

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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# The Reckless Writer

**Arjun Prakash** *talks about the importance of expressing yourself through writing without fear or restriction.*  
.....

As an eight-year-old, I would jump off the top of a ten-metre diving board with my eyes closed. Today, I'm not sure I would do the same. There would be a million thoughts racing through my mind, exploring the myriad of possibilities that may destroy my chances of witnessing the near future. This is what growing up feels like, and as a writer, I envy my Juniors, because as I grow older, the passionate motive of expression that I once cherished is gradually fading, like a candle suffocating under a cold breeze. It made me reflect not only on my journey as a writer who values the role that the creative process plays in this institution, but also eels disheartened by what I perceive as a lack of enthusiasm surrounding penmanship amongst my Juniors. I was once a reckless writer, who didn't think twice about the words that flowed out of my pen, but today, with my thoughts and ideas chalked with a semblance of practicality, I realised the importance of being unapologetically expressive in my younger years.

Dear reader, when I first arrived in School, I had a misguided belief that writing was a god-given talent that you either had or you didn't. I viewed the members of the editorial board of the *Weekly*, or any writer for that matter, to be an elite set of individuals who had a special way with words. But

in reality, they were just a group of like-minded folks who were brave enough to express their true intentions, which inherently led to their admission to the *Weekly* Board. I observed that they would sit outside the CDH every day in perpetual discussion over topics that always seemed to fly over the top of my D-Form mind. To be quite frank, I was never keenly interested in current affairs and global politics, but what I was drawn towards was their passion towards feeding their thoughts with a practical goal — of printing a fragment of their souls onto a few pages that met the incessant chatter of the CDH every Saturday morning.

The allure of that simple idea was remarkable. And so, the next year I wrote the fabled test. A few weeks later I was met with the good news. For the next two years, I used my creative licence to draw inspiration from the bleakest of ideas, comparing them to worldly concepts like faith and curiosity, misfortune and ambition, defeat and deception — all of which I was experiencing in School, just as I penned my words onto articles like this one, trying to fulfil my duty as a member of the Board. Random philosophical questions about space and time, stretching out into long paragraphs without any sufficient conclusion — a stream of consciousness that reached nowhere. I was trying

my level best to make the world seem a bit more interesting than it was. I would spend long drawn hours of my Toye time bleeding my heart out onto a fresh Google document, unknowingly venting the day's frustrations into a single poem that I would proceed to delete the next day. I learned the tough way, and after repeated lectures from my Seniors, a change had to be made.

I noticed that I was more critical of my work now, that my thoughts and ideas were not as outlandish as they were once before. Gradually, I also observed a change in my perception of writing, both for myself and for others. Words, albeit fewer in number, seemed to carry much more weight than before. My sentences incorporated an element of brevity, narrowed down by the fear of 'overstating' the obvious. I couldn't find it within myself to voluntarily write articles anymore, and for the first time, my writing self was fireless. I was a better writer, but a timid one, afraid to pen his authentic vision onto a piece of paper. The well of ideas that I possessed as a Junior had suddenly dried up, and with the countless externalities of perceptions and judgements looming in my mind, I decided to take a break from writing all the time, but that's when it hit me.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## This Week in History

**1879 CE:** Sofia, liberated from the Ottoman Empire by Russian troops, is named the capital of Bulgaria.

**1917 CE:** The United States declares war on Germany, thus entering World War I three years after the conflict began.

**1948 CE:** The World Health Organization, a specialised agency of the UN, is formally established.

**1968 CE:** Martin Luther King, Jr., a leader of the American civil rights movement, is assassinated by James Earl Ray.

**1973 CE:** The first handheld mobile telephone call is made by an employee of Motorola, who called AT&T's Bell Laboratories.

**1975 CE:** Bill Gates and Paul Allen start Microsoft, which soon became the world's largest personal-computer software company.

**1984 CE:** Kareem Abdul-Jabbar surpasses Wilt Chamberlain as the all-time leading scorer in the NBA.

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Krishnav Sachdev has been appointed the **Co-Curricular Council Secretary** for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

We wish him a fruitful tenure.

“

You can be the ripest, juiciest peach in the world, and there's still going to be somebody who hates peaches.

Dita Von Teese

# THE WHO?

Who is Larry David?

**Jigmet Urgian:** A Social Media Influencer  
**Arnav Agarwal:** An Author  
**Aaditya Agarwal:** A Chef

**Lawrence Gene David**, born July 2, 1947, is an **American comedian, writer, actor, and television producer**. He and Jerry Seinfeld created the television sitcom *Seinfeld*, on which David was head writer and executive producer for the first seven seasons. He won a Primetime Emmy Awards in 1993.

## BUZZING BARAZZAS

The following are the appointments of the **Round Square Council** for the Academic Year 2023-2024:

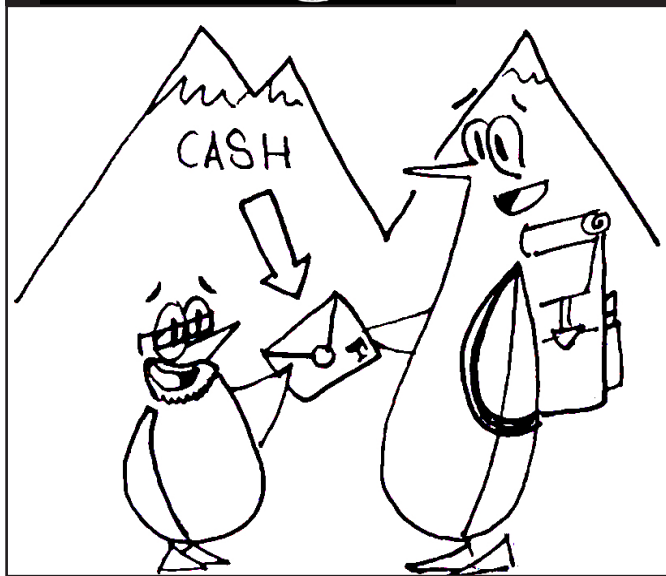
**President:** Tarun Doss  
**Vice President:** Aryaveer Agarwal  
**Secretary:** Siddhant Srivastava

We wish him a fruitful tenure.

## Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump became the first US President to be criminally prosecuted, being charged with more than 34 crimes. Israeli forces violently raided the the Al-Aqsa Mosque and arrested more than 350 people. Andrew Tate was released after spending more than three months in prison. India rejected China's attempts to rename the disputed regions. India's foreign ministry condemned Muslim group OIC's stance on violence in the country. Real Madrid beat Barcelona 4-0 in the Copa Del Rey semi-finals.

Dosco Doodle



Monetary Mayhem

Pragyan Goel



(Continued from Page 1)

The concept of being a ‘reckless writer’ is one of personal growth. Like any skill, you’ve got to be able to just put yourself out there, digest the criticism, and eventually evolve. Be prepared to fail, time

and time again, until your words begin to align with your true intentions. Not everything will, or should, reach the cover of the *Weekly*, but I can assure you that you will grow massively as a writer, and as a person. And one

day you will look back at your terribly pointless articles with a smile on your face, satisfied with the creative process that you blindly trusted as a Junior.

## Cricket Monomania

Arnav Agarwal *comments on the recently concluded Cricket Inter-House*



After a three-year hiatus, the Inter-House Cricket Competition started off with fervour, bringing back the culture of cricket in School. This year saw many nail-biting finishes, as the School community held desperate hope in their hearts for their respective team to win. It also saw immense participation as the School once again saw Juniors and Seniors alike donning the whites, with the familiar screams of “Watch!” returning to the fields. We again witnessed players using their strength and cunningness coupled with technique and style which made the School community enjoy the beautiful Cricket season once again.

In the Juniors category, spectators witnessed exhilarating matches as many Juniors 1 and 2 teams held their nerves in the final moments to fight for the win. Juniors 3 made a fabulous reintroduction to School and the performances were entertaining, to say the least. Long lines of DoscOs could be seen on the sidelines of the upper Skinners, as the community witnessed the barrage of no-balls and wides that the Juniors 3 batsmen faced, often laughing until it hurt. It was a refreshing break from the cut-throat competition and tension one would witness in the Juniors 1 matches. In the end, Jaipur house emerged victorious in the Juniors category and displayed immense determination to win each one of their matches. Spectacular performances were seen from Jai Rana, Vir Sandhu and Rushil Agarwal. Fortunately for spectators, no House effortlessly cruised to victory as the Eagles faced heavy competition from both the Gentlemen and the Swans.

Tensions rose in the air as Jaipur House faced Oberoi House to decide the Juniors Cup and despite being down after the first innings, Jaipur House made a stupendous comeback led by Vir Sandhu as they completed three innings on the final day to secure their Juniors Cup.

There was widespread panic among DoscOs upon hearing that Senior matches would be held after Trials, and the Senior Inter-House Cricket Competition would not match up to previous years’ standards. However, this year’s Cricket competition not only met but also surpassed previous editions of the competition in terms of quality of play and sportsmanship. The Senior Cup had the most unpredictable results, as every day DoscOs could be seen calculating the points to see who is on top. In the end, the Seniors Cup ended with both Tata and Jaipur House sharing the cup. The bowling duo of Gursanjan Singh and Vinesh Uniyal led the Jaipur House XI to victory with their breakneck pace, while commendable performances were seen from Arnav Agarwal and Sahej Jain. Rohan Jalan and Arjun Prakash were also instrumental in the campaign of their respective Houses.

The Senior competition also had its fair share of hair-raising showdowns, such as Jaipur and Tata’s intense House XI thriller, which went right down to the wire with Jaipur house needing five runs with only one wicket in hand when Tata House took the crucial final wicket and erupted with joy. Needless to say, excellent skill was displayed throughout the tournament, on all fronts. Tata House led by the brilliant captaincy of Nirvaan Chajjed displayed immense grit throughout the tournament with Pranay Gupta’s performances driving their charge. The final day of the Inter-House competition was sadly washed out as the teams ended up sharing points due to rain. As for the results, Jaipur House dominated as they swept the Juniors and House Cup while sharing the Seniors Cup.

All in all, this Inter-House turned out to be a massive success as a galaxy of talent was identified both in the Seniors and Juniors. The effort put in by each one, both individually and as a team was evident, and is a clear pointer to the bright future of cricket in Doon.



# How was your Midterm experience?

Being the first S form in years to be given the opportunity to take on, not just a private, but a challenging Midterm, my group set their sights on a scenic location with an arduous trek: Dodital. While the ascent from the base camp to Dodital was rather trivial, the biggest hurdle we faced was the agonisingly slow and treacherous trek to Darwa Top- standing at a menacing four thousand metres above sea level. It took us half a day of trekking in knee-deep snow to get anywhere close to it, and I managed to fall just three hundred meters short of the summit, where fresh snow made it too difficult for me to traverse the remaining terrain. The agonising wait for all those who went forth without me was just as difficult as the rest of the trek, made only worse by the guilt I felt having to stay back. To add to my suffering, the weather decided to take a turn as dark clouds filled with malice tested my psychological limits. Fortunately, just on the verge of me deciding to return to camp alone, a guide came along. I regret not being able to see the view at the summit, but not enough to hide the fact that every other moment I spent grudging along was absolutely worth it. The entire six days were something to cherish, for years to come, and of course, having a whole day left we decided to reward ourselves with a mini-vacation at Rishikesh.

**-Vignesh Dodla**

The Midterms came to us as a release after long weeks of Trials. Being in C Form, this was my first Midterm outside Foot House, with my form mates and new tutors. Our Midterm consisted of two treks. One, to Tungnath temple, and one, to Deoria Taal. The first day started off with an early bus ride to Ukhimath, where we had originally planned to stay for the first two nights. We settled down in a place I could only deem as, with questionable hygiene and bland food. At least, we were kept company by numerous spider webs and their inhabitants and felt relief in knowing there were western toilets- a comfort we were convinced would not be present. The next day, we found a better place to live in. This one was much better than the last, being up to date with hygiene and more refined with their taste in food. However, something felt off, and I could have sworn the location, already eerie, was haunted. Eventually, we were done with settling down and now had the task of trekking to Tungnath. After numerous close calls, we reached the top, some with more ease than others. The next day, we went on a rather short trek up to Deori Taal, and I felt pity for those who had fallen ill and had to remain behind because believe me when I say this: the end of the trek felt like heaven on earth, with the lake between the slopes reflecting the whitest peaks we had ever seen. These Midterms helped me greatly in understanding my form-mates, and we developed a bond and connection that I believe would only help us in settling down in our Main Houses. As our tutors stated, we wouldn't feel much "Holding House Homesickness". In the end, I would just like to say that these Midterms were one of the times where I had the most fun, and made memories that I will cherish forever.

**-Viransh Jain**

After the intense exhaustion of the examinations, we were all looking forward to the much-awaited Midterms. We were exhilarated to go up into the mountains, taste the delectable pahadi khana, and trek through the mystical mountains. Well, our hopes and dreams were shattered with the disheartening news delivered to us by our beloved tutors, "We are going for social service Midterms." they said. Well, we were enraged at first and retaliated aggressively against the idea, but our tutors, determined to inculcate the spirit of service within us children, refused to consider anything else. Crest-fallen, miserable, and perturbed, we accepted the fate of going to social service Midterms. After 15 hours of travelling in a bus named Deepa, we finally arrived at Dotiyal Gaon. The next day, we went to Sri Ram Vidya Mandir School. We were assigned the task of building a wall that would stop the flow of rainwater from flooding the school, planting trees around the school, digging two holes for composting waste, and repairing the path that led up to the school. We worked for four gruelling hours each day, starting at nine in the morning and perspiring until one in the afternoon, after which we used to go back to our hotel to rest, only returning at three to interact with the students and engage in activities with them, including cricket, and track and field. The last day featured a five kilometer mini-marathon among the Doscors and the children of the village, which was a fabulous experience. After the whole experience, we changed our stance - and it turned out to be a rewarding experience rather than an ordeal.

**-Ayaan Mittal**

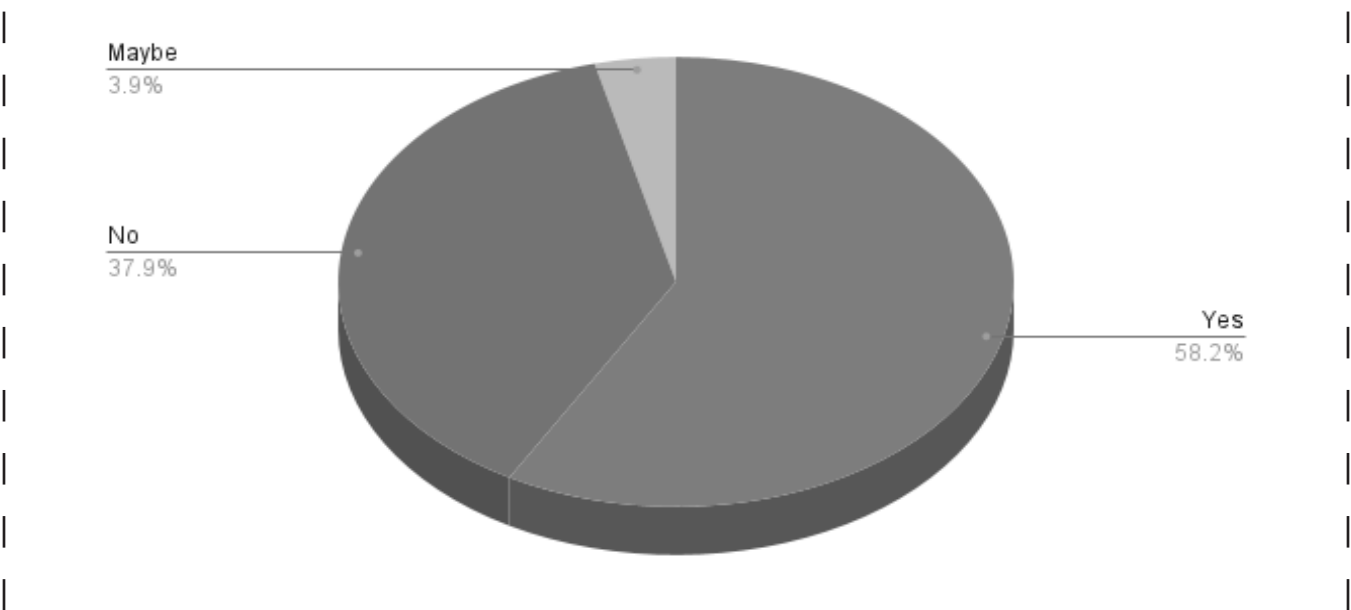
The one quote that stuck with me after these Midterms is, “Happiness is not at the top of the mountain but in how to climb.” These Midterms our Form visited the beautiful township of Manali, nestled in the picturesque Beas River Valley. It is a rustic enclave known for its cool climate and blankets of snow covering the sky-punching mountains in the background. Paired with the excellent preservation of the local landscape, this made for a truly breathtaking experience. Apart from two days of travel time, we spent two days scaling smaller, but equally straining mountains, and two days climbing the *Kufri* mountain. The trek was toiling, with many parts covered by snow. Nevertheless, we made it to the summit and back in roughly 12 hours. The journey gave us the sight of a plethora of bear tracks imprinted in the snow, and likewise the bones of their unfortunate prey. These being our first proper Midterms, we got to play, slip and slide in the fresh snow. However, ghost encounter stories from the Masters were equally a highlight of the trip. In retrospect, our Midterm was not only adventurous but also added to our knowledge of the flora and fauna of Manali. The peace and serenity of nature truly acted as a stress reliever and we came back with a newfound appreciation of the small things in life. It taught me to think simply and understand that not everything is complex. Not only did we conquer the mountains, but it conquered our hearts.

-Dinanjai Singh and Aayan Gupta

Embarking from School in a traveller with nothing but our rucksacks and an unhealthy amount of tuck was a feeling much foreign to me as this was my first private Midterm. The *Chulhi* top was the highest summit in the locality and was renowned for having a challenging trek. We started with a healthy group of eight individuals but had two of our warriors fall prey to a never-ending need to answer nature’s call due to upset stomachs. Out in the woods, it was not possible to survive this obstacle, which caused us to lose two of our most motivated team members. Hence, beyond the base camp, it was only the remaining six against the loose rocks and steep ascents. We reached level two of the trek, *Papuda* on day four. It was a breathtaking view from there as we looked around only to see snow-clad peaks and lush green meadows. At the end of the day the group chose to bring out their hunter-gatherer selves and went out to gather wood for a bonfire, surprisingly, we were successful in doing so and as the fire was lit, the MTR meal was warm and everyone was laughing by the fire. I believe I could call it one of my life’s best moments. On the last day, we went for our final conquest which was the beautiful *Kush Kalyan* meadow under the overpowering shadow of our most desired conquest, the *Chulhi* top. We managed to complete the trek the next day and definitely marked that week as one for the books!

-Sai Arjun

## Do you think we should have 7 day long Midterms?



335 members of the School community were polled

# The Week Gone By

Abhay Jain

As I sit by the Main Field, watching the hockey goalposts and practices return and notice the cricket season come to a close, it feels as if the second part of the term has finally kicked off following our return from a well-deserved Midterm break.

With hockey no longer having to share its space with the other sports, the season has officially begun in full swing, with captains undertaking House practices with an enthusiastic zeal. However, the Main Field in the morning is once again filled with multi-coloured vests and Doscos attempting to

fulfil the high expectations of their PT Leaders. The PT competition, now right around the corner, has called for practices day and night (quite literally!) as the School schedule seems jam-packed for the coming weeks. Speaking of the night, we have also seen the revival of play and music practices as the House bands, dance troupes and play practices fight viciously for the much-needed time and space needed for practices within the confines of their respective Houses.

Another highlight of the week was the introduction of loose sheets into the regular School System, replacing our precious notebooks. In a joint announcement between the Headmaster, Dean of Academics, and ~~Mayank~~ the Social Service Secretary, the School has

introduced a new way of saving paper. While some have accepted the changes, others have resorted to bulk ordering notebooks from the G-Store or from their homes, as they fear the worst.

To the dismay of most of us, there have been whispers around campus about a potential change that could affect our food options within our Houses, and some speculate that the good ol' combination of bread-butter toasts along with a serving of Maggi may become a rarity in the near future.

The next five weeks are set to be absolutely packed, with one event following another, and many often overlapping. So, let us plunge into the chaos of activity that is the rhythm of our School and give our best in everything we do.

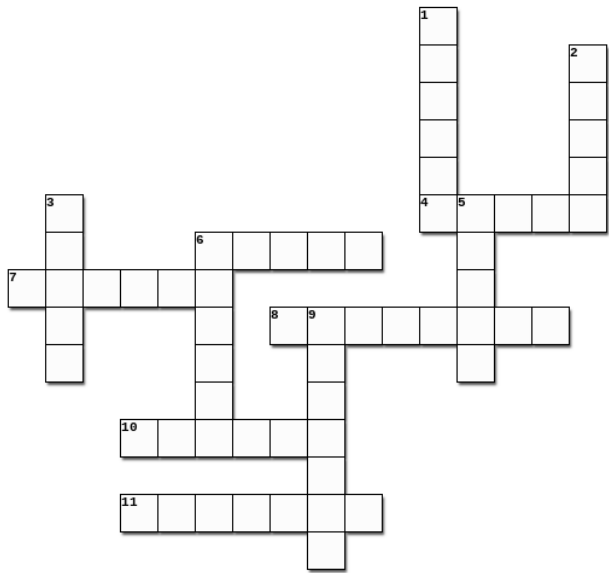
## Crossword | Indian Premier League

### Across:

- 4. The bowler with the best bowling average in IPL.
- 6. This individual was the first captain to win the IPL
- 7. Who was the man of the match in the 2022 IPL final?
- 8. This Kiwi scored the first ever century in IPL.
- 10. He is the most expensive player in the history of IPL.
- 11. He is the youngest player to win the Orange Cap.

### Down:

- 1. This Indian opener has the most fours in IPL.
- 2. The Soft Drink company that used to be the title sponsor of IPL.
- 3. This bowler has the most wickets in IPL.
- 5. He holds the record for most IPL hundreds.
- 6. This batsman has the most Orange Caps.
- 9. This team has the most IPL fairplay awards.



Across:		4. Ngidi	8. McCullum	1. Dhawan	5. Gayle
Down:		6. Warner	10. Curran	2. Pepsi	6. Warner
		7. Pandya	11. Gaikwad	3. Bravo	9. Chennai

Answers to this week's crossword.

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

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