

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

May 13, 2023 | Issue No. 2676



## MOVES LIKE JAGGER

A report on the recently-concluded Inter-House Dance Competition.

Page 3

## THE BUSY PENGUIN

A creative piece that explores the exacting life of a Dosco.

Page 5

## WEEK GONE BY

A humorous account of the events of the past week.

Page 6

## Unlocking Ingenuity

**Arav Khanal and Krishay Sutodia** *comment on the importance of General Knowledge in School.*

While the Pandemic has been long gone, and we have made our best attempts to recover, there still persists a plethora of issues that seem to cling on and never leave. The hitchhiking nature of these problems lies in the fact that however hard we try to return to where we were, there has been a shift in the overall mindset of School. Going around Campus, it is wonderful to see populated sports fields and rigorous Inter-House practices once again. However, what you do not see as much anymore are people who care about what happens beyond these four walls. The involvedness that the DoscOs have with the world around them might be ever-increasing with the advent of technology, yet what we choose to involve ourselves with is not the same — and far from what is truly necessary. General Knowledge has taken a backseat, despite such awareness being a mainstay of the School ethos.

School provides us with one of the best facilities which includes a knowledge sanctuary that is one of the largest in India. Yet it seems that the Kilachand Library is the only place with an attendance rate lower than the *First School*. While we can blame the increase in technology and preference towards e-books and digital versions for this. Numerous research has shown that flipping real pages of books

can help you understand what you are reading. When it comes to actually remembering what you are reading, you are better off going with a book than an e-book. When School provides us with a library containing a diverse genre of books, the student body should make utmost use of it instead of treating it as a neglected, desolate area.

### General Knowledge has taken a backseat, despite such awareness being a mainstay of the School ethos.

Improving the stature of readership in School will definitely help our case. Idle periods such as Rest Hour are counterproductive, where we as DoscOs would rather laze around than refresh ourselves flipping through a book. Even Kristi Marz and Marjorie Martinellie mentioned that "through reading, we become a community of shared experience; we are people who outgrow ourselves with every turn of the page, and we value the voice of texts, and refer back to them as often, as friends and experts." We fall victim to sloth, yet we claim to achieve excellence.

The School Council has put in tremendous thought and effort towards planning resolutions that can help improve reading in School. To encourage reading

in Junior Forms that will help transform it into a habit in the future, it was decided that *reading schools* would be restarted so that they can utilise a portion of their time towards sacrosanct reading, instead of whiling away their time on the computers located on the top floor of the Library. For those students who are completely lost about where to begin, the dormant reading lists would be updated and segregated Form-wise capturing the names of some of the most established novels that one should definitely get their hands upon. To provide students with the opportunity to continue reading in the Houses, House libraries would be re-initiated, and this would help instil the Common Room culture as well which currently seems to have vanished. To transform this into some kind of productive output, reflection forms have been included in the Journal Books and SSA forms which provide the students with the scope of delving deeper into the insights that have been discussed in the books. It provides them with the platform to express their stance on a particular topic or issue freely and why they might feel about it that way.

While these are just some of the ways we have been trying to encourage reading in School, it is imperative to understand that reading is something which must

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# This Week in History

**330 CE:** Emperor Constantine I declares Byzantium, present-day Istanbul, as the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, transforming it into a leading city of the world.

**1429 CE:** Due to the efforts of Joan of Arc, English troops end their siege of the French city of Orléans, a massive turning point of the Hundred Years' War between France and England.

**1502 CE:** Cristopher Columbus sets sail on his fourth and final journey from Cádiz, Spain.

**1774 CE:** Louis XVI, the last monarch of France, ascends the throne. Later, both he and his wife are beheaded during the French Revolution.

## LISTENERS CHECKLIST

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

- AVM:** *Pressure and Time* by Rival Sons
- Vidit Verma:** *kiss kiss* by Machine Gun Kelly
- Advay Gupta:** *Wanna Know* by Dave
- Anantvikram Sinh:** *Caroline* by Crash Adams
- Sumeir Bhatia:** *Glock In My Lap* by 21 Savage
- Siddhant Srivastava:** *Let the Light In* by Lana Del Rey

“

I cannot fix on the hour, or the spot, or the look, or the words, which laid the foundation. It is too long ago. I was in the middle before I knew that I had begun.

Jane Austen  
from *Pride and Prejudice*

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

- They were hiking in a tent.*
- Avi Bansode**, static mountaineering.
- Time will pass, but you will not.*
- AKM**, timeless.
- Indians are not Asians. Indians are Indians.*
- Rahul Kapri**, staunch nationalist.
- My tongue of slipped.*
- Atharv Bhargava**, evidently.
- That is too much expensive.*
- Kharanshu Pasala**, English on a budget.
- Leibniz got died.*
- SHA**, contradicting AKM.
- Play practices after Rosebowl in dinner.*
- Ayaaz Ferozi**, overworked.
- When I close my eyes, I can't see.*
- Ved Chichra**, daredevil.

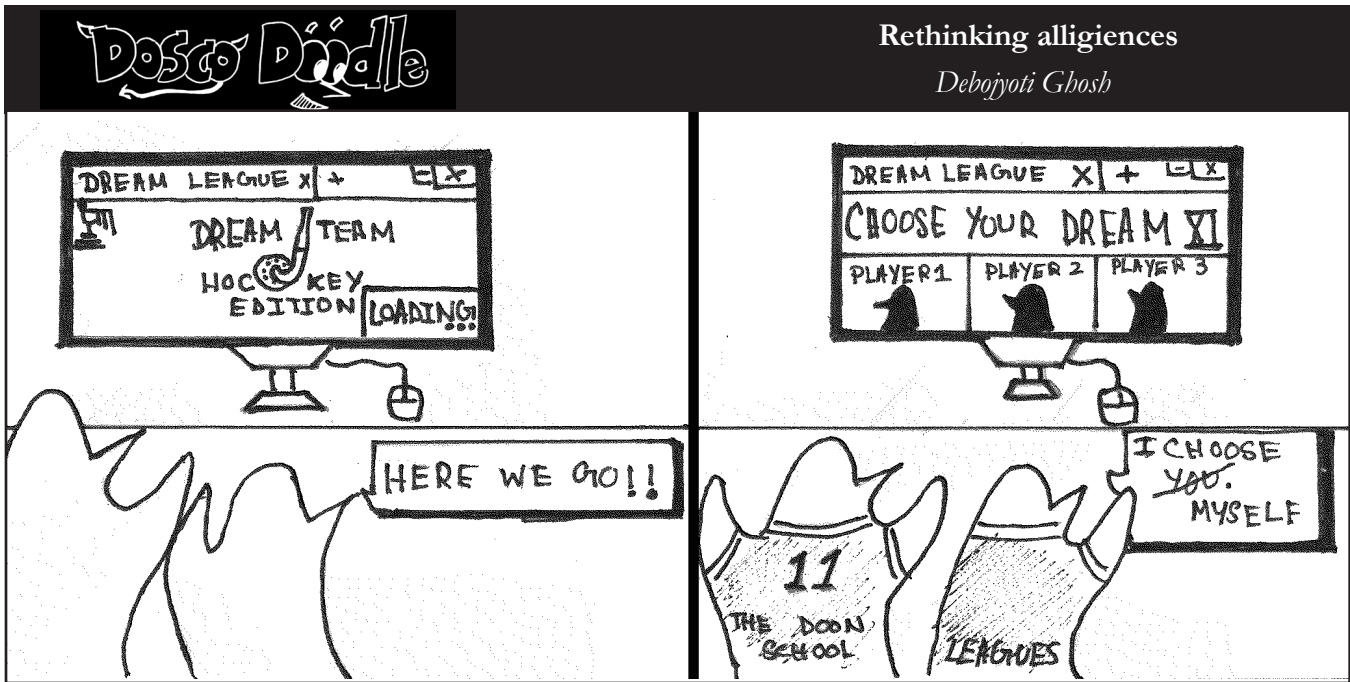
## DILIGENCE DEFINED

Eashman Sadana has been appointed as the **Library Council Secretary** for the Year 2023-2024.

We wish him a fruitful tenure!

## Around the World in 80 Words

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested on the allegations that he received land as bribes, in exchange for political favours during his time as Prime Minister. Israel continued its attacks on Gaza, in response to what it says were rockets fired by Palestinian groups. An FIR was filed against BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover over an alleged fintech fraud. Pepsi unveiled its new logo. Inter Milan beat AC Milan 2-0 in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals.



(Continued from Page 1)

be self-instilled and can't be forced upon anyone. Rather, the best we can do as a community is to take advantage of every opportunity presented to us to read, reflect, and gain knowledge. As mentioned, the best we can do is encourage the activity of reading and the key to encouragement lies within the ease of access provided. Simply put, the best way to inculcate an affinity towards anything is exposure. We encourage you, dear reader, to not let any opportunity go unutilised.

Even minor actions such as subscribing to online newsletters or scanning through headlines would help. And finally, make conversation. Everybody has their own niche, something in which they exercise their keen interest. True insight comes from knowing how we are human. Talk to your friends, talk to your teachers, enquire of your parents about what is going on back at home. It is fascinating to think that every other person has lived a life just as unique and intricate as yours. The value of their experiences, and the value of your experiences to them, cannot be quantified.

To everyone who has reached this point in the article, we implore you to read, write, listen, and create. We encourage you to discuss, and find enough matter for discussion. As we round the final corner of the Term, we end by placing trust in the individual, that long vacation months end up being fruitful, and we end by hoping that those who have managed to read thus far would have taken away something.

## Moves Like Jagger

**Savya Somani** reports on the recently-concluded Inter-House Dance Competition.

Post the COVID hiatus, last year saw the re-emergence of dance in School, encouraging many DoscOs, such as myself, to pursue the activity. This year's Inter-House Dance Competition saw the same burning fervour carried forward as all the Houses held practices anytime they could, whether it be late in the night, or right after lunch, all in a plea to perfect every movement, every formation and every beat to put up highly commendable performances.

Despite a gruelling evening with the *Afzal Khan* Basketball Tournament finals, everyone was still excited and pumped up for the event. This year's Interhouse featured a wide set of themes ranging from domestic abuse and discrimination to societal and parental pressure and even heartbreak, each one being distinct, unique and providing an immense amount of inspiration.

All the Houses put on stellar performances that left many in awe of the respective troupes, as quality was seen to have increased exponentially from last year. As a result, the competition this year remained very closely contested with each House pouring their blood, sweat and tears while preparing for the competition in a bid to claim the Cup. Every performance had many features, from breathtaking blindfold performances to perfectly choreographed solos to incredibly coordinated formations; this year, each Houses' troupes added some novel repertoire.

There was widespread engagement, last-minute planning, and ongoing, time-taking run-throughs from all Houses to put their best foot forward and perform better. The evening started off with Tata House's perfectly-choreographed presentation which focused on discrimination. Then, Oberoi House, the eventual winners — presented their breathtaking formations in their presentation focused on parental pressure.

The nostalgic production by Kashmir House, focused on the concept of love, came up next. This was followed by Jaipur House, whose theme was domestic abuse, presented in a thought-provoking manner. Last but not least, the reigning champions, Hyderabad House, presented their dance on the touching theme of heartbreak. After the stunning performances, the audience was addressed by the School Dance Captain, expressing his gratitude and by the Headmaster who talked about his experience of the first Interhouse Dance Competition that he attended. After what felt like forever, as the results were being tallied, PRY Sir announced the results, leaving many in shock, a few heartbroken, and many speechless but a certain group cheerful as the Swans emerged victorious and were crowned winners of the competition 2023. Kashmir, Tata, Hyderabad and Jaipur House emerged 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively.





## मज़दूर दिवस की वार्ता

दून स्कूल वीकली ने विद्यालय के कुछ कर्मचारियों से उनके अनुभव के बारे में वार्ता की तथा विद्यालय की कौन सी बातें ज़्यादा पसंद है, यह जानने की कोशिश की।

मैं पिछले 40 साल से इस स्कूल में काम कर रहा हूँ। मेरे दादाजी स्कूल में काम करते थे और मेरे पिता भी। मैं स्कूल में पैदा हुआ था, स्कूल में डोस्कोस द्वारा शिक्षित किया गया था और मैं यहीं बड़ा हुआ। पुराने दिनों में, दून स्कूल ब्लू क्लब के माध्यम से, कर्मचारियों के सदस्यों के लिए बनाई गई एक सोसायटी, जहाँ हम खेल खेलते थे, मज़ेदार गतिविधियाँ करते थे छात्रों के साथ बातचीत करते थे और फिल्में भी देखते थे। मैंने स्कूल के कर्मचारियों के मूल्य और भागीदारी का आनंद लिया और समय के साथ मैंने 40 से अधिक बैच के छात्रों को इस संस्थान से पास होते देखा है और उन सभी के साथ मेरी बहुत अच्छी यादें हैं। जब ओल्ड बॉयज मिलने आते हैं तो मुझे खुशी होती है।

- राजन जी (विज्ञान विभाग)

मैं पिछले 39 सालों से स्कूल में काम कर रहा हूँ। इस विद्यालय के बारे में एक बात जो मुझे पसंद है वह यह है कि यह अपनी संस्कृति या अनुशासन को खोए बिना लगातार उसके अनुकूल प्रदर्शित करते रहना। पिछले 39 वर्षों में, पाठ्यक्रम में बहुत बदलाव आया है और मास्टर्स के साथ मेरी अच्छी यादें हैं और उन्होंने हमें नए पाठ्यक्रम को अपनाने में मदद की। मैं कई मिडटर्म्स पर गया हूँ, वे सभी वास्तव में रमणीय अनुभव रहे हैं। यह दिखाता है कि कैसे हमारे जैसे कर्मचारी भी समुदाय के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं और देश भर के अन्य स्कूलों की तरह उपेक्षित नहीं हैं। मैं अक्सर 1986 की एक अनुभव को याद करता हूँ। यह स्कूल की स्वर्ण जयंती थी और पहली बार हमें कंप्यूटर मिले थे और इन कंप्यूटरों तक पहुँचने के लिये तथा इन मशीनों के प्रति सम्मान दिखाने के लिए कम्प्यूटर कक्षाओं में नंगे पैर जाते थे। ऐसे थे मेरे अनुभव लेकिन हर पल मजेदार।

- वीरेंद्र कोठारी जी (विज्ञान विभाग)

मैं 2001 से स्कूल में हूँ। मेरा अनुभव बहुत अच्छा रहा है, सभी ने मुझ पर बहुत मेहरबानी की है। मुझे अपना काम करने में बहुत मजा आता है। हरा-भरा परिसर, अच्छे शिक्षक और छात्र बहुत पसंद हैं। स्कूल बहुत अच्छी जगह है। यहाँ मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिला, अन्य मालियों से एवं बच्चों और शिक्षकों से भी। इतने सालों में मैंने स्कूल को बदलते हुए देखा है और मैं हमेशा इस स्कूल के विकास की प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

- अरविंद मौर्य जी (ग्राउंड माली)

मैं करीब 10 से 12 साल से स्कूल में हूँ। यहाँ मेरे पूरे समय के दौरान, मैंने बहुत अपनापन का अनुभव किया है और सब कुछ बहुत अच्छा रहा है। ज़िंदगी में मैं यह सब याद करूँगा और जितना भी प्यार एवं लगन मैंने इस जगह को दी है वह मुझे वापस भी मिला है। स्कूल के बारे में सबसे अच्छी बात यह है कि हर कोई समाज को वापस देता है। जहाँ भी संभव हो मैं अपना हिस्सा देने की कोशिश करता हूँ। ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि मेरी नज़र में स्कूल काम करने के लिए सबसे अच्छी जगह है।

- राकेश जी (ग्राउंड माली)

मैं 2003 से स्कूल के लिए काम कर रहा हूँ। यहाँ करीब मुझे बीस साल हो गए हैं और मुझे लगता है कि यह सबसे अच्छी जगहों में से एक है। मैं इस तथ्य का आनंद लेता हूँ कि स्कूल की नियमित दिनचर्या होती है और लड़के हमेशा सक्रिय रहते हैं। जबसे मैंने यहाँ काम करना शुरू किया ही मैं निश्चय ही कह सकता हूँ कि कोई भी जगह इसके जैसा नहीं है। मैं इसे घर जैसा समझता हूँ। जब भी मैं कुछ करता हूँ, मुझे बोझ महसूस नहीं होता क्योंकि घर मानने पर अपनापन जैसा लगता है। एक घटना जिसे मैं याद कर सकता हूँ, वह मध्यावधि पर है। जब हम पहुँचे तो देर रात हो चुकी थी और फिर भारी बर्फबारी शुरू हो गई। हमें बर्फ से जूझना पड़ा और खाना बनाना या कुछ भी करना बहुत मुश्किल था। इस एक रात ने लड़कों और हमारे बीच निकटता बढ़ा दी और इस स्कूल की यही बात मुझे बहुत पसंद है। मैं देख रहा हूँ कि स्कूल बदल रहा है और मुझे लगता है कि यह अच्छे के लिए बदल रहा है।

- महावीर जी (ओबेरॉय हाउस बियरर)

मैं 2003 से पिछले 20 वर्षों से स्कूल में काम कर रहा हूँ। यहाँ मेरा अनुभव अच्छा रहा है, इसलिए मैं यहाँ इतने लंबे समय तक रह पाया। यहाँ अपने दिनों के दौरान मैंने सबसे ज्यादा हाउस के बच्चों से सीखा है जो मेरे दोस्त जैसे हैं। बच्चों के आसपास रहना और दिन के सबसे व्यस्त घंटों में भी खुशी से उनकी सेवा करना वास्तव में अच्छा लगता है। दून स्कूल की बात अलग है, मैं हर लड़के में अनुशासन देखता हूँ जिसका पालन मेरी राय में वे स्कूल के गेट से बाहर निकलने के बाद भी करते हैं। यहाँ की संस्कृति भी कुछ अलग-सी है सीनियर और जूनियर का रिश्ता, सुबह वाली पीटी, कड़ी इंटरहाउस प्रतियोगिताएँ जिसके लिए लड़के दिन-रात तैयारी करते हैं, सुबह वाली छोटा हाज़री ऐसी कुछ चीज है हमारी स्कूल को अलग बनती है। दून स्कूल को इस तरह से डिज़ाइन किया गया है कि यह हमें एक साथ बढ़ने की अनुमति देता है। कुल मिलाकर यह स्थान किसी ज्ञान मंदिर से कम नहीं है। क्योंकि आज मज़दूर दिवस है मैं केवल यह जोड़ना चाहूँगा कि हम, स्कूल के कर्मचारी ही संस्थान बनाते हैं और इसे जीवन और महत्त्व प्रदान करते हैं।

- सुनील मौर्या जी (कश्मीर हाउस)

मैं पिछले 13 साल से इस स्कूल में काम कर रहा हूँ। मैंने बहुत से लड़कों को इन द्वारों से आते-जाते देखा है, जिन पर मैं पहरा देता हूँ। मुझे पसंद है कि यह स्कूल एक जगह के रूप में कितना स्थिर है। यह एक बहुत ही लोकप्रिय स्कूल है, जिसके लिए काम करने पर मुझे गर्व है। बच्चे जब स्कूल में प्रवेश करते हैं तो सबसे पहले मुझसे बात करते हैं और स्कूल छोड़ने के बाद सबसे अंत में। मैं भाग्यशाली हूँ कि मुझे यह सौभाग्य मिला है।

- श्याम गुरुंग जी (सिक्वोरिटी गार्ड)

मुझे पिछले 26 वर्षों से यहाँ काम करने का सौभाग्य मिला है। यह मेरे जीवन का सुखद पल रहा। मेरे पास दुख का एक पल भी नहीं है, क्योंकि मैं हमेशा यहाँ के लड़कों के साथ हँसमुख तरीके से बातचीत करता हूँ। मुझे बहुत खुशी होती है जब लड़के आते हैं और मुझसे अपने दिन के बारे में बात करते हैं, या मुझसे मेरे दिन के बारे में पूछते हैं।

- दान सिंह जी (सिक्वोरिटी गार्ड)

# The Busy Penguin

Anshul Khakhar

“How do I get so busy every term!” Such frustrated exclamations echo around our hallways with uncanny regularity. A week ago, a friend of mine too was a perpetrator of this as he lamented on how every term, despite his desperate attempts to deny all demands made of him, the roaring beast that is our School’s various commitments succeeds in robbing him of time he would rather have used to study or work on ‘cv-able’ initiatives.

The beast typically awakens after the term’s academic trials. While fatigued DoscOs give themselves a breather after the rather demanding Trials — for which they inevitably prepare at the very last moment - the beast lurks among them, snatching the head of every Dosco who mistakes the temporary rest for solace, putting himself under the illusion that he has a lot of time this term.

**It is important to recognise that productivity can’t be a trade-off for rest, but they are instead complementary.**

But to such a prospect most DoscOs cite the examples of others among us who do everything and more and therein we infer that our inability to multitask is merely the result of ‘slacking’ or incompetence.

At this point, let me clarify: Not only do I find this perspective skewed, I also contest that being busy is not so ‘black and white’. In our grading of competence or its absence, we don’t account for the fact that some students have been rigorously pursuing these activities and sports for a much longer time than the rest of us, which naturally gives them a headstart over the others.

Let me introduce to you, The Busy-ness Paradox which dictates that when we’re the average Dosco, rushing from one dreaded deadline to another, we’re in a high-octane, panicked feeling that time is scarce. As cited in the Paradox, at this time our ability to focus narrows. This is when we experience the phenomenon of ‘tunnelling’, wherein not only has research shown that our IQ drops by 10 to 15 points, but we’re also prone to concentrate on more immediate and less valued tasks. Due to this we are victims of the illusion that we are working a lot and yet reality often shows that our work has been wholly inadequate for we have missed those quintessential tasks that were at the epicentre of our ‘busyness’.

Therein we understand that the cause of our insurmountable mountain of pending work perpetually isn’t a by-product of the badge of

martyrdom that we DoscOs promptly wear in the name of an overly ambitious lifestyle. It is because we leave out the most important tasks in favour of menial work, due to tunnelling.

Contrary to our intuition, our admiration for those among us who are high achievers and yet seem to always be relaxed and in control is misguided. It is important to recognise that productivity can’t be a trade-off for rest, but they are instead complementary. It is those of us who don’t start off by overburdening ourselves that manage to accomplish the truly impactful tasks.

This is all great preaching and I hope I can find work as a self-help ‘guru’ (my IB prospects are looking quite bleak, probably because I’m a victim of the busyness paradox), but our community is a unique one, where shutting oneself away from being overburdened is hardly an option.

So, what does the average Dosco do then? I feel that the change needed over here is contrary to the axiom “be the change you want to see”. Here I feel that we as a community must change our outlook. What I mean here is that currently excellence in one’s pursuit is given less importance in comparison to the range of one’s pursuits. This is perhaps because discerning quality is harder and more subjective than counting the number of participants. But we must strive to develop a discerning eye for excellence, especially in the lesser-coveted activities of School.

If this suggestion is brought to fruition, the average Dosco will find incentive to take adequate rest and reduce stress, as ‘tunnelling’ statistically reduces one’s IQ and performance in intellectually or physically demanding pursuits whilst having negligible impact on performance, if one were to be undertaking various menial commitments. But is this reformed Chandbagh the one that allures us?

That is for you, the reader, to decide. But I imagine this new community to be one where the mood shifts from exhaustion and drowsiness to inspiration and excitement. Letting ourselves breathe, apart from yielding a better output, will allow us to live a life characterised evermore by excellence in pursuits that upcoming DoscOs will be inspired to choose.

To conclude, even though it is true that all sleep that one can grab fails to combat the majestic slumber that envelops the First School, I feel that our ‘insurmountable workload’ is more the result of the inability to prioritise and to discern the difference between quantity over quality.

# The Week Gone By

Vinesh Uniyal

The week got off to a rather brilliant note as the Lollipop Officer proudly proclaimed a day off on Monday which was met with obvious excitement and cheers, but also a strange sense of relief. This sense of relief might not last long, with a string of Inter-House Competitions and Formative Assessments piling up, but it's given us the chance to take a deep breath for one final push, for the end of the term seems closer than ever.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate our School Basketball Team, on the

momentous occasion of winning the Afzal Competition after 23 long years, as a result of their persistent and unwavering will to win. It's truly an important and remarkable milestone in School's history.

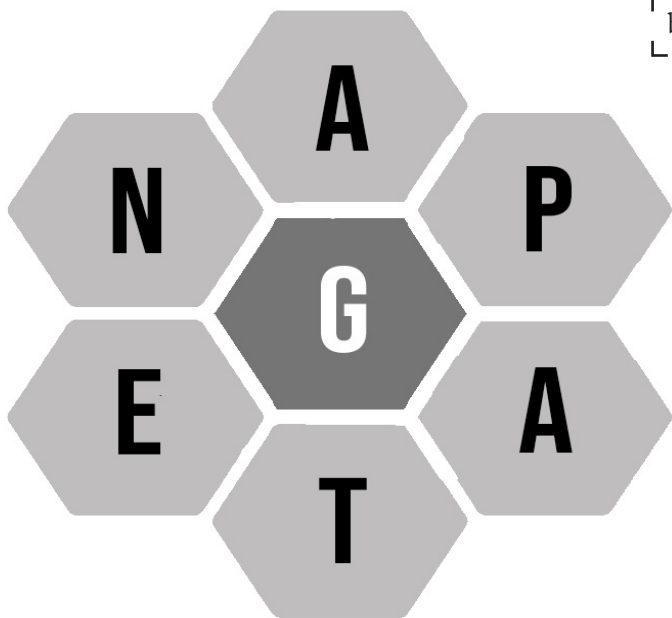
Moreover, the Main Field saw the return of the familiar sound of cheers, as the Inter-House Hockey Competition started with full fervour, bringing with it intense and nail biting games. Yet, it also brought a certain curious happening: The Doon School Fantasy League. With Students and Masters alike choosing their teams, one could not help but wonder whether they might be secretly supporting another House for the prized league points. A tip for my fellow batchmates: catch the traitor in your House and exterminate him immediately. A warning for my

dearest Juniors: you can run but you can't hide.

Yet, that wasn't the only event occupying an average Doscoc mind, as Inter-House Dance started and ended with a brilliant yet abrupt flash. The House of Gentlemen hoped for another classic, "Oh, I beg your pardon", but unfortunately, the House of Swans finally deservingly clinched the trophy.

Moreover, with the Inter-House Band right off the corner and our dreadful formative assessments too, let's all take the opportunity to take a breather this weekend and enjoy our respective House Feasts. Remember to voraciously devour the food, enjoy the company of your friends, and brace yourself for the last stride, for holidays seem to always come a week too late!

## 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. Pageant 4. Gate  
2. Gate  
3. Page

Some answers to this Weekly's Word It:

Online Edition: [www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/](http://www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/) [weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)  
All information used in the articles printed in the Weekly have been sourced from books and online open resources.



©IPSS: All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, India. Published by: Kamal Ahuja, The Doon School, Dehradun.  
Editor-in-Chief: Yashovat Nandan Senior Editors: Tarun Doss, Abhay Jain, Vinesh Uniyal Hindi Editor: Aryaveer Agarwal Associate Editors: Arav Khanal, Arjun Prakash, Vir Mehta, Vivaan Sood, Zubin Dhar Special Correspondents: Ganadhipati Aryan, Harshil Makin, Kanishk Bammi, Krish Agarwal, Krishiv Jaiswal, Pragyan Goel Correspondents: Ayaan Mittal, Hrishikesh Aiyer, Rafay Habibullah Cartoonists: Rohan Taneja, Sai Arjun, Debojyoti Ghosh Hindi Correspondents: Aditya Agrarwal, Arjun Mitra, Krtin Goel, Madhav Mehra Webmaster: Kritika Jugran Assistant Managers: Devender Mishra, Moulee Goswami, Purnima Dutta.