

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
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## THE WELLNESS CENTRE NEVER SLEEPS

Dr. Lanka reflects on his time at the Wellness Centre

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## PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Can you solve this week's maths problem?

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## Until Next Time...

**The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to Mr. Ramesh Bharadwaj, Mr. Vivek Kumar and Dr. (Maj.) Amar Lanka.** *On this occasion, their friends, students, and colleagues share their thoughts on their tenures.*

My memories of VVK Sir are centred around the informal environment he created in our Biology class. Sir provided us with invaluable support in academics, and apart from that, I will always remember about how Sir would always cheerfully laugh along with our mischief in class and quite often crack a joke or two about it, lifting up the mood. VVK Sir always supported us in our endeavours outside the classroom as well and was always a very approachable figure. Thank you Sir for everything, and we will miss your presence on campus and your jokes which always made everyone laugh.

- Aryan Prakash

I have known and interacted with VVK Sir for the most part of my school life and I have really enjoyed these times with him. When I heard that Sir was leaving School, I was devastated. I was really looking forward to spending my remaining years in School going birding and doing some photography with him.

Sir is an absolute delight and has helped everyone he has met. From keeping our cameras for us to teaching us biology outside the class, he has done everything he could for us. Sir, I want you to know that nothing went unnoticed and we appreciate everything you did for us.



- Yuvan Kamdar

The first glimpse of Vivek at an offsite teachers' workshop reminded me of the famous *Kollywood* actor Chiranjeevi. I did not know at that time that he is a fantastic individual much greater than the superstar. Many on campus believed that we were brothers and jovially used to say that we were separated in a *Kumbh Mela* in our childhood. He is always a great support to me both on the professional as well as the personal front. Just a few lines here are not enough to describe the persona of Vivek. Just like how you don't forget the tune when a song fades out and stops playing, the priceless memories and charm of Vivek are here to stay for long. The magical journey of the last nine years will always be missed both in the department as well as in the family. The lights have dimmed and the camera has stopped capturing at this venue but there is a lot left to be shot in other venues. I wish him the very best.

-SSW

I literally owe my life to RMB Sir! When I got stung by a wasp inside my home, within 5 minutes, I started feeling dizzy and realized that something was seriously wrong. I didn't know that I was allergic to wasp venom. In that moment of desperation, I instinctively thought of RMB Sir as the right person to approach for help. My subconscious mind had correctly assessed that his presence of mind and exemplary practical knowledge

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would save my life. I managed to ring his doorbell and collapsed in his arms. I shall always be in your debt, RMB Sir! I've known you as a frank, friendly, and simple man. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you!

- GYA

Ramesh has been here at School for more than a decade and has closely worked with the physics teachers. I have seen him working in the department and can say for sure that his dedication and sense of responsibility stands out. He is a true professional who is always eager to plunge into something new, especially in experimental physics. He has a good sense of humor as I recall many funny incidents of him making us laugh during our travels. Incidentally, I taught both his

daughter Ishita and son Eeshan and was highly impressed by their humble nature. It says a lot about their upbringing and family values. I wish Ramesh and his family the best in life.'

- RMR

Before being appointed at the Doon School, I came to School for a demo lesson. As usual, demo lessons in an unknown environment make you a little nervous. According to me, my demo went well but I wanted someone to tell me about it as well. I was waiting outside the physics lab alone when RMB Sir walked towards me and started talking to me. He told me that my lesson was good and that he enjoyed it. The way he made me comfortable is the best memory I still have in my mind. He is a very gentle person with a high degree of compassion towards his colleagues. In this short span of time with RMB Sir, I know, for sure, that I am going to miss our interactions and wish we had more. I wish him all the very best in his future endeavours and hope our paths intersect time and again.

- LDT

डॉक्टर साहब से मेरी पहली मुलाकात तब हुई जब मैं दून स्कूल में पढ़ाता भी नहीं था। हम लोग दून स्कूल द्वारा आयोजित राउंड स्क्वायर के एक प्रोजेक्ट में मिले थे। जहां मैं सिंधिया स्कूल की टीम को साथ लेकर आया था। हम लोग एक ही कमरे में साथ साथ रुके। उसके बाद शुरू हुई एक ऐसी दोस्ती जिसमें मुझे लगातार डॉक्टर साहब से सहायता मिलती रही। मेरे कठिन समय में मुझे जब भी जरूरत हुई डॉक्टर साहब लगातार मेरे साथ खड़े रहे और मेरा मार्गदर्शन करते रहे। दोस्ती कब भाईचारे में बदली पता ही नहीं लगा। साथ चाय पीना, साथ घूमना, व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर समाज सेवा के कार्य करना। हमारे रिश्ते में नए आयाम जुड़ते चले गए। एक व्यक्ति के रूप में डॉक्टर लंका एक अद्वितीय व्यक्ति हैं। अभी रात में भी आप उनके पास अगर मदद मांगने जाएंगे वह दौड़ करके आकर मदद करेंगे। निश्चित रूप से डॉक्टर साहब का विद्यालय से जाना विद्यालय के लिए एक बहुत बड़ी क्षति है। किंतु जीवन चरैवेति चरैवेति के सिद्धांत पर चलता है। दैनिक रूप से अब भले ही मैं डॉक्टर साहब को रोज कैंपस में ना देख पाऊं लेकिन उनकी यादें मेरे लिए इस कैंपस से जुड़ी हैं। ईश्वर उन्हें एक लंबा और स्वस्थ जीवन दे।



- MGP

I have spent thousands of hours with Dr. Lanka in Social Service projects, working in remote areas with young boys and girls with bare minimum facilities in extreme weather conditions. His support during those tough times was unbelievable. He is very enthusiastic and caring, especially while working with students. People who have worked with him in different Round Square International Projects across the world still admire his energy, enthusiasm, helpfulness and humour. This also shows in his contributions to the Wellness Centre. Dr. Lanka, may your dreams remain big and your obstacles minor. As you are going to be starting a new journey in a new place, I would urge you to stay true to yourself and your values and you'll surely go far in life

- AKS

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*I had spoken to him today.*

**Raghav Misra**, was he able to understand?

*UN is a part of WHO.*

**Shaurya Pratap**, the brain is not part of your body.

*Instagram is 13+, I'm 15 and I'm not sure if that's more than 13!*

**Zubin Mehra**, dazed and confused.

## SCHOLAR'S BLAZER

Shivya Majumdar and Arnav Agarwal have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Kudos!

## WITH FLYING COLOURS

The school participated in a **Poster and Video Making Competition** organised by **The French Institute in India and Culture Cooperation Service of the Embassy of France**. The theme of the competition was "Air." Arjun Mitra and Shaurya Singh's work was adjudged among the **20 Best Posters** of the competition.

Well Done!

“

For my part I know nothing with any certainty,  
but the sight of the stars makes me dream.

Vincent Van Gogh

## This Week in History

**1919 C.E.:** Benito Mussolini joins forces with the Italian Socialist party and establishes the Nationalist Fasci di Combattimento.

**1941 C.E.:** The British Navy employs the first ever manned torpedo in combat.

**1949 C.E.:** President Harry S. Truman authorizes \$16 million in aid for Palestinian refugees who are displaced and facing starvation as a result of Israel's War of Independence.

**1953 C.E.:** Dr. Jonas Salk announces the first ever trial of the Polio Vaccine.

**1972 C.E.:** Scientists studying rock patterns from different areas of the world prove the theory that Pangaea existed.

**1971 C.E.:** Bangladesh declares its independence.

**1979 C.E.:** The leaders of Egypt and Israel sign a peace agreement at the White House following three decades of hostility.

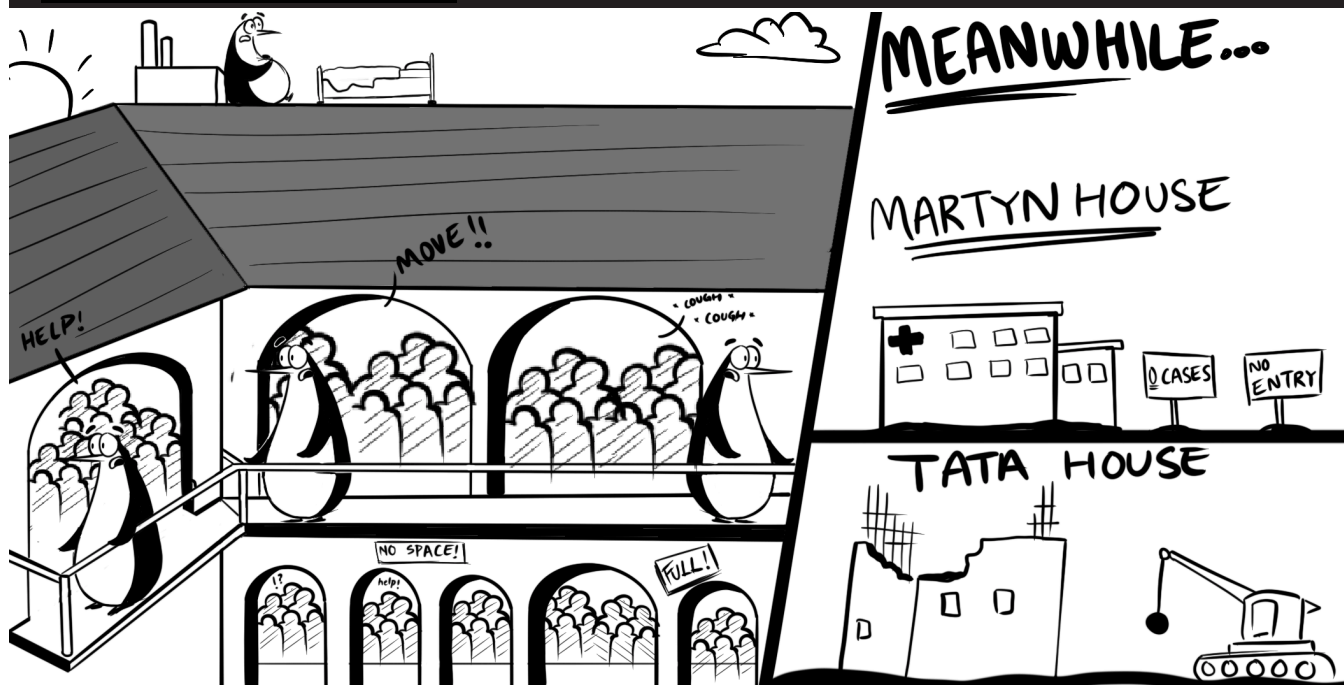
## Around the World in 80 Words

Students of Ashoka University organised a protest following the resignation of Pratap Bhanu Mehta. Sea Routes in the Suez Canal were blocked by a cargo ship that ran aground. A new variant of the coronavirus was discovered in India, and has been termed a "double mutant". Eighteen thousand people in New South Wales were forced to evacuate following severe flooding in the region. Tottenham beat Aston Villa 2-0 while West Ham drew 3-3 with Arsenal in the Premier League.

Do Sco Doodle

Bursting At The Seams

Saatvik Anand





# The Wellness Centre Never Sleeps

**Dr. (Maj.) Amar Lanka** *reflects on his tenure in the Wellness Centre.*

After serving for more than 13 years, I leave Chandbagh with mixed feelings, but then change is the only constant and one has to move on. Doon has been an amazing place and has shaped me into what I am - someone who loves children, adventure, travel, photography, nature and fitness to name a few.

When I arrived in 2007, the WC was known as the School Hospital and was a set of spartan rooms with white walls and green curtains with the typical smell of hospital disinfectant. It took a few months and unconditional support from Dr Kanti Bajpai and Dr McLaughlin for us to become one of the best equipped and run health set-ups in any school. We established the Dental Unit, a Counsellor's office, upgraded the physiotherapy department and purchased a bigger ambulance. The fish tanks, air conditioners, TVs, colourful crockery, and curtains added to the informal setting in which the students were welcome to walk in. A lot of systems were set up and policies made. A year ago, we had about ninety footfalls daily and we took it as a compliment that the community felt comfortable to reach out to us in times of need, however trivial it might be.

The life of the WC emanates from its staff, whom I shall miss the most. They are the unsung heroes whose jobs involve truly selfless service to the sick. We have successfully handled outbreaks of swine flu, paratyphoid, dengue, conjunctivitis, and viral fevers over the years – all with a smile on our lips and love in our hearts.

The WC is the department that provides services for the longest time, even after the last boy and Housemaster has gone to bed. Our first staff reports for duty as early as 5:30 am and the last one clocks out at 8 pm. As a small team of nine, we cannot even have a social get-together outside the school premises in full strength as at least three of us would be on

duty at any given time. We have been one of the many departments that had to remain open and kept working even as not only the school, but the entire country went into lockdown. Even after School closed for COVID, during lockdown till the end of May, we looked after a boy who could not fly out because of international travel restrictions due to the Pandemic.

The health personnel in any organisation bear the brunt of stress and the WC team is no exception, especially in the current pandemic. It is human to expect the occasional pat on the back and some enquiries about the wellbeing of the health worker and his or her family.

Initially, I have also had my share of awkward moments. For instance, I reported enthusiastically for the Founder's Day group photograph in 2008, only to find out that I had landed up for a 'teachers' only' group photograph. On another occasion, I found myself at a Teacher's Day tea party where, not being a teacher, I was the only one who did not have the surprise card from students. I have always strived to have the WC team develop a deeper bond with our students, like the house pastoral staff do, but circumstances and the nature of our job do not let that happen and our role is seen more as a 'mechanical' one. But the fact is that we miss students during holidays and look forward to their return as eagerly as the rest of the school. I hope the community will look at the core pastoral caregivers - many of whom derive their moments of happiness and purpose of life from their service to the community - with greater empathy and appreciation of their contributions in pastoral caregiving.

It is said that the walls of the hospitals have heard more prayers than walls of temples, and in our school, these walls have experienced a lot of happy moments as well. I will always cherish my memories with the students and my awesome team!

## In Memory of Rod Fraser

His Majesty King Constantine, the patron of Round Square, has shared the deeply saddening news that Round Square Chairman, Rod Fraser, passed away recently.

Across the Round Square community, Fraser's loss has been keenly felt, as tributes have flowed for our colleague and friend. As part of the worldwide Round Square community, The Doon School extends condolences to all those in the

Ivanhoe Grammar community in Melbourne and the wider Round Square network around the globe.

An excerpt from His Majesty's message:

"Rod's energy, passion and commitment to the world of education and to the Round Square community in particular was immeasurable... Rod will truly be remembered as one of the great figures of Round Square."

| New Voices |

# On Van Gogh

*March 30th is Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh's birthday. On this occasion Kai Kubo reflects on his painting **The Potato Eaters**.*

My thoughts on *The Potato Eaters* - one of Van Gogh's most acclaimed paintings - is that it seems very surreal, due to the muted, dark colours, the shading, and the impact it had on me. I think that Van Gogh has shown the suffering of the people during the Irish Famine and has masterfully portrayed the dark, dull and gloomy mood of the lives of farmers which really makes viewing the painting an intensely emotional experience. Everything in the painting, from the structure of their weak bodies to the space that they are living in, displays their poverty.

Even the expressions on the poor family's faces tell us that they are not enjoying the pleasures of life, they are just staying alive for the sake of somehow continuing to exist. None are smiling nor are they cheerful, they just continue eating the same food over and over again, with their bland look as they continue their devastating daily routine. Their only light source is a lantern which hangs above them, which shows unity amongst the family from my view, as they live together as one.

Van Gogh has also drawn objects such as kettles, portraits with a Cross, regular cups, and many more as the main objects to show the lifestyle of these peasants. I have also looked at any other objects that I could find and discovered something interesting. The clock hanging on the wall seems to show the time as being 11:35, and it is obviously a dinner scene, which expresses the fact that these peasants work very hard and late till it is nearly midnight. This shows that the peasants are trying their best to have food on the table and live a life that they can at least afford.

I have done some research on the backstory, location, and the idea of the painting, and it seems that it was made all the way back in April 1885 in the Netherlands. Currently the painting is kept in the Van Gogh Museum located in Amsterdam, although the original oil sketch is at the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterlo. The quality of the painting - made way back in the 19th century - fascinates me endlessly, when I think of access to resources, availability of materials and even the exposure to trends and thoughts, relative to the present times.

The reason why Van Gogh painted this artwork was because he was moved by the plight of peasants of Nuenen, Netherlands. Van Gogh once wrote to his brother Theo about his thoughts of the artwork: "You see, I really have wanted to make it so people get the idea that these folks, who are eating their potatoes by the light of their little lamp, have tilled the earth themselves with these hands they are putting in the dish, and so it speaks of manual labour and that they have thus honestly earned their food. I wanted it to give the idea of a wholly different way of life from ours - civilized people. So I certainly don't want everyone just to admire it or approve of it without knowing why." Overall, this oil painting made by Vincent Van Gogh shows the reality back in those days of the working class. It shows their hard work and lifestyle of what they had to keep up every single day. I feel that Van Gogh has perfectly used his art through his style and use of the colours and shading to bring alive the realities of the lives of people whose stories he wanted to portray.



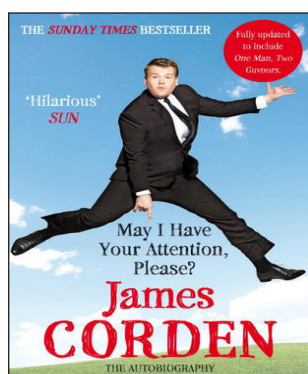
## Problem of the Week

You work in an office of 100 people. One day your favourite paper clip is stolen. You have a pretty good idea of who did it. Your colleague Sneha tells you that she also has a pretty good idea. You want to check with Sneha that you both suspect the same person, but neither of you is willing to identify your suspect just in case you are thinking of different people. (No one wants to point fingers.)

Think of a method that allows you and Sneha to check whether your suspect and her suspect are the same person, without either of you revealing any information about your suspects.

source: <https://theguardian.com>

### What Have You Been Reading During the Lockdown?



#### May I have Your Attention Please Author: James Corden

This book had me engrossed right from the first page as famous talk show host and comedian James Corden describes his life in humorous ways. He talks about his failures and successes and describes the interviews with celebrities on his show. He also goes into the details of how the idea of hosting a talk show came into his head. Corden then goes on to describe his route to working with BBC television and starting a show in his car in which he sings songs with famous celebrities and influencers. It's an amazing read, and is overall quite an inspiring autobiography about realizing your passion and pursuing it.

-Vir Mehta

### What Have You Been Watching During the Lockdown?



#### The Inventor: Out For Blood In Silicon Valley Director: Alex Gibney

This documentary is about a company named Theranos that is run by a woman named Elizabeth Holmes. Theranos was one of the highest-funded companies in the world before its first model even came out, and was supposed to be a gamechanger in the blood testing industry. The documentary explores how Holmes was able to carry out her plan and deceive a plethora of investors. In reality, the company was an example of something that was too good to be true. I highly recommend watching the movie to see how Silicon Valley was fooled by the person who was slated to be the next Steve Jobs.

-Zubin Mehra

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