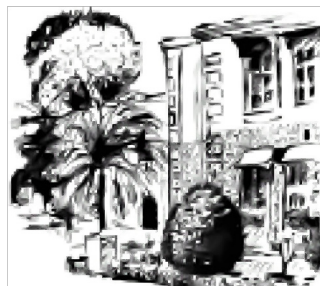


Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
March 25, 2023 | Issue No. 2669



## ON EDUCATION

An article on the Right to Education Act.

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## WORD IT

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## Into the Unknown

**Mr Manu Mehrotra** reflects on the values and sentiments attached to Mid-terms and Expeditions.

Why do we go for the Mid-terms and Expeditions? What do those experiences do for us?

I joined School in February 2001. My experience with mountains until then was seeing Mussoorie in pictures or from Saharanpur and (un)luckily my first Mid-terms in April 2001 was Dodital! Trekking to Osla, I was scared and fatigued like never before, but I was supposed to look after my tutorial group, so I couldn't breathe a word on my own feelings with anyone. Apart from this being my first trek, there were many other firsts for me. For the first time, I saw snow and walked on it. For the first time I used freezing water to brush and wash my hands and face. For the first time, I answered nature's call amidst nature.

That incredibly uncomfortable experience of Dodital got me hooked to trekking, mountaineering, and other adventure activities in School. I have been privileged to have been a part of a few high-altitude climbing Expeditions and cycled from Manali to Leh as well.

Principally, going for Mid-terms and Expeditions help us to step out of our comfort zone, gain new experiences, and develop important life skills such as problem-solving, leadership, collaboration and teamwork. These experiences also provide an opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery, allowing us to challenge ourselves and discover our strengths and weaknesses.

Importantly, Mid-terms and

Expeditions are activities in which the Masters do exactly what Boys (and Girls) do. Walking, cycling, climbing — whatever it is, we are in it together.

*The discomfort that comes from responding to nature's call in the open for the first time and sleeping for the first time in a tent. Fighting the cold and being unable to sleep due to the high altitude, cycling when even walking is difficult, struggling to tie your shoelaces, and eating when you know it is necessary even when you are unable to do so due to the high altitudes.*

**Principally, going for Mid-terms and Expeditions helps us to step out of our comfort zones...**

These shared experiences create a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect between Masters and Students, as they face challenges and overcome them together. This is a levelling experience that humbles you and makes you appreciate the simple things in life. It challenges your physical and mental limits, but also rewards you with breathtaking views and a sense of accomplishment.

Challenging oneself both mentally and physically is a key aspect of personal growth and development, and witnessing others push themselves to their

limits can be incredibly motivating. The determination and resilience displayed by teammates on Expeditions serve as a reminder that we are capable of achieving great things with perseverance and hard work.

It is amazing to see Students and Masters struggling with their pains and discomforts and overcoming them. Over the years, I've noticed an improvement in my own risk-taking abilities. On every expedition, I have drawn inspiration from my students and my colleagues. They are the reason that I remain excited about these activities. I have been able to walk, trek, and cycle defying the pain because I see my students and colleagues doing the same.

Technically, this is also a time to break the bubble of the boarding school and become part of a larger community as you observe the locals and learn about their culture and way of life. It broadens one's perspective and helps one develop empathy and understanding for people from different backgrounds, especially the ones who are not as privileged as we are.

Finally, tradition is the last reason to do anything unless the reasons for those traditions still hold true; and I think in this case they do — making us an individual who can adapt to challenging situations without getting overwhelmed by them, have risk-taking abilities, and a better sense of the geography and culture we are residing in.

## This Week in History

**1452 C.E.:** Frederick III becomes the last Holy Roman emperor to be crowned by a pope.

**1911 CE:** The first International Women’s Day is observed.

**1931 CE:** Nevada legalises gambling, which paves the way for casinos in the state, most notably in Las Vegas.

**1963 CE:** The U.S. federal prison, Alcatraz, on San Francisco Bay’s Alcatraz Island, was closed permanently.

**1980 CE:** The United States boycotted the Summer Olympics in Moscow to protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

**1990 CE:** After 106 years of German and South African rule, Namibia becomes independent.

### READERS CHECKLIST

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

**SBG:** *The World as Will and Idea* by Arthur Schopenhauer.

**Arnav Khemka:** *Atomic Habits* by James Clear.

**Dev Gupta:** *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R Tolkien.

**Karan Agrawal:** *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys.

“

If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more. If you look at what you don’t have in life, you’ll never have enough.

Oprah Winfrey

### OBITUARY

The *Weekly* deeply regrets the passing of Mr Sumit Manohar Dargan, who served the School from 1st August 1999 to 20th March 2007 as a Master of Commerce & Accounts. He also served as the Housemaster of Jaipur House and the IBDP Coordinator. On behalf of the entire School Community we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

## THE WHO?

### Who is Miles Alexander Teller?

**Agasthya Jain:** An Author

**Eashman Sadana:** A Singer

**Adhyan Sharma:** A Fitness Influencer

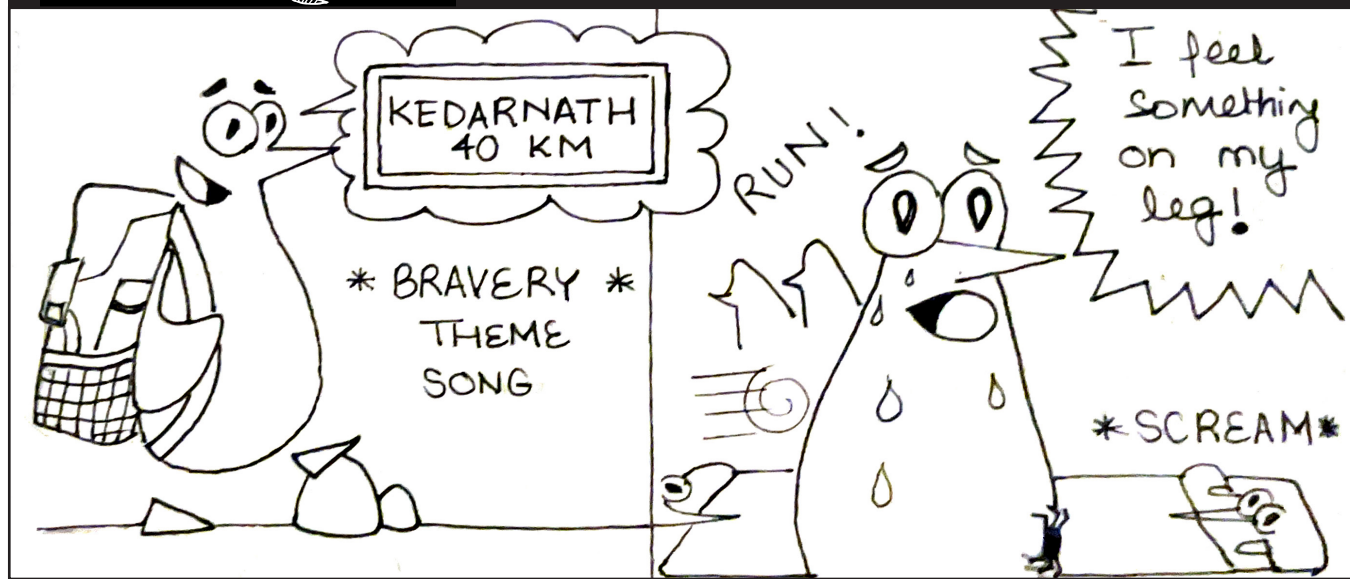
**Miles Alexander Teller**, is an **American actor** who made his feature film debut with the independent drama *Rabbit Hole* in 2010 and also went on to star in the superhero film *Fantastic Four*. In 2022, he gained wider success for starring in the action film *Top Gun: Maverick*.

### Around the World in 80 Words

Uganda’s new anti-homosexuality law has made it illegal to identify as LGBTQ. This week marked the 20th anniversary of the Iraq War. World Athletics, the global athletics governing body, has banned transgender women from competing in female world ranked events. Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has been sentenced to two years in prison in a criminal defamation case. Seven people died in an explosion at a firecracker production unit in Tamil Nadu. Barcelona beat Real Madrid 2-1 in the La Liga.

Dosco Doodle

Pragyan Goel



# On Education

Dr Jagpreet Singh *comments on the Right to Education Act.*

In 2009, the Parliament of India enacted the Right to Education Act or RTE, which was a seminal moment for India’s youth. This transformational legislation makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of six and fourteen. In 2011, the upper age limit was raised to sixteen. This means that education is now a right that is guaranteed by the Constitution and protected by the courts of India. This reminds us that we, as a society, are responsible for the education of every child, everywhere in India. For us who take education for granted, we must remember that the simple act of a child going to school might be next to impossible in the economically deprived sections of our society, especially in remote and tribal regions.

The full name of the Act is The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Free education means that no child admitted to a school supported by the Government has to pay any fees or other expenses. Compulsory education means that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure enrolment, attendance and completion of education. This is unlike the US and many other countries, where it is the parents’ responsibility to send the children to school.

This Act offers immense hope not only for the children of India but for the societal and economic future of India. We all know that education is the most powerful path to a knowledgeable, capable and meritorious society. Without the right kind of education, there can be no employment and without employment, there can be no economic growth.

It is education that can also remove myriad social ills from India, such as bigotry, misogyny and class consciousness. The insidious feelings of ‘us and them’ that are still so prevalent can be gradually rooted out of young people’s minds. They can learn to develop a scientific temper and reject superstitions and irrational thinking. Today, it may sound like a utopian dream, but with educational opportunities for every child, we can at least move towards a better, more prosperous, equitable and cohesive society.

The challenges remain of creating facilities like school buildings and playing fields, labs and computers, textbooks and stationery, alongside finding capable teachers and ensuring they come to teach every day. If these are provided, the children will come. And they will learn. And they will grow. Empowered by the RTE Act.

# The Massacre of Friday

Hrishikesh Aiyer.

As the exhausting school day came to an end, I dragged my feet to the CDH, empty stomach and fingers crossed, hoping for a good meal. As I walked in, I saw the lifeless *daal* staring at me, while the vegetable curry seemed to be abetting in ruining my day even further. With the hustle and bustle of the whole day, I had entirely forgotten about the disheartening news that started this day. “I think your hair is getting too long, it’s time for a haircut.”

I shuddered at the flashbacks of the comb, which had been used on many heads before mine. The trimmer was buzzing like a war machine, ready to mercilessly destroy my looks. And of course, there was the clicking and clacking of the dreaded scissors, coated with a thick layer of dandruff and grime. Sweat rolled down my face as I wanted to desperately find a way out of this. With the constant reminders from my form-mates striking me like bullets, I realised there was no way out: I had to face it.

On my way up the stairs, I looked at myself one final time in the mirror. A lot was going to change. As I sat on the dreaded Toye chair, I greeted the barber in a weak attempt for him to have some mercy on me. As

the barber swung the apron across me, I was showered by a rain of hair follicles of generations of DoscOs. As the barber stretched his hand to the table ahead of me, I pursed my lips and closed my eyes, bracing myself for the impact of the wet contents of the spray bottle. With my eyes still closed, I heard the faint clicking of the much-dreaded scissors. Off came the first lock of hair. There was no going back now. I held my breath as I waited and looked with consternation while my hair hit the ground. I heard the trimmer going around my hair, not sparing any last bit of it. But it was not over yet; as the barber reached for the brush reeking of the smell of talcum powder. I closed my eyes tightly and even tried to restrict breathing as much as possible to make sure not one strand of hair came in contact with my eyes, mouth or lips.

After what seemed like eternity, it finally came to an end. As I cracked my eyes open, my heart dropped as I saw the person in the mirror; he was ruined beyond repair. With a defeated look, I got up and left. But this was not the last bullet. Nothing hit harder than the “nice haircut” from my Dame. This was the result of the brutal massacre of Friday.

# The Week Gone By

Vinesh Uniyal

With Trials coming to a close, it seems that the entire School community has adopted a mindset born out of the ideals of Buddha himself. One does not have to see far to witness an average Dosco is desperately attempting to seek enlightenment and release all the stress and anxiety built from the exams. For some of us, our herculean academic efforts culminated in encouraging results, while others were left with a fresh sting of disappointment.

Yet, worry not Doscos! For there are many more exams to come,

and much more to accomplish, since even during these supposedly peaceful times, one must simply look at the sports fields to realise the onslaught of Interhouses, and preparations for more Interhouses ahead.

The announcement that every Dosco dreads prompted the community to grudgingly walk to the Main Field, as PT preparations fervently resumed ahead of the Interhouse competition. It seems refreshing to finally hear the melodic bellowing and desperate pleas of PT leaders trying to teach the squad the fundamentals behind counting. A humble tip: Consider singing along the beat of “Stayin’ Alive”, and shouting it out for your fellow batchmates and Seniors to hear (Or was that for CPR?).

Yet, the main preoccupation of the School community at large

was the Senior Interhouse Cricket, which is set to last a mere three days, as the competitions saw both twists and turns, and became a crowd favourite in the evenings.

Barring the events on the sports field, a brief flurry of pastoral activities seemed to have overtaken the campus as the current Sc Form (yes, I can finally call us that, or at least most of us) shifted into their studies. All forms appear to have moved into their respective dorms except C-Form, who seem to be too busy jamming to the most passionate PG-friendly songs they can get their hands on.

With Mid-terms around the corner, let’s get a well-deserved break (yes, this is our idea of rest), as we have many more hills to climb and summits to conquer, something applicable not only for Mid-terms, but all aspects of our lives.

## Word It

The puzzle is to be solved by creating a word from the given letters in the polygon. Each word must include the master letter, which can be found in the centre.



1. Garnish
2. Sang
3. Rags
4. Rings
5. Gan
6. Ring

A few answers to this week's Word It.  
Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/wordsearch/#top>

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