

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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Get a Backbone

Karan Agarwal *comments on spreading oneself too thin, and its consequences.*

It is a little dark still but there are warnings of the day and somewhere out of the darkness, a bird is singing to the dawn.

I think that as an institution, we tend to forget what our primary goal is. Our primary goal is (as it always has been, and will be) to impart education. An educated individual doesn't necessarily have to be a top scorer on every test they take, but an educated individual should have a few qualities; qualities that were aptly outlined in the original manifesto of the School. It is ironic then, that more often than not, education in this fine institution tends to take a backseat. Presently, we focus more on the destination and not on the journey, prioritising awards and accolades but forgetting to learn something along the way. In my opinion, this rather simple problem is the root cause of a great number of issues that unfortunately plague School today. Things like college admissions and standardised tests come second to activities and Inter-House events that we hold within our School. As younger D and C Formers, we are constantly told that we can achieve so much. However, as we go through the system, we start to spread ourselves thin, eventually wearing ourselves out. We become so invested in our own little world of Chandbagh, in our own little rat races and competitions, that we sometimes forget to stop and

look around the outside world, and consider what it really holds within it. As a community of people who care deeply about this place we call home, we ultimately fail to fulfil what we set out to do when we came here: we fail to learn.

A new paradigm within which a Dosco is expected to do what they must, and prioritise excellence...

It was when I was talking to a few friends the other day that this realisation struck me. One of them said, "I've been excused from 37 classes this month". 37 classes. That's 37 out of 156, close to a fourth of his classes. The plight of the Doon Master is also such: they must deal with what they're given, they must deal with having half of their class stepping in and out, and the other half nodding off to sleep due to the insane amount of competitiveness and pressure that exists within School. After all, it is what it is, right? It's not like there is a shortage of remedial classes or aid from any teacher either. Masters haven't become lazy; our mindset has become stale. We, as students,

slowly gain a subliminal aversion to do real academic work, and terms like "Free School" dwell in our heads far more than anything of substance.

But what good is criticism without a viable solution? What is the solution to this unique problem we're facing? To get a backbone. Get a backbone, I vehemently urge you to get a backbone. To me, this means learning where to draw the boundaries, like taking on lesser engagements and prioritising the sanctity of education. It looks like we need to present a united front and stand by the decisions we make as an institution. Fundamentally, it means that we must change the narrative that exists around a Dosco, which is that one needs to be in a hundred different places at once to be a well-rounded individual. A new paradigm must be created within which a Dosco is expected to do what he must and prioritise excellence instead of merely ticking off checkboxes. As a school, we need to lower our expectations on the quantity of work one does and focus on quality. We need to preserve our identity and our longstanding tradition of providing the best education and we can only do that by taking a step back and considering what that education really means to us. Getting a backbone very simply means that we need to learn to make better

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This Week in History

392 C.E.: Roman Emperor Theodosius proclaims Christianity as the state religion.

1895 C.E.: German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen produces and detects electromagnetic radiation in a wavelength range, today known as X-rays.

1913 C.E.: Mahatma Gandhi is arrested for leading Indian miners' march in South Africa.

1980 C.E.: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein declares war against Iran.

2005 C.E.: Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is elected president of Liberia, the first woman to lead an African country.

2016 C.E.: Republican Donald Trump is elected President of the United States of America, defeating democrat Hillary Clinton.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I think I've rescinded since coming to Doon.

Ruhaan Goel, applying for an English Major.

What fortuner is your colour?

Ibrahim Naqvi, Hustlers University drop-out.

I am in the ninth cloud.

Harsh Begani, floating in ecstasy.

Very bad taste has come.

Divyansh Surana, so has very bad grammar.

How can you going to be reduce?

JTR, still waiting for an answer.

“

We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary.

Thoughts live; they travel far.

—
Swami Vivekananda

FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

The School participated in the **All-India IPSC Athletics Meet** held at the **Punjab Public School, Nabha** from **31st October to 2nd November 2022**.

A team comprising Neil Bulchandani, Shardul Raghuvanshi, Udathveer Pasricha and Raghuraaj Sodhi won the **Gold Medal** in the **4x100 Metre Relay**, while a team comprising Neil Bulchandani, Amrit Agarwal, Udathveer Pasricha and Raghuraaj Sodhi won the **Gold Medal** in the **4x400 Metre Relay**.

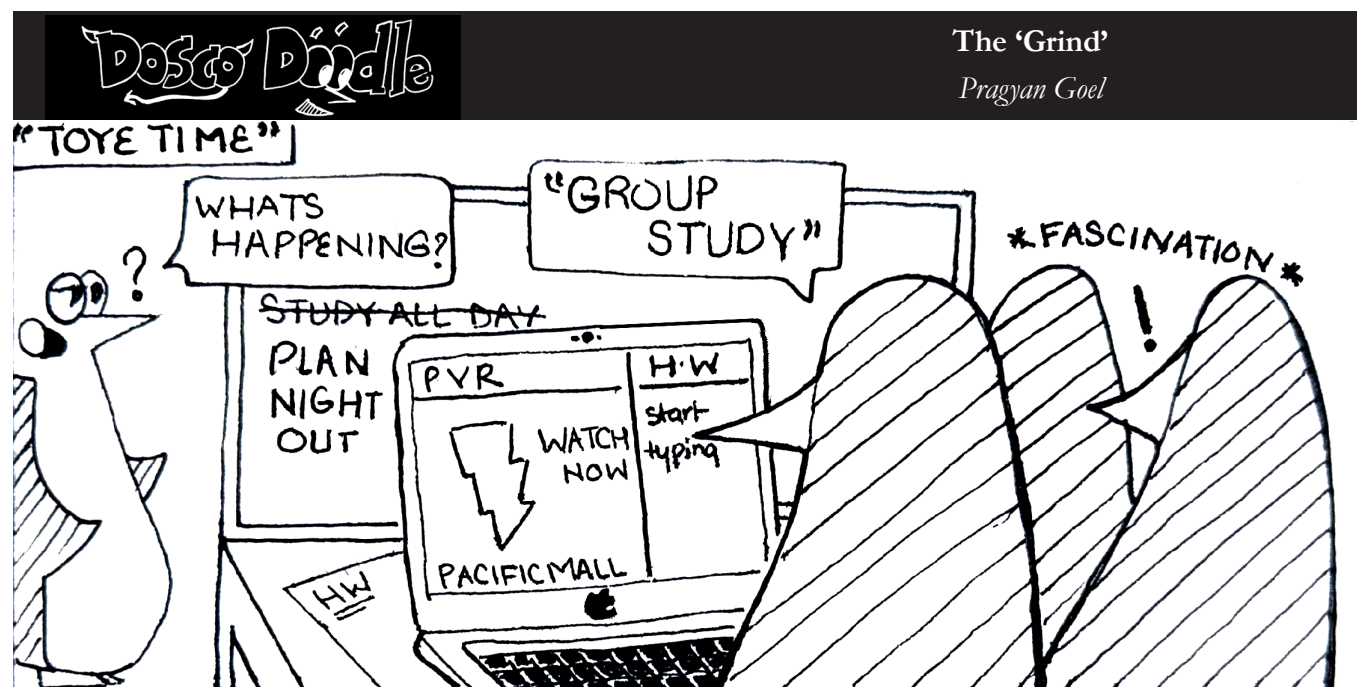
In the **200 Metre event**, Udathveer Pasricha won a **Gold Medal** and Neil Bulchandani won a **Silver Medal**. In the **100 Metre event**, Neil Bulchandani won a **Silver Medal** and Udathveer Pasricha won a **Bronze Medal**.

Udathveer Pasricha also won a **Silver Medal** in the **400 Metre event**. Shardul Raghuvanshi won a **Silver Medal** in the **110 Metre Hurdles**. Shashank Dhiman won a **Silver Medal** in the **Javelin Throw** and Anant Jain won a **Bronze Medal** in **Long Jump**.

Well Done!

Around the World in 80 Words

COP27 kicked off in Egypt. The US midterm elections were conducted with all seats of the House of Representatives being contested again. Facebook's parent company, Meta laid off 13% of its workforce, equivalent to eleven thousand people. NASA's Artemis 1 mission to send an unmanned crew to Mars, was delayed once again due to heavy storms. Pakistan beat New Zealand in the ICC T20 World Cup Semi-Finals to qualify for the Final. Arsenal beat Chelsea 1-0 in the Premier League.



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decisions, and align ourselves with a core set of values, values which make us unique, values that make us The Doon School.

I remember that four years ago, we were fighting the narrative that we as an institution were elitist. To

amend that though, I don't think we're elitist, I think we're just a closed society. We function like an echo chamber, and sadly the wrong ideals have been echoed for too long. The four walls of Chandbagh aren't just physical, they have come to form a mental barrier beyond

which we cannot see. An educated individual in modern society cannot be myopic, as we so often become. If we accept the four walls of Chandbagh as they are given to us, it is only *fait accompli* that the system will eventually collapse.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is an attempt to raise concerns about the current state of Assembly Talks in School. The purpose of Assembly Talks, according to us, is to foster dialogue and discourse within the School community. Sometime, over the course of the last year, this idea was relegated to the pages of history, remaining as only a distant memory.

More often than not, we become too consumed by School-centric events and consequently, we forget that there exists a world outside these walls...

Assembly Talks were engaging and of substance. The subject matter of these Talks were unique and previously unexplored. And so, as a result, after hearing and experiencing them, we could retain them without much effort. Moreover, the aftermath of these Talks were intense and formative discussions on the ideas communicated. In retrospect, we can still remember many Assembly Talks from our Junior years. This is evidence of their merit and quality. The same, frankly, and sadly, cannot be said of the Talks given by students today. Looking back at the last two English Assembly

Talks at the time of this writing, we can only remember them for the wrong reasons. They hardly added anything to the collective understanding of the audience, which we believe is problematic. To remedy such a dire situation, we feel obligated to take to the pages of the *Weekly* to outline some of our qualms with the status quo.

First, Assembly Talks have lost their essence and become too School-centric. In School, there exists an over-arching echo-chamber that comprises all of us. More often than not, we become too consumed by School-centric events and consequently, we forget that there exists a world outside these walls; a world in which we are preparing to enter, and hence, a world in which we must remain in touch with. Assembly Talks, instead of feeding into this echo-chamber should be a conduit to the problems and issues that plague the world outside.

Of course, we are not saying that the Talks should not be School-centric at all, but when they are, they should not be repetitive and not state what is the obvious or that which needs no further rationalisation. In turn, we are propagating that members of the School community should not take to the podium to speak about topics that have already been covered elsewhere or are axiomatic, meaning self-evident and unquestionable. For instance, on one of the Wednesday talks in October, the Assembly Talk was of a completely axiomatic nature. What the speaker spoke of was

fairly obvious and not significant enough to warrant a speech. The reason behind the standing ovation that followed still baffles us.

Second, and perhaps more important, is the frightening dearth in quality of elocution. Even in cases where the content is novel and of relevance, the lack of oratory skills impedes the ideas being put forth. Although, some may argue that content holds more value than delivery, we believe that the two are not exclusive and rather, are dependent on each other. To discount one or the other would be to make an unfair assessment of what makes an Assembly Talk successful. The style in which a talk is delivered allows the ideas covered to be disseminated with greater effectiveness. On an additional note, beyond logic, it is the emotive trait of a talk that allows the message to be brought home. The only way an audience member can really feel the ideas being communicated is if the speaker possesses a level of oratory expertise. To this end, the burden of inculcating the requisite oratory skills lies upon the shoulders of the Master and the Boy-in-charge as well as the other Seniors involved.

We sincerely hope that the aforementioned points are paid heed to by the School community and that Assembly Talks are restored to their former stature.

Sincerely,
Armaan Rathi and Gurmehar Bedi
November 6, 2022.

Ambrosia on Earth

Kanishk Bammi *explores how food is paramount in School.*

Money: It is the driving force for everyone on this planet and is the reason that many people wake up every day and go to work. However, in this oasis located in the city of Dehradun that we call home, there is almost no access to cash- at least on the face of it, but boys still do need a medium through which they can barter and bribe. Varying from the simple Dairy Milk to the rare zinger that someone casually bought wrapped in clothes from an outing, food is one of the things most looked forward to by a Dosco.

It is extremely difficult to understand how this ‘currency’ works, simply because there are no limits on what can be done with something that the outside world would call a mere ‘snack’. For DoscOs, food is not just a snack, rather it is something much more valuable. Food is one of the best ways to create bonds with each other whether it is sharing a packet of chips or reminiscing about how good *ghar ka khana* was. Running from one teacher’s house to another together on Diwali to eat mithai, helping each other hide food during a ‘raid’, carefully making Maggi without getting caught by a teacher or even worse, a Senior who will ask you for ‘just one bite’ are some of the fondest memories that DoscOs have with their friends. Set values for food

trading cannot be determined by someone, therefore, each trade has factors like friendship and desperation involved in it. Trying to understand the negotiations that take place between the boys is something that not even the smartest people in the world cease to do.

Just like how people work jobs to earn money, food is a great way to incentivize boys to perform better in every aspect of life. A worthy example would be good chits, as the reward for a good chit would be food or even a treat, this incentive makes boys put in more effort during class. Even on the field, food can be an amazing motivation, as boys give it their all, knowing that winning an Inter-House will be rewarded with some sort of a treat. More participation is being seen in various activities and events from boys, in the hopes that they will be on the special invitee list to the Headmaster’s residence for a blissful evening.

All in all, food is something that all boys certainly cannot live without and something that takes up a considerable amount of their time. It is what keeps them running, be it last-minute studying for an exam, or getting energy just before an important match - food truly is every Dosco’s lifeline.

The Cogs of Our Society

Avighna Daruka *looks at oil, and its role in our society.*

Oil, or black gold, as they say, changed the course of human history. Oil has been the driving factor behind the best and the worst of our history, sending the sanities of world leaders off the hooks when it comes to matters pertaining to it. Without this substance, our lives might have been very different.

Oil makes our world run, just as it makes machines run. Flipping through the pages of this very publication, where I’ve had great insight into worldly matters, I began to think about mankind’s relationship with oil. Why is it that this crude dark liquid is so politically and financially significant? What story lies behind oil, and why does it play such a crucial role in modern society? To relieve my mind from this burden of curiosity, I began to write, and the result lies before you.

To know where oil stands in the present world, some insight into where it stood in the past is required. Oil was first discovered by the Chinese, in crude reserves around 600 B.C. Now, two and a half millennia past, oil is everywhere. You can see it being used to power vehicles, heat buildings,

and generate energy. When it comes to refining, plastics, polyurethane, solvents, and many more products are synthesised from oil. In simple terms, oil is versatile.

As already mentioned, oil has a plethora of uses - just like we DoscOs have been developed holistically, oil is an all-rounder when it comes to industrial applications - dominating all sectors of the game, with the power of morphing into hundreds of different forms. All this, while remaining cheap and readily available. However, we run into a problem: oil is not sustainable. Perhaps much to your despair, let’s look at some statistics. The depletion of fossil fuels is anticipated to occur in this century. Coal is projected to last up to 114 years, and natural gas only for 53 more. Sadly, however, these numbers may get smaller and smaller as the demand for renewable energy is simply not high enough. Our supplies are dwindling.

Oil plays an integral role in our society, and if we want daily life to remain as is without oil, it will take at least a decade or two to adapt to alternative

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sources of energy. However, this rough estimate is a sign that the inevitable is nigh. We have enough time to think, and to work out a solution, and we must act. We must act to create a solution to our sustainable energy issues - and all we need to do

is to take a step back and educate ourselves. We need to learn about renewable energy sources, and a better educated, more enthusiastic, and more involved generation is all it takes to create a smooth transition from fossil fuels to fossil fuel-free life.

हिन्दी: भाषा ज्ञान की, स्वाभिमान की

आयान गुप्ता और कृषि जैवाल, स्कूल में हिंदी की मान्यता पर अपनी राय पेश करते हैं।

हिन्दी कोई भाषा नहीं है, यह एक ऐसा माध्यम है जो इंसानों को ही नहीं बल्कि लोगों के हृदय को भी जोड़ती है। हिन्दी की जड़ें बहुत पुरानी हैं, लेकिन आज भी यह मनुष्यों के तर्कों, बातों और विवादों को प्रस्तुत करने में हमारी कुशलता से मदद करती है। भारत में हिन्दी को राज भाषा का स्थान दिया गया है।

हमारे विद्यालय में भी इस हिन्दी भाषा को प्रारंभ से ही महत्व और सम्मान मिलता रहा है, लेकिन कुछ समय से हम इसमें अप्रभावी कमी देख रहे हैं। इस विद्यालय में हिन्दी का एक अटूट स्थान था, जो अब विभिन्न कारणों से पीछे छूट रहा है। पहले हमारे स्कूल के छात्रों की चयन प्रक्रिया में युवा आवेदकों को हिन्दी की भी परीक्षा अलग से देनी पड़ती थी, परंतु अब हमारे स्कूल में प्रवेश पाने के लिए केवल अंग्रेजी, गणित और केस स्टडी की परीक्षा देनी होती है। यह एक प्रमुख कारण हो सकता है जिसके कारण छात्रों की नजर में हिन्दी का महत्व कम होता जा रहा है। मातृभाषा में रुचि कम होने का एक कारण यह भी हो सकता है कि इसका उपयोग घर पर वार्तालाप करने के अलावा अन्य कार्यों के लिए नहीं किया जाता है। किंतु समय-समय पर देश-विदेश के स्तर पर मातृभाषा में सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन कर और इन भाषाओं को आधिकारिक तौर पर इस्तेमाल करने की सहमति देकर इसमें रुचि बढ़ा सकते हैं।

हिन्दी में लिखे किसी लेख को देखकर अधिकांश 'डॉस्करोस' का मन विचलित हो जाता है और वे उसके उद्देश्य या विषय के बारे में सोचे बिना उसे अनदेखा कर बैठते हैं...

हिन्दी में लिखे किसी लेख को देखकर अधिकांश 'डॉस्करोस' का मन खिन्न हो जाता है और वे उसके उद्देश्य या विषय के बारे में सोचे बिना उसे अनदेखा कर बैठते हैं, जबकि अंग्रेजी में लिखे गए लेखों को पढ़ा जाता है और उनका भरपूर आनंद लिया जाता है। कभी-कभी किसी को आश्चर्य होता है कि आखिर डॉस्करोस में यह भावुक मूल्य हिन्दी के प्रति क्यों जागृत नहीं होता? इसका उत्तर शायद यह है कि यहाँ आने वाले अधिकांश लड़के अंग्रेजी में पारंगत हैं और इसलिए हिन्दी सीखना इस हद तक अनावश्यक लगता है कि वे इस खूबसूरत बोली का आनंद लेने और सम्मान करने की कोशिश भी नहीं करते हैं।

मेरे परिप्रेक्ष्य से हिन्दी के मान को वापिस उस ऊँचाई पर पहुँचाने के लिए हमारे विद्यालय में इस भाषा के प्रति रुचि पैदा की जानी चाहिए और यह सब हिन्दी में वाद-विवाद और नाटक जैसी हिन्दी गतिविधियों तथा नियमित कार्यशालाओं के आयोजन से किया जा सकता है। हिन्दी की इन गतिविधियों की शुरुआत डी फॉर्म से ही होनी चाहिए ताकि 'डॉस्करोस' को इस खूबसूरत भाषा का सार शुरू

से ही मिल सके और भाषा के प्रति बुरी मानसिकता विकसित न हो। अगर हर किसी को किसी समय भाषा का आनंद लेने का मौका मिलता है, तो मुझे कोई कारण नहीं दिखता कि लड़के इसमें गहराई से गोता लगाने के लिए दिलचस्पी लेने के इच्छुक नहीं होंगे।

भारत अनेक विविधताओं वाला देश है। हम अलग-अलग भाषाएं

आज की भारतीय युवा पीढ़ी अक्सर दोस्तों या मेंहमानों से अंग्रेजी में ही बात करती है क्योंकि उनके मस्तिष्क में हिन्दी के बारे में कुछ ऐसे 'स्टीरियोटाइप' बन गए हैं और लोग इसे बोलने में शर्म महसूस करते हैं...

बोलते हैं लेकिन समय के साथ भारत के शहरों और गांवों में बोली जाने वाली कई भाषाएं अब दुर्लभ हो गई हैं। इसका एक प्रसिद्ध उदाहरण संस्कृत है। आज के समय में कोई भी संस्कृत बोलता या लिखता नहीं है और अगर ऐसा ही चलता रहा तो हिन्दी भी दुर्लभ हो जाएगी और भारतीय संस्कृति का एक अनिवार्य हिस्सा हमसे खो जाएगा।

यह भारत के नागरिकों की जिम्मेदारी है कि वे अपनी मातृभाषा सीखें, खासकर बच्चों को अपनी मातृभाषा में वार्तालाप करना अच्छी से आनी चाहिए क्योंकि हिन्दी उन्हें आगे बढ़ने में बहुत मदद करेगी। यदि आप भारत में रहते हुए हिन्दी नहीं जानते हैं, तो आप भारत में रहकर इसके एक मूल्यवान हिस्से का अनुभव नहीं करके भारत पूरी तरह से नहीं जी रहे हैं। मातृभाषा से जुड़ना न केवल व्यक्ति को उसकी संस्कृति और विरासत से जोड़ता है बल्कि उसे अपने ही देश में आगे ले जाने में भी मदद करता है- उदाहरण के लिए हिन्दी भारत में हमेशा आपकी आर्थिक रूप से सहायता करेगी क्योंकि आज भी पूरे भारत में लोग ज्यादातर व्यापार के लिए हिन्दी का उपयोग करते हैं। हमें अपनी मातृभाषा पर गर्व होना चाहिए। आज की भारतीय युवा पीढ़ी अक्सर दोस्तों या मेंहमानों से अंग्रेजी में ही बात करती है क्योंकि उनके मस्तिष्क में हिन्दी के बारे में कुछ ऐसे 'स्टीरियोटाइप' बन गए हैं और लोग इसे बोलने में शर्म महसूस करते हैं।

अंत में हम इतना ही कहना चाहेंगे कि हिन्दी हमारे जीवन का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है और इसे जीवित रखना हमारा कर्तव्य है। एक देश की उन्नति के लिए बहुत महत्त्वपूर्ण है कि उस देश के लोग कम से कम अपनी भाषा पर स्वाभिमान करें। अब समय आ गया है कि हम हिन्दी के बढ़ते महत्व को समझें और इसके बारे में कुछ करें- क्योंकि अब प्रश्न हमारी मातृभाषा का है !

The Week Gone By

Tarun Doss

I would like to start out by extending a warm welcome to all of my readers to this column (my favourite, as it should be yours), which will be written by yours truly through the course of the following year. In the months ahead, I hope to use this platform, just as my predecessors rightly did, to effectively chronicle each week's events in an amusing yet meaningful way. And most importantly, to make you, my reader, chuckle every Saturday morning. I repeat: every Saturday morning.
Well, without further ado, let's

get down to business, shall we? This week saw the basketball courts come to life, with the start of the competition seeing the mighty Eagles fail to take flight as the Nizams and Warriors marched on valiantly. On one hand, the Hogwarts-like aesthetic of the basketball court's winter fog illuminated under the glaring floodlights sets the stage for yet another neck-to-neck Inter-House clash, while, just across, certain DoscOs were caught in pursuit of the ungentlemanly, to say the least. The consequences of such actions have left the majority of DoscOs greatly unhappy as rumours that private outings stand cancelled spread across School. Many are scrambling to get a refund for their *Black Panther* tickets which they had booked weeks in advance, though their frantic efforts have been futile.

In the shadows, the boxing ring has also resurfaced at the Old Basketball Courts with the competition just around the corner, as it stands rather awkwardly alongside its completely 'useful' concrete counterpart. Like clockwork, at about four in the afternoon, one might notice DoscOs circling the Main Field and Old Basketball Courts styled in layers of sweaters. This year, we hope to catch a few fierce bouts of those whose luck manages to scrape them through the "gruelling" screening process; very literally, many lives are in jeopardy.
In the end, I bid the C and D Form fledglings the best of luck on their PTM this afternoon. Some wisdom gained from years of experience: consider carefully the sequence of Masters you meet; it just might assure you an incredible outing!

Sudoku

9	6			7	5	2		
7		2						5
5			3		6		9	
3		6	8				2	
						1	6	
1	9	8	6	4	2			3
				8		7		6
8				6		3	4	9
6	1	4		3		8	5	2

Answer Key for this week's Sudoku

2	5	8	6	3	7	4	1	9
6	4	3	1	9	2	5	7	8
9	1	7	4	8	5	6	3	2
3	7	5	2	4	9	8	6	1
8	9	1	3	5	6	7	2	4
4	2	9	7	1	8	5	6	3
7	6	4	9	2	3	1	8	5
5	3	9	8	6	1	9	2	4
1	8	2	5	7	4	3	6	9

Source: worksheets.theteacherscorner.net

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