cotton Candy was invented by a _____.
5. Who ate every animal he discovered?
8. Octopuses are eaten alive in this country; the Supreme Leader rules here.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
3. Mandelab	1. Hitler
6. Korea	2. Pentagon
7. Jessica	4. Dentist
9. Heroin	5. Darwin
10. Pele	8. Octopus

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