

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

May 1, 2021 | Issue No. 2605



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## A Final Farewell

**The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to Ms. Priyanka Bhattacharya and**

**Ms. Jusbir Kaur.** *On this occasion, their friends, students, and colleagues share their thoughts on their tenures.*

Whilst I used to work with PKB through debating, she always gave me opportunities and the provocation to grow as a critical thinker. She was always vocal about issues around feminism, caste, class, and colonialism, in the classroom and outside. In an elite all-boys' boarding school, her voice was vital in making us reflect on our own backgrounds, the limitations of our experiences, and what it meant to be a responsible scholar and good citizen. She also emphasised how our actions speak louder than our words (not in the least because she would, as we all know and love, speak emphatically with her hands). I cannot imagine what the intellectual climate of School will be like without her. I am immensely grateful for everything she has done to make me the scholar I am today, and proud that she is going to do more great things through her career.

**- Vivek Santayana**  
**Ex 369-O '11**



As my teacher for the first four years and then as my supervisor on the academic front during the last two, PKB Maam has played a crucial role as a mentor throughout my school journey. For me, PKB Maam has not only been a supportive teacher aspiring for the highest grade, but also a compassionate guide backing me up every time I fumbled and encouraging me to hold my ground whenever it seemed right. She believed in her students' abilities to achieve great things. Over the last few years, it was her opinion that mattered the most to me and it was her that I was anxious to disappoint in any regard. While her departure is truly a loss, I wish her a bright future wherever she may choose to be.

**- Tanisha Ahuja**

The delight of knowing an extraordinary person is far more than expressing my thoughts here in a few ineffectual words. In my memory of five years or so at Doon, I have known PKB Maam both as a robust academician and a loving mentor. Her passion for teaching the subject coupled with her insightful wisdom in a variety of matters make her an accomplished master at School. PKB's intellectual determination as an English teacher in class, enthusiastic engagements in many forums at School and profound sentiment for every speck and fabric of this community will always be fondly remembered.

In that faith, as Dickens said: "The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again."

**- SPB**

If you know PKB well, you will agree that "the force is strong with this one"! A legendary teacher and an exceptional mentor, PKB as a Master embodies killer content, endless compassion and unmatched charisma. In her many outstanding years here at Doon, PKB has imprinted herself on countless students and myself and I can't even begin to imagine the gaping void she will leave in my learning as a Master here. PKB brought

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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stability and a grounding presence and always taught us to learn from our failures and be *Dabbaang* without any sweat! Her brand of motivation is like petrichor after a warm summer day, it uplifts your mind and spirits and now when she is leaving, I can only wish her the best with new hopes and beginnings, knowing very well that Doon will still be her love and remain in her consciousness forever.

-RDG



Jusbir Kaur Anand spent 14 wonderful years at Doon during which she touched the lives of so many. I probably spent five years on campus with her but without a shadow of doubt she was my favourite teacher.

Since I came from a small town, I lacked confidence in English in my early years. My interest in English remained dormant till I met JKA. I was in her class in A & B Form, and very vividly remember her lessons on Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Her voice was so loud and clear you could hear her clearly from down the hall as she would always leave the doors open for ventilation. She was a great narrator and was able to retain almost everyone's attention even though most of her classes used to be after lunch. Her time management was so immaculate that she would always reach the intended stopping point before the bell. In fact, she planned the entire semester so well that each semester, last week or two would

be reserved for revision. This was a great lesson which I try to incorporate in my lifestyle.

When A Form concluded, I was fortunate to get assigned to JKA's class for S and SC Form. Those who have interacted with JKA must be familiar with her quick wit and humor. Anytime I was late to class my peers would poke fun at me by saying "*Et tu Brute?*" JKA was made Caesar in this context, and I would enjoy watching JKA wipe their smiles off with a clever yet lighthearted retort.

As someone who attended an all-boys institution and primarily had only my mother to look up to as a woman, JKA as a woman role model exemplified the brilliance of a woman, thereby deepening my respect for all women. I found a friend who I could laugh with, a mother who helped shape my character and a teacher who sparked my interest in a subject which I once feared.

Besides some great friends, an amazing platform, and fond memories, I am grateful to Doon for giving me JKA. Her's is a friendship and love I was able to learn from beyond my years at Doon.

- Tushar Gupta  
Ex 481-K '12

JKA has been the sheet anchor of the English department for 14 years now. From her incredible board work, to her detailed work sheets, to her killer question papers, and her murderous marking schemes...she is the stuff of dreams and nightmares, depending on which side of the bed you got off that morning! I have shadowed her like a spook all along. I have watched her rise above all personal challenges with a grace that can only astonish. The way she mentored younger colleagues was unparalleled. But we had to be ready to hear her "*chal, chal*" once in a while. If we told her of our woes, she would often squeeze our hand with that death grip which only the race of Kaurs has, and say, "*parwah nahi*". I know she would stand outside the MPH as boys filed in for their Board exams, with Prashaad in her hands, and it was a sight to see each one bending to touch her feet. She would also be waiting anxiously as they would file out, and the milling crowd of blue and gray anxiously confirming answers with her is a memory that will bring a lump to my throat always. What charisma, what class, what calibre! JKA, those who were smelted and cast anew in your inimitable smithy will never mind the verbal blows that sometimes accompanied the process! We were blessed to have had a Guru such a you...I wish you joy, peace, laughter, my gentle friend. Doon will miss your silver hair, and your golden heart.

- PKB

In response to the question 'Only the paranoid survive?', Michael Moritz, head of Sequoia Capital said 'There's a lot of truth to that... We can't afford to rest on our laurels ... We can't assume that yesterday's success translates into tomorrow's good fortune'. JKA Maam was the Moritz who constantly reminded me of this. As a teacher, she facilitated our learning through her preparation and teaching style, helping us actualise. As a

(Continued on Page 4)

MANNING THE HELM

The following are the **School Prefects** for the forthcoming year:

**School Captain:** Nairit Pattnaik

Hyderabad House

House Captain: Shaurya Pratap  
Prefects: Aadit Mittal, Varyam Gupta, Vedant Gattani

Jaipur House

House Captain: Jahaan Sahgal  
Prefects: Aditya Jain, Iman Chatterjee, Vishishtha Kavadiya

Kashmir House

House Captain: Keshav Tiwari  
Prefects: Aryavardhan Gupta, Mayank Agarwal, Saksham Makin

Oberoi House

House Captain: Advay Sapra  
Prefects: Karmanyaraj Yadav, Namann Jain, Sujoy Kapoor

Tata House

House Captain: Soham Agarwal  
Prefects: Archit Oberai, Raghavendra Singh, Rajveer Dhingra

Congratulations!

“

Freedoms are not only the primary ends of development, they are also among its principal means.

Amartya Sen

APPOINTMENTS

The Following are the **Sports Captains** for the year 2021-22:

- Football:** Nairit Pattnaik
- Cricket:** Shaurya Sharma
- Hockey:** Samar Kumar
- Athletics:** Krishna Agarwal
- Basketball:** Rajveer Dhingra
- Swimming:** Shaan Bulchandani
- Boxing:** Shaurya Pratap
- Table Tennis:** Raghav Misra
- Badminton:** Raghavendra Pratap Singh
- Squash:** Vikram Gupta
- Tennis:** Avyukt Kochhar
- Shooting:** Shrivar Kanudia
- Golf:** Aryavardhan Gupta

Kudos!

KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOUR

Raghav Kediya and Nirvair Singh were awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

The debris of an Indonesian navy submarine was found in which there were no survivors out of the 53 crew members aboard. India recorded almost 380,000 new COVID cases in 24 hours which accounted for over a third of the global cases. A hospital fire in the Iraqi city of Baghdad killed 82 people and wounded 110. A stampede at a pilgrimage site in Israel killed 40 people and injured 150. Chelsea drew 1-1 with Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-final.





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friend, she brewed a strange, perfect combination of paranoia and inspiration to ensure that we remained at that level of self-actualisation. I will always remember JKA Maam as one of my favourite teachers, and I will always reminisce those C, B, and A Form classes as some of my favourite days.

-Kabir Subbiah

From the very first day that I walked into JKA Maam’s class as a chubby C Former, Maam ensured that every student in her class gave it their best. While this meant daily berating sessions, we all knew that Maam had our best interests at heart. Every time I sit in the English classrooms I can hear the laughter that follows one of JKA Maam’s brutal teardowns. I remember seeing Maam working relentlessly in the RC to prepare resources for our classes, inspiring me and the rest of the class to work just as hard as Maam so we could improve our English. I would just like to thank Maam for bearing with all the nonsense we pulled in her class, for all the laughter we shared and for always being there for us.

- Kabir Singh Bhai

# International Labour Day

The Doon School Weekly writes about the history and significance of International Labour Day

May Day, also known as Workers’ Day or International Workers’ Day, is observed on May 1 each year to honour the contributions of workers around the world. A similar event, known as Labour Day, is celebrated in the US and Canada, on the first Monday of September.

India celebrated her first May Day in Chennai (then Madras) in 1923. The event was organised by prominent communist leader Malayapuram Singaravelu Chettiar, who was associated with the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan. On the occasion, the red flag, symbolising workers’ rights, was flown in India for the first time. Chettiar also passed a resolution urging the British government in India to observe May Day as a national holiday.

On a global level, while Labour Day has different historical contexts, depending on the country in which it is celebrated, the significance of Labour Day lies in the protest against the historically unfair treatment of the working class. Such exploitation was most rampant during the early years of the Industrial Revolution at the beginning of the 19th century. Industrialists used to exploit workers, making them work long hours under terrible conditions, for very little pay. Workers began to rebel against such exploitation and demanded paid leave, fair wages and breaks for the workforce. The ‘eight-hour day’ labour movement advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.

In the United States, May 1 was chosen as

International Workers’ Day to commemorate the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago. That year, on May 1, there was a general strike for the eight-hour workday. On May 4, the police acted to disperse a public assembly - gathered in support of the strike - when an unidentified person threw a bomb, to which the police responded by opening fire on the protestors, leading to several deaths. The incident is remembered as the Haymarket massacre and the place in which the incident took place was designated a Chicago landmark in 1992.

Celebrations of International Workers’ Day extends beyond a commemoration of the struggle of workers to demanding more humane treatment of fellow humans. For instance, in 1971, May Day protests in the US included a number of civil-disobedience actions to protest the Vietnam War. Over 40,000 protestors had taken to the streets and over 12,000 were arrested, making it America’s largest mass arrest. More recently, 2016 saw protests and marches in Istanbul, Moscow and Taipei where people gathered to fight for higher wages and fewer working hours in their respective countries.

May Day celebrations are meant to honour the role and contributions of workers across the world. It raises awareness about the rights of workers, without whom no country would function, and champions equality and fairness. Its history urges us to reflect on the importance of workers in our own country and in our lives.

Sources:

- 1. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/labour-day-or-may-day-is-dedicated-to-workers-know-about-its-origins-1845163>
- 2. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/more-lifestyle/international-labour-day-2020-why-we-celebrate-may-day/story-YyoLCQ3iBJLe5prYJx6b7K.html>

## दून स्पीक

स्कूल समुदाय द्वारा स्कूल के सहायक कर्मचारियों की सराहना

दून स्कूल को सजाने- सँवारने में यहाँ के निष्ठावान सहायक कर्मचारियों का योगदान अभूतपूर्व है। सहायक कर्मचारियों से तात्पर्य है – ऑफिस स्टाफ, विद्यालय के चौकीदार, हाउस बेअरर्स, घंटी बजाने वाले भैया, माली, दर्जी, ग्राउंड स्टाफ, सी डी एच में काम करने वाले भैया, बाल काटने वाले भैया, लैब असिस्टेंट, आर्ट स्कूल या पुस्तकालय में कार्यरत सहयोगी इत्यादि। ये सभी किसी न किसी रूप में बच्चों तथा विद्यालय की सेवा में लगातार तत्पर रहते हैं। कोरोना काल के इस कठिन दौर में जहाँ स्कूल गार्ड्स स्कूल सुरक्षा के अतिरिक्त, अपने जीवन की परवाह न करते हुए आवश्यक सामग्रियों को विद्यालय में उचित स्थान पर पहुँचाने में लगे हैं, वहीं बच्चों के बिना वीरान पड़े विद्यालय में माली मास्क लगाकर फूलों को पानी देते हुए भी दिखाई देते हैं। पी पी ई किट पहने हुए भैया लोग कहीं सी डी एच में भोजन परोस रहे थे, कहीं हाउस बेअरर्स धैर्यपूर्वक कपड़े सजा रहे थे, तो कहीं मास्क लगाए सफाईकर्मी झाड़ू लगाते हुए मौन मूक कर्म में लीन थे। इस कठिन दौर में भी इन 'वॉरियर्स' की दिल को छू लेनेवाली विश्वास भरी मुस्कान सकारात्मक ऊर्जा का संचार करती है। इनकी कर्मनिष्ठा, बच्चों एवं शिक्षकों के प्रति इनकी मोहब्बत एवं लगाव, हमें इनके प्रति नतमस्तक होने के लिए बाध्य कर देती है।

— देवेंदर कुमार मिश्र

हमारे विद्यालय में बितायी गयी जिन्दगी में हमारे विद्यालय में काम करने वाले भैया और श्रमिकों ने एक अहम भूमिका निभायी है भले ही वह हमारे वातावरण को स्वच्छ और सुन्दर रखना हो या फिर रोज सुबह की पी-टी से पहले उठाना हो और हमारी हर एक छोटी से छोटी जरूरत का खयाल रखना ही क्यों न हो। फिजिक्स लैब के भैया से लेकर ग्राउंड माली हर एक ने हमारे स्कूल के जीवन में किसी न किसी मोड़ पर हमारी सहायता किसी प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष तरीके में अवश्य की है। मुझे भी कुछ ऐसे ही अनुभव याद हैं जिनमें मैंने विद्यालय में बेअरर्स के साथ सामुदायिक सेवा के दौरान काफी जुड़कर काम किया था। इससे मुझे न ही केवल खाना बनाने और पौधे उगाने के बारे में जानकारी मिली बल्कि उनकी रोज की दिनचर्या के कठोर परिश्रम का एहसास हुआ। मुझे महसूस हुआ कि कैसे उनकी जिन्दगी चुनौतियों और मुश्किलों से भरी होती है। इससे मुझे यह भी एहसास हुआ कि कैसे वे हमारी जिन्दगी का एक अमूल्य हिस्सा हैं। भले ही हमें इसका एहसास नहीं होता लेकिन हर एक संस्था को कामयाब बनाने में इनका बहुत बड़ा हाथ होता है क्योंकि यह हर एक संस्था के लिए उसकी रीढ़ की हड्डी के समान होते हैं तथा उस संस्था की कार्यक्षमता का मूल कारण होते हैं।

— सुधांशु चौधरी

मार्टिन हाउस के रवि भैया की जितनी तारीफ की जाए, वह कम है। उन्होंने हमेशा मेरा ध्यान रखा है और कभी भी मुझे ऐसा महसूस करने नहीं दिया कि मैं अपने घर से दूर हूँ। उन्होंने हमेशा मुझे यह महसूस करवाया कि मैं अपने दूसरे घर में हूँ। वे मार्टिन हाउस के सबसे उम्दा बैडमिंटन खिलाड़ी तो हैं ही साथ ही काम के प्रति निष्ठा और लगन में भी सबको पीछे छोड़ जाते हैं। उनके मैग्नी पार्टी में अगर कोई कभी गया नहीं है तो वह समझ ले कि उसने विद्यालय में अपने जीवन को पूरी तरह से जिया नहीं है। मैंने बहुत बार देखा है कि जो विद्यालय छोड़कर वापिस अपनी यादें ताज़ा करने आता है तब हमेशा रवि भैया को याद करता है। ऐसा ना केवल उनके काम या स्नेह के कारण होता है बल्कि उनकी खुशी भरी मुस्कान के कारण भी वे सबको याद रहते हैं। आज मैं उनके इसी स्नेह एवं अटूट मेहनत के लिए उन्हें दिल से धन्यवाद कहना चाहूँगा।

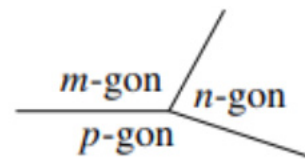
— अर्जुन मित्रा

अप्रैल, 1991 की बात है। स्कूल के एक बिलकुल नए मास्टर यानी मेरा पहला मिडटर्म था। हैदराबाद 'बी' के हाउस मास्टर डा. गांगुली और मिडटर्म के प्रभारी डॉ. ब्याला ने सलाह दी कि नागटिब्बा चले जाओ। कार्यक्रम तय हो गया। श्री. ए. एन. धर ने हमारे दल को सुआखोली तक अपनी बस से छोड़ दिया सुआखोली के तिराहे पर अपने ट्यूटीज के साथ खड़े हुए मुझ नए नवेले मास्टर को बिलकुल भी पता नहीं था कि आगे क्या करना है। मेरे साथ सी. डी. एच. से अख्तर को भी भेजा गया था जो अपने राशन के सन्दूक और सब्जी की बोरियों को संभालने में लगे हुए थे। मुझे असमंजस में देख कर अख्तर ने कहा, "सर, सबसे पहले नीचे चलकर गेस्ट हाउस में ठहरने की जगह का इंतजाम करते हैं। कुछ और इसके बाद देखेंगे।" हमने ऐसा ही किया। नीचे चलकर टेंट लगाने की कोशिश की जो हममें से किसी को नहीं आता था। यहाँ भी अख्तर ने हमारी सहायता की। अगले पाँच दिन तक अख्तर कदम-कदम पर मुझे आउट-डोर्स के गुर समझाते रहे। आज भी जब कभी अख्तर मिलते हैं तो मैं उन्हें आउट-डोर्स का अपना पहला 'गुरु' कहकर पुकारता हूँ और उनका चेहरा सुर्ख हो जाता है। धन्यवाद, अख्तर!

— अरविन्दनाभ शुक्ल

# Problem of the Week

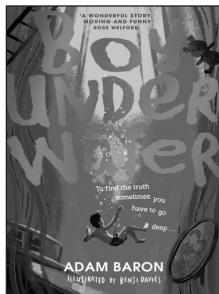
A regular  $m$ -gon, a regular  $n$ -gon and a regular  $p$ -gon share a vertex, and pairwise share edges, as shown in the diagram. What is the largest possible value of ‘ $p$ ’?



Source: [ukmt.org.uk](http://ukmt.org.uk)

## What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown

**Boy Underwater**  
**Author: Adam Baron**

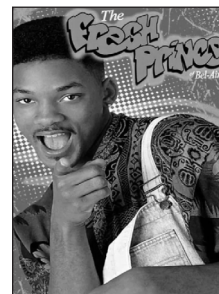


This brilliant novel explores the heartbreaking journey of a young boy on a quest for the truth on why his mother does not allow him to swim. It takes us deep into the life of nine-year-old Cymbeline Igloo, while uncovering past family mysteries involving his mother. Though it sounds rather serious, the writer does an excellent job of peppering quick-witted humour into the story, especially through the primary school setting. The writer also manages to convey an important message regarding mental health in this tragic comedy which is one aspect I particularly enjoyed. It is an easy read and I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in reading fiction.

- Arjun Prakash

## What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown

**The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (13+)**  
**Director: Jeff Melman**



This sitcom gains several views even today despite first airing in 1990. Humor and sarcasm are its main devices of entertainment though it has a compelling storyline. Will is forced to live with his wealthy Uncle Phil and Aunt Vivian in Bel-Air away from his home in Philadelphia. He often has fun at the expense of his household members but still finds it odd to adapt to his new surroundings. It explains a lot about the lifestyle in the '90s and explores some of the social issues at the time. I particularly loved this show because of Will Smith's ability to bring out his humour and sarcasm at every unexpected turn and I recommend it to everyone who's looking for a good laugh and to all the Will Smith fans.

- Avi Bansode

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