

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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THE WEEKLY PLANNER

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Vaishnav Jana To...

The Doon School Weekly reports on the various relief efforts done by School.

As a result of the recently imposed nation-wide lockdown, thousands of families scattered through slums across India were left without any sources of livelihood. Slum dwellers and informal migrant workers in Dehradun also faced the same fate. Daily wage workers were affected the most, having no work and therefore no income. Since service is the foundation upon which our School was built, it was only natural for Doon to do its part as an institution for those less privileged than us. Along with the Dehradun Cantonment Board and the Aasra Trust, a local NGO that focuses on the welfare of underprivileged children living in the riverbed slum under the Bindal Bridge in Dehradun, a team from School comprising some Masters, members of the Administrative Staff and the School Doctor worked to provide the financially disadvantaged with essential supplies to help them survive these trying times. As one member of the team says, "The Doon School stepped forward to stand in solidarity with slum dwellers and helped Aasra in providing food supplies to the marginalized and needy". The goal, according to another member, was to "reach out to places and people where politicians, NGOs etc. haven't been able to reach". Considering this, the Aasra Trust is working inside the city, and the Cantonment

board around it.

The team volunteered in Cantonment Board areas like Nayagaon, Jantanwala, Sahaspur, and Hariyawala Bridge, as well as in Araghar Chowki in the heart of the city to get a better picture of the situation in Dehradun. School contributed in the distribution of dry ration packages to these areas by funding Aasra's distribution, and by providing packages directly to the Cantonment board. On average, each package could support a family of four for about two weeks. Each package contained a range of necessities including various staple foods and ingredients, as well as personal care products such as soap and detergent.

Apart from arranging basic necessities for these trapped daily wage workers, School also distributed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits to branches of the local administration, like the Dehradun Police, the Doon Hospital, and the IMA Blood Bank. This was accomplished largely through collaboration with the local administration. The aim of distribution of PPEs was to help "the upfront warriors of the novel coronavirus".

Although the team has tried to do its bit for those around, as the situation worsens, it is becoming increasingly difficult sustain the help being afforded to stranded

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families and migrant workers. Despite the lack of protective gear, the city's corona warriors on the relief front battle on. The team's interactions with the stranded migrant workers have brought home, first hand, the difficulties faced by these people. For instance, a young labor couple from Jhansi are stuck in Jantanwala. They had left their three children – the youngest being fourteen months old and the eldest six years – with their grandparents, who are in their late sixties with no source of income. They were distraught, and desperately seeking help from all that they met, just so that they could go back home. Sadly, given

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the prevailing circumstances, the team members were not in a position to help this couple go back home. Numerous families across the city and the country have been thrust into similar circumstances and we

appreciate the efforts of the team, the organisations involved, the DSOBS, masters and members of our administrative staff, students, and parents in doing their bit in extending a helping hand.

Ideas are Bulletproof

Ishan Singhee *reflects on photography as his hobby.*

Originally, my plan was to create a physical photo album of some of the scenic places I visited and the various memories I captured around the world. However, when a friend asked me to share some with him right then, Younique was born. Younique is a photography account started on Instagram with pictures ranging from South India to Scotland.

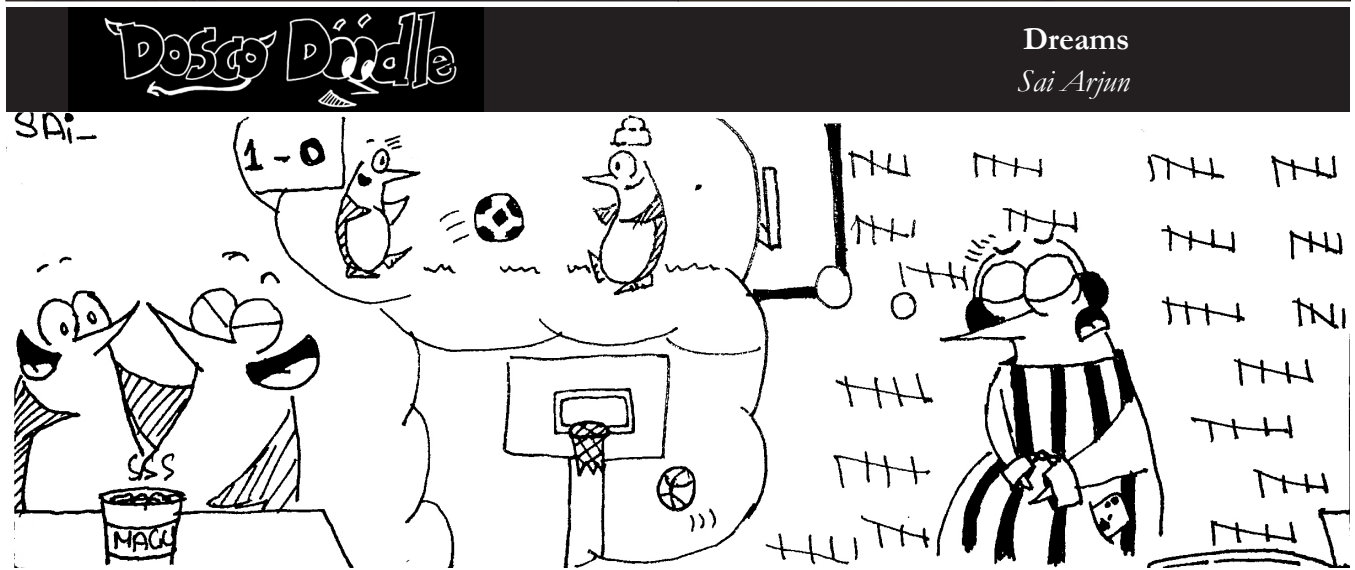
I never owned a DSLR and was never a part of the photography club in School, but taking photographs was something I enjoy doing by myself. I love photography for the thrill of capturing the magnificence of the scenes I was fortunate to see for myself in various parts of the world that I visit.

I have always loved showing people these photographs and videos whilst telling them stories about the different trips undertaken and the various destinations I visited. It is a trip of its own to go down memory lane and revisit each experience I have had over the years, bringing it to life with pictures.

My aim for Younique is that it grows over time and

people enjoy the pictures that I have collected from my experiences. I hope it will inspire others to click photographs of the everyday things in their day to day lives as much as pictures of something exceptional and novel. Photographs document the world. Whether you're a street photographer documenting mountains in Nepal, or waking up before sunrise to exercise and enjoy the view, it is a great feeling to be freezing the moment through photography.

I didn't begin this page because it was productive and could tick another box on my college application, but simply because it was a nice way to reminisce some experiences and occasions. Aesthetically pleasing pictures produce a positive attitude in the viewer's mind. This is a good way for people to be positive in such distressing times. I have really enjoyed capturing videos of the sunrise and sunset through the week. Photography has been a very enriching and rewarding experience for me, and with Younique, I hope it will encourage you to be a shutterbug too!



The Weekly Planner

Shreyan Mittal

“You have been accepted. You start work tomorrow.” Upon hearing these words from the Commander of the Weekly Planner, the recruit was filled with emotions. Of course, he managed to not let it show on his face, but from the inside, he was ecstatic. The Weekly Planner was one of the most elite institutions in the Army. It had the task of publishing plans every week for the service men and ensure that they stayed up to date with the latest news. Even after he passed the test for entry into the Weekly Planner with flying colours, he had to pass an extremely tough interview, from which only four candidates were to be taken. The privilege of being one of those rare four, the opportunity to serve this institution, was something which the recruit did not take lightly.

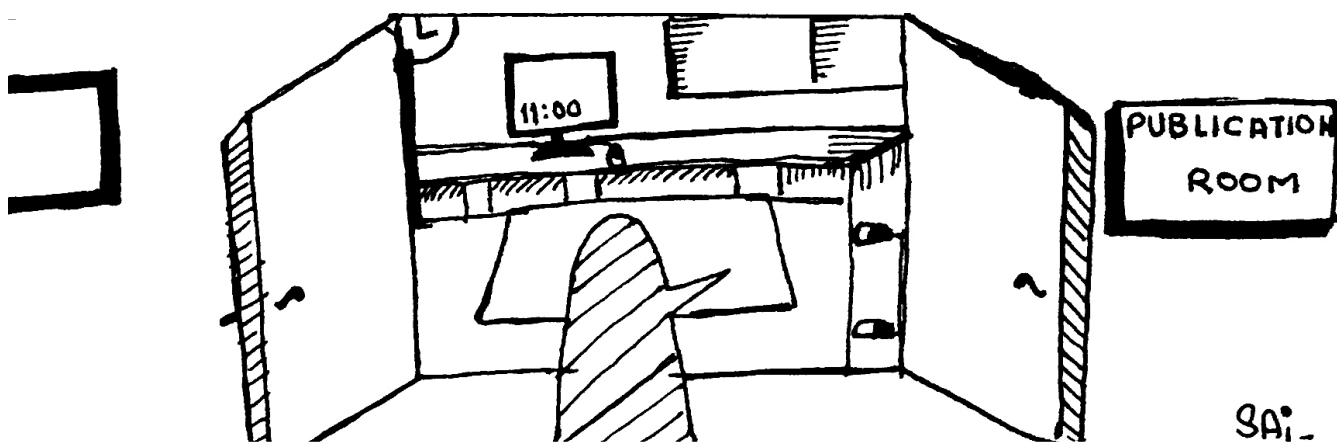
Over the course of the next couple of weeks, he learnt all the rules and regulations that he had to follow to the T. Even one tiny mistake could mean the Newbie, a nickname given to him by the older soldiers, would be placed on an indefinite period of Probation. During these periods, he was to be extremely careful to not make any mistakes and ensure the older soldiers, called Elders, did not get an excuse to terminate his position. Every week, on Saturday, the recruits had to bring new tactical strategies and ideas for ambushes, weapons and camouflage. The Newbie’s whole Saturday was practically spent on this, thinking of new and innovative ways that would please the Elders, and not result in him getting shouted at.

Of course, it was tedious, but to the Newbie it did not matter. Whenever told by an Elder, he rushed to the War Room and started work. No matter how many training sessions had to be sacrificed, he was always at their beck and call. Arranging all the information on the digital page, making sure that everything was in order and not a single mistake made, had become

routine. Throughout the week, he had to chase after Generals for strategies and even members of the Staff to check whether they had corrected the plans. On Friday noon, the whole board of the Weekly Planner would assemble in the War Room, slogging to send the plans for publishing. Even after all that, the work was not over. That same night, the recruits would travel hundreds of miles to pick up the payload of plans and deliver them to the troops on a bright Saturday morning.

Without a shadow of doubt, there were many instances where he thought the Elders would pull the plug on his spot on the board, as had happened to a fellow recruit who started with him, but they always showed faith in him and he tried his level best to not let them down. However, in contrast to popular belief, there were many instances when the troops set work aside and enjoyed themselves. For example, once a year, the team was tasked with making a plan that was aimed to lighten the mood of the soldiers. It was filled with hilarious fails of soldiers and even poked fun at the staff. In addition, throughout the year, there existed a friendly rivalry between the Weekly Planner and the Yearly Memorabilia. Even though the latter only released their plan once a year, they too worked all year round. Each plan, they attempted to oust each other, and claim the throne for the Best Plan of the Year. There was also the end of the year, where the entire board was given chocolates and premium MREs, something which was a luxury within the institution.

Each year, as the Newbie watched new recruits join the Weekly Planner, he was taken aback by the hunger and intensity in them, to express their creativity while simultaneously serving their institution. All he hoped for was that this fire would never die, and burn long after he too had become an Elder.



An Aristocracy of Service

Editor's Note: This issue, we have included pieces on the theme of the service members of the School community across the country. Below are two pieces describing such initiatives. We would like to extend our appreciation to all the students, masters, parents, and Old Boys who are uplifting the ideals of the aristocracy of service. However, please take note that this is only part of this issue's theme, and we are not generally open to receiving articles describing such initiatives. From next time, we will send out an email to everyone to inform you of a particular issue's theme well in advance of the issue's release, so everyone has sufficient time to send contributions aligned to that theme.

PPE Kits

Varyam Gupta

The COVID-19 outbreak has had the world poised on the brink of calamity and its frontline health workers balancing on the precipice of danger. Amidst this crisis, fundraising for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) gave Vir Bhatia and me an opportunity to play a supportive role in a burgeoning pandemic. This process was initiated when Mr. Madhav Bahadur, an Old Boy, appealed to The Doon School Old Boys Society to procure PPE kits for medical professionals.

In order to raise funds to this effect, we created a crowdfunding website aiming to collect Rs. 5 lakh through Milaap, an NGO that serves as a platform for fundraising activities. Working in tandem with the DSOBS, we endorsed this fundraiser via online platforms and social media pages and received an extremely encouraging response. As of now, we have managed to collect upwards of Rs. 3 lakh. These funds will be used by the DSOBS to procure PPE kits that

would be supplied to various bodies that require them. Currently, the DSOBS is receiving requests from all over the country, varying from a COVID-19 centre in Jharkhand to government hospitals in Uttarakhand.

The inspiration for this service has been derived from the very people it is meant to support: medical personnel who have shown heroic selflessness in these unprecedented times. As aid pours in from all around the world, our initiative has been part of the spirit of camaraderie that bonds the global community today. With instability and uncertainty ahead of us, the procurement of PPE kits through this fundraiser ensures the safety of society's frontline warriors in its own small way. Despite populations being under lockdown, the world comes together today through projects such as ours that aim to express gratitude towards those who tirelessly serve our community in times of adversity and towards bodies such as DSOBS that empower these gestures of gratitude.

Fundraising

Aryaman Khosla

In these unprecedented times, it's imperative that we all lend a helping hand to those who have been hit the most by the collateral effect of Covid-19, and lack the means to get themselves and their families through this lockdown. It was during the first few days of us coming back home that I got a message from the founder of the Parikrma Humanity Foundation about the effect that the nationwide lockdown has had on their children. Their parents have been left with no source of income, and do not even have the basic means for their sustenance. As an active volunteer at Parikrma – a non-profit organisation founded by Shukla Bose aiming to provide under-privileged children from slums with a high-quality education and an opportunity to 'break the cycle of poverty' – I felt compelled to do whatever I could to help during these challenging times. I had worked very closely

with these children before and wanted to try and do my bit to help them and their parents, who are all mostly daily wage earners.

I set up an online crowdfunding campaign to aid Parikrma in raising funds to provide rations to these families. It essentially required a detailed write up of the purpose of my campaign along with images and details as to how Parikrma had been utilising the funds they had previously raised. Once it was set up, the page went live and became open to donations from anywhere in the world. All that needed to happen next was for me to spread the word as much as possible and have other people do the same. In the fear and uncertainty that we were in, I felt that a virtual platform that could be boosted on social media was the ideal way to try and spread the message and garner

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support. Within a span of thirteen days, I had raised over 6.3 lakhs from 93 individual donations. Along with this, I got on board several corporate donations that totalled 2.17 lakhs. I also linked up with several organisations around the city and in other parts of the country, who have donated protective M-19 face shields to all our volunteers and have provided over 25 litres of sanitizers to us for these families. It's been a learning process and it has opened my mind to the kind of impact that can be made even while we sit

within the safe confines of our homes.

The total amount I have raised has been enough to feed around 1,200 families of up to five people three meals a day for a span of seven days. I have been working on the ground as well, distributing the rations we purchased with these funds to all the families at Parikrma. I encourage every member of the Dosco community to try and find a cause that is relevant to them. With the power of crowdfunding and social media at your disposal, think about what you can do to help others during these challenging times.

Service and Self

Dr. (Maj.) Amar Lanka *describes his experiences during quarantine.*

The lockdown has provided me with much of the 'me-time' that I long for when School is running, so I have used this time to get to know myself better, learn some new skills, and do my bit as a concerned medical professional and a responsible citizen.

For someone who never had the time to check WhatsApp messages, I discovered that there was a lot of misinformation doing the rounds in the WhatsApp groups regarding COVID-19, and especially about how it spreads. I have been a member of groups of my boarding school batch mates, army regiment colleagues, and my apartment society at Bangalore. I began by clearing the misconceptions with scientific explanations for such posts and could soon see a marked decrease in the apprehensions of the groups in general. Soon, I began getting personal messages and calls from some of them and it felt wonderful reconnecting with friends after ages. I am also a member of my medical school batchmates' group, which sadly had more than the usual posts marginalising and blaming a certain community. Most of these were on the basis of fake news and irresponsible reporting by our mainstream and social media. This was happening in other groups too, though on a lesser scale. I was initially hesitant, but then I began responding to those posts with proof from fact-checking websites. Within a week, all such posts ceased in those groups and civility prevailed. What surprised me was that most of the people in the groups were opposed to these posts, but were just keeping quiet, and they appreciated me for speaking out. I must also confess that the group that was most sensitive to these issues was my (boys) boarding school one!

For the past thirty days, I have also been involved with this small group of like-minded people from all walks of life, including some members of the School community as well. This group has been doing yeoman service to the poor and hungry by making ration kits

and distributing them. These kits contain essentials like *atta*, rice, potatoes, cooking oil, *dal*, spices, and soap. I realised that it involves a lot of patience to purchase in bulk and pack them into smaller packets and make these ration kits - all the while maintaining social-distancing norms! The packets are then taken on scooters and distributed in coordination with the police and civil defence. Four to five hours are spent every day by the core team members in this process, and it feels awesome to be a part of this initiative.

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On a personal front, I began taking out time for myself and completed an online indoor 10K run after training, completing it in 76 minutes, which I have been told is not a bad timing for a 50 year old. This has been keeping my spirits high.

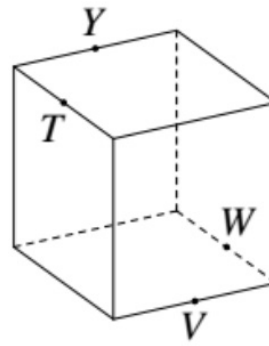
I also happened to learn the art and science of sparkling up the washroom, and can proudly state that I can am able to do a good job of it. Two basic components do the trick: white vinegar and baking soda. These can remove the stains from faucets and literally shine them; unclog the showerheads and also shine your washbasin and toilet! I shall be testing their efficacy on the washroom walls in a weeks' time!

Problem of the Week

The edge length of the solid cube shown is 2. A single plane cut goes through the points Y, T, V, and W, which are midpoints of the edges of the cube, as shown.

What is the area of the cross section?

- A. $\sqrt{3}$
- B. $3\sqrt{3}$
- C. 6
- D. $6\sqrt{3}$
- E. 8



Note: Investigative ideas and proofs across forms emerge from this problem.

Source: UKMT Resources

What Have You Been Reading During the Lockdown?

Book: My Hanuman Chalisa and Sixteen Stormy Days

Authors: Devdutt Pattanaik and Tripurdaman Singh

The lockdown period has certainly brought an opportunity to travel inwards, a process I call *Antaryatra*. Presently I am reading two books. The first one is 'My Hanuman Chalisa' by Devdutt Pattanaik and the second is 'Sixteen Stormy Days' by Tripurdaman Singh. Quite a contrast of course in terms of text and time! I will talk about Hanuman Chalisa now. The simple commentaries on the forty 'Chaupais' and three 'Dohas' of Hanuman Chalisa, are intricately woven giving the detailed contextual background of the rich cultural heritage of our country. A must read for all.

- Mr. Rajesh Majumdar

What Have You Been Watching During the Lockdown?

Movie: Gone With the Wind

Age Rating: PG-13

Director: Victor Fleming

Cast: Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland

Probably the first Technicolor movie to have been shot, Gone With the Wind persuaded me to check whether it held the record for the longest movie ever made. However, apart from how different it is from just every other romance, I enjoyed it because it views the American Civil War from the perspective of rich Southern plantation owners, thereby providing a very different narrative to what I was familiar with. It may seem a tad slow at parts, but to anyone who hasn't already seen it, this classic is an absolute must-watch.

- Kabir Subbiah

“

When I grow up I want to be a little boy.

—
Joseph Heller

Around the World in 80 Words

COVID-19 cases crossed the 33,000 mark in India. Actors Irrfan Khan and Rishi Kapoor passed away from long-time illnesses. India recorded zero automobile sales for the first time in history. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan stated that 300 of the 739 Indian districts India were COVID-19 free. The US Trade Office blacklisted foreign Amazon websites as notorious markets. Crude oil suppliers faced problems as oil storages were full. French PM Edouard Philippe confirmed that all sports are prohibited till September.

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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