

# Established in 1936 The Doon School

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

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#### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Some of the funniest slips of tongue from School. Page 3

## **OLD SCHOOL RULES**

An insight into the Senior-Junior relationship in times of COVID.

#### **CLARIFIED**

An analysis of Italy's Presidential elections.

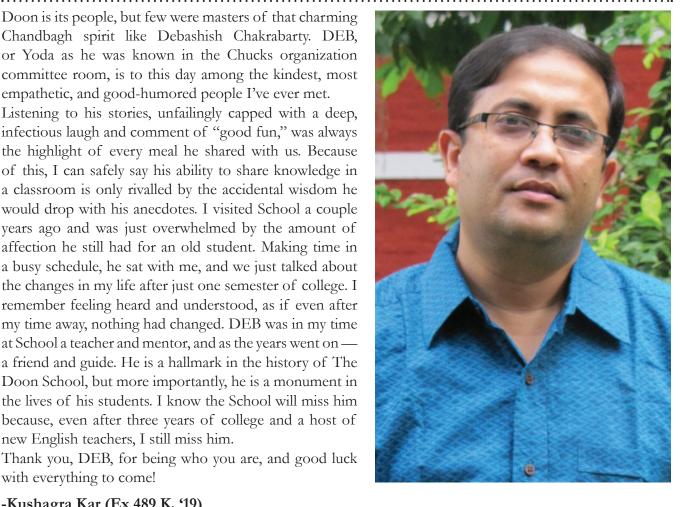
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# To Memories Made

The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to Mr Debasish Chakrabarty. On this occasion, his friends, colleagues, and students share their thoughts on their time spent with him.

Chandbagh spirit like Debashish Chakrabarty. DEB, or Yoda as he was known in the Chucks organization committee room, is to this day among the kindest, most empathetic, and good-humored people I've ever met. Listening to his stories, unfailingly capped with a deep, infectious laugh and comment of "good fun," was always the highlight of every meal he shared with us. Because of this, I can safely say his ability to share knowledge in a classroom is only rivalled by the accidental wisdom he would drop with his anecdotes. I visited School a couple years ago and was just overwhelmed by the amount of affection he still had for an old student. Making time in a busy schedule, he sat with me, and we just talked about the changes in my life after just one semester of college. I remember feeling heard and understood, as if even after my time away, nothing had changed. DEB was in my time at School a teacher and mentor, and as the years went on – a friend and guide. He is a hallmark in the history of The Doon School, but more importantly, he is a monument in the lives of his students. I know the School will miss him because, even after three years of college and a host of

Thank you, DEB, for being who you are, and good luck with everything to come!



#### -Kushagra Kar (Ex 489 K, '19)

new English teachers, I still miss him.

"The best teachers are not only instructors. They are mentors and guides who can raise the confidence of their students, help them find a sense of direction, and empower them to believe in themselves." These words by Sir Ken Robinson best reflect what I feel for DEB and all that he has contributed to not only the students who have been in his classroom but also to teachers who have had the privilege to work with him and learn alongside him. In his classroom, he has always endeavoured to create a culture in which students are encouraged to think, inquire, collaborate, discuss, take risks, and learn from mistakes. For me personally, he epitomises what it means to be a scholar and a teacher. DEB has been an excellent mentor with an immense capacity to listen attentively and mindfully to all perspectives. His sense of fairness and forthrightness is something which I shall always admire. I shall miss his presence in Chandbagh. I wish all the best for the future and I am sure one day he will find his telos.

(Continued from Page 1)

Eighteen years is a long and eventful time to be associated with someone in this School. Especially if they have been a part of your day to day life, and for five years the Head of your department; a parallel Housemaster of a Holding House along with you; if they have taught your son in School; if you have seen their children be born, and grow on campus, and then become a student in your own class! That is the kind of wonderful association I have had with DEB over the years. Another important partnership with him has been in the course of the past four years – as team mates in our capacities of DHA and DHP. We worked rather well together, understanding where the other was coming from, whether we agreed or disagreed on a matter, concerned only with the best outcome for the School. DEB moves on most deservedly to pursue higher career goals, and to be with his family. I wish them all the very best futures!

-STK

I have worked closely with DEB over the years in different capacities. Our journey together has been an interesting and exciting one. The learning curve has been steep, and I have always had a deep appreciation for DEB's ability to remain calm and firm to his beliefs. While a lot of our discussions and interactions have been in the formal space discussing academics, we also enjoyed discussing food. On our official trips, DEB's ability to find out interesting places with exciting dishes to eat always amazed me. DEB also has varied passions such as the arts, literature, debating, reading, music and design. Over the years his contribution to the School has added a lot of value in the various systems and processes that we have developed. His colleagues and students will surely miss his presence. As he moves on, I wish him and his family the very best for the future.

-KLA

The online class is usually a platform for teachers to soliloquize at length. DEB Sir's soliloquies were of Shakespearan proportions for both had similar effects on us: we'd be enlightened, bewitched, and bewildered. As teachers struggled to entice students into their classes, we'd place bets about whether DEB Sir would set foot in ours. And yet, each time he would, he'd saunter in (often after half the class had elapsed) with only his phone and the text of the day and leave us with enough intellectual fodder for a week. For me, Sir redefined English Literature, for he'd demonstrate how theory, philosophy, psychology and economics all intersected in a single text. He taught me how to think and learn and for all of this, I thank him and wish him the best for his future.

-Advaita Sood

# आज कल

स्पर्श गांधी

आज भी तेरी याद आती है, आज भी तेरी कमी सताती है। जो यादे पहले हँसाया करती थी, अब तेरी याद में रुलाती है।

तेरे साथ बिताये हुए वो पल, उन्हीं की याद आती है आज कल। अब बस तन्हाई में ही रह रहा हूँ, बड़े साहस से तुम्हे यह कह रहा हूँ।

हो सके तो याद करना, वह बीते हुए सुनहरे पल। बस यही कहना चाहता हूँ मैं, कि तुम्हारी याद आती है आज कल।

# This Week in History

**1699 CE**: The Treaty of Karlowitz ends the war between the Austrians and The Turks.

**1756 CE**: Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is born.

**1788 CE**: Arthur Phillip sails into Australia with a shipload of convicts and establishes the first permanent European settlement on the continent for the British.

**1915 CE**: Alexander Graham Bell inaugurates the transcontinental telephone service.

**1919 CE**: The League of Nations plan is adopted by the Allies.

**1934 CE:** Germany signs a ten year non-aggression pact with Poland, breaking the French alliance system.

**1950 CE:** India becomes a republic and the Indian constitution comes into effect.

**1973 CE**: A ceasefire in Vietnam is called as the Paris peace accords are signed by the United States and North Vietnam.

**1986 CE**: The space shuttle Challenger explodes, killing all seven crew members aboard.

**2011 CE**: The Yemen Uprising begins as thousands of protestors demand the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

#### "

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit

**Socrates** 

#### **UNQUOTABLE QUOTES**

Don't go here from there.

SRT, Out of the blue.

When god gives you something you should give it to something.

Roohan Singh, Being a good samaritan.

# THE WHO?

#### Who is Eric Marlon Bishop?

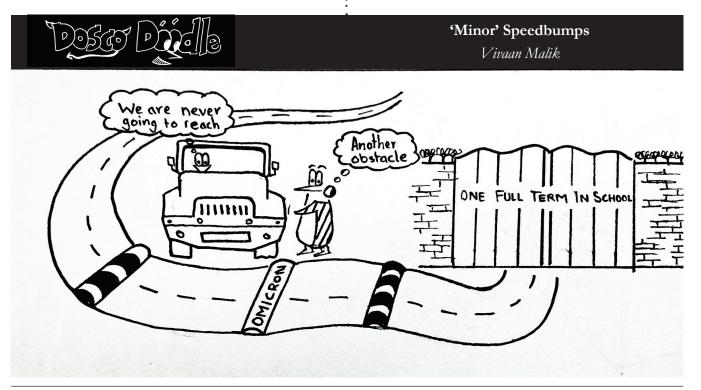
Veer Babaycon: A musician Umaid Dhillon: A veterinarian Shaurya Singh: A chess player

Neel Sahai: A chef

Eric Marlon Bishop, known professionally as Jamie Foxx, is an American actor, comedian and singer. He was given his own television sitcom called 'The Jamie Foxx Show'. He is known for his portrayal of Ray Charles in the film 'Ray', for which he won two Academy Awards. He is also known for his role as 'Electro', a villan in the Spider Man movie series.

## Around the World in 80 Words

A coup was staged by Burkina Faso's military, whose leaders said that the government failed to bring people together and properly combat terrorism. Iran has regained voting rights in the UN General Assembly, after South Korea paid its \$18 million in delinquent membership dues. A Kurdish militia has retaken a prison in Syria from ISIS after six days of fighting. Rafael Nadal reached the finals of the Australian Open, after a win against Matteo Berrettini, to face Daniil Medvedev.



# **Old School Rules**

**Vivaan Sood** writes about the disconnection between Junior and Senior batches.

With the onset of the pandemic, we have seen two, soon to be three, batches enter School online. Moreover, while relations within a single batch may remain stable, the pandemic has done nothing to improve the relationship between two different batches, much less help alleviate the burden of learning through online classes

There is no doubt that there is a growing disconnection between junior and senior batches. The relationship between these two elements of School was a sort of mentor-mentee relationship. Moreover, it involved the constant, almost ritualistic passing on of "wisdom" from Seniors to Juniors, and, in turn, the Juniors respected and helped the Seniors. The microcosm that is School, is not an egalitarian one when it comes Senior-Junior relationships. However, at its best, it is a system based on mutual respect.

Of course, much of this relationship is born out of the intimacy that the boarding house offers. The dynamics of a House, with favours, dorms, and open 'Toyes', offer a perfect breeding ground for these relationships. A Senior can simply walk into a 'Toye', look around, and begin a conversation reminiscing about their days as a Junior, and then walk out, all while the Junior listens in complete awe. This gives Seniors a sense of connection and empathy for the juniors.

Furthermore, the whole idea of a senior being able to order around juniors does indeed help, with the juniors developing a sense of respect for their seniors. A junior may spend a considerable amount of time carrying out favours for his senior, with no or little direct reward. It might appear unfair or unbalanced, but there is give and

take by both parties, and every junior will be a senior to someone more junior to him and vice versa.

Even if there is respect born out of fear of a senior, it still does go some way towards improving their relationship, even if it is to curry favour. A limitation to this could be that casual or informal interactions between junior and senior batches do not occur very often. Nonetheless, this relation often transcends the connection between batches and extends into a connection with the larger group of School, which is common across numerous batches.

All of this connect is contingent on Juniors and Seniors being in proximity to each other, something which has not been achieved in the past two years. This lack of proximity has meant that there is now a disconnect between the two sections of School. Seniors find little in common with Juniors, and do not understand them as much as they would if they could hear them screaming from their dormitories downstairs. Juniors do not have that respect and awe that they would have had (this is not to say they have lost all respect, but rather the respect born out of the intimacy of Houses is lost).

The difference in the first year of School between the new and old batches has also contributed to the problem. Even my batch cannot claim to have spent a considerable amount of time in School, as a majority of our experience of School has been online. The difference between an in-person and an online first year has meant that no one can relate to the other, and therefore a disengagement is born. The dynamics in the relation between Juniors and Seniors could change from a mentormentee relationship to more of

an acquaintanceship, where each batch is closer to a single batch identity rather than the larger School identity. Juniors and Seniors are independent of each other, mostly because interactions are now limited to whoever is in your class and WhatsApp group chat, which is primarily your own batchmates.

# This lack of proximity has meant that there is now a disconnect between the two elements of School

The online medium simply cannot make up for what the School provides. While online Common Rooms are possible, they cannot compensate for the proximity of in-person CR's in the House. The best way to mend the disconnect is to create larger and more frequent opportunities for interaction between Juniors and Seniors, till the time we can all return to School. Whatever the solution, there is no doubt that there has been a divide between Juniors and Seniors, and the problem will only get worse as long as Juniors and Seniors are not in close interaction with each other. Hopefully, in the coming months, the situation will improve and we will all be able to reconnect with one another. Until then, it may just be a networking problem.

# CLARIFIED M

#### **Italian Elections**

The 2022 Italian Presidential Election commenced on the 24th of January, giving us an insight into the moments of drama and controversy that took place over the previous weeks after Mario Draghi announced his bid for the presidency. As the President of the European Central bank, not only has he helped out by leading the bank's monetary and fiscal policy for 6 years, he is still acknowledged for playing a key role in rescuing the bank from the Eurozone crisis, which earned him the nickname, 'Super Mario'. On February 13, 2021, He was sworn into office as the new Prime Minister of Italy, pledging to oversee the effective implementation of the COVID-19 economic stimulus. Sergio Materella will step down from the role as president after completing a 7-year term on the February 3, 2021. It was he who brought in Draghi to lead the National Unity Government, as a result of the failure of the previous coalition. The secret ballot to elect Italy's new president began Monday, with Draghi among the favourites. Silvio Berlusconi, four-time Prime Minister, dropped out of the Presidential race this weekend, encouraging his supporters to give up viewing him as a contender.

The composition of the electoral assembly consists of 1009 seats, out of which 234 have gone to the Five Star Movement, 212 to Lega, and 155 to the Democratic Party. Some of the candidates include Justice minister Martha Cartabia, Pier Casini, Giuliano Amato, a former premier, and even Maria Casellati, the current head of the Senate. Since a total of 672 votes were needed to secure a win on the first ballot, and two-thirds of the electors left their ballots empty following party instructions and invalid votes, another vote was declared on the 25th of January.

Ever since Draghi became Prime Minister, winning a confidence vote in the Upper House Senate, various parties such as the famous Five-star movement joined his multi-party government. In 2021, 16 or 5-Star's 189 deputies defied the party line by voting against Draghi. Fifteen of its 92 senators did the same thing in the upper house vote the day before, earning him many enemies. Many describe him as being cold, arrogant, and too assertive. Given the cross-party support for his government, Draghi is likely to secure a majority with his current backers, who in turn are enthusiastically supporting him as they vie for the premiership. 70% of Italians, including many lawmakers, preferred Draghi to stay Prime Minister, given his track record in the office, and his accomplishments in steadying Italy's unstable political establishment. This has given many investors confidence in the country's debt-laden economy.

Although he might not have mentioned it, Draghi's real intentions are towards implementing scores of structural reforms before the year 2026 in order to receive almost 200 billion euros worth of EU recovery funds.

If he does become president, however, someone will have to be there waiting to fill his shoes(most cases point to Renato Brunetta, being the oldest cabinet minister). This new job will last Draghi 7 years, whereas his premiership risks ending with the elections, set to be scheduled in 2023. Gianfranco Pasquino, a political scientist, and professor at the University of Bologna said, "If Draghi were to be elected, Italy would face more political instability as there would be the problem of creating a new government, making the matter more complex.

As the country is trying to produce the right projects to receive the European funds, a government crisis at this time would result in disaster." With speculation and controversy over "whether or not he should become president" and "what is best for the country", it seems that in this entire political circus, Draghi has already successfully stolen the spotlight.

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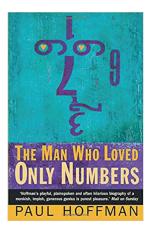
# Problem of the Week

- 1. What is a platonic solid?
- 2. Identify the five platonic solids.
- 3. Why are there only five platonic solids? Can you provide a proof?

# What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown

The Man Who Loved Only Numbers: The Story of Paul Erdős and the Search for Mathematical Truth

Author: Paul Hoffman



Paul Erdős was one of the most prolific and eccentric mathematicians of the twentieth century. The book describes his life, his interactions with fellow mathematicians, his vocabulary and the difficulties he faced for being from communist Hungary. Examples of a few such cases include: not being allowed readmission to the USA when he was trying to revisit Hungary to meet his mother, being denied admission to the USA because he once wrote a letter to a mathematician in China, which officials thought might be "coded messages" in the mathematical symbols, or yet again being denied admission to the USA because he accidentally wandered into a top secret radio facility while discussing maths and getting an FBI file.

His eccentric vocabulary included "Supreme Fascist" as a substitute for 'God' (whom he did not believe in) and many other such terms detailed in the book. This book is an extremely interesting read and has my highest recommendation.

- Aradhya Jain

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