On Sustainable Schooling

Dr. Jagpreet Singh comments on the confluence of sustainability and education.

What is education if not the ability of the mind to use the knowledge learnt so as to create a better and a more beautiful world to live in? While we are busy imparting education and you are ultra-busy absorbing whatever is being offered in the name of education, this Earth and its natural resources are coming to an end, damaging the Earth and its atmosphere irreversibly.

Is how we are getting educated enough to make us ‘world-ready’ where the ‘World’ itself is over-stressed? More important than this question is the question, “Will there even be a world fit enough for us, especially the next generation, to live in?”

When we talk about sustainable education, we talk about encouraging competencies like critical thinking, visualizing future scenarios, systematic thinking and analysis...

Some hard questions to address in this context are - A) Will you ever make enough money to buy pure air? B) Will you be left with a world which has jungles, forests, and trees? C) Will you wake up to the divine calls of birds? D) Will you have the privilege to smell the fragrance of dry Earth freshly sprinkled with rainwater? E) Will there be unadulterated water to drink? F) Would the vegetables sown and grown be safe to eat?

While you reflect on these questions, I prod you to consider seriously, “will this education be enough for you to live in a world which is getting stripped of everything which is beautiful, bountiful and essential on a daily basis?” And for nothing but to satisfy the greed of the ever-unsatisfied human! Should we continue to do what the ones before us did or should we be receptive to the changing times re-look at our education system?

As a youngster of yesterday and a man of today, I think we need to give our education a hard look, and revisit all that has been done and start talking about sustainability in education. So, what truly is Sustainability Education? Simply put, sustainability education is education for Sustainable Development which enables everyone to develop their skills, learnings, attributes, and values to create a sustainable tomorrow. It talks about teaching the youth about various sustainable development issues like climate change, sustainable consumption, biodiversity, and eco-friendly living, to name just a few. When we talk about sustainability education, we talk about encouraging competencies like critical thinking, visualizing future scenarios, systematic thinking and analysis (case-study based), participative learning and making collaborative decisions.

If each one of us starts contributing to a sustainable way of life, we will use the resources only when we need them.

These are all skills that the youth of tomorrow will need to know to lead a successful and happy life. Hence, it is crucial for the next generation to realise the importance of co-existence with the environment and for educators to teach them the importance to create, as well as using eco-friendly products. Short-time comfort versus long-term risks need to be understood and decisions need to be taken accordingly. If each one of us starts adopting a

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Readers checklist

What members of the School community have been reading this week.

Advay Gupta: The Universe in a Nutshell by Stephen Hawking
Zubin Dhar: Dune by Frank Herbert
Kanishk Bammi: The Psychology of Money by Morgan Housel
Tamish Agarwal: Deception Point by Dan Brown
AST: Cogs and Monsters by Diane Coyle
Hridayam Tusnial: Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell
Uddhav Goel: India After Gandhi by Ramchandra Guha

Around the World in 80 Words

The Covaxin and Corbevax COVID-19 vaccines were approved for emergency use in India for children under the age of twelve. Bitcoin became the official currency of the Central African Republic, despite being one of the poorest countries in the world. China reported the first human case of the H3N8 strain of bird flu. Tesla CEO Elon Musk bought Twitter in a staggering $44 billion deal. Manchester City beat Real Madrid 4-3 in the first leg of the Champions League Semi-Finals.
sustainable way of life, we will use the resources only when we need them. We all have been talking about the three Rs- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle for some time now. But more important than this is the fourth R, REFUSE! Learn to say no to things you don’t need. Do not buy a product just because it is new in the market. Each product that we use is in some or the other way harming the environment and thus, over-use of them results in over-production which causes more stress on the resources of this Earth. Hence, learn to use the fourth R more frequently; learn to Refuse! If you Refuse, it will automatically result in ‘Reduce’, which will allow you to Recycle and thus, Reuse!

Earth is the only planet we have where up till now life is possible and found. Don’t forget, this is the only planet where the Cocoa plant grows which gives us chocolate. So, if for nothing else, then for the love of chocolate we should respect this Earth. And when we talk about respecting the earth, we automatically talk about reducing pollution and wastage. Waste reduction would surely lead to reducing poverty; the connection between the two is deeper than we have cared to look at. Schools are the centres of all revolutions and if they can be converted into the nursery where we talk about sustainability in education nothing will stop this Earth to get greener and retain its remaining resources and maybe one day rebuilt them. Talking about all this at the school level would be imparting real-time education to the next generation and thus, I feel all of us must include sustainability in today’s education and our lifestyle.

The incessant heat and unbearable winters bear testimony to the changing climate, and the situation’s gravity is somehow yet to be grasped by some. As members of the aristocracy of service of our nation, the onus lies upon us to take fruitful action, no matter how insignificant it seems in the grander scheme of things.

First things first, a very basic responsibility that Doscos are entrusted with is the appropriate use of electric appliances, especially the lights and fans in our rooms. Often, we grossly misuse this privilege that we are given by forgetting to switch off the electric appliances when they’re not in use. Being more mindful of these seemingly trivial things is the first concrete step towards Chandbagh becoming a more eco-friendly campus. Furthermore, other seemingly small yet essential things, such as turning the tap off, or disposing of wrappers and other waste products in the appropriate dustbins are a must. However, the points made above are not only common knowledge, they are slowly becoming common practice. So the question that arises thereafter is how else can we make a difference? I believe that the implementation of waste segregation across all areas in Chandbagh can help reduce our carbon footprint. The process of waste segregation involves introducing different dustbins to fulfill different purposes. For example, a dustbin made just for recyclable materials, such as paper, can be used alongside another which collects non-recyclable waste. This aids the school in collecting material that can further be sent for recycling.

While on campus, the carbon footprint of a Dosco is barely noticeable, however, while at home, we impact the environment considerably. When we are away from Chandbagh, we must be mindful of the environment and of our actions, as we set the precedent for others. This also prompts us to spread awareness regarding this dire issue that we are all harrowed by.

To our credit, substantive measures have been taken to reduce our carbon footprint as a community. The introduction of the Sustainability Society and Environmental Committee has increased student involvement in the fight against climate change, and the initiation of the Organic Farming activity is another step in the right direction. Furthermore, the Founder’s Exhibition theme goes on to show how we, as a community, are gradually coming to terms with the reality: sustainability is the future, no matter how we look at it. Reducing our carbon footprint is the need of the hour, and as Doscos, we must partake in the efforts made to save our endangered planet.

Carbon Conscious

Vihan Ranka writes on being mindful of our carbon footprint in School.

Newspapers are often flooded with a gamut of disheartening statistics shedding light on the deteriorating state of world affairs with respect to our environment. The incessant heat and unbearable winters bear testimony to the changing climate, and the situation’s gravity is somehow yet to be grasped by some. As members of the aristocracy of service of our nation, the onus lies upon us to take fruitful action, no matter how insignificant it seems in the grander scheme of things.

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Paul Weizsäcker reflects on his first few weeks at School, translated from German by Ms. Malvika Kala.

Exchanging Experiences

When I entered the campus of The Doon School, I was fascinated by the tall bamboo trees on either side of the huge gates, and I was excited to learn about life here. First of all, my friend Fabian and I were put up in the apartment next to Jaipur House to be quarantined. It was there that I received my packed food in white boxes. The food consisted mainly of lentils my classmates here call “Dal”, as well as Rice and Chapati (whole-wheat bread). Honestly, I found it quite all right.

After two days of quarantine, where we spent our time reading, eating and sleeping, we were looking forward to joining the Doon School life. Our first impression of The Doon School was by witnessing the Farewell Assembly that took place in the Rose Bowl. We got to know about the spirit and inimitable energy of the Doscos with the orchestra, on the one hand, and a sea of enthusiastic students with blue shirts and white pants on the other. Not to forget, the rather unique manner of clapping! What was not so pleasant was that there were a lot of mosquitoes.

Our first impression of the boarding houses was very good because everyone was so welcoming and friendly while they showed me around the campus from the Music School to the Tennis courts. The first day was a Sunday when I played basketball and hockey with my Form-mates. Later in the week, I went to classes, but since my timetable wasn’t ready, I attended the classes I found interesting. It was great to be in the thick of action with everyone. I did not enjoy PT, primarily, because one has to get up earlier in the morning for it, or perhaps because one has to do random movements in a 1-2-3-4 pattern repeatedly. At first, it was quite weird to be staying in a dorm with seven other people but now it is a lot of fun to interact and play with so many of them.

I also tried my hand at many activities which I would not have thought of earlier. For instance, Owling was terrific because we could explore the campus at night, even though we only saw the silhouette of two owls. I also visited the Music School and played the Cello there. I played squash for the first time and enjoyed it immensely since I could take my frustration and anger out by hitting the ball against the wall and now it is my favourite sport! Sorry, Tennis!

Table tennis, however, was quite frustrating as the Juniors beat us easily. I also visited the Tuck Shop, which was really good, and I got a lot of food which was amazing!

Honestly, my friends here have been gracious enough to teach me a little bit of conversational Hindi, and even though it mainly comprised of curses, it was incredibly fun. I also played chess with them and discovered a new game called 5D-Chess that was about time travel and interdimensional moves, which were all very confusing. My classmates are sleepy all day long and lie on their beds as soon as they come back. But at night, they are all quite excited and share stories of their experiences including Midterms and funny incidents with their Juniors.

Now on to the most critical topic in a boarding school- Food! A lot has been said about it - that the food is really bad and one cannot judge Indian cuisine through this. However, I like the breakfast menu quite a lot and find it to be the best meal. There is milk, toast, fruits and so much diversity in terms of food. Lunch and dinner are quite similar every day so I don't find them as good as breakfast.

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Murphy’s Law

Arjun Prakash

It all started with a dysfunctional alarm clock, and a loud, angry shriek shot across the Main Field, a familiar tone: all early signs of a new day within the walls of Chandbagh. The deafening sound of the infamous bell didn’t help either, rather it just rubbed salt into our weary souls. I ran across the Field, fearing for my life, not knowing where my future lay. A few poorly-explained excuses and squats later, I made it to P.T. The incessant noise of uncoordinated ‘flaps’ filled the morning air with a sense of collective struggle.

My House P.T. leader barked his orders with enthusiasm, “Squad, Double mark time, in time with your Marker, begin.” The smile on my P.T. leader’s face gradually turned into a frown. He brought me aside and told me to run three rounds of the Main Field. Blast! My half-asleep self must have been visibly annoyed by this. As the rest of the School hurried through their exercises in anticipation of that rewarding cup of chota hazri made perfectly by Sunil Bhaiya, I hurriedly ran my rounds. I charged back to the House to get a mug of that ambrosia, anticipating a warm cup which would give me the much-needed energy for the rest of the day. Instead, it was cold. Ice cold. With a grumble in my empty stomach, I settled out of my dorm to line up for the Call Over, something I respect immensely, I prepared myself for a day of ‘stories’, classes, activities, and hockey.

After completing a flurry of ‘requests’ from Seniors I respect immensely, I prepared myself for a day of ‘stories’, classes, activities, and hockey. As I walked out of my dorm to line up for the Call Over, something occurred to me. I rushed to the Toye in an attempt to pack my bag before the Prefects arrived, but my destiny was clear. To misquote Benjamin Franklin, “three things in life are certain – death, taxes and running that dreaded Change-in-Break.” I was due another late mark and a loud scolding. As I sprinted up the stairs of the Main Building, the sound of the second bell cemented my fate; however, I refused to succumb to it. This time I had a trick up my sleeve, a little place I call the Wellness Centre. To my dismay, I was sent off with a medicine which I dared not take. My dreams of being detained for the day were no more than an illusion. I entered the biology classroom with a carefully crafted ‘late-chit’ in hand. They say music makes you want to fall asleep, but have you ever tried the chairs at the science block? A wave of tiredness washed over me. The clock seemed paralyzed and time dragged on forever, but, alas! I made it through the last school without falling asleep. I passed this test but failed the other ones. Oh well, what could be next?

The lunch bell finally rang, but as hungry as I was, the bulletproof Rotis maintained their dreary appeal. Every Dosco is aware of the impact that one Gulab Jamun or ice cream can have on our daily lives, but the satisfaction of sipping iced tea on a hot summer day is incomparable. However, that too was missing. The universe’s odds seemed stacked against me, as I was forced to settle for the average apple. Rest-hour passed by in a flash as I scrambled to complete pending essays and learnt my lines for the one-act play, not much of a rest to be honest. Games Time was approaching, and the smell of freshly cut grass satisfied my appetite, making up for the disaster that was lunch. I knew something ‘relaxing’ was in store for us, and I was right. Breathing exercises, or whatever. After a range of collective sighs from a range of varying sizes, we were forced to suck it up and continue with this spiritual liberation. This ordeal lasted forty-five minutes, after which the weather turned and we were forced to abandon sports for the day. Free time before dinner was spent arguing with my form-mates about the race for the Premier League top four, and surprisingly, no one got hurt. I suppose dinner was alright, as another shade of Dal was served successfully for us to feast on. But lo and behold – no dessert! After a series of unnecessary announcements and unfulfilled appetites, we strolled back to the House for our evening Toye. We expected to receive that mail about the tutorial treat, but instead, we were met with the sight of a new timetable, a revised version of the previously revised one. Brilliant. After five minutes of hopeless procrastination, the sacrosanct setting was conveniently interrupted by a swarm of insects forcing us to leave the Toye, and Seniors sweetly requesting us to finish their 27 pending assignments.

We went to our dorms and turned the lights off, hoping to set right our damaged sleep cycles. The day was finally over, or so we thought. As I rested my head on the pillow of my bed, a familiar voice echoed through the walls of the corridor. “Everyone out! Dance practices will begin in two minutes”.

After completing a flurry of ‘requests’ from Seniors I respect immensely, I prepared myself for a day of ‘stories’, classes, activities, and hockey.
The Week Gone By

Shreyan Mittal

The week certainly started off with a bang as a fresh wave of COVID-19 cases crushed many a Dosco’s hopes of having a normal term. Just as we had fallen into a familiar groove with late-night Inter-House practices and early morning PT, positive cases from the House of Swans once again put a pin in our hopes and aspirations. Speaking of the Swans and their misdemeanours, it seems that their cricket fever has yet to die down as Prefect ties were traded for YC’s, all thanks to a harmless game of cricket.

Morning PT and the PT competition were some of the first activities to go, much to the chagrin of certain PT leaders who were counting on the competition to help them earn points for the coveted ‘blue blazer’. However, the rest of School wasn’t complaining, most were more than happy to receive an extra 30-minutes of sleep. Junior Forms in particular were seen smiling through the week as the sweltering sun allowed them to escape the change-in-breaks, while the hospital staff doled out ‘House rests’ for students who couldn’t stand the heat or the classes.

Yet another delay of the House Feast saw many Sc-Leavers tear up as they watched the tables and tents being removed on the very day they were put up. However, they have bigger fish to fry as the ISC and IB board examinations also started this week, marked by a sudden increase in textbooks and bowls of Maggi.

As the School administration tries to wade through these treacherous yet familiar waters, let us all play our part and abide by the COVID-19 protocols and patiently wait for another “revised final daily schedule.”

Crossword | Miscellaneous

Across
2. A puzzle consisting of a grid of squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues.
4. These are words that phonetically imitate the sound they describe.
7. He is the most streamed artist on Spotify.
9. Manchester United was defeated 3-1 by this team recently in the Premier League.
10. This cryptocurrency most often forms the basis of NFTs.

Down
1. These are acts you perform for helping another person and this is very common in School as well.
3. An eye specialist is called an ___.
5. He is the richest person on Earth and is the owner of various companies such as Tesla and SpaceX.
6. A person riding on horseback.
8. Recently this French president became the first president to win a re-election in 20 years.

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors’ own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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