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# Editorial To Write, or Not to Write

As every new Senior Editorial Board of the Weekly tries to man the helm and string up the sails of the Weekly, they are faced with the same troubling question that haunted their predecessors: What is the purpose of the Weekly in today's context? With this question, and the weight of the various other charges of the Senior Editorial Board comes a certain sense of overwhelming awe and responsibility that every new Board feels. In School today, access to information has increased explosively while attention spans have decreased exponentially. Most students inevitably turn to the internet for information and entertainment, with the latter use being alarmingly more popular than the former. Books have been relegated to second, or in most cases, last place. We have become overly dependent on the internet and one result of this dependence is a creative and intellectual deterioration that is reflected in the general discourse that one hears and sees in School. We are less politically aware, culturally unappreciative, and altogether incurious. In order to remedy this stagnation, I urge you, the reader, to read and reflect as much as possible. Moreover, to consume information at a digestible pace from books as well as the internet - and not only to mindlessly regurgitate facts to showcase intellect. Yes, I am being extremely critical, but to solve a problem, we must identify it and address it from the root to the canopy. At a time where the pursuit of self-expression, intellectual or otherwise, is looked down upon, the need to read, rethink, and reflect is doubly important.

The articles, creatives and opinions that you read in the Weekly have a binding impact; they bring Doscos together...

The Weekly is like a palimpsest, with every Senior Editorial Board trying to ink in new ideas and rediscover and re-imagine this institution. Somewhere amidst these pursuits and with the outbreak of the pandemic, the essence of the Weekly was sidelined: to sketch your world exactly as it goes. To remedy this, we intend to provide a more Schoolcentric view of things instead of detached reporting.

To me, the Weekly has never been a news agency reporting on current affairs or a literary magazine filled with avant garde musings. It is, instead, a combination of both these things and much more still. Its purpose, for the past 85 years, has been to chronicle the best and the worst of Doon; to echo its heartbeat at Saturday breakfast. Over the numerous Weekly issues that have come my way and from those that I have helped make, I have come to realise the true extent of the power that the pages of the Weekly wield. The articles, creatives and opinions that you read in the Weekly have a binding impact; they bring Doscos together, producing a sort of collective catharsis on Saturday mornings. Since its inception, this institution has been the premier agent of discourse and debate in School. This dialogue occurs primarily as a result of the dyad of the writer and the reader. The symbiotic and obligatory nature of this relationship makes for a fascinating result: without one the other cannot survive. However, it also means that if the writer and the reader both actively engage each other, then they both benefit. To facilitate this very engagement is this Editorial Board's purpose. The Weekly's success can only be (Continued on Page 3)

House Cup:

2nd: Kashmir

4th: Jaipur

5th: Oberoi

3rd: Hyderabad

1st: Tata

### **MATHEMATICAL MINDS**

The following are the results for the recently-concluded **Junior and Senior Mathematical Colloqiums**:

<u>D Form</u> **Winner:** Shaaktam

<u>C Form</u> **Winner:** Krish Agarwal

<u>B Form</u> **Winner:** Aradhaya Jain

<u>A Form</u> **Winner:** Hridayam Tusnial

<u>S Form</u> **Winner:** Tamish Agarwal

<u>SC Form</u> **Winner:** Agam Bhatia

### Kudos!

### **EXAM TIPS**

1. Watch videos on how to study instead of studying.

- 2. Watch a movie because 'It's just test week'.
- **3.** Procrastinate

4. Study Waste time with your study group friends.5. Repent the fact that you wouldn't have to study right now if you had studied before.

All the Best!

"

One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others.

Simone de Beauvoir

## PLAYMAKERS

The following are the results for the **Inter-House Football Competition 2021**:

### Seniors: 1st: Tata

2nd: Kashmir 3rd: Hyderabad 4th: Jaipur 5th: Oberoi

### **Juniors:** 1st: Tata & H

1st: Tata & Hyderabad 3rd: Kashmir 4th: Jaipur & Oberoi

Congratulations to all houses!

### **IN MEMORIAM**

The Weekly regrets to inform the community of the passing of Mr Chandra Kant Dixit (CKD) in Lucknow on Thursday, November 18. On behalf of the entire community, our heartfelt condolences go out to the family, friends and students of Mr Dixit. Mr Dixit joined Doon in 1968 as a Master of Physics. He was also the Housemaster of Foot House. Mr Dixit introduced HAM radio to School and was the master in-charge of the activity while he was here.

## Around the World in 80 Words

Danny Fenster, an American journalist recently sentenced to 11 years hard labor in a Myanmar prison, was allowed to leave the country on Monday. Attorneys have brought 93 lawsuits in the Astroworld festival stampede, suing rapper Travis Scott and the concert promoter Live Nation. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation banned stalls from selling meat, fish and eggs on main roads and within 100 metres of schools, colleges and educational institutes. Lewis Hamilton won the Brazilian Grand-Prix on Sunday, beating Max Verstappen.



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#### THE DOON SCHOOL WEEKLY

### (Continued from page 1)

achieved through a collaborative effort. In other words, I urge you, the reader, to write for the *Weekly*.

Do not just write to fill up pages, or to see your name being read at breakfast every week, and certainly not because a Senior asked you to write. Write for yourself; write keeping solely your own scruples, concerns, and ideals in mind; write about things you care for, and write honestly. Originality will follow suit. Even if you are not confident in your skills as a writer, the Editorial Board is there to guide you to find your voice and structure your opinions. Help with writing is always available, one simply has to ask.

There is often immense value in writing anything of any kind, do not let anyone tell you differently. And no, I do not mean value in the sense that writing for the *Weekly* or any other publication will better your social standing in an extremely stratified society like Chandhbagh. As Kurt Vonnegut put it, writing, like other forms of self-expression is "a very human way of making life more bearable" so I urge you once again to, "Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possibly can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something."



# **UNDER THE SCANNER**

Ethiopian Civil War | Tarun Doss

On November 2, 2021, the government of Ethiopia declared a state of emergency, as a war that threatens to tear apart Ethiopia rapidly escalated. A bloody war between the Ethiopian government and the insurgent Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has claimed at least 52,000 lives in the nation's northern Tigray region. So what is the current situation in Ethiopia?

Firstly, who are the Tigrayans? Though only 7 million inhabitants out of a total population of 110 million, they live in Ethiopia's mountainous northwestern corner, which borders Eritrea and Sudan. They have played a significant role in the country's recent history. With a long history of military successes, having led the rebel march to Addis Ababa in 1991 that overthrew a cruel Marxist dictatorship and bearing the brunt of a battle with Eritrea in 1998-2000 that killed hundreds of thousands of people. The rugged terrain of their locale is excellent for their guerilla-type warfare reinforced further with local expertise and cooperation. It had developed from a handful of individuals to Ethiopia's most formidable armed liberation movement in the last 16 years. As the ongoing Tigray War intensifies, footage of war crimes is being circulated on the internet primarily by the Tigrai Media House in the United States.

Conflicts between the two date back several years. As tensions exponentially rose, fighting broke out into an open civil war when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched a series of military operations in Tigray earlier last year. He had accused local authorities of attacking a military camp and attempting to loot military assets, but the TPLF denied the charge and accused Abiy of concocting the story to justify the offensive. The rebels were initially routed by government forces with the help of allies, but the situation changed in January of this year when the Ethiopian National Election Board voided the party's registration, citing acts of violence and rebellion by the party's leadership against the federal government in 2020, as well as a lack of representation.

As the Tigrayan forces conquered the vital cities of Dessie and Kombolcha in late October, allowing them to proceed down the main road into Addis Ababa, Abiy Ahmed announced a nationwide state of emergency and called on all citizens to resist the invading insurgents. The US special envoy's visit to Addis Ababa this week boosted diplomatic efforts to avert an attack on the Ethiopian capital. Meanwhile, the UN has stated that "the stability of Ethiopia and the wider region is at stake," and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a coalition of East African countries, have both called for an urgent ceasefire.

As journalists are prohibited from entering war zones, accurate information regarding the conflict is difficult to come by. Massacres, sexual violence, and other crimes have been reported from both sides of the conflict, as well as charges that an embargo on Tigrayan supplies has resulted in famine, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. As the Tigray forces continue to accuse PM Abiy Ahmed of attempting to carry out a genocide campaign, which the government denies, the world watches on in horror as the blood-stained reality of the war in Ethiopia is presented in its newly-found limelight and its countless atrocities are exposed. Finally, those Ethiopians who have fortunately survived so far have two exclusive choices - join the 3 million who have already fled the country or suffer the dire fate just ahead of them...

## The Last Supper

#### Yashovat Nandan

For some considerable period of time, David had known that he would kill his wife.

A creature of habit, he had learned to accept his anonymity and predictability as a blessing, not a curse. Now he rose, dressed in clothes indistinguishable from those he wore on any other day, ate the same breakfast, took the same route to work. He filed insurance claims until lunchtime, and then walked to the park. To him, this routine had become a source of comfort. David had made no definite plans as to the means of disposal of her body, nor about how he would explain her sudden disappearance to family members, friends, and neighbours. Perhaps he believed that once the deed was done, he would be struck by a brilliant solution, a streak of lightning, a bolt from the blue.

David had decided the manner of her death, however. He would stab her in the eye. The chosen instrument of death was not a knife, but a knitting needle. He had bound half its length in duct tape to provide a firm grip, yet with six inches exposed he believed that the needle if driven suddenly, and with sufficient force would pass directly through her eye and into the brain. There would be little, if any blood, and death would be instant. She had given him fifteen years of comfortable, predictable marriage, and he did not wish to cause her any undue pain or distress. In fact, David did not think of it so much as a murder, but more of an execution for some unknown crime.

And so it was, on a cool summer evening, that David and his wife sat at the kitchen table to eat. She had prepared a chicken salad and opened a bottle of wine. They ate in near-silence, the stillness punctuated by the odd pleasantry, the fact that rain had been expected but not arrived. 'Perhaps tomorrow', David had commented, finding it ironic that he was mentioning something of which she would know nothing. He sat calmly, the knitting needle beneath his thigh. He felt a sense of philosophical resignation regarding the inevitability of what was about to happen. There would be no struggle, no raised voices, no desperate drama as she fought against hands tightening around her throat. There would be no blood spatter, no scuff marks from frantic heels against the linoleum. She would find herself at dinner, and then she would be dead. Perhaps she would not even notice.

You're having no wine, he asked her. "No", she said. "I have a slight headache. The wine will worsen it." It was then that David experienced a sudden pang of something. She had smiled at him, and smiled in such an innocent and unaffected way, and there had almost been a sense of sadness in her tone. She could not know what he had planned, for he had planned nothing beyond her death. She could not suspect him of any deceit. Each day had been the same. He had done the same things, expressed the same thoughts with the same words, continued with routines that had remained constant and unchanging for years. In fact, it was safe to say that the single most defining characteristic of their marriage was that nothing ever happened.

But now he was feeling something. Was it regret? Guilt? Was he even now questioning the determination he had made to kill her? Why was he experiencing this sense of disorientation, a feeling of agitation in his stomach, a fleeting wave of nausea? Why did he now feel so weak, so uncertain? He opened his mouth to speak. His words were thoughts, but they were not sounds. She looked at him, the same sense of sadness in her eyes. The stab of pain in his gut was breathtaking. It snatched every molecule of air from his lungs and throat. He had never felt anything like it. The pain did not last so long. Thirty seconds, perhaps forty. He felt his cheek against the plate of moist salad, and then he felt nothing at all.

There would be no struggle, no raised voices, no desperate drama as she fought against hands tightening around her throat. There would be no blood spatter, no scuff marks from frantic heels against the linoleum.

David's wife carried the wine bottle and the glass to the sink. She was methodical as she washed them, ensuring every grain of sediment was removed from both. And then she stood in the kitchen doorway, and she looked at her dead husband, and she believed that during the last days as she had planned his murder, she had felt more than enough emotion to compensate for a decade-and-a-half of feeling nothing at all.

## The Wisest Choice?

Svanik Garg comments on the recently launched Starlink mission.

When you hear Elon Musk, you think of Tesla or SpaceX, or his 200 billion net worth. However, it is one of his lesser known endeavours which is capable of revolutionizing our life on Earth. Starlink, in its simplest terms, is a global internet service provider (ISP), which provides network access through satellites. In areas, where development of infrastructure is limited, such connections are impossible to set up, leading to almost 3.7 billion people having limited or negligible access to the internet. In an ever-evolving world, staying online is especially important, and Musk's Starlink aims to solve an issue which has the potential to revolutionize the way the internet functions.

Starlink plans to sell internet connections to almost anyone on the planet by way of a growing network of private satellites orbiting overhead, in Low Earth Orbit. A division of the well known SpaceX, Starlink is in works to construct a constellation of more than 12000 satellites, to create a physical mesh over the planet, with the first phase, consisting of 1600 satellites, completed just last week. This mesh will then relay the internet to each and every nodal point (receiver) from the nodes (satellites), almost a physical representation of the Internet. This mechanism is based on a system, which improves every time a node is added, and therefore the company envisions a system with 12,000 satellites, a figure reaching the physical limits of the Low Earth Orbit.

The process of setting up a Starlink connection makes it even easier to work with, furthering its potential in becoming a global ISP, and gaining a monopoly in this lucrative market. All you need to do to make the connection is set up a receiver and pass the bandwidth on to your router, eliminating the requirement for external wiring.

With such benefits, some concerns arise which have been troubling astronomers ever since the first batch of satellites was launched. The fact that Starlink aims to blanket the planet with satellites, means the amount of light and electromagnetic waves in the night sky will drastically increase making it seemingly difficult to image celestial bodies and objects that embellish our universe. Certain types of astronomy may be more negatively affected than others, specifically ones which require long exposures, for accurate imaging. Musk, as of now has said that the company aims to limit the light exposure provided by the satellites, however SpaceX has rejected claims for any such affect to astronomy, leading to an ongoing investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

As Musk announced earlier this week, Starlink's service is only available in select regions in the US, Canada and select regions at the moment, but the company boasts of a global coverage by fall 2022. Eventually, Starlink hopes to blanket the entire planet in an usable, high-speed Wi-Fi signal. Whether it is successful or not, will be based on its accessibility, and if the numbers we've seen in the first week of launch are to go by, exponential growth isn't stopping anytime soon.

# Chandbagh's Kaleidoscope

**Neelotpal** reports on the butterfly rearing project in School.

As the campus slowly returns to a state of normalcy, whispers on the wind have been arousing suspicion regarding the activities in a room in Hyderabad House. The rumors speak of 'creating life', which is not entirely wrong. A certain naturalist has taken it upon himself to be a father to a kaleidoscope of butterflies. His 'children' and their existence have been sending ripples through the house. The enthusiastic environmentalist behind this colorful colony of butterflies is Vedant Gattani. Vedant, along with other butterfly enthusiasts, wanted to add to the gamut of information about School's extensive butterfly population. Butterfly cultivation on campus is a fairly recent development. The results we are hoping to get are deep insights into the lives of butterflies for our third student-made book on the fauna and biodiversity of Chandhbagh.

The original kaleidoscope of butterflies incubated by Vedant were born during a period of quarantine, in a glass jar, which were later released. This makes them the progenitors of the current batch of butterflies that he has taken under his wing. In more recent times, the rearing and consequent studying of butterflies to identify things like a difference in lifespan caused some of us to come up with a hypothesis about the impact of climate change and its immediate consequences on the ecosystem of Chandbagh. We came up with this hypothesis when we were scouting for butterfly *(Continued on Page 6)* 

### (Continued from page 5)

corpses to preserve in resin for photographic evidence and to aid in the proper documentation of different species in our book. There were quite a few butterfly corpses littered around and in some of the classes in the main building that had no form of external injury. At the time, we thought they had died due to some internal injuries, but the number of casualties was too great to be attributed to natural causes only. After confirming with teachers, we realised that this winter was colder than normal owing to climate change, and that this was most likely the cause of the deaths. Thus, by studying butterflies we can gauge environmental conditions and devise plans for its conservation just adding to the list of reasons, why butterfly rearing is a good idea, aside from the more obvious reasons such as them playing a large part in the pollination of the diverse fauna on Chandbagh.

# Social Service or Self Service

### Vinamra Agarwal provides an insight into the current position of social service in School.

Doscos contribute to various fields throughout their school life which often adds to our already rich experience as students at Doon. From our very first day at School, we are encouraged to pursue our interests and are given opportunities to participate in competitions, conferences and represent the School. Nothing makes us prouder than bearing the School's emblem on our blazers, and that allows us to step out of our comfort zones and learn a variety of skills and gain valuable experience. Social service is one way several Doscos do so.

The first Headmaster of School, AE Foot had said in his speech on the first Founder's Day, "The boys should leave Doon School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by ideas of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position." Our School has maintained this high standard and has continued to passionately believe in the importance of social service. Social service lies at the heart of School's educational vision, with the boys and masters contributing to communities in the neighbourhood, lending a helping hand since the 1930s. Almost every Dosco has a cause that he is committed to and works toward making a difference in the lives of the underprivileged. This impacts the country on many fronts as we become better individuals who are made aware of the needs of the marginalized. Furthermore, we gain experiences that we cherish, and knowledge about the 'real world' that no textbook or newspaper articles can give.

Today, social service runs at a much larger scale, with student-driven initiatives reaching out to communities across the country and doing meaningful work. Being a part of an 'aristocracy of service' means being a part of a body through your service to society, and we as a fraternity are made to empathize with the underprivileged and marginalized, and realise that from our position of privilege that we must do whatever we can to help. The sense of service inculcated in us continues to have a lasting impact on our lives with the Doon School Old Boys Society also giving back to the community regularly. However, the way social service is coming to be perceived today is very different. Social service is considered to be a golden ticket into the college of your choice, or an easy way to fill in your CAS hours. Students often sacrifice the integrity of their work, finding ways to sneak off into the nearest KFC. They make fancy websites with pictures and write-ups that glorify their work manifold. Giving back to the community is a point on the college checklist instead of a will to make the world a better place.

This change can also be seen by the amount of money being invested into the activity. Today, starting a social service initiative requires an initial capital of about twenty thousand rupees, which is much more than the requirement when the desire to serve was born out of a good value system and not out of a college counsellor's recommended path to college admissions. The work done back then was equally impactful, if not more, than the service done today.

## We as a community should not let these ideals slip away in search for better prospects and continue to be reflective and ethical thinkers, and continue to give back to society.

The aristocracy of service has instilled in us values that upon being spread, improve the fabric of our nation. Similarly, we are groomed to become better individuals when we hear others' stories, and this exchange is what becomes one of the most important aspects in a Dosco's life as he becomes a part of this aristocracy of service.

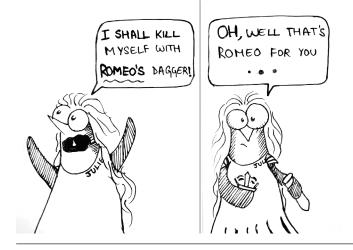
We as a community should not let these ideals slip away in search for better prospects and continue to be reflective and ethical thinkers, and give back to society with the best interests of the less fortunate in mind.

# All the World's a Stage

**Uddhav Goel** reviews the recently staged English Play.

The English Dramatics Society presented the Doscos with the perfect Children's Day gift with the production of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged). Lorcan Conlon, under the supervision of MPY and SNA, directed and acted in the play along with cast members Sai Arjun and Arnav Agarwal. The play, which is a parody of Shakespeare's works co-written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, provided a sorrt of poetic justice for the students and masters alike who had at least once in their lives, willingly or unwillingly, encountered the Bard's words.

The play began with the introduction of the company of actors who were going to summarise the Bard's works. At once the audience members knew that the fourth wall was non-existent and the actors were playing themselves. Then the biography of Shakespeare, comically mixed with Hitler's was narrated. The rest of Act 1 was the actors parodying the Shakespearean tragedies separately, and then a convoluted reading of the comedies, followed by the histories. The histories are depicted as an American football game emphasising the repetitiveness of the themes that Shakespeare used in his plots. The second act consisted of four enactments of Hamlet each sped up more than the other, highlighting the ridiculousness of the story. Act 2 also saw the actors delving straight into Ophelia's mind and "peeling it like an onion" by using Freudian psychoanalysis. The audience was constantly involved throughout the play resulting in humorous exchanges, witty improvisations and the Freudian section when the entire AMC became Ophelia's id, ego and superego. However, the parody of Titus Andronicus in the form of a cooking show was omitted from this production. The play also subtly pointed out the two polar opposite stereotypes when it comes to reading Shakespeare. The first is the charlatan who believes that Elizabethan theatre can only be enjoyed by people with a discerning taste,



as played by Arnav. The other, the cynic who tries to discredit Shakespeare at every given opportunity, is played by Sai Arjun. This antithetical characterisation made the play stand out from other productions.

The production for most of the part remained true to the original text, even with the customary scriptural changes to include the most relevant popcultural references, as well as the 'Dosco' lingo in our case. One really fun addition to the play was the actors calling out to the Audio-Visual Crew in real time, asking them to perform certain tasks such as changing the colour of the lighting and at one point asking them to put the spotlight on.

The lighting and the acoustics of the AMC proved

Adept at acting at the big stage that is the Rose Bowl, the actors never made the AMC stage seem small, utilizing every inch of it very wisely.

to be better than those of the Rose Bowl, the flawless enunciation of words adding to the clarity. The complexity of the play was visible and admired when it was seen that the actors had to switch between a multitude of characters, and constantly change costumes within short intervals. Adept on acting at the big stage that is the Rose Bowl, the actors never made the AMC stage seem small, utilizing every inch of it very wisely. There was applause and laughter after every other dialogue and everyone returned to their houses in a jovial mood.

For many, it was a first, seeing a production with such unconventional means to carry out its purpose. Some were even reminded of "The Play that Went Wrong" staged a of couple years earlier which had elements of slapstick comedy. The unconventionality seemed like a rebellion against the convention conforming Shakespeare who used to restrict himself within his rhymes, rhythms, meter, and the same "Freytag" dramatic structure. The whole experience was made a whole lot more engaging and mesmerizing with the help of the interactions between the actors and the audience.

# The Week Gone By

### Ahan Jayakumar

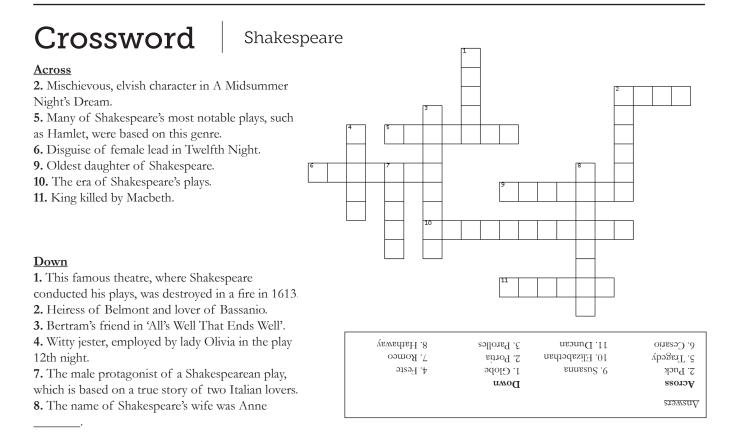
As another week comes to an end, let us again have a look at the events that unfolded within Chandbagh. After a long time, we see more and more signs of familiarity and normalcy return to the campus, be it during breaks where hordes of junior forms huff and puff their way to the benches outside the Main Building, or in the AMC with the recent performance of the English Play, which added to the list of reasons why IGCSE graduates love William Shakespeare.

Meanwhile, on the upper floor of the Main Building, the B Form

### began its much-awaited Mid-Year Trials, after being allowed to skip them in September to come to Campus (much to the envy of the rest of School). Although the familiar atmosphere of exam time has not hit the majority of the students, there is one other form that especially needs to study. The Sc-ISC Form is preparing to write their Term 1 papers. The football shoes on their feet are being replaced by books in their hands, and warm cups of coffee, late at night.

Despite the looming Test week ahead, one can see a multitude of activities going on within the walls of Chandbagh, ranging from the games in the overcrowded basketball and tennis courts, to the friendly futsal matches going on behind Oberoi, Hyderabad and Jaipur Houses, or even the hockey games in the Main Field. It is a stroke of luck for those who have not yet begun their test week preparation, that we have been given these three days of holidays, so I implore you: Please do study.

As we near the end of this term, Doscos have begun to wage their war - albeit short - on Dehradun's cold winter, as heavy blankets and mufflers have been brought out as reinforcements. Writing this reminds me of a saying from our beloved ex-Headmaster: holidays always come a week too late. On that note, I would like to wish you all the best for your upcoming papers, and dear Doscos, please do not be tempted to make the wrong decisions.



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