

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Striking a Balance

Vivaan Sood *comments on the balance that must be struck on the impact that Masters have on Students.*
.....

Masters are involved in every facet of School's functioning, and are an intrinsic part of the very ethos that constitutes this institution. The involvement that they have in School is nothing short of impressive. They are involved in every facet of School's functioning, and are an intrinsic part of the very ethos that constitutes this institution. With this role comes the basic requirement to create relationships with Students that help shape the journeys of both Students and Masters in School. However, I have noticed that over the past few years, these relationships have begun to assume a form that is detrimental to our progress, and only serves instead, to break down the ties that bind us to the culture of this institution. I refer here to the dynamics of the changing Student-Master relationship.

When I make such a statement, I do not mean to imply that this relationship is breaking apart, but I rather seek to posit the idea on how it is taking on a form that is detrimental to School, and would only serve as a hindrance to how our School functions.

There is no doubt that Master involvement is indispensable, to say the least, in our lives as boarding-school students. In a place where Students and Masters are in close contact through the eight months of the School year, there is no doubt that our Masters are very likely to be closely involved in our lives. Given

their qualifications and experience, it is imperative that the counsel of a Master be present in a Student's life. However, at the same time, it should not drown out the actual identity or the original ideas of Students.

If a Master starts to push his/her views and repeat certain stereotypical, albeit often unsubstantiated, narratives surrounding a student, the youngster is likely to focus more on fixing their image and change the narrative rather than focusing on what they actually want to develop themselves into, in their time at School. Unfortunately, I have noticed certain teachers often make offhand statements about which Board to take in S Form, not based on what the Student's interests are, but because of the narratives that surround him. This leads to a bigger problem: The views of Masters tend to proliferate through School faster, and often take root in the minds of most far more effectively than those of the Students'. Students are then caught in a dilemma of choosing between their own image of themselves and that of the image created by the comments made by a Master.

Why do we care so much about our image? Simply put, we reside in a School where repute, or the 'face value' — rather regrettably — plays an important role in students' progress in School. A Master comparing one boy to another, contributes to narratives that surround people. This is not only ill-advised, but extremely dangerous.

This problem is exacerbated when we also consider the fact that most try to garner favour of Teachers to get ahead in the supposed 'rat race' in School. When we realise this, we can also see that Students are then more likely to care about what Teachers would say about them.

Although meant to be in the nature of advice, these statements can lead to Students fixating over them, simply because of the provenance of the statement. Even if we disregard how a Student might feel about the narratives that surround them, the fact that a Master, someone whose opinion is valued greatly, is contributing, or even taking such a narrative seriously is unfortunate.

Similarly, because of the power Masters have in dominating the various narratives and ideas that float around our campus, their over-involvement in our lives can contribute to the aforementioned deterioration of the Student-Master relationship. Such a problem stems from the belief that it is a Master's prerogative to help a Student. Instead, what happens is that, rather than trying to help solve problems by making such comments and statements, Masters actually burden the students, rather than alleviating them.

This leads to two things: either the Student disregards such statements, and by extension, disregards the validity and legitimacy of Masters,

(Continued on Page 3)

This Week in History

13 C.E.: General Tiberius' (later Emperor) triumphant procession through Rome after the siege of Germany occurred.

1558 C.E.: Elizabeth I aged 25, ascends the English throne upon the death of her half-sister, "Bloody Mary", Queen of Scots.

1777 C.E.: Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, is approved by the Continental Congress.

1856 C.E.: The Great Bell of Big Ben first chimes at the foot of the still-unfinished clock tower outside the Westminster Palace.

1908 C.E.: Albert Einstein presents his quantum theory of light.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

After death, you die.

Ganadhipati Aryan, post-mortem soothsayer.

Can you get me a one spoon please?

Aakash Mishra, a one small request.

I cannot tell english.

Kharanshu Pasala, evidently.

I'm not feeling today.

SRT, Saturn is in retrograde.

It's a water full of test tube.

ABE, reversible reaction.

Stand up and outstand the class!

RLR, prodigal students.

“

The best teacher is experience and not through someone's distorted point of view.

—
Jack Kerouac

OBITUARY

The *Weekly* deeply regrets the passing of Mr Rajesh Varma, husband of Ms Suruchi Mishra(SMA), on 15 November, 2022. On behalf of the entire School Community we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

SMASHING INTO HEIGHTS

The School Table Tennis Team participated in the **Uttarakhand Foundation Day Table Tennis Championship** which was held at the **District Sports Complex, Dehradun** from **8th to 9th November**.

Aarav Dadu, Advay Kajaria, Hridayam Tusnial, Mohak Jain, and Shaurya Agarwal made it to the **Quarter Finals** in their respective categories.

Shreedhar Gupta placed **Second** in the **U-17 Individual Championship**.

Aditya Dungarpur placed **First** in the **U-15** and **U-17 Individual Championship** and **Third** in the **U-19 Individual Championship**.

Kudos!

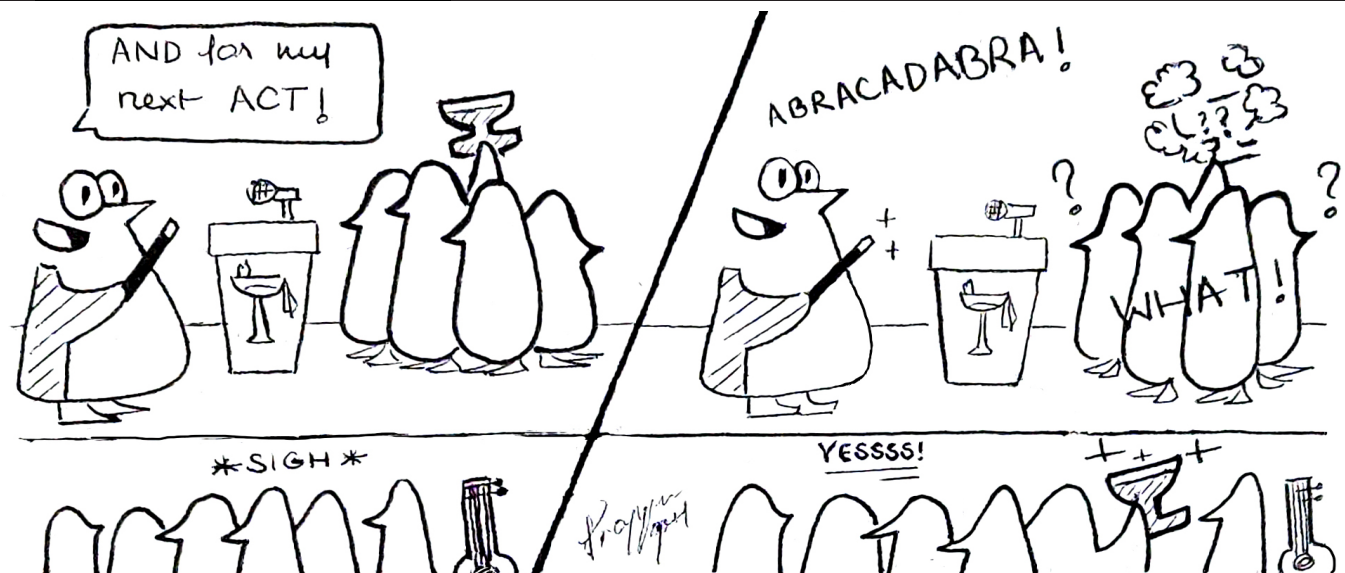
Around the World in 80 Words

Republicans in the U.S.A. have secured the 218 seats needed for a majority in the lower chamber of Congress a week after the midterm elections. Oil tankers were hit by an armed drone strike off the coast of Oman. Ukrainian air defence missiles were fired in response to Russian cruise missile attacks, which accidentally hit Poland. The earth's population surpassed eight billion. England beat Pakistan by five wickets to emerge victorious in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Dosco Doodle

Going, Going, Gone!

Pragyan Goel



(Continued from Page 1)

further leading to the deterioration of the Student-Master relationship, or a Student accepts such a statement, and would try to remedy a narrative that they perhaps had no part in creating. While sound advice and constructive criticism is necessary to anyone's development, to promulgate such statements is counterproductive and defies what a Student-Master relationship in School should look like, apart from Overshadowing the truth if such views and statements propagate far enough.

Moreover, I believe that the idea of

a boarding school is to help us learn how to be independent and nurture a sense of self-responsibility, allowing us to take charge of our own lives here. However, when Masters begin to project themselves into our lives, this idea of independence is destroyed, where Students are now dependent on fixing these narratives and more often than not, fixing their image with these Masters. Admittedly, though, I must add that the input of some teachers has been incredibly beneficial to my development in School and I truly believe that Masters do seek to try to help us achieve what

we aim to.

To conclude, it is important to understand that in an institution where this relationship is worsening, where the two members of the relationship distance themselves, is a relationship that is heading in the wrong direction. To remedy such a trend in this School, there must exist an active effort to stop the propagation, or the creation of such ideas, and to instead create ones where both parties are equally important, lest we unknowingly destroy the very idea and essence of this great institution.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the Letter to the Editor published on November 12, 2022, Armaan Rathi and Gurmehar Bedi have presented strong views about Assembly Talks in School. Given that neither of the authors have ever given an Assembly Talk or been involved in handling the activity, it comes as no surprise that these views are based on several false premises and raise alarm unnecessarily. As the Boy-in-Charge of English Assembly Talks, I feel obligated to shed more light on the matter.

First and foremost, the authors have mischaracterized the previous state of Assembly Talks. In their view, Assembly Talks have historically not been school-centric. This is fundamentally in contradiction with the fact that some of the most memorable and best-received talks ever have been about School. This makes sense because such talks are the most relevant and relatable for the School community. Furthermore, in their view, the vast majority of pre-pandemic Assembly Talks were profoundly insightful and deeply engaging. This view is too utopic to really hold true. Indeed, we have had some brilliant talks in the past, but expecting that most talks were so is, at best, unreasonable. The authors of the previous letter seem

to have mistaken the aimed quality of the talks with their actual quality.

At the same time, the authors have mischaracterized the current state of Assembly Talks. In their opinion, recent Assembly Talks have been hugely lacking in quality. This, however, is only their opinion and simply cannot be assumed to be the opinion of the entire School community. Many members of the community have reached out to us and the speakers to appreciate their efforts and insights, with some even going as far as to discuss the talks during classes. Even where the talks were less impactful, there were aspects of it which were appreciated. Never before have Assembly Talks received standing ovations in such quick successions; the authors may be 'baffled' by them, but that does not mean there were no good reasons for it. One cannot presumptuously discount the opinions of masters and a body of students just because one thinks differently. If, at this point, the authors still feel that the quality is lacking, I encourage them to take the podium and show us what a good talk looks like. I am sure there will be learning for all of us there.

That said, even if we were to accept the authors' claims that the quality of these talks have been sub-par, their deduction that it is because of a lack of effort or

competency on our part is baseless and insensitive. It takes time and energy to put up an assembly talk and that we were able to do it week after week is evidence enough that we are working hard. For the reader's information, each speech receives several rounds of verbal feedback and goes through two rounds of editing; making further edits would be principally wrong and practically unsustainable. In addition to all this, we have also tried organising proper training sessions for interested speakers; however with the jam-packed calendar this term, this has proven to be unfeasible. Had the authors even spoken to the master-in-charges or boy-in-charges prior to writing the letter, their concerns would've been clarified. Dear readers, let's not pay heed to letters that make universal statements without concrete evidence. We all have stories to tell and insights to share — let's find them and take it upon ourselves to share them with each other, possibly through Assembly Talks. I am sure that we all, as the School community, will be wiser as a consequence of it.

I look forward to your participation and enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,

Yuvraj Sarda

November 13, 2022

More Than a Game

Ayaan Adeeb shares his views on football as a sport, as the World Cup approaches.

Football is truly a sport that unites the world; it compels the viewers to put everything aside just to witness the beautiful game. Fans from all over the world would tune in to see the biggest stage in world football and the best footballers from around the globe trying to lead their nations to glory. A total of 32 teams, 64 matches, and one team will come together to make history and lift the coveted FIFA World Cup Trophy on December 18 at the Lusail Stadium. The stage is set for a month of peak sportsmanship. With an expected six billion dollars in revenue generated from this year's World Cup alone, and a TV audience of about five billion, football has come a long way over the years, adapting, and growing to cater to the modern world. The game has changed in every aspect, including financially. Over a century, the average player's remunerations have increased exponentially from a measly four pounds a week (which is approximately six hundred pounds today) to £128,000 a week for the highest paid athletes. However, the one thing that has remained constant is the passion for the game and the hunger to win.

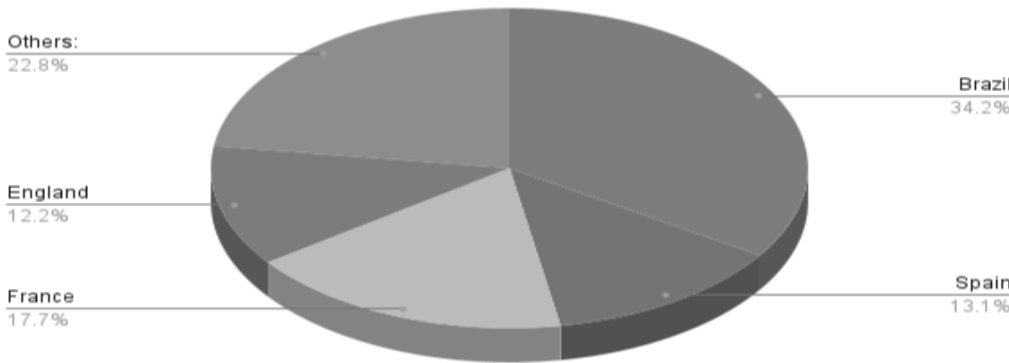
The beauty of football is that it can be played with practically nothing. Anyone can play, and as is evident in the cases of many of the best players, as even those who have come from humble backgrounds have made a name for themselves through their hard work and perseverance. Even those who have no prospect of playing the game professionally still persevere and hone their skills, just for their own just for personal pleasure, satisfaction, and to show off their skills with their friends. For the vast majority of football players,

the financial benefits obtained through playing the game are secondary. What matters the most is getting the opportunity to play the sport in packed stadiums across the world, with fans chanting their names, and playing with and against the very best football players around the globe.

Football has a rich history within the walls of our campus. Here, August-September is a special time for Doscors, marked by the familiar sound of cheering coming from the Main Field. The peak of the Inter-House rivalries is during this period in School, and the fields are occupied at odd hours of the day, with boys practising and working hard, desperate to make a mark for their Houses and fight for the hard-earned bragging rights. Not only on the field, seeing boys practising shooting and dribbling with *bajri* is also a common sight while walking around the campus. The passion that football season ignites is something special and is truly a testament to the beauty of the sport.

The interest and passion that football generates globally is a testament to the glory of the sport as a whole. When you want to see a football match, you do not need to pay to watch it. Just merely step outside your house and take a walk around. Within a few minutes, you will see countless people playing the game, in every location possible, from the *gully* to the turf pitch. Everyone enjoys the simplicity of the game, from the poorest to the richest. Football has the power to truly bring the world together, let's embrace that power as the World Cup approaches.

Who do you think is most likely to win the FIFA World Cup?



327 members of the School community were polled.

The Weekly's underdog pick for the World Cup: Serbia

How was your Music Solo experience?

I knew I was to represent my House in the piano solo since the beginning of the year, but I still felt hesitant to perform — especially in front of all of my peers. I had chosen some of my favourite pieces, pieces which were appealing to the ear, and more importantly, pieces easy enough to learn within the short period of time I had been given. It was a struggle juggling multiple things at once while still having to go to the Music School every day to practise, but I managed to find time, squeezing my practice sessions into seemingly the most random parts of my schedule. The day eventually came. Standing backstage as other contestants performed added to my nerves; I was anxious to the core, but the exhilaration that pulsed through as I heard thunderous applause cheering me on relieved all of that. In the end, the results may not have gone my way, but I am forever grateful for having this priceless opportunity presented to me and I thoroughly enjoyed all of it.

- Vignesh Dodla

While having done *riyaz* only for classical vocals all my years in music, participating in the Light Classical Vocal Solo gave me a mesmerising experience as I got the opportunity to explore, appreciate and sing an entirely different form of singing: Ghazal. Getting started with my Ghazal was quite a challenge as I would make minuscule progress after an entire day of practice. However, I knew that by following my work ethic of dedication and determination, I would be able to present my song, regardless of the fact that I have never sung any Ghazal before. However, it wasn't until the stage rehearsals, that I realised that performing with an actual instrument on a stage comes with a lot of challenges. It was only after Adeitya Khanna's guidance and counsel that I felt comfortable performing once again. With that, I would like to thank all those who constantly supported me on this journey, especially my *Guruji*, Sri Adarsh Saxena, without whom I would never have been the same person I am in music today.

- Anushtup Giri

The Inter-House Music Competition brings back old memories from my D Form when I finally lost my stage fright after performing in front of the entire School. This year's Inter-House was held after years, and I had started to become rusty. I was trembling until the very last day as I hadn't completed my composition. I steeled myself with the possibility of coming fifth but PRY Sir, some of my batchmates, and Seniors gave me hope and were always there to help. I still sounded abysmal, even after the last auditorium practices, and I was alright with coming fifth. Luckily, this meant that on the day of the performance I was not under much pressure. Then it was time for my performance. My thought backstage was just to put up a good performance for all my friends watching. The biggest shock of the evening was yet to come with the announcement of the results. I heard the announcement: a draw for fourth place that did not involve me, and I was pleased not to come last. I never knew I would end up coming second. All the hard work and practise paid off in this one moment that led to all my friends coming up and congratulating me, all culminating into the highlight of the term.

- Mridul Jain

This year's Inter-House Music Competition saw fresh blood drawn in the percussion section, with commendable performances from both Veer Agarwal and Anuj Agarwal in the drums section and the crowd favourite Anurag Basu in the tabla section. Creativity and innovation peaked in this year's competition, after a long three years since my D Form, when Aditya Jain (ex 664 J, '22) and I shared the Best Tabla Players' trophy. From playing basic pieces to now attempting to take on more complex *bols*, it is mesmerisingly nostalgic to look back and recognise my evolution as a *tabalchi* since then. This year I played a traditional Teentaal composition consisting of a Peshkar, a Kayda, three Tukdas, and ending with a Chakradhar. Meanwhile, the runner-up, Anurag Basu, played Kaydas and Tukdas in Jhaptal. It is also imperative that I mention how ABC Sir has guided and nurtured all of us through our musical and personal journeys at school. After 40 long years of service to the School, ABC Sir is retiring this year, making this his last Inter-House Music Competition as a Master. We will greatly miss your gentle presence and attempts to make us all laugh at ourselves after we 'jammed up'. Thank you so much for everything you have done for this institution, and we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

- Vir Marwah

The Week Gone By

Vinesh Uniyal

With the term slowly coming to an end, one would naturally assume that the remaining time here would be one of peace and tranquillity. Unsurprisingly, that never seems to be the case, as this week seems to be one of pure chaos, exhilaration, and absolute chill.

By “chill,” I mean the weather, which seems to hold a personal grudge against everyone, doing its utmost to bump up frostbite numbers. Luckily, DoscOs are usually quick learners, as figures resembling a slightly malnourished and shabbily-dressed Santa Claus populate the campus.

Regardless, the weather failed to dampen the festivities on the occasion

of Children’s Day, with the Masters putting up a show for Students., As plenty of Oscar-worthy performances kept the crowd entertained, an unforgettable day of celebrations left us all feeling grateful.

Happily, that wasn’t the only performance this week. Inter-House Music continued in full swing, with DoscOs delivering beautiful melodic pieces that left most mesmerised and the rest in hibernation. Ultimately, it culminated in a close head-on between Jaipur and Oberoi with the now-infamous phrase, “I beg your pardon,” leaving both houses to feel polar opposite emotions in a matter of a minute. In the end, Jaipur emerged as the winners and the Music Cup returned to the House of Eagles after 13 years of long waiting.

Speaking of waiting, many seem to be unusually active during Assemblies as they wait for their efforts to be rewarded with the highly-coveted

colours or appointments. Such a time is dubious, and I urge everyone to not feel let down regardless of the outcome.

While all of this is going on, DoscOs have a bad habit of losing sight of the most perilous event: ~~Test Week~~ Formative Assessments. It seems that assessments have started prematurely, with most of them completed by the end of the week. Unfortunately, it has led many S-Formers and a few Sc-Formers into disaster as they try to multitask between the SAT and their school-work. Most have already decided that one must be forsaken for the greater good.

In this changing season, the only thing constant that remains in a Dosco’s life is the busy schedule. So I urge everyone to try their best to stay afloat for the last remaining strides. Before signing off for the week, I wish my fellow DoscOs a *chill* and pleasant weekend ahead.

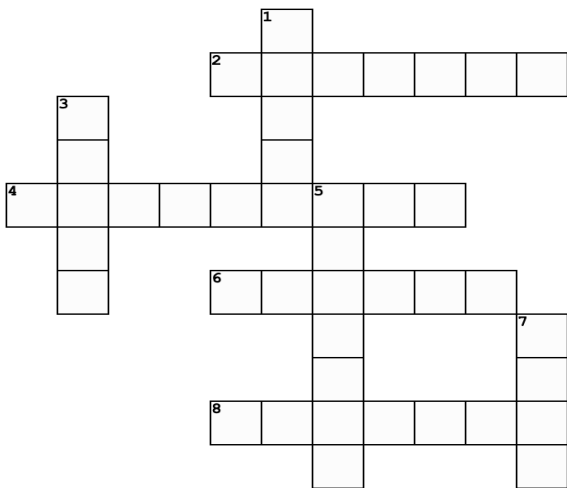
Crossword | Music

Across

- 2. This musical era followed the Renaissance, and produced composers such as JS Bach, George Handel, and Antonio Vivaldi
- 4. This metal singer piloted his band’s tour plane, a Boeing 747, during a world tour in 2016.
- 6. Known as the a forefather of the Chicano rock movement, this guitarist was killed in a plane crash, along with two other musicians, famously known as ‘The Day the Music Died’.
- 8. Best known for his involvement with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, this conductor conducted with his eyes closed.

Down

- 1. A famous composer of the classical period, this musician is often regarded for his work in developing the string quartet and piano trio.
- 3. This pop artist made history as the first to have songs occupying the entire top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.
- 5. This classical composer was incorrectly portrayed as Mozart’s rival in the film Amadeus.
- 7. This singer-songwriter and guitarist was known as the ‘King of Blues’.



Across	
2. Baroque	8. Karajan
4. Dickinson	6. Valens
3. Swift	5. Salieri
1. Haydn	7. B.B. King
Down	

Answers to this Weekly's Crossword

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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