Learn, Unlearn, Relearn


The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Being a movement, Barefoot has allowed you to travel to various countries and interact with many communities. Since all communities are different, how are you able to engage with different communities and find a model which is best suited for each one?

Ms. Meagan Fallone (MGF): Everywhere we go, I am told our idea won’t work as the people here are different. However, it does work as we find out they’re all the same. Differences are perceived more than real. So they’re going to share a set of problems and challenges which may take different forms, but are mostly the same—such as issues with the role of women in a community.

DSW: In your TED Talk, you spoke of indigenous knowledge. As the founder of Barefoot College, and as an individual, what have you been able to learn from these indigenous communities all over the world?

MGF: The first thing I learned is to actually have humility, as the education I had in some way gave me an unconscious bias against those who haven’t had that same access to education. It took me a while to unlearn and to start over. I started looking at what was already there, what they knew, and all the innovative ideas they could come up with.

Secondly, I’ve learned that it is our own mediocrity of thought that stops us from seeing how much capacity is lying dormant in the communities we think need our help. They don’t need our help in the way we think we do. They need an even playing field.

DSW: How would you approach slums and people who are impoverished while being in the vicinity of urban areas just because they don’t have the knowledge or skills to access it?

MGF: One of the reasons we work the way we do is to reverse this migration. I generally don’t meet many people who have willingly migrated from urban areas. They spend their whole life thinking about how they can make the money to go back. I feel this is a problem with our system. People feel that they would make more money in urban centres. However, at Barefoot College we feel that there is as much opportunity in rural areas as there is in urban areas. Entrepreneurs in a rural community have dignity, heroism and financial benefits; and we need to develop these skill sets in rural areas.

DSW: How are you able to reach out to a community which doesn’t accept ideas and does not want intervention, and how do you convince them to accept your help?

MGF: In the various communities I have been in in the past nine years, I have never had a community that, if approached respectfully, reject a programme which is sustainable, cost effective and environmentally friendly. Once, I had been thrown out of a community in Panama, of the indigenous people, whose grazing lands were flooded when the Panama Canal was being built. I understood why they had thrown me out. They had lost hope. I don’t think all communities think like that, but it’s the way that you approach them. If they feel that you have come with the sense to serve, they will accept you.

DSW: What would you say is the one thing that gave you the inspiration and courage to found this movement, which is now Barefoot College?

MGF: People tell me I am impossible as I see the world how I want it to be, instead of how it really is and this gives me the strength to push myself to the limit. I share that with Bankar Roy, an Old Boy from The Doon School. This is something I keep thinking about while working. I feel we are privileged at Barefoot College as we get to watch people change their life. Imagine what the world would be like if we were able to do this to the 44% of the population that lives on less than $2.50 a day. Imagine what kind of talent and mobilisation we could harness.
On behalf of the School community, the Weekly would like to thank all masters for their effort and dedication to make the Children’s Day celebration a very enjoyable and memorable event.

CHALLENGING MINDS

The following are the results for the Shanti Swaroop Science Essay Writing Competition, 2018:

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

Shivendra Singh was awarded the Best Essay award in the competition.

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Where all has he teach’d?
Raghav Dalnia, inquisitive.
He told to us.
Rushil Chaudhary, words of wisdom.
My hairs are black.
RMB, clinging on to youth.
Both of you three come here.
MMR, seeing triple.
I haven’t watched the book.
Kanishkh Kanodia, reading the subtitles.
I am thoughtless.
Advaita Sood, evidently.
Why it didn’t get sticked?
Jinay Borana, tongue stuck.
He asked me work.
Sushmit Das, good work.
I’m going to start a new start.
Krishmeet Ratra, “well done is better than well said.”

ERRATA

On Page 7 of Issue No. 2519, Viksit Verma’s 100 meter timing was incorrectly published as 0.2 seconds faster than the previous record. The correct timing is 0.02 seconds faster than the previous record.

The Weekly regrets this error.

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

Albert Einstein

A VICTORIOUS SMASH

The School participated in the Under-14 A.I.T.A. National Tennis Tournament held at St. Joseph’s Tennis Academy on November 10 and 11, 2018. Following are the results:

Sangho Rijiju reached the Pre-Quarterfinals, while Aradhya Aggarwal and Archit Oberoi reached the Quarter-Finals. Avyukt Kochar was declared Runner-Up.

Congratulations!

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

The following are the results of the Mathematical Ability & Merit Scholarship Test organised by TSEVM:

Samarth Kapila secured the 1st position in the Year Eight category, winning a cash prize of Rs 1250. Aneesh Agarwal was placed 3rd in the Year Ten category.

Kudos!

Opinion Doll

Is ‘No Shave November’ effective in raising awareness about men’s health in School?

Yes 27%
No 63%
Can’t Say 10%

(438 members of the School community were polled)

Around the World in 80 Words

Stan Lee, the creator of Marvel Comics, died at the age of 95. A wild fire in California killed 48 civilians, with hundreds more missing. The Sri Lankan parliament passed a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa’s government. Israel and Palestine militant groups agreed to a two day ceasefire in Gaza. ISRO successfully launched the communication satellite GSAT 29. Binny Bansal, CEO of Flipkart, resigned following an investigation into his conduct. In the Manchester Derby, City beat United 3-1.

This week’s Disco Doodle can be found on Page 4.
From The Editors’ Desks

Aryaman Kakkar

I find it very difficult to articulate myself at times. I have been writing for six years now, and it’s still difficult to speak my mind. Yet, inked words are easier to grasp and to feel. For me, they bleed from the tips of pens. They allow me to tell stories and create poetry; an unseen universe that can’t be done justice with just voice. I don’t know why I write though; emotion has always woken me in the most peculiar times and places. This compels me to pen my thoughts down. We are struck, consumed and overtaken by our strongest and most potent feelings and that is what inspires us. But sometimes we write, and we come upon something truly exceptional. The most striking aspect about good writing was that their authors always wrote the truth, their emotional truth struck a powerful cord with the community that read it; the family of Chandbagh. Like a family, we have our disagreements and quarrels, our private victories and shared dilemmas. What we need and have is platform for others to know and for us to share. We often underestimate the power of the written word. We have witnessed the ripples and waves the Weekly causes with one outspoken voice. We have always been an institution that values the truth, the strength of our emotional reservoir and the fraternity. The Weekly has always been about channeling our voices into clear streams of opinion and giving a space to be heard.

I was always shy about my poetry, but the Weekly helped me reveal myself to the world. It gave me a new identity, a new voice and that is what we want for you. As an institution, the Weekly serves as your voice, a platform where you can write about your experiences and not only just the Editorial Boards; a popular misconception that arose because no one has been brave enough to write a ‘Letter to the Editor’ for the last year. We need the voices of our fraternity just as much as you. So, write to us. Whatever you want to say, we will help you. The Weekly has always looked for exceptional minds who are not afraid to speak their truth. It’s up to you to give the final push.

Divyansh Nautiyal

With twenty-five thousand issues under our belt and a legacy of eight decades to live up to, leading the Weekly from the helm will undeniably be a monumental task. Here at the Weekly, we will endeavour to serve the Dosco community at large. On Saturday mornings, we hope this publication can be a platform for discourse, dissent and debate. Moreover, the Weekly will continue to serve its archival function, chronicling the best of School and even entertain its readership with the ‘Week Gone By’.

However, even as we plan and continue to do so, a looming threat exists. The threat is that of being irrelevant and losing active engagement with the readership. While facing criticism of being a ‘crib column’ and being an ‘elitist’ publication, the Weekly got criticised from its readership over a span of time. While this evident antagonism might be the result of numerous factors, we aim to resolve it and move forth. Service to the Dosco community through the Weekly is a two-way process. From our end, we must maintain the standards of the Weekly with every issue. The other end is for you (our readers) to control. It could entail engagement and contribution to the publication if you feel strongly about an issue in School or elsewhere. Understand that our attempts to make a positive change through this publication will be futile if it is not a two-way dialogue.

We endeavour to make the Weekly truly more inclusive and representative of School.

What differentiates the Weekly from other forums of discourse like the Assembly Talks and the School Council is its mass outreach. We cannot afford to let this tool, and the power it carries with it, to go unused. We are open to feedback; no matter how scathing. If you have something new and creative that you would like to get featured in the Weekly, do let us know. Till then, happy reading!
Happy Children’s Day!

Dodgeball

Assembly

Serving

Anant Ganapathy
Lunatic's Mind

Yash Adalti (D-Form)

I jumped across the sea
Landed on the moon.
Ran short of breath and acted like a loon.

I ate amongst the fish,
Inhaled a plastic dish.
It was tasty! A final lifelong wish!

I was reading National Geographic,
Ended up floating on the currents of the Adriatic.
It got jealous when it saw me reading about the Atlantic.

I listened to the scream,
The scream of ice-cream.
Oh, the horror!

I met Gandalf, talked with him a bit.
Got myself cursed a teensy-bit.
Now I got my bottom on my face,
As I faded away.

I Recite War

Armaan Rathi (C-Form)

I recite the tale of pain and bloodshed beyond experience.
I recite the tale of wailing mothers, and men mercilessly killed.

The clash of bayonets!
The endless thumps of cannons!
As the disappointing sun sets on my face perfecting my elegy,
I sigh: This evil bigotry in this evil land shall continue another day,
And hope that this empire, that now stands tall,
tumbles and falls to the very depths of hell.

For this putrid war shall engulf everyone in its dark melancholic cloud,
now I lie here on my deathbed,
for life has started to elude me.
And I am forlorn in my pervasive sadness.

Death approaches me with a cold moonlit dagger.
Thrusts the blade into my lifeless gut.
Turns it,
Never dithering from its foul, uncouth gaze.

I wonder if this is for the best,
I contemplate whether I have any regrets.
I wonder if this war has gotten the best of me,
diminishing every spark, every idea, all hope in my head.
I wonder if this war has poisoned my brain with hated, resentment and misery.
Now on my deathbed I am and I wonder whether this damned war's gotten the best of me.

Homesickness

Himanshu Manglik (D-Form)

Homesick. This term often describes the condition of numerous children staying away from their parents. Furthermore, this word often tends to be exaggerated and, at some point of time, makes the affected person a victim of bullying.

On the other hand, homesickness can also determine the quality of a relationship a child has with his parents. Paucity of this condition in a child would either mean that he is a quick adjuster and is settled in the place he is studying in, or it would mean that the child prefers to stay away from his parents and live happily amongst his friends.

Homesickness is triggered when one person remembers his family or the luxury of his home. You can be relieved of homesickness by focusing on other things (distraction) or with the help of friends (companionship).

I, on the other hand, perceive this condition as a state of mind.

When we go to spend the holidays with our parents, we kids feel elated beyond our imagination. While these holidays fly by, as we watch and play on our I-Pad's and PS4's, believe it or not, we kids feel terribly guilty at the end. We always mourn: "Oh why, why did I not use the time that I had invested in watching TV, in spending some time with my parents!!!?". This emotion struck me in my heart on the eve of 25th of August, 2018, when involuntary tears started flowing down my eyes.

Because of this, I was compelled to discover another way of avoiding homesickness.
It was reassurance.
I kept reassuring myself that I would be back home in just a few weeks. With this thought in mind, I concentrated in exploring the opportunities The Doon School offered me.
Fight On!

An excerpt from Aryan Bhattacharjee’s speech, which won the Gombar Speech Trophy Contest, 2018.

The creed we call Doscos is one that cares about the people and their sufferings around them, and work incessantly, tirelessly and fearlessly to alleviate the large swaths of suffering that plague our times.

In a larger context of the world, the knowledge that somewhere in the villages of my country there is an elderly who does not get medical care she desperately needs, should make me feel poor even if that isn’t my grandmother. The knowledge that even now on the streets of my nation, there dwell barbarians murdering innocent citizens because they pray differently should appal me even if I am in the majority.

That is what it means to be a Dosco…

Yet today in our very own School, we’ve stopped investing in the lives of those around us and most importantly in this great estate we call our home. We do so because in some sense we feel like passing waters at a riverbank. We feel transitory. We’ve begun to care about life after Doon so much, about the rat race to college that we fail to engage with the problems at our own home. And even for the few of us who still do, we’ve begun to feel like we have no sway over what is to happen. We feel powerless. That is the problem.

We feel transitory, we feel powerless; that is the problem.

Sadly if this goes on, our School will cease to remain the dominant force it is not very long from now. If we lose our sense of community now, then we will become no different from the thousands of schools that open every day with posh AC classrooms and large playing fields. Our sense of community makes us distinctive.

To those of us who think we are but passing individuals to an indifferent institution I say— we are the institution. We are what these great red structures comprise of. We are the dew that adorns our magnificent fields each morning.

This community is inseparable; we are one because we have spent so much time with each other. We have looked out for each other, Doscos, Masters, Bearers, Dames and Maalis like a family. One never ignores one’s family.

To those of us who feel powerless because we feel we are too few I say in a word—fight on. Fight in the face of unsurmountable difficulty, not because you are certain of victory but because you are certain of your own self, and your own ideals and convictions. Fight on even if you know you are bound to lose because that is the right thing to do.

The Doon School Fantasy League

Aaditya Gupta

The concept of online Fantasy Leagues has become a sensation across the world. On a cue from its popularity, some like-minded Doscos have been working on a project to formulate a domestic Fantasy League for the upcoming Inter-House Basketball Competition. In order to forge this dream into a success, we request the School community to participate in this event.

As you may know, Fantasy Premier League is an online game wherein participants assemble an imaginary team of real life players and score points based on those players’ actual statistical performance.

Now, you must be thinking how incorporating such an app into our School community would be beneficial for us. The answer is pretty simple. It would help us tabulate and analyse figures and statistics of sporting events in a more comprehensive way, and would also give rise to a buzz, leading to increased participation in Inter-House events. The app will invigorate spectatorship for the competition. The statistics acquired from this app will further give an in-depth, detailed reference as to how each house team and player performed in the competition.

For any further queries, please feel free to contact us at fantasyleague@doonschool.com.

#LET_THE_GAMES_BEGIN!
As the ‘scoping season’ enters the last run for S Form, the ‘Roving Eye’ is obliged to catch and analyse the events passed by. As one of our very own Editors said, even the best of players (or game changers) will not go unscrutinised by the watch of the Eye. With a season highlighted by hits and misses, hypocrisy and desperation, no act shall go hidden under the rug.

Now an annual affair, the race for ‘lamp’ bearer sees the Etonian heading strong with a carefully crafted campaign strategy. While the Warriors already count on five forerunners, the noise from the House of Warriors grows louder than ever and echoes across campus. Speaking of strategy, the Pianist has undergone a three sixty turn from being a composed academician to a campaigner. However, with a Secretary-ship already under his belt, only time will tell how high the swan will fly through the season. Fighting desperately for a third seat, the rumble seems to rise from the House of Eagles and the Nizams. However, speculations about exchanging supposed vote banks and planting managers seem to run rife around the campus.

Drawing inspiration from this year’s stunners, the House of Swans sees an unusually large number of candidates scrambling, without the slightest of hints slipping from the Master at top. However, the Opener, the High Jumper, the Boxer, Maharajan and the Koney try their best to stamp their authority and make the most of whatever’s left. Gliding across the Skinners, the Junior Apple, Ornithologist, Gujju and the Hockey veteran head along with our very own Chief, who dreams of a Jungle Raj. Coming to the Main Field, the Gentlemen too witness fierce competition from all ends. With the two very ‘deserving’ Scholars on one end to the Abhineta and the Gentleman Sportsman on the other, the House has rightly picked up cue from last year. Its neighbour, on the other hand, has seen the race reduced to a few remaining contenders, with Flying Jatt, Naughty Boy, Dark Horse as well as the Track and Field duo all shining bright. Unlike other houses, they seem to be spending more time in the Vitruvian Man’s study than the Maan’s study. Coming finally to the loud red corner of School, the Megamind, Pinochio, Dancer, Ex-Hockey and the Humanities Captain seem to be going headstrong while already controlling all the Toyes in the house.

In the Rose Bowl, GMAT appears to have lost quite a few of his remaining strands of hair as he witnesses the Pillowman attempting to cushion the Rhinoceros’ aggressive charge, with the Human Pimple fanning the flames. The Humanities Captain gleams brighter every day, his tremendous hard work ‘behind the scenes’ having paid off. The withdrawal of Megamind and the Chief’s diplomatic silence have once more baptised our beloved Sec-Jain in the holy waters of Hey Yaa’s liking. However, the fight for the Presidency rages on between the Warrior and the Eagles. Appears as if leading our Annual Coffee table book and ‘Uniting the Nations’ together is not on the cards as it was for some in the years gone by.

Far from all this politics (or supposed to be) is the sports field. While some of the players have established themselves enough to eliminate all competition, the others live in the darkness regarding their future. The Hockey pitch faces stiff competition amongst the Sweeper, the Forward and the Keeper. While the Captain and the masters have already chosen their favourites, one must wait to see who rises from the ashes and who gets left behind in the debris. From the pitch to courts, Basketball sees healthy competition (for once) between both the Jatts, with one truly living up to his brother’s legacy. Finally, the quest for the most popular sport has descended into a three-way battle after a democratic awarding of colours.

Back here on the Weekly, only one of the two (to be) Editors could make it past the finish line as a surprise entrant rose the ladders unbelievably fast. As to our Yearly counterparts, the Etonian and the ‘Sorcerer’s Apprentice’ seem to have played their parts well. Right behind is the Eagle and the omnipresent Humanities Captain who too are equally engrossed in the same ballgame. Hope they all make it safe to the other side!

With alliances formed, broken and now even shared, S form truly panned out its true colours
The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

The MPH was the epicentre of most of the action this week, after another compressed Saturday of compliments and complaints. However, our dear Masters more than made up for the ruined night-outs and cancelled outings — due to the flurry of cards distributed right before the weekend — with their initiatives on Children’s Day. It was a true embodiment of the spirit and bonding characteristic of Chandbagh, and I doubt such love is paralleled in any other institution. The Headmaster, rather deftly, saved himself from the strains of dancing to Ritvig, leaving on the weekend to meet prospective students; sadly missing this manifestation of our wholesome School spirit.

What with Inter-House badminton, boxing, chess, squash, tennis, basketball, table-tennis, poetry recitation, Hindi debating and English debating, the boys had to maintain their spirit from the athletics competition as they ran helter-skelter while trying to cope with the numerous happenings in School. The annual scrambling to somehow finish all competitions before the end of the Year got to many, leaving three people unconscious, and that too from one form!

Our risk-taking SC formers were cooped-up in a studio, sober and bored, as their TOK/EE week took place. While some ardently prepared their first-drafts and presentations, the defaulter scratched their heads trying to figure out what TOK and EE are. Due to their upcoming graduating examinations, extra-classes ran parallel with everything else in School, leaving our SCs finding themselves in desperate need of Hermione’s time-necklace from the Prisoner of Azkaban. There was a spark in this darkness, though, for these boys as daggers were drawn over a territorial dispute (of the AV room) with the Design Workshop. Many lost SCs looked out the window and observed the most unprecedented of things: guest-students running around School trying to find debris and missing persons from the Space Station that crashed during our Inter-School Space Exploration Fest.

It is important that one finds some time to take a break with everything that is happening in School— and a special request to the calendar makers: please let’s take feedback and not face the same problems year after year!

WordSearch | Child Prodigies

1. This wunderkind composed and published his first piece at 5, and at 14 famously transcribed an entire piece by memory.
2. This future art legend could draw before he could talk, making his first oil painting aged 9.
3. This Italian native showed signs of having a photographic memory as a boy. At 16, he solved the partial differential equation of a vibrating rod.
4. As a seven year old, this Indian prodigy successfully operated a neighbour, and has been invited by Imperial college to find a cure for cancer.
5. At 16, this prodigy produced an essay so advanced that the philosopher Rene Descartes was convinced his father must have ghostwritten it.
6. As a 16 year old, this figure-skater won a gold at the 1998 Winter Olympics.
7. When this aviator was in class 12, she was selected by NASA for a space training program, and at 20 she became the youngest pilot in India.
8. This mathematician’s most memorable feat was when she calculated the 23rd root of a 201-digit number faster than a Univac computer. W
9. Currently 9, this artist has staged solo shows all over the world where her paintings have sold for $24,000 or more.
10. At 16, this swimmer became the youngest man to break the 200-metre butterfly world record.