



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, December 17 | Issue No. 2455



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## Editorial

**Arjun Singh**

With this Issue, we come to the end of a relatively placid month that draws an eventful year to a close. Beyond all doubt, it was certainly a dynamic and robust one for the world, the effects of which are only beginning to take shape.

Likewise, back at Chandbagh, we've sought to bring our own set of changes to the *Weekly*. In doing so, your criticism and views of these changes have been received, which we've taken into account and have done our best to incorporate.

Yet, before we break for a month-long hiatus, it's important to address the method of response that the community has to our Issues. One of our aims is, and has always been, to generate discussion and debate, and it is understood that you will both approve and disapprove of our content. However, we feel that those concerns should be channelized through a proper forum, which is the *Weekly* itself, and not intimidating sessions in the CDH that most have witnessed in the recent past. Rather, we ask you respond to articles in the *Weekly* with your own writing, which is far more effective than any other medium. Your opinions will receive a larger audience, and the School's heated debates will be kept burning.

On that note, we present our final Issue for this term that concludes our first month of new leadership. There is still a long tenure left to go, and much progress to bring. To return to the opening statement, such changes are yet to take shape, and there is more to come for the *Weekly* next term as we prepare to embark on a new year together.

Till then, here's to 2016.

## A Monumental Man

**Chaitanya Kediya** bids farewell to Mr Deepak Sharma on the occasion of his retirement.

It takes a good teacher to teach you a subject properly; it takes a great teacher to make you fall in love with a subject, but it takes DKS to teach you the value of life at Chandbagh and beyond. At the very outset I must confess that I cannot even come close to doing justice to Mr. Sharma's legacy which spans over thirty years in the field of education. He has had a meaningful impact on the lives of thousands of Doscors, and I am sure that there isn't a single Old Boy who has forgotten him or his warm heart. Though I have only been able to know him for the past six years, I will try to do my very best to immortalise one of the few living legends of the Doon School.

I still remember the fanciful tales that the seniors would tell us about him in Toye when we were gullible juniors, and I recall being a little terrified by this stoic and imposing figure that I would often sight in the Main Building or on the sports field. However, my first proper interaction with him was when I rushed in late for his class. Like a deer before the headlights I looked at him sheepishly as the entire class turned around to see who had the 'audacity' to be late for DKS's class. In his characteristic manner, I was reprimanded for being late but then by the end of the class all was forgiven and forgotten. I soon realised that this too was the 'DKS style': firmness in action but always accompanied by generosity. While his age and experience definitely merits our respect, it is his straightforwardness and love for the School that makes it impossible not to respect him.

While he has always considered himself a teacher before anything else, Mr. Sharma held numerous positions at School. He served as the Head of the Humanities Department in the early 90s and later went on to serve as the Head of the Commerce, Accounts and Economics Department. He was also the Housemaster of Tata House for ten years following which he became the Dean of Sports. As Dean, he played a monumental role in honing the kinaesthetic talents of young athletes across all games. This was evident from his early days at School; he could often be seen at the squash and badminton courts and rumour had it that he would give the captains of the respective sports a run for their money!

However, it is important to understand why Mr. Sharma has had such a defining impact on the School community. In my opinion

*(Contd. on Page 3)*



## Regulars

### Shuttled to Victory

The results of the **Inter-House Badminton Competition, 2016** are as follows:

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Oberoi and Kashmir  
**3rd:** Tata  
**4th:** Jaipur and Hyderabad

**Mediums:**

**1st:** Hyderabad  
**2nd:** Oberoi  
**3rd:** Tata  
**4th:** Kashmir  
**5th:** Jaipur

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Kashmir  
**2nd:** Oberoi and Jaipur  
**4th:** Tata and Hyderabad

**House Cup:**

**1st:** Oberoi and Kashmir  
**3rd:** Hyderabad  
**4th:** Tata  
**5th:** Jaipur

Well played!

### Activity Prizes

The following boys have been awarded **activity prizes** for the year **2016**:

**Navin Chandra Cup for the Best Hindi Debater:** Abhyanshu Utkarsh

**V.M. Mahey Trophy for the Best Environmentalist:** Tejit Pabari

**The Shantum Seth Trophy for the Most Promising Naturalist:** Ishaan Kapoor

**Ranjan Sawhney Memorial Trophy for the Best All-Rounder (Cricket):** Viksit Verma

**Trophy for the Best Work in Computers:** Dhruv Aggarwal

**M.C.C. Award for the Best Photographer of the Year:** Ashwath Madhok

Congratulations!

### Top Spin

The results of the **Inter-House Table Tennis Competition, 2016** are as follows:

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Oberoi  
**2nd:** Kashmir, Hyderabad and Jaipur  
**5th:** Tata

**Mediums:**

**1st:** Oberoi  
**2nd:** Jaipur  
**3rd:** Hyderabad  
**4th:** Tata  
**5th:** Kashmir

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Jaipur  
**2nd:** Oberoi and Tata  
**4th:** Kashmir and Hyderabad

**House Cup:**

**1st:** Oberoi  
**2nd:** Jaipur  
**3rd:** Hyderabad  
**4th:** Kashmir  
**5th:** Tata

Kudos!

*"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose."*  
**-Lyndon B. Johnson**

### Games Blazers

Viksit Verma and Keshav Maliah have been awarded the **Games Blazer**.

Congratulations!

### Checked

The results of the **Inter-House Chess Competition, 2016** are as follows:

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Hyderabad and Oberoi  
**3rd:** Kashmir  
**4th:** Jaipur  
**5th:** Tata

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Oberoi  
**2nd:** Tata  
**3rd:** Kashmir  
**4th:** Jaipur  
**5th:** Hyderabad

**House Cup:**

**1st:** Oberoi  
**2nd:** Tata  
**3rd:** Kashmir  
**4th:** Hyderabad  
**5th:** Jaipur

The results of the **Individual Chess Championship, 2016**, are as follows:

**Juniors:**

**Winner:** Sanjum Dhaliwal  
**Runner-up:** Raghav Singhal

**Seniors:**

**Winner:** Raghav Bagri  
**Runner-up:** Anuman Goel

Well played!

### Autuers

The results of the **English Literary Society Short Story Writing Competition, 2016** are as follows:

**1st:** Salman Mallick  
**2nd:** Arjun Singh

Congratulations!

### Dribblers

The results of the **Inter-House Basketball Competition, 2016** are as follows:

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Hyderabad  
**2nd:** Kashmir  
**3rd:** Jaipur  
**4th:** Oberoi  
**5th:** Tata

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Jaipur  
**2nd:** Oberoi  
**3rd:** Hyderabad  
**4th:** Kashmir  
**5th:** Tata

**House Cup:**

**1st:** Jaipur  
**2nd:** Hyderabad  
**3rd:** Kashmir  
**4th:** Oberoi  
**5th:** Tata

Well done!

### Good Tidings

As Exam Week concludes, the *Weekly* wishes all its readers an enjoyable winter vacation and a Happy New Year!

(Contd. from Page 1)



Mr. Deepak Sharma joined School in 1988 and taught for 28 years.

this stems from the fact that he is a symbol of the old guard of Doon School masters, reminding us of a bygone era, and it is up to each and every one of us to choose whether that era was better or worse. In his good-hearted humour, even if it restricted to a privileged few, for his love for discipline even if it comes across as strict, and for his love and dedication to this School we observe a glimmer of the past and it is inspiring. I have often been lucky enough to have a quick chat with him before or after class and each of those conversations has enlightened me about a common heritage that all of us share at Chandbagh but aren't informed about, or worse, forget.

In the end, I am sure I write for every student and master who has ever worked and dwelled in this campus when I thank DKS one last time for his tenure. It is with a heavy heart that we bid him farewell, and hope he will retain fond memories from his distinguished years. To Sir I say this, "It isn't easy to end such a long journey but it is important to know that you will always be remembered and cherished. For as long as the School Bell tolls, you will be welcomed with open arms back home at Doon".

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## In Response to 'Raided'

**Aryan Bhattacharjee** responds to the article published in last week's Issue (No. 2454).

I once asked a former School Captain why he continued to wear the Dosco tie and did not replace it with the haloed School Captain's pass-on tie. He smiled for a few moments and replied, "The school tie overwhelms me so much that I don't think I can wear anything more." This really set me thinking about who a Dosco truly is, and how his maturity develops over time. My response to 'Raided' is a distillation of some of these lessons that I have learnt here on campus.

In his theory of 'Immutable Ideas', Plato explained that everything in this world is only an imperfect copy of the perfect idea that is present in our thoughts. I feel this relates quite beautifully to the idea of a Dosco. After all, Satish Ranjan Das, our founder, did have an immutable idea of the perfect graduate from this institution when the Doon School was itself just an idea. Since its inception, we students of this institution have dreamt of becoming that quintessential Dosco which he envisioned many decades ago. We enter these gates and as we go through life here, we get older and inch closer to that dream every day. More importantly though, we become wiser, and understand better the systems and structures in place.

It is very easy for us to become armchair critics. But for any opinion to be seriously considered, it has to come from someone who walks the talk, and has looked at an issue from all viewpoints. It is in this light that I offer my critique on 'Raided' in last week's Issue of the Weekly, which criticised the 'raiding' of food and Tuckshop coupons by seniors. While the problem does undoubtedly exist, I feel that the author's comments are a bit too premature. Indeed, the problem has affected all of us, including me (I still remember the day, when I was stripped of all my cash and had to return to my dorm hungry and empty-handed), but I believe that such criticism ought to only be offered from someone who's worn both shoes: that is, a boy who has been both at the receiving end, as well as been a senior in a position to 'raid'. As I'd mentioned before, such age brings perspective and understanding of this School's systems and practices, upon realizing which one becomes capable of providing a more balanced viewpoint. This is not to say that his criticism is unjustified, but the author is currently still in his first year of School, and there is still much to be learnt by someone at his age. Since he has not yet been on the other side of the picture and has not consciously stopped himself from raiding, his words fall short of achieving the desired impact.

Therefore, while I understand the author's angst at being robbed of his tuck by seniors, I feel that both he and the School community ought to take a step back before passing a judgment on the matter, for an opinion is only valid when all viewpoints are adequately considered. At the same time, we students (especially juniors) should guard ourselves from the 'Mother-in-Law' syndrome and not rush to criticism. As the article neither addressed nor refuted them, we must thus consider other perspectives, particularly the justifications that some seniors may have for such 'raiding'. By exploring these, we will get a more comprehensive view on the matter to form our opinions, and only then shall we be able to resolve this ongoing debate over a feature of our School's society.

# The Term Gone By

Omar Chishti *and* Salman Mallick

Though some among us consider the post-Founders vacation as the herald of a new ‘winter term’, we must delve far back through our memories to July for this ‘Term Gone By’ to satisfy the School’s technicalities of a single term, albeit the much needed break. That aside, however, this term will go down in memory as a novel one, with several new features and experiences for the community as we complete our transition to the convoluted IGCSE-determined annual calendar.

All the way back in July when there was still warmth and sunshine, we returned to welcome our new Headmaster to the campus, who like us found that the monsoon had worked its magic on the School grounds over the holidays, with lush green football fields for everyone to enjoy. Soon afterward, the run up to DSMUN saw attendance records broken at the gym, with DoscOs looking to seal diplomatic (and romantic) ties, and bringing a flashy assortment of suits, shoes, ties, pocket-squares and a few kurta-pyjamas in tow. The football season saw novelty in more ways than just the usual debut of flashy new studs, with the implementation of the ‘School Games’ system in lieu of House practices which was last seen decades ago. Although some of us may forget, the refusal of the rain gods to spare students from PT led to much grumbling, but as the chills of autumn and September Trials came closer, DoscOs put their daily disgruntlement aside and immersed themselves in textbooks. These new Mid-term exams had even Masters complaining of stress, having been made to juggle teaching and assessing as many as four different curricula over the past year.

The School Council decided to grant private midterm parties the right to carry personal phones this time, which certainly led to quarrels within parties as to the custodian of this Holy Grail. We returned from our mountain treks in October. The early morning air was a welcomed replacement to the atmosphere of mosquitoes that led to a rise in dengue fever cases (or unfortunately, for those aching to skip the rest of the term at home). Nonetheless, the run up to Founders saw frantic activity as printing deadlines and performance dates crept closer, with both boys and masters working together to push DoscOs into completing the requisite preparation on time. Their efforts were worthwhile, for when the programme kicked-off we all saw their talent on stage and paper. Additionally, this year’s Founders saw some new and refreshing moments. From the rather long wait for the short speech, to the unprecedented rapping session at the Math Exhibition to the hilarious fancy dress competition at the first school-funded Gymkhana and the (only) eye opening play this year, parents and guests were in a celebratory mood as they appreciated their children’s talent and witnessed a showcase of events over the three days of Founders. This was followed by the Diwali break, which marked the end of another term.

As we returned at the onset of November, we witnessed a rather pleasant prelude to compensate for Trump’s victory with an undefeated win at the Chuckerbutty Debates, where our speakers impressed all with their words and a lavish display of blazers and ties on stage. However, DoscOs wasted no time in getting back to work, be it for the frantic college application process, or the ones giving the SAT and ACT. The contrast was quite marked, for while some went into a work overdrive, a large portion of students were without any work at all. Mostly juniors, they instead took to the daily soccer sessions on the Main Field and the barrage of tournaments waiting to be finished. The Inter-House Basketball, Tennis, Squash, Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, Boxing and Shanti Swaroop Competitions were held in a particularly rushed manner to facilitate time for Exam Week. Here too, we saw some novelties, particularly the famous ‘Mannequin Challenge’ which seemed to have been brought through the gates with returning boys, and being spotted to the chagrin of masters in classes, meals and courts.

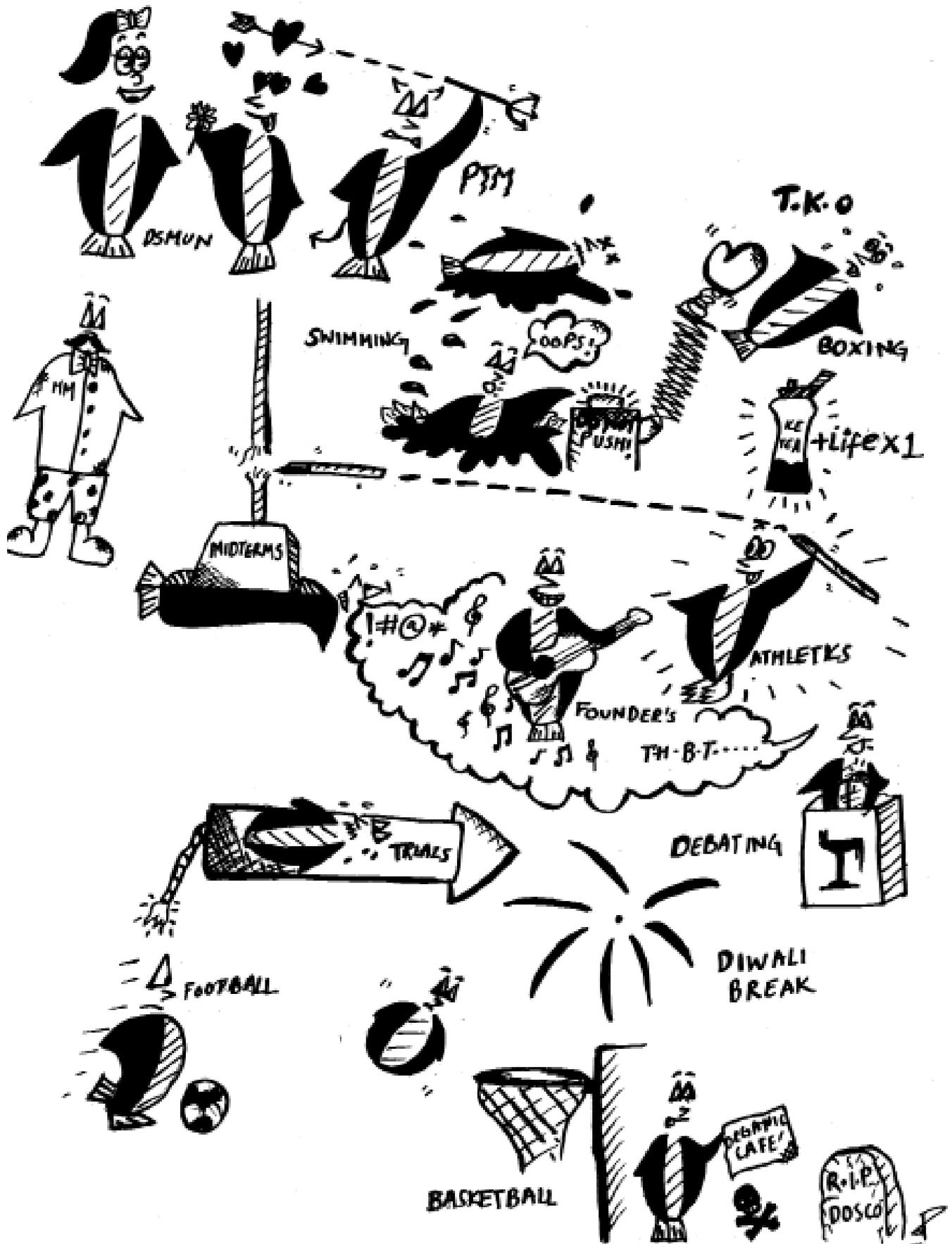
Speaking of work, the S-Form certainly had theirs cut out for them. With an extension of the term by around 20 days into December, most were (and still are) pleased with the extra twenty days to finalize their chances. As we’d mentioned in the Roving Eye, the process was different this time, with a workshop and additional component of letter writing. However, the School authorities hoped to intimidate at least a couple out of the race with the speech by ex-Dosco Ankur Bahl, who presented a rather convincing case to not become a prefect that cut around forty people out from the race. The various appointments at the end of term seem to be a consolation for a few, and a warm-up for others in anticipation of the Special Assembly next term.

By the end of all this, DoscOs were able to devote all their energies to their studies for once, as everyone returned to their books for one final stretch. This too witnessed a couple of firsts: with a mass early departure of A and SC (ISC) Formers after their early exams to ‘study’ for their boards next term, as well

as most of the School studying for Test Exam Week seemingly because they had nothing else to do. Many have criticised the 'blank' second-to-last week of the term that we comfortably relaxed through, which many felt could have been used to relieve the pressure built up due to the cloudburst of events over the last few months, or to hold pre-poned exams and end the term early along with A and SC formers. All suggestions aside, we shall leave policies to the administration that we'll have to (as always) just accept, and end this term in a less-tired manner but much colder than ever before.

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**Dosco Doodle** The Term Gone By  
Pratham Bansal



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the Headmaster's article titled, "Searching for 'Perfection'" that appeared in the latest edition of the Weekly.

I agree with the Headmaster on the topic of leadership in school, as the way leaders (as prefects) are chosen sets the narrative of what ideals should be inculcated, and what character is to be encouraged in general. In my time at school, I disliked the standard way of selecting students for prefect for two reasons. Firstly, the system seemed like a black box, where housemasters along with the headmaster sat in a room and decided whom to select. This procedure robs the decision-makers from complete information. The character of a person is reflected not by how he interacts with someone he is trying to appease, but rather with the person who has no say at all in his 'appointment'. It is only when he is interacting with someone who cannot defend for himself that his true nature is revealed. It seemed to me that the focus had been placed more on ability to 'act' as an authority, than possess the values of good leadership. Because of this, unfortunately, some bullies got elected into power, as if their bullying was legalized.

Secondly, I have noticed that students want to become prefects to garner respect than to take power of making changes. Because of this confusion, many prefects often do not realize the responsibility that they have towards the student body. The demands of IB and college admissions often takes over one's time in SC-Form and, to be fair, it is hard to juggle that with the role of prefectship. Yet, thanks to this reflection component in the application, one would be mindful of the same. Similarly, a rejection from this position should not speak badly about your leadership qualities. Few SC-Formers keep grudges against their Housemasters for not choosing them as a prefect, which somehow makes them feel as if they don't 'have' what it takes to be a leader. I feel that the election of prefects should be moved from autocratic to democratic. While the election of the school captain is finalized by voting by the students, similar should be done for electing the House Captain and the Prefects. Although some students might not take their vote seriously, I am confident that on the whole they would select the person who they want as a leader. If they, out of mischief, end up choosing someone that is the Trump of their batch, then they will be the ones who will be ultimately facing the music.

2016 has been a rough year for the world, mostly because people do not realize the power of their vote. I believe that students should be able to choose, to practice their franchise in school as a preparation for that in the real world. This is how Doon can produce conscious citizens, of India and of the world.

Regards,

Shivam Goyal

Ex 549-H, '13

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Dear Editor,

A term in our school's jargon which everyone must've heard before is 'sidey', which is used in a pejorative sense. In some cases, it is used as a joke and the speaker's tone would make that clear enough. However, it is often used to label a person by denoting that his interests or passions are not important, thus making him inferior in an imagined hierarchy. In some cases, the word is used to label those who struggle to excel in a particular field or pursuit. I must point out that this word is disproportionately used to describe academically-inclined students, or those who involve themselves in co-curricular activities (i.e. those who don't play sports). Sadly, cases of this word's usage have recently been on a constant rise.

One could ridicule this sentiment in many ways, but to keep this short, I shall address the most pressing problem that arises. First and foremost, the problem with this sentiment is that it is morally incorrect. The very thought of discriminating and putting people down on the basis of their passions or hobbies is both hurtful and disrespectful, and stands contrary to all the ideals on which this school was established. Such a sentiment not only serves to tarnish our morals, but also serves to discourage our students from pursuing activities in which they may excel. We students know this all too well, that for some peer pressure compels them to follow the mainstream, which in this case would be sports, in order to be accepted by those around us. Such sentiments are evidently harmful, and it's high time we work to abolish them.

We as a society need to accept the fact that everyone does have the capability to excel but that largely depends on what that individual wants to pursue. Moreover, we should respect each other for our talents and pursuits, and encourage those interested to pursue them. While it would be wrong to generalise this phenomenon to all Doscos (a sizeable are indeed respectful), it is still a rampant problem. Conclusively, those that label others as sidey must be corrected, for doing so will make our school a better place for all students to live and grow in.

Sincerely,

Divyansh Nautiyal

|Junior Creative|

# A Lesson Learnt

Nirvair Singh

As Edgar walked down the rancid avenue adjacent to the bench on which he slept, he saw a girl. She had smoky eyes and ashen hair; her persona had something eerie. She looked familiar.

Edgar was once a rather well-healed gent with a city penthouse, country estate and convertible sports car like any other man of stature. He had a wife named Elena and they had lived happily together for ten years, but she never conceived a child, which at times frustrated Edgar as he wanted a child. As many men do, he blamed Elena for it. This lack of a child made him slide into depression, led him to the bottle. Soon he was an alcoholic: drinking every day from dawn to dusk. Meanwhile, Elena began reading about philosophy and psychology, which was contradictory to her usual carefree self. She adopted many scholastic traits and began to live in a bubble of her own.

One night Edgar entered the house as drunk as a piper, ranting about his miserable life and infertile wife. Usually Elena would ignore his babble but that day she reacted. It ended with Edgar throwing a bottle of rum on her forehead, leaving her unconscious in a pool of blood. Elena woke up the next morning in a tiff and chose to leave Edgar, which of course he didn't realise in his drunken state.

Edgar soon awoke, and through vague memories of the episode that ensued the previous night realised what had happened. The anger he felt was transient, and soon he began to repent his actions. It was entirely his fault, and now it was too late. He was destroyed by his deeds and hurt by her departure.

After some introspection, Edgar decided to reform himself by making a conscious effort to get sober. Addiction had exhausted all his wealth, and he was bankrupt and homeless: now sleeping on a bench and eating at the church, since faith was the only source of solace. In the midst of his condition, he tried to find his darling Elena. There was neither a place he didn't search for her nor a report he didn't file.

Now, as Edgar walked past the woman, he stopped and sat down beside her. He was stunned; the woman had a scar on her forehead. It was Elena. He balmily jumped up and down with glee. At this she awoke and said, "Oh! It's you, Edgar. I knew you would come soon." He looked at her with hopeful eyes, but she got up and walked down the alleyway with a sneer on her face and didn't look back. He had now learnt his lesson, at a thumping price.

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# A Coca-Cola Christmas

**Kushagra Kar** traces the influence of the Coca-Cola Company on the festival of Christmas.

"My hat's off to the pause that refreshes" -Santa Claus, Coca-Cola Billboard 1931

It's the holiday season again and in some parts of the world, people are packing their presents and buying their trees. The Christmas hymns have once again beckoned the celebration of Jesus' birth, and Santa Claus "is coming to town".

Inside our very own School, students long the sweet taste of the nectar-like concoction that is Coca-Cola. Although Doscos perpetually need 'Coke', the rest of the world has an even stronger connection with the drink: Santa Claus. Santa, the jolly and 'plump' man in a red suit, was once not so jolly. He was less of a mascot for fun and happiness and more of a nightmarish figure. 'When did the sudden change take place?' you may ask. Simple: the day Coca-Cola branded Santa Claus.

It might come across as quite a shock, but it has been a reality since 1930 when Fred Mizen revolutionized modern day Santa. Fred depicted Santa with a bottle of 'Coke' in a department store, with Santa placed conveniently under the world's biggest soda fountain at the time. The image was used to market 'Coke' during the Christmas season, and from that day onwards, Christmas was changed.

The drastic change in Santa's image also brought about a change in what the holiday meant for people. It was no more a celebration of the birth of Christ, but it was a time for merry-making and camaraderie. Coca-Cola had done in the span of a few years what all of humanity hasn't been able to do in centuries: it branded religion. Christmas had always been a religious event, but now, its main forerunner and mascot was Mizen's Santa Claus. With 'Coke's' classic red colours now the colours of Christmas, their sales skyrocketed.

Rebranding religion: check. Breaking all previous sales records: check. What else could they possibly pull off with a single cartoon? Well, the cherry on the cake was 'Coke' immortalized itself. Their affiliation with Santa, more of a partnership now, has insured 'Coke' stays in the back of people's minds every Christmas season. The concept of happiness has been redefined and 'Coke' will always be affiliated with it. The marketing team of the Coca-Cola Company have created a jewel of a plan; one that will keep 'Coke' not only in our bellies, but in our hearts forever.

7. The Doon School Weekly **Saturday, December 17**

# Holiday Checklist

The best things to read, watch, play and listen to this winter.

## Movies

Dangal	December 21
Patriots Day	December 21
Assasin's Creed	December 21
Silence	December 23
The Space Between Us	December 30
The Comedian	January 17



## Music

Blue & Lonesome	The Rolling Stones
Darkness and Light	John Legend
Skin Companion EP	Flume
Peace Trail	Neil Young
Tony Bennet Celebrates 90	Tony Bennet
Rolling Papers 2	Wiz Khalifa



## TV Shows

Sense8 Christmas Special	23 December
Sherlock (Season 4)	1 January
One Day at a Time	6 January
A Series of Unfortunate Events	13 January
Homeland (Season 6)	15 January



## Video Games

Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare	4 November
Watch Dogs 2	15 November
Dishonored 2	19 November
Final Fantasy XV	29 November
The Last Guardian	6 December



## Sports

African Cup of Nations	January 14- February 5
Australian Open	January 16-29
India vs England ODIs	January 15-22
Premier League Boxing Day Matches	December 26

## Books

Small Admissions	Amy Poepel
The Ice beneath her	Camilla Grebe
The Secret of a Heart Note	Stacey Lee
From Sand and Ash	Amy Harmon
Everything you want me to be	Mindy Mejia

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/old-boys/past-weeklies/>

[weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



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