



The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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Fauna of The Doon School

Yash Dewan writes about the 'wildlife' in School.

Hello my fellow zoologist!

After six years of extensive research, I am happy to announce that I have finally completed the first-ever Zoological Study of the Fauna of The Doon School. From the nocturnal to the diurnal, the hunters to the hunted, this research highlights the role of the various 'species' of individuals that roam our campus while primarily focusing on those 'animals' whose majestic beauty and irreplaceable significance goes unnoticed in the hustle-bustle of our daily lives. I hope this paper acts as an insightful introduction to the Chandbagh ecosystem and inspires you to further develop your own understanding of it over the coming years. With that said, let us meet these fantastic beasts: The 'Techy' (scientific name: *Computericus geniuisis*)

These docile animals are often found in dimly lit rooms, surrounded by books with complicated titles such as: Machine learning with Python and C++ Primer. They are nocturnal animals who prefer to lead a solitary life. However, their presence in large groups is often indicative of high internet speeds. Due to their lifestyle and 'exciting' areas of interest, the mating prospects of most male Techys tend to be on the low side. Patriarchal instructions given to entities called Siri and Cortana are

often their only interactions with what seems to be the opposite sex.

Many innocent Techys are lured in with promises of lavish publication treats and held hostage in a 'Writerz' den

Holding honorable titles such as the 'Masters of coding' and 'Maestros of in-design', the Techys are famous for their creativity and dexterity at the computer. It is primarily because of their special skill set that they are ravenously hunted by the 'Writerz' (scientific name: *Editorin chieficus*) The Writerz are predatory creatures who are often seen calling endless post-meal meetings outside the CDH. In the hope of printing their respective publications in time, their appetites for Techys rises tenfold during the early weeks of October i.e the Founders' season. Many innocent Techys are lured in with promises of lavish publication treats and held hostage in a 'Writerz' den for many consecutive nights.

While the Techys may often be

the hunted, they are also brutal hunters. Primarily feeding on the ego of the 'Screeners' (scientific name: *Serveris roomicus*), a Techy's unique capabilities allow it to 'bypass' (with ease) any 'defenses' placed by the former. As we can see, these creatures are truly an evolutionary marvel.

The 'Lark' (scientific name: *Early wakeris*)

This peculiar beast has often been found scuttling around the boarding houses in the early hours of the morning. Their role in the Chandbagh ecosystem has often been paralleled to that of an alarm clock. Recent studies have shown that 'natural'-selection by species reigning at the top of the food chain has resulted in their methods being surprisingly more efficient than the high-pitched ring of the morning bell and even a Housemaster's unceasing nudging. My team has documented that the Lark is capable of complex movements such as tugging, shaking, rocking, pushing, pulling and even tickling in order to wake the other animals in the kingdom. Unique techniques, such as splashing water, have proven to ensure a 100% success rate.

Studying these fascinating creatures extensively has allowed me to identify subtle patterns in their movements over the course of a year. The Larks are

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ECLECTIC ELOCUTIONISTS

Aryan Bhattacharjee has been appointed the **Boy-In-Charge of English Public Speaking** for the year 2019-20.

Aarsh Ashdhir has been appointed the **Boy-In-Charge of English Dramatics** for the year 2019-20.

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

You went on a mental outing?

Arnav Malhotra, and you didn't go?.

Button both your blazers.

Nandil Sarma, clicking photos for the album.

How do you know my dreams, are you a psychopath?

Arnav Chaudhry, evidently.

He is making me feel insecure.

Aditya Jain, self-esteem issues.

PIANO PRODIGY

Zoraver Mehta achieved a **Distinction** in the **Diploma level ATCL Piano Examination (Associate- Piano Performance Examination, Trinity College London)**.

He is one of the youngest in India to achieve both this and a Distinction mark.

Kudos!

“

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

Winston Churchill

ARITHMETIC AFICIONADO

12598 students from 753 schools all over the world appeared in the **Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest 2018**. Aneesh Agarwal has been awarded the medal for being the **School Topper**.

Keep it up!

COMPUTING SUCCESS

Shreyas Minocha won the **Grand Prize of Google Code-In Competition 2018**. There were a total of 3124 students from 77 countries participating in the competition. Shreyas has also won a trip to the Google Headquarters in California, U.S.A. in June this year.

Congratulations!

MEN IN WHITE

The School Cricket team played a match against **Baree Cricket Club** on Sunday, 16th of February. The school team **lost** the match by **51 runs**. Manan Agarwal scored **59 runs**.

Well tried!

Around the World in 80 Words

Chinese Army General Feng Fanghui was given a life sentence for corruption. The Supreme Court asked the governments of seventeen states to evict one million tribal households living in forests after their claims of the right to live in forests were rejected under the Forest Rights Act. Kashmiri students around the country were protested against after the Pulwana highway attacks. English batsmen Joe Root and Jason Roy chose a world record as England beat West Indies in an ODI match.



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most active in the later weeks of March and September i.e. during the Examination season, a time when most other creatures are struggling for survival. Long lists of names written on both palms the night before allow the Lark to remember which animal to wake the next day. The same ink is responsible for the unique bluish coloration of their hands, making it extremely easy for zoologists to identify them. The failure of a Lark to wake up early, more often than not, leads to a cataclysm that is felt across the food chain. Most animals are unable to complete their neglected chapters and last-minute revision before a test. This rare event can be detected through a unique tension hovering over certain breakfast tables on the same day. Thus, as we can see, these creatures have truly earned their place amongst the keystone species of our ecosystem.

The 'Bruddah' (scientific name: *Welhamitus brothericus*)

Nature hath gifted the Bruddahs unique privileges that allow them to access parts of the 'larger world' that most animals can only dream of. A Bruddah regularly travels

great distances in order to meet its female siblings living in the vast expanses of the Dalanwala Plateau. It is primarily because of these routine migrations that the 'Lovers' (scientific name: *Stupidlyin lovicus*) avoid hunting, or even annoying a Bruddah. On the other hand, the Lovers help it, feed it and even protect it in exchange for its services as a messenger, advisor and solicitor, all in one. A classic example of symbiosis.

A Bruddah is indistinguishable from the rest of the animals for most part of the year. However, there are certain auspicious days that there is a sudden transformation in its appearance and it becomes impossible to miss. After a series of heated discussions, my team has finally decided to name these days as 'Raksha Bandhan' and 'Welham Founders'. The Bruddahs suddenly appear around a bus parked outside the CDH in large numbers, wearing what appears to be the school's outing uniform. Each carries a bag weighing almost half its own bodyweight, filled with chocolates, flowers and other such presents given by the

Lovers. These articles however, are no match for the Bruddah's most precious cargo: letters. A Bruddah hides them in its back-pockets, socks and even its rump, all to ensure their delivery. It protects them like its life depends on it because more often than not, it does. A failure to deliver these letters often results in a sad and painful end by the hands of the Lover. It is needless to say the Welhamitus Brothericus is responsible for keeping the flame of love burning bright in our ecosystem.

In conclusion, it becomes clear that Chandbagh is a lush and lively land, an environment flowing with opportunities and allowing all sorts of animals to live and prosper. The diverse creatures that inhabit it play a unique role in sustaining its delicate ecosystem and as zoologists, we must learn to respect each one of them. Often, while focusing on the bare, boring rocks and dark (often frightening) ravines that may surround us, many of us overlook this wild side of our campus. I hope that reading this article will show you a glimpse of the beauty all around us.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is with reference to Amol Singh's LTE addressing the School Social Service Secretary's assembly talk. Right off the bat, I was there to witness the Secretary's talk, and the "not-so alarming" perspective about community service that he presented. The facts offered by the Secretary were not only common knowledge, but common practice. Regrettably, I would even say that it is the current state of affairs. I strongly agree with the insight he offered on the subject, as well as his proactive approach to this matter. Though it is surely not his prerogative to mould anyone's

opinions, as the activity is part of the founding principles on which the school functions, I believe it is fundamental for the entire "aristocracy of service" to support the firm stance taken by him.

Coming to the unrecognised work

**The personal
satisfaction gained
from the activity
far outweighs
the pleasure of
recongnition.**

aspect that Amol addressed, I have two problems. Firstly, if anyone wishes for recognition in the noble act of community service, then they have a skewed interpretation of what the term means. Having worked across three initiatives for the past four years, I can confidently vouch for the fact that the personal satisfaction gained from the activity far outweighs the pleasure of recognition. Secondly, no one person, including the School Social Service Secretary, has the authority to discredit any genuine work, which has always gained the recognition it deserves. I personally have developed a

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sense of respect for initiatives like Dobhri House, and I strongly believe the entire community has, too.

But, as a community we need to closely inspect 'the mechanics underpinning community service at Doon', as the Secretary aptly stated. We need to come together and reflect on our actions. Even though community service isn't the "only method to obtain unnecessary outings", it is certainly the excuse used by most,

tarnishing the remarkable work done by others.

The talk did not undermine the reputation of the activity and the boys who are enthusiastic about it, but highlighted the issues which are relevant for the community and require introspection. It was also a warning to the unruly elements in the community, that malpractices will now have to come to an end, as the community transforms into one which is aware of the loopholes in the system. We need to embrace the bitter truth about

community service and change certain perceptions about this activity. Of course, this will be work in progress and it will take time before we see tangible change.

Honesty, the truth in its most brutal form, stings like a bee. As an institution, we need to be honest with each other, and correct the slip-ups of our predecessors so that we may flourish to reach greater heights.

Sincerely,
Raghav Grover

Deliberating Dilemma

Adit Chatterjee offers his views on the state of academics in School.

The primary purpose of an institution is academic excellence; to be able to achieve the marks required to get admitted into a reputable college in order to succeed in the future at whatever career the student wishes to pursue. In attempting to achieve such a goal, it seems rather justified that the School decided to do away with the Founders' break. This would allow us to devote more time and meet the academic requirements posed by the intensive boards School offers.

However, what I would like to bring attention to is that the fundamental problem with School is not a lack of time; it is our inability to utilise this time effectively. It is rather unfortunate that our School blindly prides itself on cultivating Doscos - 'wholesome individuals that are talented in all the spheres they choose to undertake.' Unfortunately, with the incentive based system within school, namely the Games Blazer and the Scholars blazer (both of which attribute to the qualities of a stud in school), students are led to participate in every activity imaginable in order to meet the required number of points. They find themselves willing to undergo both practices that begin early in the morning and end late into the night. These priorities keep them away from books during toy time and the late night practices that we witness in school contribute to lethargy in the classroom.. Then, after blissfully snoring through the day, they wake up, brimming with energy they need to once again undertake the plethora of activities they must complete in order to arrive at the 'elite' level of being the proud owner of a blue or black blazer.

While such ambition is certainly respectable, the school community must realise that a CV containing an endless amount of achievements is worthless without

the marks to back them up. Therefore, without an active effort from the School to limit the amount of activities a boy should do, the ever enthusiastic Dosco will continue to while away his time chasing accolades instead of focusing on what truly matters.

Then, there lies the problem of discipline. Our classes are not only composed of half-asleep boys. There are always the mischievous, noisy, energetic students that crowd our halls as well. While they may not realise the implications of their actions yet, the effect they have is undeniable. Other students are unable to study, the teacher spends time reprimanding them rather than teaching, and suddenly the class finds itself racing to complete the syllabus.

I firmly believe that these boys should be more mindful of the adverse effects of their actions. School authorities should also take necessary steps to curtail such behaviour. Had such students been swiftly dealt with in their junior forms, they would have thanked the School for their much-improved marks. Instead, as Dosco tradition follows, the race against time to complete multiple syllabi while maintaining their sanity prevails for many of my peers, with the onset of our board examinations this week.

Further on the topic of discipline, I fully agree with the Head Master when he quite rightly says that the "holidays come a week too late." After spending nearly two and a half months in school, testosterone-fuelled boys with a nose for trouble will inevitably engage in mischief. The rate at which discipline deteriorates is astonishing. Without the Founders' break, I suppose the saying could be changed to "four weeks too late," as our Doscos have too much time and very little to do at the end of the year – the perfect recipe for trouble. In conclusion, I believe that the solution to

improving our academic performance is not to hole up students, away from their friends and family back home, but instead make the most of the time we already have. That means limiting their activities – an all rounded person does not need to have every activity in every sphere -just one will suffice. It also means taking a stronger stand on discipline in the classroom, ensuring that time is spent wisely during

toys and the classrooms. A final note: many eagerly await the Founders' break, after the strain of the September trials, the festivities of founders, and the 70 day term filled with the innumerable activities that came along with it. For three years it has provided respite from the intensity of School, and I believe that doing away with it is simply not required.



UNDER THE SCANNER

U.S. State of Emergency | Samarth Kapila

Democracy fails, President Trump prevails. The longest U.S. government shutdown followed after the Democrats and Donald Trump failed to reach an agreement on whether to allocate funds to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. After not being able to gather ample funds, Trump declared a state of emergency.

The two primary problems that Trump aimed to solve by building this wall were restricting the number of illegal immigrants and containing the smuggling of drugs and other contraband into the U.S. According to statistics, apprehension at the border was over 300,000 in 2017 (the lowest number since 1971) and 400,000 in 2018. A majority of the drugs being smuggled into the U.S. came through this border. What Trump calls a 'security crisis' at the border, was also one of the issues he promised to address during his presidential campaign. For the construction of this wall, Trump requested \$5.7 billion be added to new federal spending legislation.

The Democrats strongly opposed this proposal by Trump. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi vehemently said, "A wall is an immorality. It's not who we are as a nation". The Democrats also viewed the wall to not be the best alternative to solve the illegal immigration problem; it being expensive and ineffective in resolving this brewing problem. In their view, it is a 'humanitarian

crisis' that has to be resolved. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection statistics, 90 percent of heroin and 88 percent of cocaine seized along the border was at legal crossing points.

A partial government shutdown was Donald Trump's response to the denial of his unyielding demand for funds. The shutdown affected over 800,000 federal workers from various federal agencies. Federal workers deemed essential were required to work without pay while others were placed on temporary leave or furloughed. Immigration courts were also affected, cancelling over 42,000 cases with an existing backlog of 800,000. Unions representing workers led protests throughout the country, aiming to end the miserable state that the shutdown brought to U.S. According to a survey by Suffolk University, 43% of adults blamed Trump while 23% ascribed blame to the Democrats for the partial government shutdown.

After intense negotiations between the Republicans and Democrats, an agreement was reached to break the impasse.. The deal struck aimed to avert another shutdown and directed \$1.4 billion worth of funds for the wall.

Determined to construct this wall, Trump declared an emergency in the U.S. to divert money from other sectors. After declaring an emergency, Trump announced that the wall would cost \$8 billion, which was an increase from his previous demand. Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer issued a joint statement saying, "Declaring a national emergency would be a lawless act, a gross abuse of the power of the presidency and a desperate attempt to distract from the fact that President Trump broke his core promise to have Mexico pay for his wall".

A lawsuit has been filed against the Trump administration by a coalition of 16 U.S. states led by California along with three Texas landowners and a liberal advocacy group, Public Citizen. We can just wait and watch as this political drama unfolds.



The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

As I see School sinking slowly into a heaving mass of course books, something in the air has changed to remind us how close Trials actually are. To the AT Form, however, the past week has been jam-packed with vigorous preparations for their exams, while magically finding the time to play Broforce on the newly-installed House computers. For the ISC leavers though, their board examination has somewhere been marred by the thought that the glee on the day of their final paper will be dampened by their departure, forever; all the best!

Despite Trials drawing dangerously close, a hundred things happen simultaneously around Chandbagh. The House Cricket Cup is being contested enthusiastically for, being now passed on to the juniors to seal the House's fate; both H and J House seem to have the goal in their sights. The Hockey *pre-pre*-season practices have now turned full fledged, with both juniors and seniors attending practices almost everyday. Speaking of sporting activity, a certain heavy-weight boxer duo fought a closely contested bout in Jaipur House this Sunday; there was a healthy viewership of the event too!

On the co-curricular front, the third edition of the JEDI Cup will conclude today; it was,

undoubtedly, great exposure for our young debaters across the junior forms. Not wanting to be left behind by the Games Committee, the Academic Council too decided to award four black blazers over the course of the week, one of them going to my dear Editor in Chief – congratulations!

All eyes are set on the double night-out this Prize Giving, which was described by a certain Housemaster as an offer to attract more parents this time. The event is set to be spectacular as the Music School has been practising diligently for the event for quite some time now. At the end of the day, the strains of Auld Lang Syne tell each of us, subtly in our hearts, that our time here is limited; let's make the most of it.

Wordsearch | Extremists

1. The Nazi State, governed by Hitler was also known as
2. This terrorist group led by Masood Azhar has been in the news recently.
3. This famous terrorist group consists of 25 sub-groups worldwide.
4. This neo-Nazi party that came third in Greece's January 2015 elections.
5. A violent jihadist group based in Iraq and Syria
6. Once the ruling government in Afghanistan, it today conducts violent insurgencies there.
7. A US backed terrorist organization targeting Iranians living there.
8. The oldest and most notorious hate group in the United States.
9. An Iranian-sponsored, internationally sanctioned terrorist group with an anti-Israel and anti-U.S. agenda.
10. This dead terrorist's family was listed as the 5th wealthiest Saudi family by Forbes magazine, with a reported net worth of \$7 billion.
11. A neo-fascist political party in Hungary that combines militant ethno-nationalism with anti-Roma racism.
12. An Islamist terrorist organization that seeks to establish an independent Islamic state in the southern Philippines

V E T R N Y J U Z I X O E T G V U D V
 O H C Q Q K I U O X H Z G D H E H A C
 U V O G X O N K P S C W E H D K C I U
 E H O C Y H K V X E A M G B M P U E H
 Q R W M N M P T Q Q M A Q G R B Q N V
 A O W L D Y P G C A Q B K A C V W M B
 B G W V T H Q Y H U E K K H W A I V Q
 U D J R J L P O Q N O R C J D A A O K
 S S A M A H M Y Z S E I F N V I H L B
 A S U Q R E A F G N E D E G K A A K B
 Y T E Y H Y A X A R D D Z A L L W I I
 Y L X S H G N N D J L K Y L Q M T R N
 A W I Y Q V Q R W O B Z O A C W E K L
 F A S O C Q I U G N Z B E M S Y S J A
 J Q I W P H F K F I Z D H U K G Y D D
 M Z S F T D I O E E A P Q I K R E Z E
 H Q T E H H F H H G G K D U R Q T M N
 O B H M A F C Q J U V X I T W I I G C
 V T T N H E C W H I X Q M X M S P G S
 X R N A B I L A T K V J O B B I K R Q

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

4. Golden Dawn	8. Ku Klux Klan	12. Abu Sayyaf
3. Al Qaeda	7. Hamas	11. Jobik
2. Jaishe Mohammed	6. Taliban	10. Bin Laden
1. The Third Reich	5. ISIS	9. Hezbollah

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/word-search/#top>

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