

# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
March 3, 2018 | Issue No. 2495



## EM(PATHETIC)

A perspective on what leadership should be.

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## SCRIBBLES

Parting words from the Batch of 2018.

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## A CULTURED AFFAIR

A report on the Cultural Evening held in the Rose Bowl last week.

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# Favourable Change

**Lorcan Thomas Conlon** *critiques a prevalent problem in School.*

There exists an issue in School that people are too afraid to speak out against. Despite the fact that it impacts the lives of a very large number of students here, no one seems to want to talk about it. The reasons for this vary, but I believe it mainly stems from the age-old fear of ostracism. The issue is simple: the ability of a senior to send juniors on errands or simply, *'giving favours'*.

Of course many of you may already be groaning at what looks like another baseless Saturday morning rant. However, this is not so, as the whole article has been written based on facts derived from surveys.

In the month of February, a survey was conducted among randomly selected C-formers. Three C-Formers from each house recorded the number of favours they received over one week. After finding the average, we saw that each student had to perform about 2.3 favours per day. Of course, some of these would have been legitimate demands from seniors that would help keep the School running, so we also asked the students to write down what the favour was. After analysis, it was found that only 18% of these could be justified as being for the common good of the School. So each student was doing about two personal favours per day.

Of course many people don't see why we should be complaining.

After all, it is only two favours a day. But what kind of an effect does this system have on the children? The answer: fear.

There is an inevitable tirade of curses and threats and even perhaps a fear of physical violence lurking in every junior's mind, so they are under constant pressure to fulfil these demands.

The psychological toll of this pressure and fear on a relentless, daily basis should not be underestimated. Of course, some kids let it run off them; however, others may feel the trepidation intensely and feel that it is deeply unfair.

Let us look at that survey again. Just one week for fifteen boys generated 34 personal favours. If all 100 kept a diary we can reasonably assume that if each boy is doing two favours a day, from which we can guess that the entire batch is running about 200 favours per day. This means that in a month, there are over 6,000 favours dished out to C-form! And this is only C-form. We haven't even polled the B-formers yet. In a four month term, the figure reaches a staggering 24,000! Even if the true figure is half of that (and it may be more), it places a massive strain on the younger batches in School.

The response of S, SC and A formers is predictable:

*"We had to do favours when we were in C Form!"* (So let us keep perpetuating this horrible system

– two wrongs now make it right.)

*"It's character building!"* (Nothing builds character like fear and veiled threats!)

*"It's essential that older students supervise and administer younger kids."* (Hmmm).

**But it means they must fetch their own noodles, their own water bottles, set their own alarm clocks – are they willing to do so?**

So, we have an all-pervading culture of fear amongst the juniors of our School, always looking over their shoulders, wondering where the next favour will come from and whether they will be able to deliver it. Some juniors don't mind it, but many deeply resent the entire structure and hate their time here.

The question is: what can we do about it?

We need to come up with action to be taken for such atrocities that will ensure that seniors think twice before dishing out a favour, something with real, palpable consequences. A light telling-off as the only consequence of giving favours does not serve as an effective deterrent. In contrast, it

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ATOMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The **Australian National Chemistry Quiz** was conducted by the **Science Department** in **August, 2017**.

Aryan Agarwal, Abhisar Sudhakar, Aneesh Agarwal, Pragnay Nevatia, Yashasvi Jain, Ahaan Gupta and Omar Chisti secured marks in the **96th percentile** or higher. Rushil Choudhary and Nikunj Bansal secured marks in the **99th percentile** or higher.

Congratulations!

## Around the World in 80 Words

Sridevi Kapoor, a renowned Bollywood actress, died of cardiac arrest. The 2018 Winter Olympics concluded with Norway on top of the final medal count with 39 medals. Black Panther crossed the \$700 million mark worldwide. Saudi Arabian Prince Mohammed bin Salman sacked his military chiefs, with no official reason given for this overhaul. President Donald Trump's son-in-law was stripped of his top-secret clearance after numerous delays in completing his background check. UNSC votes for 30-day ceasefire in Syria without delay.

“

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.”

—  
Indira Gandhi

## WORLD OF PORCELAIN

The Jingdezhen province in China is famous worldwide for porcelain, a specific kind of ceramic body. Known as the “Porcelain Capital” because of its 1700 years long history of pottery, Jingdezhen's own history stretches back to over 2000 years. So, I was delighted to be selected as an Indian Ceramics artist at Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute (JCI) for Art Residency 2017 (11.11.2017 to 11.01.2018). I was one of the 16 ceramics artists selected from all over the world. I was also elated to have the opportunity to represent School at this prestigious international forum. During this residency I learnt many new things in the field of ceramics, like my first experience with porcelain (White and Super white), Ceramics Decals, new glaze application, and the famous Chinese blue and white glaze.

Along with my work, I showcased our boys' ceramic works at the JCI. The delegates were fascinated that even at the school level such opportunities are offered to the students. Overall, not only was this programme a great learning experience for me, but it helped me showcase the talent of our students.

By: Mr. Madan Singh (MNS)

## ASSUMING THE MANTLE

The following are appointments for the year 2018-19:

**IAYP:** Raghav Dalmia

**Score Editor-in-Chief:** Sanidhya Mittal

**The Film Cut Society:** Aditya Kapoor

**Hindi Dramatics:** Manandeep Singh

**Design and Technology:** Raghav Grover

**Entertainment Committee:** Sanidhya Mittal

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

## TECHNOCRATS

The Department of Computer Science conducted an **International Informatics Olympiad, 2017-18**. 27 students from The Doon School cleared the first level and made it to the **top 500**. Tanmay Gupta, Aradhya Jain, Nishiketh Gupta, Shreyas Minocha, Ishaan Mishra and Aditya Oberoi won **Gold medal** in their respective categories.

Well done!

**Dosco Doodle** The Dosco Remedy  
Anant Ganapathy



(Continued from page 1)

actually results in the senior taking his anger out on the junior (as if it's the junior's fault for getting caught).

If the Housemasters and teachers take a hard line with such seniors, and the S and SC formers know that any consequences on juniors by way of retribution will be met with extremely harsh penalties, only then will this regime change. I believe that no boy (even prefects) should be able to punish a junior

boy without the consent of a master. The ability to give out "legitimate" punishments is a cover that enables seniors to threaten juniors and propagate fear.

All it will take is one set of seniors to break this noxious culture that we have inherited from old British boarding school norms. It is interesting that this has disappeared from British schools decades ago but we of course, have clung onto it. We need to sit with our current set of seniors and

ask them if they want to be the ones to put a nail in the coffin of this backward regime. But it means they must fetch their own noodles, their own water bottles, set their own alarm clocks – are they willing to do so?

If enough seniors decide to stop endorsing this "tradition" of favours, they can be proud that they are helping School move into this century, albeit eighteen years late.



## UNDER THE SCANNER

Nirav Modi Scam | Varen Talwar

The Nirav Modi scam is a tale of deceit and conspiracy. The origins of this scam can be traced back to 2011, since when two officials of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) have been fraudulently issuing Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) to Nirav Modi and his uncle and partner-in-crime, Mehul Choksi without a credit limit and without putting it up on the internal system of the bank.

LoUs are documents issued by a bank for a fee called 'margin money' as a guarantee to a foreign bank, for a short-term loan for the customer (mainly an importer) to pay his suppliers in the foreign currency. The bank does this by opening a special 'Nostro' account in the foreign bank, from which it pays the supplier directly, taking the loan itself, on behalf of the

customer. However, in this case, with the help of two rogue bank officials, Nirav Modi was able to get LoUs without them being in the banks' records, without paying any margin money, and without a credit limit, which is the maximum amount of loan the customer can take. Thus, Nirav Modi and Mehul Chowski were able to pay their suppliers without having to pay anything, and kept on with this accumulation of credit in the Punjab National Bank, which had reached a staggering Rs 12,636 crore by Tuesday this week!

However, this undetected crime was finally discovered when the Mumbai branch of the PNB was asked by a representative of Nirav Modi for more credit to pay the overseas suppliers. When the official asked for the margin money for making the LoU, the

representative argued that this had not been required in the past. When the bank referred to its records to check the matter, it found no record, eventually leading to the discovery of the scam.

Since then, a great battle between the PNB and the diamond dealers has ensued. Apart from Solar Exports, Stellar Diamonds and Diamonds R US - the three companies accused by the PNB, other companies linked to Mehul Choksi like Gitanjali Gems, Gili India and Nakshatra have also come under suspicion.

Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested six bank officials and six employees of the accused companies. The Enforcement Directorate also retrieved about Rs 57 billion in a raid of Modi's properties. To avoid such a mishap in the future, banks are integrating their internal banking systems with the SWIFT system (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), with which international transactions are made. Although Nirav Modi is taking refuge outside India, the Enforcement Directorate has been allowed to issue legal requests to six other countries for assistance in this matter.

While this incident is certainly a great blow to India economically, the prompt action taken is the silver lining to this dark cloud. We have suffered the effect of such disastrous scams multiple times now; with such prompt action, we might hope that we are improving.



# Em(Pathetic)

Arjun Singh pens his opinion on the virtues of leadership.

We have a mission statement which reads, among other things, “to attract and develop boys...to serve a meritocratic India... (and) train them to be *wise and principled leaders*.” I’ve italicized that last portion, because in a society that seeks (and perhaps ‘glorifies’) leaders, we don’t appear to have much clarity on being ‘wise’ or ‘principled’ in the context of leadership. In present times, they’re ambiguous at best.

Despite this ambiguity, though, there are certain qualities that most would use to define a ‘good’ or ‘ideal’ leader which, *prima facie*, seem plausible. Among them is the ability to “put yourself in another’s shoes”...or so the cliché goes. In short, good leaders are expected to understand and share the feelings of other people – they’re expected to have (and show) *empathy*.

While empathy itself isn’t a bad thing, the issue arises when our *empathy* clashes with being ‘wise’ and ‘principled’ in our leadership – leading to its denigration.

Surely, leaders ought to be empathetic for moral reasons – since displaying compassion and providing assistance to people in-need is undoubtedly honourable. At a more pragmatic level, a leader must also be empathetic to gain the trust and respect of the individuals he or she leads. Without either, a leader is perhaps powerless to exert any *real* influence over them – in such a case, these are usually derived from the ‘fear of punishment’ and repression. In being empathetic, a leader may thus be both *principled* in morality and *wise* in practicality – fulfilling both qualifiers of ‘ideal leadership’ that our mission statement demands.

And yet, in practice, the same kind of empathy is often destructive to these ends. To empathise with others is important, but to take decisions with preference for others’ feelings is itself wrong and problematic. At times, leaders must choose to ignore the urges of ‘empathy’ and act in a manner divergent from others’ (or even their own) emotions and feelings – despite the sadness or agony that it may cause, or even worsen as a result. To paraphrase U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt: if given the choice between “righteousness and peace”, we must choose righteousness.

This clash between empathy and, at times, righteousness is age-old; even ancient Greeks grappled for a balance between *phusis* (natural principles) and *nomos* (human conventions). But while such action may be unpopular, leaders ought to remember – at least in a Doon School sense – that they must be principled. At the bottom-line, they must adhere to ethical values – which generally include being truthful, courageous and resolute – in their obligation to set examples for society to emulate.

More importantly, though, apart from just people, leaders are often custodians of entities – such as institutions and organisations – which are guided by codes and principles far more important than any individual or group. Like a nation’s Constitution, these codes embody their purpose and character, and keep such institutions enduring and venerable. Of that, our own School is a perfect example, where the ideas of Arthur Foot have survived to this day and created the unique ‘Dosco’ education experience. People may come and go, but these principles remain immortal – principles that leaders must defend.

Unfortunately, we see few leaders nowadays who’re willing to stand firmly for principles in their leadership – either appealing to populism out of ‘practical wisdom’, or merely choosing empathy for others at the cost of ethics. Such leadership is neither principled nor wise, for in the latter case, it erodes the qualities of the institution they lead, thereby contravening its *raison d’être* or reason for existence. Leaders must avoid this, for if such a path is taken, we’ll be left unprincipled and far too em(pathetic).

In an effort to break this dichotomy, perhaps the solution lies in the kind of empathy leaders may employ. Psychology broadly classifies empathy into two types – ‘affective’ (being tangibly responsive to others’ mental states) and ‘cognitive’ (understanding others’ perspectives). The ability to utilize both these forms is important for leaders, who must calibrate their empathy based on the situation they face. In most cases, affective empathy would actively respond in ways that improve people’s emotional states. However, in matters of bedrock principle, leaders would do well to utilise (and indicate) cognitive empathy – to listen, signal acceptance and afterwards think deeply about others’ emotions – before decisions, even if their final course is the same as before. While seemingly small, such empathy goes a long way in assuaging people’s concerns and ensuring dissent is civil. To have such an open mind is, therefore, an act of empathy and true leadership.

In displaying these empathies, however, we must remember that not all can be pleased. Some will feel spurned; others offended for having received “no empathy” that’s perceivable. But that’s perhaps the nature of leadership – as John Milton described it, “a wreath of thorns ” atop one’s head – where tough choices must be made, and consensus is all but rare. However, we may now hopefully seek right choices in our drive to be empathetic – making our leadership, to return to our mission statement, both *wise and principled* as was envisioned.

# Scribbles

Life in school was like a jigsaw puzzle. It seemed tough to complete but once all the pieces came together, I saw a beautiful picture before me. A picture I am happy to be a part of.

(Anujman 370-T)

A truly life altering experience.

Really enjoyed my stay here. Taught me a lot about life in the outside world. A truly necessary experience for every adolescent.

RAS SANKLA 362 T

You always have to prove yourself. Stay hungry. Stay foolish.

Real Friends

Live Long. Laugh Much. Love Often.

I came here crying from home, and now after 6 years, I'm leaving home crying again.

HINAO (441-J)

In pursuit, always. The Dark Knight, Signing off.

I hope you're proud, Boss?

(449-JH)

**CENSORED**

I hope I can live this again

Justyandhi (373-J)

It's simply been magical. Single (377-J)

Let us step into that night and pursue that brightly temptuous adventure.

(367-J)

These walls are funny. First you hate them. Then you get used to them. Enough time passes, then you depend on them.

RISHABH GOEL (446-T) RISHABH GOEL

There's something weird about these walls, first you feel like you will die in them & then you feel like dying in them.

(374-J)

Opportunities. FEEL LET GO CONQUER (385-J)

In Doon if you think everything's under control, your probably doing something wrong.

- Jehan (Ex 438-J)

Didn't realize how fast time flies, सब जै 2 एतुन  
मि मसत 1/2 2क 25-4221  
सपना देरकर 301 1/2

Poornima Khanna 410-T

Doon taught me the most important lessons of life in the most unexpected ways.

Shubham Dhanraj 416-T

You are, Unforgettable! Entered the walls with tears welled up in my eyes, gonna be the same as I leave.

Jehan (388-T)

An unforgettable roller coaster ride

Pragati 395-T

The Good Old Days!

(Sumer 356-T)

School taught me how to always smile more than you cry, give more than you take, love more than you hate.

(Kshiti) 444-T

Doon is a magical stage, outside the jurisdiction of Fate... where love abounds... a truer and more real place does not exist.

(Divij) 371-T

You come here, like water boiling in a pot. Turning over yourself. You leave, like a river. Evermore flowing. Thanks for making us flow.

(391-T)

A place where you get lost between unplanned goals and half-hearted dreams only to find your true self.

Cheers to living it right! - (Harshit Bansal) 396-T

An extended sleepover that I wish never ended! A. Gupta Ahaans Gupta (381-T)

Loved every moment of the incredible journey

*NUDEET BAJAJ*  
384-H'18

"Fun what its worth, it was worth all the while." - *Abhira*  
Forever 435!

~~~~~  
We Didn't Realise We Were Making Memories. We Just Knew We Were Having Fun.  
~~~~~  
*Swags*

Life at Doon was like a canvas. Enjoyed painting every bit of it. Truly an honour

*Fateel*  
(EX 378 K)

Amazing Journey!

*VIRAAJ GAUR*  
387-H

Its been a pleasure  
*Kushal Goyal*

Bruilliance is in simplicity. Doon was all about keeping it simple, just to look back on it and SMILE. Been an honour!

*Altrays* (393-K)

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

*(EX 445K)*

A truly bittersweet experience, Doon taught me to cherish the sweet and learn from the bitter.

If you know what you're worth;  
Then go out there and get what you're worth;  
That's what winners do

*(EX 421)*

When the dust settles, your legacy remains.  
*@pala* (414-K)

I can't think of anything worth writing down

*Adarsh* (VNS)

6 years of paradise.  
A lifetime of memories.  
366K signing off.

*Kat*

Unforgettable

Journey

*ahaan*

AAHAAN AGRAWAL  
407H

Doon gave me a childhood which would be a biographer's dream.

Only my duty to live a life worth chronicling.

*Prishita* (417K)

Run your life or someone else is gonna run it for you. (419-K)

*[sidk]*

*Evergreen memories*  
*Fateel*

*Green Paradise*  
*Apriya*  
(salya)  
386-K

All that you have to do is decide what to do with the time given to you.

*Aditya* (360-K)

The woods are lovely, dark  
and deep,  
but I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before  
I sleep,  
And miles to go before  
I sleep...

Aligh  
(VARDHAN)

ADITYAVARDHAN AGRAWAL  
710-H

The key to success at Doon is  
to dream big. If you have  
the ambition and the desire  
to hard work, Doon can help  
you clear wonders.

Archie  
ARCHIT BHARGAVA  
436-1113

Vatsal Bora  
(VATSAL BORA)  
383-H

Let the thought of it bring  
a mile to your face.

Stanley G. Aggarwal  
(423-H)

Udayveer Sekhon  
(Udayveer Sekhon)  
401-H

Make it count!!  
Set Sai Akal  
Sai Akal  
(Sudanshu Udayveer Singh)  
354-H

Gotta keep movin' forward

Aditya Krishna  
(Aditya Krishna)  
442-H

"I'll never let it be  
forgot,  
That once, there was  
a hallowed spot.  
For one brief, shining  
moment,  
That was known as  
Camelot."

Arjun Singh  
ARJUN SINGH 314-H/18

It's not together, but  
it's getting there.  
"Keep it where the light is"

Anand Inhan  
(ANAND, 433-0)

"Don't  
lose small,  
win Big."

Shah  
(ALWAYS 428-0H)

Six years of goodwill and love.  
Thank you, Doon, for showing  
me that goodness and  
righteousness have a place in  
this world.

"Love all. Trust a few. Do wrong  
to none."

Signing off,

Salman Mallick  
Ex-418-0

Remember  
to be yourself  
because everybody  
else is already  
taken

Naman Bansal  
(Naman Bansal)  
grace  
(EX-378-0H)

At Doon and in life, RESPECT TIME.  
Never fit in, discover your true self & be remembered for good!  
FOR "ALL YOU TOUCH & ALL YOU SEE IS ALL YOUR LIFE WILL EVER BE"

Chaitanya Gulati  
- CHAITANYA GULATI  
EX-403-0

These walls are funny. First you  
hate them. Then you get used  
to them. Then you love them.  
That's re-institutionalised.

Shreshth  
EX-405-0

"BLISS"  
- Srushti  
429-0

The only place in the world where  
a national level basketball player,  
an actor, a musician and a football  
player cook Maggi together at  
midnight.

THANK YOU DOON!

Rishi Choudhary  
(Rishi) EX 443-0

perceive freely...  
rough tempest...  
silence un-cast...  
the courageous doubt...  
tilted self...  
it another person who  
walks tilted

Nikhil Bansal  
Nikhil Bansal  
380-H  
2018

# A Cultured Affair

## D-form

After many moments of eager anticipation, the D-form cultural event was finally staged on February 17. While most people thought that the event would be boring and a sheer waste of time, it turned out to be quite the opposite.

After dinner, students and teachers gathered in the Rose Bowl. Once everyone was seated and the performers were ready, the programme for the evening began. First, poetry was recited in both English and Hindi. This was followed by the narration of translated versions of two famous speeches - 'I Have a Dream' by Martin Luther King Jr. and 'Tryst with Destiny' by Pt. Jawaharlal

Nehru.

After that, there was a debate between the Foot and Martyn houses, which was an exciting experience for the Footies and Martynies, who were very enthusiastically predicting the winners. The speakers' confidence was commendable, knowing how difficult it is for anyone in D-form to perform in front of a big audience.

After the debate, the audience witnessed the heart of the event - the Hindi play. Based on Manto's story, it showed the futility of the bitter relations between the two neighbouring countries - Pakistan and India. The play revolved around a dog named after a hilly place called 'Fetwal'. In the play, both sides are seen fighting inside and outside their territories, just to satisfy their political leadership and defence forces. They use their mighty weapons at each other and

a dog - symbolising the common citizens of the two nations, gets shot at the crossroads. Thus, the play urges everyone to stop this fighting. Overall, the performance was enthralling, and successfully brought out the emotions it had set out to bring out, due to the very convincing and realistic acting.

The play was followed by a *Bhangara* dance, performed by a troupe of traditional Punjabi dancers. Their performance was very energetic, and the singing, accompanied by a *dbolak* and tambourine was much appreciated.

In the end, there was a huge round of applause for all the performers, the School authorities, the dance troupe and its President, teachers who helped in organising the event and the AV Squad. The programme ended with the audience left dazzled by the talent of the young D-formers.

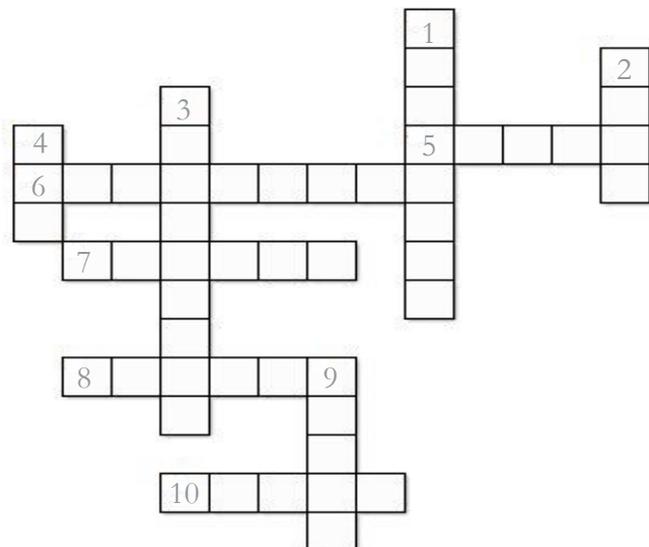
## Crossword | Superheroes

### Across

5. This superhero draws his power from worms.
6. This mutant has the power of sweating acid which allows him to blast acid from his hands.
7. Titled 'Queen of the Inhumans', she has the ability to move and grow her hair at will.
8. 'Moon \_\_\_\_' has the power of being psychic and super-strong which increase and decrease with the phases of the moon.
10. This Marvel superhero has the power of psychically possessing people and animals.

### Down

1. This faceless detective has super-intelligence and martial arts skills.
2. With 64 split personalities, each with their own superpowers, 'Crazy \_\_\_\_' is a member of The Doom Patrol.
3. This blind superhero can feel colours.
4. 'Black \_\_\_\_' is a Marvel character with the power of producing bad luck for others.
9. This DC comics hero has the ability to make herself as flat as paper.



Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons' surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across:	
5. Spawm	10. Karma
6. Anarchist	
7. Medusa	
8. Knight	
Down:	
1. Question	9. Tommy
2. Jane	
3. Daredevil	
4. Cat	

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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