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The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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A Guiding Force

Divit Fatehpuria reflects on the role of Seniors in the course of a Dosco's tenure in school.

In his influential work *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, John Locke introduced the world to the 'Blank Slate Theory.' This theory suggests that humans are born without any innate knowledge or pre-existing ideas, and that the five senses we possess are the only means by which we experience the world and shape our personalities. In other words, we are like empty vessels waiting to be filled with knowledge and experience.

It is intriguing to consider the different ways in which it can be applied to the school life of Doscos. We arrive at the school as clueless D-Formers, blank slates eager to make our mark, and eventually transform into "experienced" seniors responsible for imparting our wisdom to fill out these blank slates. However, I would argue that there is one batch each year that serves as a major cornerstone to the life of a Junior: the SC form.

I distinctly remember an interaction with my house captain in my B Form. He said, "People say that the number attached to you when you enter this school is very important, but I would argue that the letter attached to that number is much more important in many different ways". Upon carefully analyzing this thought, I realized that the main reason why our houses play such an important role in our lives is the uniqueness of values and traditions each

of the houses retain. And where do these values originate from? The SC form. There are multiple reasons why I have come to this conclusion. Firstly, they are the predominant representatives of the House and dictate how it operates not only on the field or in the main building,

Without strong leadership, things can quickly become chaotic and disorganized.

but also in the pastoral facilities. They provide the House with a much-needed figure of authority that brings it together and introduces each house to its unique traditions and values.

This uniqueness is also the reason why, even after twenty years of passing out from the institution, we still see Old Boys holding Inter-House tournaments and battling it out to bring glory to their respective Houses.

It is essential to acknowledge the influence of Seniors in moulding the character and behaviour of Juniors. Seniors have gained significant experience and knowledge throughout their time in School, and their guidance

can be invaluable to their Junior counterparts. The guidance and mentorship of Seniors can help Juniors navigate the challenges of school life and help them grow as individuals. The efforts made by the SC form are clearly visible by carefully observing the behaviour of other members in the House. This is also evident in the attitudes held by Juniors towards Masters and Seniors, the level of achievement the House has, and the general conduct of the entire House. If any SC former lacks interest in the House, it reflects in the behaviour of respective Juniors, and this carelessness can eventually become a tradition. The following group is then charged with changing the House and shattering these customs. I have countless examples of how entire Houses, consisting of 1/5th of the entire school community, have been adversely affected by the shortcomings of just a few of its SC formers. Similarly, I can also provide several instances of whole Houses that, because of the perseverance of just one passionate SC former, were completely changed in a matter of months. Without strong leadership, things can quickly become chaotic and disorganized. From personal experience, I confidently say that whether it is an activity like music, a sport such as hockey, or any other

(Continued on Page 3)

SMASHING BOUNDARIES

Following are the results of the Inter-House Cricket Competition:

Juniors:

- 1st: Jaipur
- 2nd: Oberoi
- 3rd Kashmir
- 4th: Hyderabad
- 5th: Tata

House Cup:

- 1st: Jaipur
- 2nd: Oberoi
- 3rd Tata
- 4th: Hyderabad
- 5th: Kashmir

Seniors:

- 1st: Jaipur and Tata
- 3rd: Hyderabad
- 4th Oberoi
- 5th: Kashmir

Congratualtions!

LISTENERS CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been listening to this week:

- Aaron Fareed: *Lithium* by Nirvana
- Ansh Kuriyal: *Can I be Him* by James Arthur
- Aaditya Agarwal: *Riptide* by Vance Joy
- Kovid Kagdee: *No Idea* by Don Toliver

“

A story is a letter that the author writes to himself, to tell himself things that he would be unable to discover otherwise.

Carlos Ruiz Zafón

THE WHO?

Who is Alain Prost?

- Hrehaan Deka: A journalist
- Rohan Taneja: A playwright
- Advay Kajaria: A Formula One driver
- Aarav Patel: A reporter
- Taarak Harjai: A singer

Alain Prost is a French retired racing driver and Formula One team owner. A four-time Formula One World Drivers’ Champion, from 1987 until 2001, he held the record for most Grand Prix victories until Michael Schumacher surpassed Prost’s total of 51 victories at the 2001 Belgian Grand Prix. In 1999, he received the World Sports Award of the Century in the motor sport category.

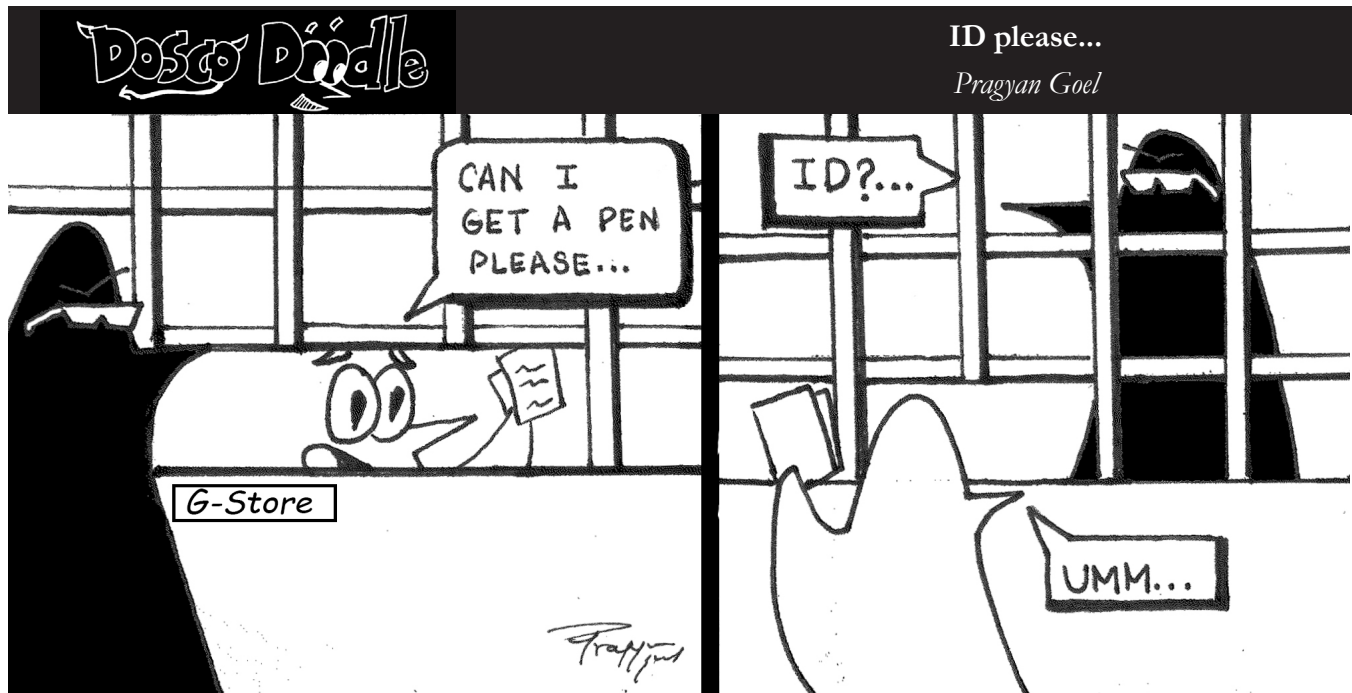
THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Hrishikesh Aiyer has been appointed as the JEDS Secretary for the academic year 2023-2024.

We wish him a fruitful tenure!

Around the World in 80 Words

The warring parties in Sudan agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire to allow foreigners to be evacuated. Over 57 bodies washed ashore the Libyan coast after two boats carrying refugees sank in the Mediterranean Sea. Prakash Singh Badal, the former Chief Minister of Punjab, died at the age of 95. Pro-Khalistan preacher Amrit Pal Singh was caught after a 35 day man-hunt. 15 points were awarded to Juventus, following the overturning of their points penalty, rendering them in Champions League contention.



(Continued from Page 1)

Inter-House event like PT, working without a SC former for any house is the same as not working at all.

To the Seniors, it is crucial for us to take responsibility and lead our respective Houses towards success. We have a unique opportunity to make a significant impact on our Juniors by providing them with the guidance and support they need to thrive. It is not enough to simply exist within our roles; we must actively work towards

creating positive change. One of the most effective ways to enact change is by doing the long-awaited work necessary to improve our Houses. This could mean anything from addressing structural issues to fostering a more inclusive and welcoming environment. By taking the initiative to make these changes, we set a positive example for our Juniors and provide them with a foundation for success.

Choosing your role models carefully is one of the most

important lessons I have learned in this School. If it hadn't been for those two Seniors, I probably wouldn't be strumming the strings of my sitar in the Auditorium every week. They helped me grow as a musician, and a person who values the essence of hard work. You must disregard your comfort zones and associate with people who you believe can bring about that change.

It is imperative that each one of you aim toward becoming that one passionate Senior who truly cares.

Concern or Carnage

Harshil Makin

As the exhausting Friday finally ended, I trudged to the House in hopes of receiving some good news on that god forsaken day. Alas, to my dismay, all I was met with was a bombardment of emails to book my PTM slots, the last thing I wanted to be reminded of. My hands trembled with each click, and every slot reserved, increased my heart rate even further. I wanted to disappear off the face of the Earth at that moment, and I would rather eat the CDH *kebhdi* or run an Extra-PT if it meant I could miss this treacherous interaction.

I tried to focus on School the next day, but my mind kept wandering to the impending doom of having to sit across from my teachers while they served all my flaws to my parents on a silver platter and ruined my perfect image for them, forever. This was the only day when having a half-day wasn't a blessing, and as my parents entered, we inched ever closer to my looming demise. Lunch was the only 'calm before the chaos' and I started re-evaluating all the questionable choices I made before this, all the catching up on sleep during class, all the assignments left abandoned in my mailbox, and even the 'pleasant' (as pleasant as can be) interactions I had with my Masters every once in a while. All of them flashed before my eyes. I let my thoughts drift through me like a river with no end to a boundless, inescapable chasm of the possible conversations that could occur.

Skip a few hours and the time had finally come, the Hunger Games for DoscOs was about to begin. I waltzed into the classroom, hoping to make it out unscathed, but knew deep down that my fate was in the hands of my teachers and parents. As I sat on the uncomfortable chair, I couldn't help but feel a mix of emotions. I uttered a quick prayer under my breath, to save me from what was to come shortly. As the meeting commenced, the teacher and I gazed at each other, as if we had a mutual understanding of what was to come. Sweat trickled down my forehead and a shiver ran down my spine. She started speaking, and I tried my

level best to maintain a neutral expression. I nodded along, pretending to understand all the educational jargon she was using. But deep down, I was clueless. I had no idea what was going on, my only focus was on making it out. Alive.

Upon the completion of the false pleasantries, the cruel part revealed itself- the report card. A place where the teachers couldn't help me, even if they wanted to, even if they tried. That single piece of white paper was the bane of my existence, furthermore, having parents expecting 8 A*s wasn't going to help the situation either. The conversation surrounding that dreaded parchment began and my heart kept sinking into an unending abyss. My parents' cold glances towards me were like bullets to the chest and all I could think of was what was to come after the meeting. The judgemental faces, the comparisons with others, and above all, the million classes I was going to be signed up for in the holidays. My life was going to turn into a study camp. The lengthy ten minutes felt like an eternity, and the report card - still on the table. The ticking of the clock only enhanced my anxiety and rather than listening to the constructive criticism and feedback, I was 'patiently' waiting for this horrifying meeting to end.

At last, the PTM drew to a close. Phew! I was honestly under the belief that, had this treacherous conference continued any longer, I would not have made it out unharmed. Well, that was one part of the job done. Now, however, came the tough part - the part where I had to come up with justifications as to why I had not performed up to the mark from an academic point of view. Well, one thing was for sure, my night out was most definitely ruined. My parents seemed unexpectedly calm after the PTM but for the four words that were uttered that issued the ultimatum for my death, "We need to talk."

WHAT IF ?

What if the Suez Canal shut down? Kanishk Bammi presents his views on an intriguing scenario.

Since its completion in 1869, the Suez Canal has been one of the world's most important water bodies; a pathway between the East and West controlled by multiple nations that have threatened to spark wars, subsequently becoming the core of global supply. The Suez Canal has no alternative and is the hub for all trading activity between places like India, China and the Middle East. In fact, the Suez Canal controls 12% of total global trade and thirty percent of daily shipping. India, in particular, is so dependent upon the Suez Canal that a shutdown of the route could possibly lead to a total collapse of the manufacturing industry because a majority of businesses depend on the discounted rates of transport made available by the Canal. So this begs the question - What if the Suez Canal shut down?



Without the Suez Canal, shipments travelling between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea would have to traverse the entire continent of Africa, adding hefty costs and substantially extending their journey times. The time saved by vessels travelling through the canal is crucial, to say the least. A ship travelling from Italy to India via the canal would roughly take nine days to complete its journey, covering a distance of about 4,400 nautical miles; while on the other hand, the same ship being made to travel around

Africa would take around three weeks to cover its journey, travelling over ten thousand nautical miles. Time and cost are only some of the problems with this route. If a ship is travelling around the Cape of Good Hope, a place nicknamed 'The Graveyard of Ships' due to its stormy weather and turbulent waters it certainly poses a problem for shipping companies. There is also the additional risk of pirates on the West Coast of Africa attacking the goods being transported which could lead to billions of dollars in losses. To put it quite simply, as it has no other alternatives and is so vital for trade, the Suez Canal is invariably the bedrock of the world economy.

Talking about India, the closure of the passage will have a domino effect on the Indian economy. Shipping costs will skyrocket, shipments will get hindered and eventually get cancelled. Moreover, due to high costs and transit times, companies in the West may deem it to be better to set up factories locally and stop importing materials from India, all of which will pressurise factories in India having a disastrous impact on the economy, with unemployment at its peak.

Countries like Sri Lanka depend on the Suez as one of their main sources of income and the canal shutting down would spell doom for Egypt, a poor nation that earns around eight billion dollars a year through transit fees. Oil supplied from countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE will have a tough time reaching their buyers in Europe, as the Suez Canal carries over one million barrels of crude oil per day and a lot of places will be left without fuel and energy.

Needless to say, a lot of other businesses will suffer greatly as well. Let us take a look at one scenario that could possibly take place between a factory in China making auto parts and a car manufacturer in Germany. Both are reliant on each other in some form and with no Suez Canal there will be production delays, and cost hikes which eventually will lead to losses, both in monetary terms and in jobs. A shutdown of the Suez Canal may as well mean a collapse of trade across many major countries and will affect everyone and everything negatively - from a factory worker in Vietnam to entire nations. To end on a happier note however, cascades over the lock gates would look quite spectacular.

भारत एक सांस्कृतिक देश

महेक कुमार

भारत एक सांस्कृतिक देश है। यहाँ लोग एक दूसरे का आदर - सम्मान करते हैं। हमें हमारे संस्कार अपने पूर्वजों से मिले हैं। भारतीय शिष्टाचार का पालन करते हैं। हमें सिखाया गया है कि हमें हमारे माता - पिता या बुजुर्गों का आदर - सम्मान करना चाहिए। हमारे देश में कई विविधताएं हैं जैसे कि अलग - अलग राज्यों में अलग-अलग प्रकार के लोग, उनकी भाषाएं अलग - अलग, उनकी वेश - भूषा एवं कई और चीज़ें हैं किन्तु हम सब साथ मिलकर रहते हैं और एक दूसरे के त्यौहार भी साथ में मानते हैं। यही भारत की संस्कृति का अभिन्न अंग है।

विश्व में भारत एक 'सांस्कृतिक महाशक्ति' के रूप में जाना जाता है, भारत एक ऐसा हीरा है जिसकी चमक मुगलों के हमले तथा २०० वर्ष तक अंग्रेज़ों की गुलामी करने पर भी कम नहीं हुई। भारत की यह संस्कृति सदियों से चली आ रही है।

इस संस्कृति के कारण ही भारत के लोगों में आत्मीयता का भाव रहता है। हम चाहे किसी भी जाति - धर्म के हों, मुसीबत के समय सभी मदद के लिए दौड़े चले जाते हैं। हमें हमारे पूर्वजों से यह ज्ञान मिला है कि कितनी भी कठिन चुनौती क्यों न हो, उसका डटकर सामना करना चाहिए। हम जानते हैं कि कोशिश करनेवालों की कभी हार नहीं होती।

अंत में मैं यही कहना चाहूंगा कि संस्कृति चाहे किसी भी धर्म या राज्य की हो हमें उसका पालन करना चाहिए। भारत की संस्कृति ही इसकी पहचान है और मुझे गर्व है कि मैं हनिदुस्तान में रहता हूँ।
सारे जहाँ से अच्छा, हनिदोस्तां हमारा ॥

“मेरा विद्यालय दूँ”

श्री चन्दन घुघत्याल

शिवालिक आंचल में बसा,
श्री एस आर दास का रचा,
जग में न्यारा, सबका प्यारा
दी दून है उत्कृष्ट हमारा ॥

ज्ञान पुंज यह ऋषिकुल जैसा,
प्रेरणाश्रोत है शिक्षा जगत का।
समग्र, बृहद पाठ्यक्रम से बच्चा,
जीवन कौशल यहाँ है सीखता,
राष्ट्र निर्माण में भी पहल करता।

शिक्षक-छात्र का रिश्ता अनुपम,
बहु संस्कृतियों का यहाँ है संगम,
सर्वधर्म समभाव लिए यह -
संस्था है सर्वोत्तम ॥

उन्नत शिक्षा की बयार बहती जहाँ,
विविधताओं का अम्बार है यहाँ,
बृहद भारत है जिसमें समाया,
ज्ञान का डंका इसने बजाया ॥

सदैव तत्पर और कर्मशील,
कला संगीत साहित्य में प्रबल,
नृत्य, नाटक, खेलकूद में अव्वल,
डोस्को हैं चांदबाग के सबल ॥

साहसिक क्रियाकलापों से जुड़ता,
सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी भी है लेता,
भरी इनमें सूझ बूझ और गूढ़ता,

नारी शक्ति

कृषिव जैस्वाल

नारी समाज का एक महत्वपूर्ण अंग है जिसके बिना समाज की कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती है। नारी में सहनशीलता, धैर्य, प्रेम, ममता और मधुर वाणी जैसे बहुत से गुण विद्यमान रहते हैं जो नारी की असली शक्ति है। यदि कोई नारी कुछ करने का दृढ़ निश्चय कर ले तो वह उस कार्य को किये बिना पीछे नहीं हटती है अर्थात् संकल्प शक्ति बहुत अधिक होती है और वह बहुत से क्षेत्रों में पुरुषों से बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन कर कर अपनी शक्ति का परिचय देती हैं।

भारतीय समाज में झाँसी की रानी, कल्पना चावला और इंदिरा गाँधी जैसी बहुत सी महिलायें रही हैं जिन्होंने समय - समय पर नारी शक्ति का परिचय दुनिया और समाज के सामने दिखाया है कि अबला नहीं, सबला है नारी। आधुनिक युग में भी महिलाओं ने अपने अधिकारों के बारे में जाना है और अपने जीवन से जुड़े निर्णय स्वयं लेने लगी हैं। आज भी महिला कोमल और मधुर ही है लेकिन उसने अपने अंदर की नारी शक्ति को जागृत किया है और अन्याय का विरोध करना शुरू किया है।

फिर भी स्थिति अभी भी बहुत बेहतरीन नहीं है आज के समय में नारी भले ही अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागृत हो गई है और उसने अपनी शक्ति पहचाना है लेकिन वह आज भी सुरक्षित नहीं है। आज भी महिलाओं को निस्सहाय समझा जाता है। पुरुषों को नारी का सम्मान करना चाहिए और उन पर इतना भी अत्याचार नहीं करना चाहिए कि उनकी सहनशीलता खत्म हो जाए और वह शक्ति का रूप ले ले। जब - जब नारी का सब्र टूटा है, तब - तब प्रलय आई है, नारी दुनिया का रूप है इसलिए नारी शक्ति सब पर भारी है, नारी से ही दुनिया सारी है।

हम सबको नारी शक्ति को प्रणाम करना चाहिए और आगे बढ़ने में उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए क्योंकि नारी के बिना समाज अधूरा होगा।

हिंदी कवि जय शंकर प्रसाद जी सही कहा है -

नारी तुम केवल श्रद्धा हो, विश्वास, रजत, नग, पग, तल में
पीयूष स्त्रोत सी बहा करो, जीवन के सुन्दर समतल में ॥

The Week Gone by

Vir Mehta

It's hard to recall a time when so much was happening within and outside the confines of our School's 72 acres, especially given its already bustling nature. While many seem eager to leave these four walls, many SCL's can be seen entering campus, gearing up to attempt their IB exams. Fear not, for the ending is in sight.

PT this week redefined what 'full swing' means, as compulsory PT practices, now officialised by the School timetable— both in the morning and the evening— have started to take their toll on the weary Doscors, who could be seen

sleepily walking onto the field every morning, with each house hoping to get those extra five minutes of practice. More and more Doscors have been spotted with the 'PT haircuts' that make us glad that we will be seeing a dearth of activities outside School as the Formatives roll around the corner. All that loss of hair just for 10 minutes of one's life...

The School seems to be settling down for a peaceful and relaxed gearing up for an action-packed end to the term, as the Seniors face threats from all sides, with academic pressure building up, while balancing various Inter-House Competitions lined up.

Furthermore, we saw a rise in approved absences, a boon from the Wellness Centre, contrasting the Doctor's fight against illness using unorthodox chants, as the

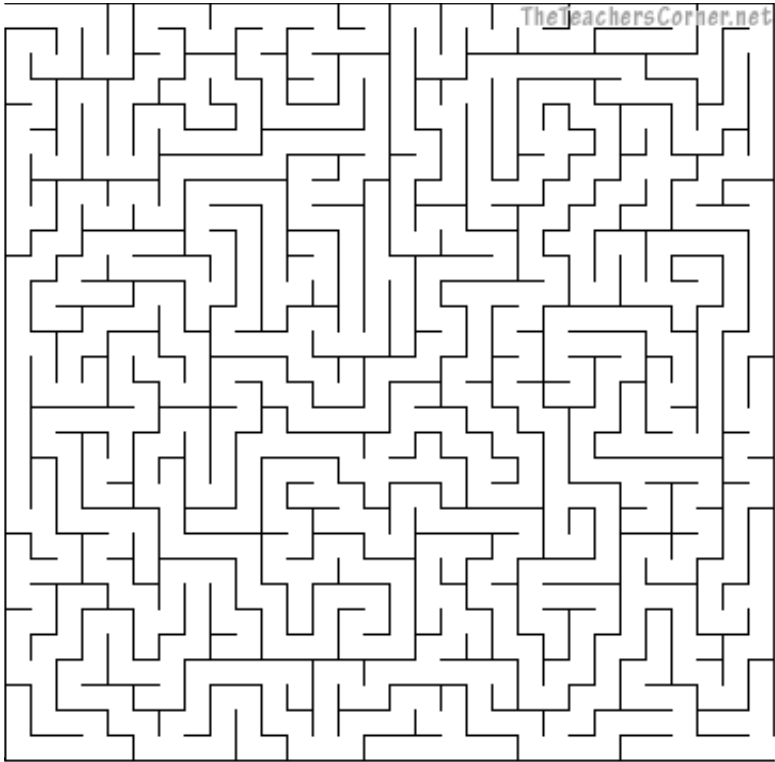
Main Building seems to be more sparsely populated than usual. This leniency from the Wellness Centre has also seemingly extended to Juniors, as week-long excuse cards have started being handed out for minor injuries. *Watna Sayam!*

Meanwhile, certain ONGOINGS outside School have led to havoc inside, where certain irrational decisions made by members of the two Blue Houses have seen the Campus miss their presence. I'm quite sure the A Form would be fuming following the cancellation of their private outings within the first three weeks of them being allowed.

But, let us brace ourselves for the tempest to come! The PTM storm hits the C and D form today. A word of advice: the order in which you visit your teachers can make for a better PTM, and a better outing!

Maze

The *Weekly* wishes the School community a very happy Earth Day!



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

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