

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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## Fond Farewell

**The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to Mrs. Ranjit Kaur.** On this occasion, her friends, students, and colleagues share their thoughts on their time spent with her.

Mrs. Ranjit Kaur was not just a Dame, she was the source of strength to the House of Steel. In her service to the House, one that spanned 18 years, Mrs. Kaur was instrumental in shaping generations of Tata Warriors, who were privileged to be cared for and guided by her. Today, if there are hundreds of DoscOs who have shaped up to be resilient, successful men, it is because of the time and energy that Mrs. Kaur invested in them; pampering them, correcting them, teaching them.

One often forgets that a Dame's work is not easy, and that is because a Dame is the invisible hand that keeps the House in order. And Mrs. Kaur did it for 18 years. Not just the boys and girls of Tata; the bearers, tutors, Housemasters; we all benefited from her dedication and experience. I will always remember that right till the last minute of her time in School, Mrs. Kaur was busy working and organizing things, so that the House continued functioning like clockwork. I guess all I can say is that her shoes will not be hard to fill. They would be impossible to fill.

- SNA



The first time I met Ranjit Ma'am was in Mr. Saeed's office. She had just joined from Welham Boys School with her son. At that time as well I was the Dame of Martyn House. I always felt that she was a strict and loving mother to her son, and the boys of the House also got the same treatment from her. She is always punctual and disciplined and is highly regarded by the students. Tata House was always in a great condition, and she took pride in that fact. Ranjit attended every single school event and I will miss seeing her cheering for Tata House loudly on the sports fields. Personally, I have learnt a lot from her in our 18+ years of friendship and will continue to feel her presence in the Tata House corridors.

- SMV

RKR Ma'am, or Dame Ma'am as I always called her, was a constant figure of support during my time in Tata House. Whenever I faced an issue of any sort, I went straight to Dame Ma'am, no question about it. Whether it was silly or serious, RKR Ma'am always took the needed steps to solve the issues we faced. Though, at the time, I feared Ma'am's strict handling of certain matters, looking back now, I can see that every decision that she made was for the betterment of my form and House. Although I had been with Dame Ma'am for only three years of her 18 years of service to School, I can confidently say that Ma'am was always there to help me through the thick and the thin.

- Abhay Jain

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As the oldest Dame in School, Ranjit Ma’am was a role model for all of us. When I joined, she was a very kind and genuine person who always stayed true to her morals. She was always very particular about her work. She gave 18 precious years to School which is very commendable. I would like to personally thank her, also, for mentoring both my boys as their Dame. I wish her well in all her future endeavours and hope with all my heart that she enjoys her precious time with her lovely son and his wife. Enjoy your retirement Ma’am.

- KLK

Whenever I had even the slightest problem or inconvenience, I used to go to Dame Ma’am. No matter what my problem was, she had a solution. With a smiling face and a jolly attitude, she handled the whole House for almost two decades. It really hurts my heart me to see someone as compassionate and caring as her leave Chandbagh. Right from *Chota Hazari* in the morning till dinner in the evening, she was looking out for everybody. I feel that I can safely say that Dame Ma’am was like a mother figure to all of us and her presence will be deeply missed by everybody in Tata House.

- Nabhit Singhal

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## Interesting Times

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Vivaan Sood reflects on how he spent his time during the School quarantine period.

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Quarantine was... *interesting*. I say ‘interesting’ because there is no other way I can possibly cover the range of emotions and feelings I felt during it, and I certainly cannot speak for others. I can only pen down my own thoughts. However, I can, with certainty, say that we did not expect it to be how it turned out to be.

The prospect of returning to School tantalised many of us. Needless to say, everyone had changed (much to my dismay, most people were taller than me) after a year and a half at home. Seeing people through a screen cannot do full justice to just how much they have changed. You may think seeing someone every day at 7:30 in the morning would give you some idea of what they look like. However, what I failed to consider was the bottom half that the human body happens to possess, the half that we cannot see on an online meeting. Through this pandemic, I have been conditioned to believe that everyone is just a head and half a torso sitting somewhat neatly on a desk that is never positioned at the right angle and that they occasionally freeze in an awkward position. Thus, you can imagine that I was nonplussed when I discovered that people do, indeed, grow all parts of their body and that the online medium is just about as deceptive as my mother’s smile as she plotted my return to School weeks in advance.

Aside from startling revelations regarding the heights of people, the School experience has been a break from the mundane. Leaving School a D Former and returning as a B Former brought with it a plethora of changes. Most noticeable was the lights out time. This may seem like an insignificant thing; however, the difference of an hour can change *everything*. In that one hour, fourteen-year-olds, free from the shackles

of Toye, are fuelled by coffee and chips and pounce on an hour of free time. So, when we are ordered to sleep at 10:30, we have a propensity for playing it fast and loose. Most nights are spent post-lights out with placid music playing in the background, and conversations that serve no purpose other than to while away time. On other nights, the conversations are more heated and touch controversial topics we have little to no knowledge of, but speak about with resounding confidence.

Conversely, the quiet solitude of quarantine was an escape from the tumultuous world of COVID-19 protocols. While being alone means that you have limited social interaction, technology bridges this gap. There is a sense of unity among people who are isolated alone, together. Contrary to what I was told about the isolation of quarantine, there is no loneliness, or torment, or quiet desperation. Rather, quarantine was a much-needed refreshment, with ludo played between friends on our phones, waking up to a paper cup filled with *Bournvita* and biscuits at your doorstep, and stagnant water gushing out from a clay pot. The quarantine in School is quite possibly the best way to get reacclimated to the routines of School.

I will miss the quietness and sense of independence quarantine brought. If you find yourself stranded in a monotone room in Jaipur house, use the time for yourself. Realise your isolation, and embrace it, using it to do what you want to do. Once you get out of quarantine, the routines become stricter, and your time shrinks.

So try and realise what *interesting* times we live in, and welcome your solitude.

## Upcoming Movies

*Some of this year's most-awaited films to help you kick back after Trials:*

**No Time To Die (James Bond)** - September 30  
**Cast:** Daniel Craig, Rami Malek, Ana de Armas

**Venom: Let There Be Carnage** - October 15  
**Cast:** Tom Hardy, Woody Harrelson, Michelle Williams

**The Harder They Fall (16+)** - October 6  
**Cast:** Idris Elba, Jonathan Majors, Zazie Beetz

**Maidaan** - October 15  
**Cast:** Ajay Devgn, Keerthy Suresh, Priyamani

**The French Dispatch (16+)** - October 21  
**Cast:** Timothee Chalamet, Tilda Swinton, Bill Murray

**Dune** - October 22  
**Cast:** Timothee Chalamet, Zendaya, Jason Momoa

**Eternals (Marvel)** - November 5  
**Cast:** Angelina Jolie, Kit Harrington, Richard Madden

**Ghostbusters: Afterlife** - November 11  
**Cast:** Finn Wolfhard, McKenna Grace, Bill Murray

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A ‘No’ uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a ‘Yes’ merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble.

—  
Mahatma Gandhi

## This Week in History

**1788 C.E.:** The U.S. Congress chooses New York as the Federal capital of the new American government.

**1793 C.E.:** George Washington lays the cornerstone to the United States Capitol building, the home of the legislative branch of American government.

**1932 C.E.:** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi begins a hunger strike to protest against the British government's decision to separate India's electoral system by caste.

**1939 C.E.:** Soviet Russia invades Eastern Poland, meeting little resistance and taking over 200,000 Poles prisoner.

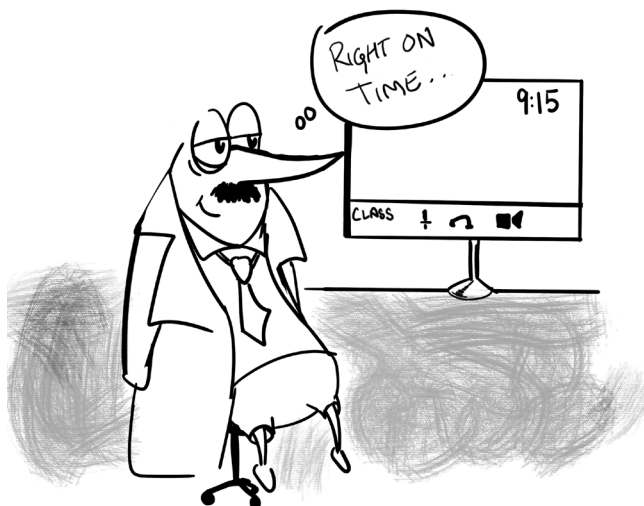
**1960 C.E.:** The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is formed by representatives of oil-producing countries at a meeting in Baghdad.

**1978 C.E.:** Muhammad Ali defeats Leon Spinks at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans to win the world heavyweight boxing title for the third time.

## Around the World in 80 Words

In an attempt to counter China, the USA and the UK agreed to give Australia the technology required to build nuclear-powered submarines in an alliance named Aukus. Virat Kohli has announced that he will step down as India's T-20 captain after the World Cup in November. China has submitted its formal application letter to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The world's first all-civilian crew bound for space blasted off on board a SpaceX rocket ship.

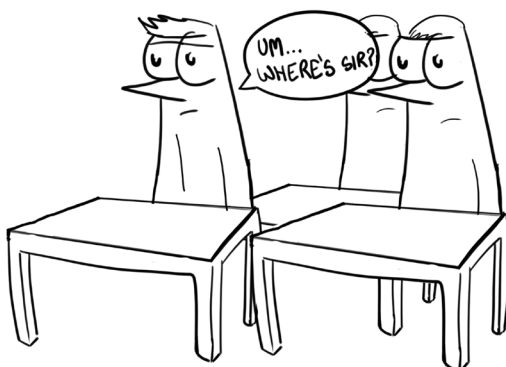
**Dosco Doodle**



## Returning to Forgotten Times

Roban Taneja

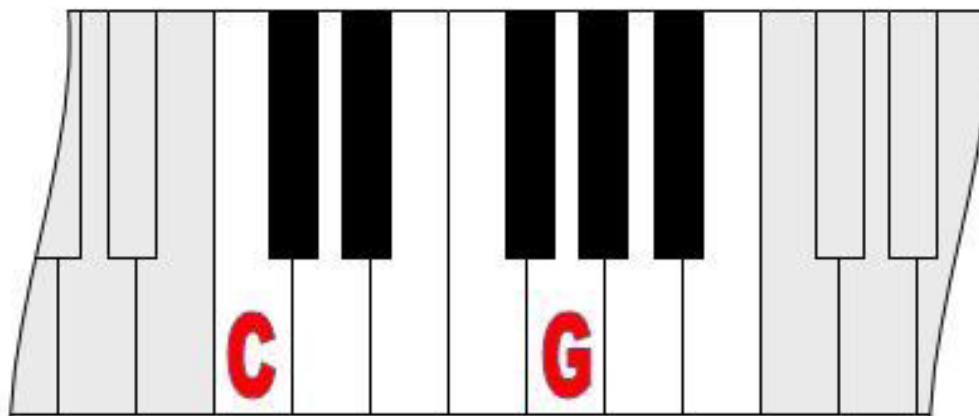
MEANWHILE, IN THE MAIN BUILDING





# Problem of the Week

In continuation of last week's problem and building to the final one is Equal Temperament.



The scale on a piano does something clever: the ratio (interval) between any adjacent points on the scale is equal. The keyboard is a repeating pattern of seven white keys with a black key in between two whites in five places. If you play any note, twelve points higher will be exactly an octave on. The piano is made this way to allow a key change in the music without re-tuning the instrument. C to G is the two to three ratio, explored in the earlier problems. It's called a "fifth", because it's the fifth note along the white keys starting from C. Is C to G an exact two to three ratio, or just off and, if so, by how much?

## What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?

**Thinking Fast and Slow**

**Author: Daniel Kahneman**

**Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux**

**Published: October 25, 2011**

*Thinking Fast and Slow* is a non-fiction book which explores the psychology behind the decisions that we make and how the environment affects our decision making skills. It explores the systems in our brain which make our decisions for us, the intuitive 'System One' and the methodological 'System Two'. The implications of the studies explored in the book are momentous and have had wide ranging effects in the field of behavioral economics. I would recommend this to people who have a genuine interest in basic psychology and economics to help fully engage with the literature.

- Aryan Baruah

## What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown?

**Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings**

**Director: Destin Daniel Cretton**

**Producers: Kevin Feige, Jonathan Schwartz**

**Release Date: September 2, 2021**

The newest addition to Marvel's beloved franchise, the story of "Shang-Chi" is fresh, adventurous and nothing like the typical Marvel film. The character's present-day narrative is juxtaposed with his past to create a gripping tale. Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) is an ex-assassin hiding away in San Francisco under the name Shaun. His life is thrown into mayhem when Shang-Chi's father — the founder of the international crime syndicate the "Ten Rings" — sends his soldiers after Shang-Chi. This opens the door to Shang-Chi's horrendous past of being trained as an assassin from the age of seven.

- Yashovat Nandan

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