

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

May 4, 2024 | Issue No. 2707



SLOW BUT STEADY

Good things come to those who wait, the importance of introspection.

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THE JOYS OF TRAGEDY

In the great enigma of finding good in bad, we have got to keep moving.

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WEEK GONE BY

A cascade of competitions, save for one saving grace.

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Pursuit of Balance

Harshil Makin *analyses the paradox of holistic education in School.*

"The boys should leave Doon School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by ideas of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position." - Arthur Foot

The Doon School aims for holistic education in its aristocracy of service, for the creation of well-rounded individuals in an environment where students could thrive as a community.

This is what this quote implies: Doon aspires to be a microcosm of the world outside, aspiring to provide society with these ideal people, imbued with the quintessential traits indispensable for the 'perfect' world. And this is possible only because of the holistic education provided here.

As an S Former, I have seen and heard enough about School. In a remarkably brief period of time, I have witnessed several fundamental and substantive changes in School, some of which are yet to be fully comprehended by most in our batch. I have seen School trying to inculcate in us an appreciation of the ideas related to this 'holistic' education. But have we really imbibed this education to become the "members of an aristocracy" that School sees us as?

This institution, as time has progressed, has somewhat digressed from what it initially offered to its members. School has been stuck between providing a holistic education relevant in today's world, inclusive of all the necessary 21st century skills and providing Dosc

with the traditional practices that have continued since the dawn of School, from all the Inter-Houses and society meetings to the STAs and social service, and everything in between. In its quest to provide everything, School has eventually given so much opportunity for exploration that students, stumbling over themselves, end up bombarding their schedules with endless events, all at the same time, and somewhere in the process eroding the very idea of 'Holistic Development'.

The flurry of activities happening simultaneously and at breakneck speed has resulted in groggy faces with dark circles making their way to the academic blocks with the hope of gaining knowledge and turning into educated men. But the relentless pace of events and activities leave their minds so unbelievably blank that even ToK classes cannot invigorate them, excite them or wake them up from their eternal slumber. So, the drooling faces leave their classes just as they had entered. As long as we do not re-evaluate and redefine holistic education in the light of the changed educational landscape of our times, this scene will continue to unfold within the Main Building through the term and the terms ahead.

In the educational realm of Doon, students invariably find themselves embarking on a journey toward holistic development, whether by choice or because of the nudges of the institution's ethos. However,

this journey often resembles an intricately-woven obstacle course, where a multitude of engagements converge to shape individuals comprehensively. Inter-House events such as hockey or play unfold in tandem, followed closely by the rhythmic melodies of the band and the graceful movements of dance performances. Making this blend more complicated to navigate are Inter-School competitions, with occasional social service opportunities, while having to meet the demands of a rigorous academic schedule.

The point at which Dosc

aim for holistic growth is also when they have to simultaneously engage in all these activities in Doon. They are bound to be mired when they have to actively participate in all events concerning activities, academics and sports. However, it is realistically not possible for an individual student to do them all. Consequently, a dilemma arises where students have to either forgo certain aspects of School's holistic education or spread themselves too thin, unable to devote their full effort to any one pursuit. This dichotomy undermines the School's mission of nurturing well-rounded individuals, as students may graduate without mastering any particular discipline. In failing to fully commit, School risks falling short of its mandate to prepare students for the complexities of the

(Continued on Page 3)

This Week in History

1945 CE: Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, “Il Duce” was captured while trying to flee Italy and was executed

1991 CE: A tropical cyclone struck Bangladesh, killing an estimated 140,000 people and causing 10 million to lose their homes.

1789 CE: George Washington, the first president of the United States, was inaugurated

2011 CE: Osama bin Laden—founder of the militant Islamist organization al-Qaeda is killed by U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

THE MEN IN BLACK

Anushtup Giri and Anshul Khakhar have been awarded the **Scholars’ Blazer**.

Kudos!

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Following are the results of the **Inter-House PT competition 2024:**

Juniors:

1st: Tata

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Oberoi

5th: Jaipur

House Cup:

1st: Tata

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Oberoi

5th: Jaipur

Seniors:

1st: Tata

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Jaipur

5th: Oberoi

Well done!

“

Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.

—
Martin Luther King Jr.

READER’S CHECKLIST

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

Vivaan Arora: *Red River Rising* by Ashley Shelby

Yash Baid: *Playing It My Way* by Sachin Tendulkar

Shaaktam: *You Don’t Love Me Anymore* by Kathleen Girius

Jawad Khan: *Lord Of The Flies* by William Golding

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

If I have eyes, the world will be beautiful.

SRT, Horus himself.

I will run over a car with you.

Vedanshh Dewan, heavy driver.

I prove them our dearest, does he ever fail?

Prabhav Jain, why do we fail?

I am so happy, I will kiss you in mid-air.

Abhijit Sannamanda, on cloud nine.

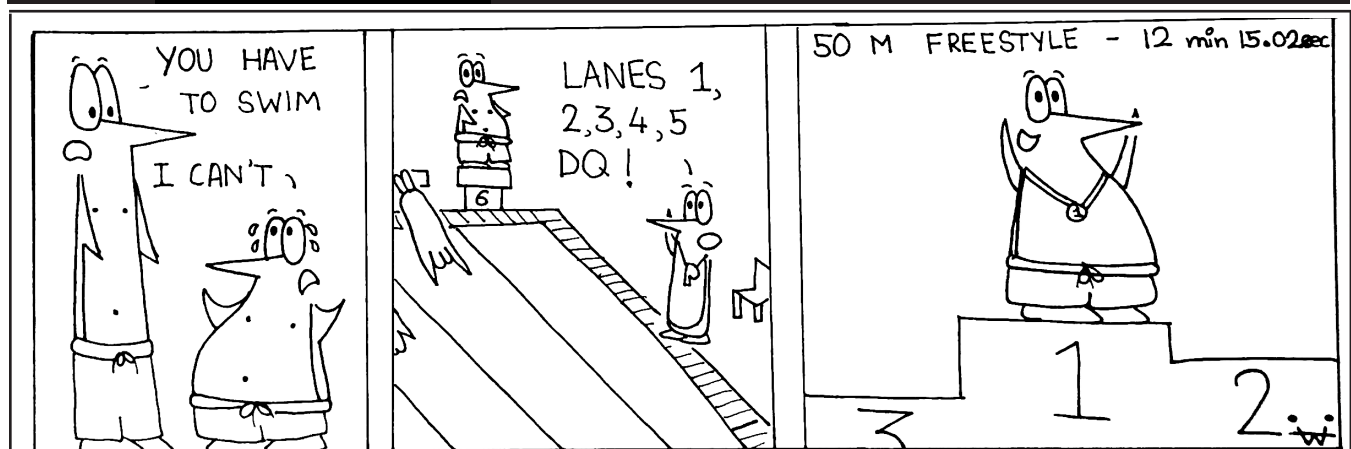
Around the World in 80 Words

Several schools in Delhi-NCR received bomb threats via email on Wednesday. Jasprit Bumrah is currently on top for the purple cap. New York City police entered Columbia University and detained pro-Palestinian protesters. US newspapers sued OpenAI for copyright infringement over AI training. Leaders plea for allowing arrested politicians to campaign virtually. Oil prices fall for a third consecutive day as Middle East ceasefire hopes rise. UNICEF highlights 40 per cent rise in children killed this year in the Ukraine war

Dosco Doodle

Breaking Records

Reyansh Agarnal



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world beyond its gates.

Whether it be School or its students, either way, the future of both is in the hands of this precarious schedule, the single document that can decide whether or not a person receives the holistic education they entered this school for. Choice exists, and a person can master a

thing or two, but then that defeats the purpose of holistic education.

On the other hand, even if a way to achieve this is found, a Dosco may even be ostracised in their House for not participating in activities that a Dosco should 'typically' participate in. He is taken as a slack for not being 'committed enough' to his House. With obstacles looming

from every direction, the necessity for solutions become increasingly evident. Change becomes imperative. As a student, my role is limited to providing observations and opinions on the current state of affairs, while fervently hoping for positive outcomes.

The Observer Report

Ayaan Mittal provides an overview of the discussions that took place in the recent School Council meeting.

The first agenda proposed was 'A review of the Toyes', whereby analysis was drawn from the Google form circulated within the School community earlier, so that the School Council would be able to identify the problems with the Toyes. It was decided that Toyes needed to be remodelled to have more desk space, warmer lighting, a soft board, better chairs, and a bigger storage space. As the new chairs had already been ordered by the administration team, the Toye desks were addressed more specifically. A few sample Toyes, meeting all these criteria, had been built by the workshop and placed in Tata House already. If accepted by all, the design would be replicated and supplied to the rest of the Houses. It was also clarified that 'parity' implies that the quality of the desks will be standardised and not the desks themselves, as different Houses have different room sizes and configurations, thus requiring slightly different designs.

It was unanimously agreed by the Council that there is a designated time for everything in School, and that sports should not intrude into Activities time and vice versa...

The second agenda put forth before the School Council was 'Sports facilities should be closed during Activities time.' It was unanimously agreed by the Council that there is a designated time for everything in School, and that sports should not intrude into Activities time and vice versa, but it was also established that the closing of sports facilities would not be the best way to achieve this. The School Captain suggested instead that there should be a change to the School's schedule. In this proposal, the Students would be going for their activities directly

after lunch for an hour, followed by the Rest Hour and then Sports time. This would not only ensure uninterrupted Activity and Sports time but would also encourage more participation in Activities. The School Council agreed with this suggestion, and it was decided that this new schedule will be tried and tested in the next term.

In this proposal, the Students would be going for their activities directly after lunch for an hour. This would be followed by the Rest Hour and then the Sports time.

The third agenda for the meeting was 'The creation of a timetable for classrooms'. It was proposed that Students in their Study Schools as well as Masters without their own classrooms do not know which classrooms are free, leading to their movement around the Main Building and/or the overcrowding and subsequent disruption of academic spaces like the RC and Library. It was agreed by the Council that a timetable for the classrooms would be made and put up on the notice boards, the work for which is already underway, as pointed out by the Dean of Academics. It was also agreed that Students can be made aware of more designated academic spaces around School like the seating area adjacent to the library and the AV Room.

Editor's Note:

The official minutes of the School Council meeting that took place Thursday, 25th April, will be circulated by the Secretary.

This article is an informal account of the meeting.

Slow and Steady

Aaron Fareed discusses the impact of introspection and consistency in School.

“In particular, consistency requires that as the dataset size increases, the outcome of the procedure approaches the correct outcome.” (Consistency in Statistics: *Wikipedia*)

Many of us Doscos tend to prioritise sports and activities over our academics, as attaining recognition and respect by participating in physical sports is often far easier than unglamorous toiling in isolation in the *Toye*. But when the exam fever catches on, an enormous amount of stress sets in, resulting in most Doscos underperforming. Why is our potential not proportionate to our performance when it comes to the academics?

The Doon School is acknowledged as a ‘Crucible of Character’ with alumni graduating with diverse talents and interests whom the young Dosco idolises. “What a stud!” is the ultimate stamp of approval from the average Dosco.

The four essays of Arthur Foot concisely capture what a consistent Doscos’ journey should be from the age of 14 to 18, reminding Doscos that ‘less is more’, meaning that you are more likely to do better if you focus on your few chosen activities, rather than spreading ourselves too thin over a large number of activities. We all aspire to have our legacy etched on these hallowed walls, fast transitioning into the classic Jack of all Trades. But the moot question is: while Jack of All Trades is great, is the tag ‘Master of None’ acceptable?

While ‘Master of All’ remains a lofty ambition, what we can do is combine the two and be exceptional. Look at the ‘Proficiency Cup’ board, mounted proudly outside the Headmaster’s office. Those Doscos were right here on this Campus. They wrote the same entrance exam, gave the same interview, and finally enrolled here as Dosco. They were just like you and me, but their consistent effort set them apart. They were first off the starting block and maintained the intensity and consistency of their sprint to the finish line. Their achievements should inspire us to strive for consistency in our own journey.

Over five years, I have noticed that every student in School has the potential to excel academically. That same student who barely passed his exams subsequently decided to study consistently for just two months and ranked among the toppers. Incentives like the Scholars’ Blazer keep Doscos motivated to be more academically oriented, but what about the rest? Each one of us has the potential to be a pillar of academic excellence. We are not just bricks in the wall, but the foundation of our academic community.

Mostly, those who fail to do well in academics are often demotivated and perform even worse the next time. And the cycle continues. Soon, they start believing that they are incapable of excelling. However, in order to perform well, one will have to have a steady start, just like those Double-Blazer Doscos. Next, create a plan and schedule which will have to be followed. This is called planning ahead. We must ensure that we follow

our plan religiously by being organised and disciplined. Maintaining the intensity will make our future less elusive and more plausible. You create the future you wish to see by choosing to be consistent.

So, how can we be efficient in being consistent? Efficiency vs Effectiveness: As Peter Drucker, the *Management Guru*, aptly said, “Efficiency is doing things right. Effectiveness is doing the right things.”

It is truly up to us as individuals to choose the path we choose to tread. Each one of us has distinct capabilities. The deciding factor is to follow our plan religiously. The more we practice, the better that skill becomes rooted in our muscle memory. Whatever goal it may be, if we consistently follow our planned schedule honestly for two weeks, we will find ourselves adapting to the schedule, which initially felt overwhelming.

After that, we need to take some time out to plan an efficient schedule for our needs. Remember, Doscos, before deciding our goal, we must conduct a self-introspection exercise to value our worth. When we realise our worth, we will be better prepared mentally to aim for our goal. It is important to not be unrealistic about our aspirations — disappointments chip away at one’s motivation if your expectations do not meet reality. But setting realistic goals does not translate to settling for less. It means we are being practical and setting ourselves up for success. Once these goals are achieved, they will fuel our journey towards the next one. Rome wasn’t built in a day, but the Romans *were* laying bricks every hour.

Also, the strategy of consistency should resonate throughout School; each individual must recognise the importance of this semantic. The best way to ensure this is for one Dosco to practice consistency. This practice will soon spread from one Dosco to another, and without a sudden change, this strategy will thrive subconsciously in the community whilst producing remarkable results. We do not need hundreds doing this job imperfectly; we just need a few doing it flawlessly.

Lastly, we must be patient and forgiving to ourselves. This process does not bring overnight success. If we trust the process, results will follow. The process might take a toll on us mentally, but after a month of consistency, we will stand out. And if we ever feel like we are burning out, we must take a break. Sleep and rejuvenate. Science has consistently proven that getting healthy sleep will help us retain information.

To quote Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson, “Success isn’t always about greatness. It’s about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.” Consistency is critical, and waiting for inspiration is not an option.

The Joy of Tragedy

Krishiv Jaiswal *unravels the essence of tragedy.*

The mere fact that tragic literature exists and people want to view and read them raises a paradox. It is standard for people to try to stay away from unpleasant feelings, yet, literature, theatre, and film have consistently found great meaning in the exploration of negative emotions. The term “catharsis” represents this exact process of getting rid of intense or suppressed emotions and finding relief from it. Thus, the solution to the tragedy conundrum could be even more paradoxical in nature: it is because we find satisfaction in witnessing tragic narratives. If you have ever watched a tearjerker of a movie and felt better afterward, then you have had a fair share of this emotional catharsis. Well, there is something about the audience experiencing the ‘tragic trip’ that creates a socially sound setting for emotional exploration, also making it easier for these feelings to be expressed.

Interestingly, the baffling idea of writing this article was sparked by the rather intriguing term I came across — ‘disasterclass’ — while stalking the comments on Chelsea Football Club’s official social media handle (well, of course, the situation

calls for it!). But, this pushed me to question why football fans restlessly stay awake at three in the morning to watch their ‘disasterclass’ clubs. Maybe D.H. Lawrence was right all along in that “Tragedy is like strong acid; it dissolves away all but the very gold of truth.” You see, people have their attention hooked to the screen on matchday because it marks a point where fans may judge the club’s progress with bleak modesty, and even though it might not be nice, it offers us perspective; the ability to think with clarity. This is another reason why tragedy is so pivotal in our lives, and this School and our choices are unconsciously always working towards making us more perceptive.

I have had very few memories where a handful of small strangers gather and bond so quickly in a place always so action-packed, tense and competitive, and I suspect it only happens once in a lifetime before we dismiss them as trivial. Life could have turned out any which way and each way, in reality, comes with its own set of inconveniences. Pondering on that fact, I am grateful that I am a part of this ‘tragedy’ and that these memories feel important, permanent, and lovely, for now at least.

The Truth Of Life

Chitransh Gulati

In the universe there is only planet known as earth,
which gave us birth.

Tall green structures which give us oxygen: the tree,
if they do so much they shall be also free.

By cutting trees we increase global warming,
slowly the siren of the end of the world is alarming.

Although having money, people greed,
what about those who don’t have any, and they
need?

People try to act kind,
but they have something fishy going on in their
mind.

People don’t finish food, and they waste,
but what about those who don’t even get a bite to
even taste.

People releasing chemicals from factories,
damaging the animals, going to the sea,
people don’t finish fighting, they don’t even see

People think this all is very little,
but the truth of life is way, way, bitter.



The Week Gone By

Arav Khanal

The Dascos strive for competition, and the only way to sate their appetite is to wear them down until they cannot ask for any more.

'Tis a grim way to summarise this week, isn't it? I'd make a joke about rest and the wicked but for the sake of repetition — I won't. The onslaught of involuntary sleepless nights has finally come to an end for most as we started the month off with a bang. Sports are happening, activities are happening, and at least the attempt to study is happening (we all know how that turns out). So, dear readers, instead of running your eyes through my fluff as usual, how about we actually recount the week?

1. Truly exemplifying academic excellence and the integrity of the third school, Monday's Assembly awarded our Sc Leavers Marker Cups and blazers for their valiant fight against the same activity tide we face now, and the ability to come out as the best in their subjects.

2. It was only Tuesday when we realised that the School desperately needed some time off, and as the routine ran full swing, hope remained of respite coming soon in the future.

3. Wednesday's Assembly marked a change in tone. The excitement over the shiny trophies won by the badminton team were perhaps overshadowed by the delight of a Headmaster's day off on Thursday. After all the formalities, the School Captain's warning address foresaw the next three nights to come, starting that very day as the pillowman and the bear went in search of Maya — enjoyably setting

standards for the rest to follow.

4. *Thursday* was relaxed... relatively. Dance troupes danced, stage committees staged, and people peopled slept. As for *Thursnight*, it went on with much the same rigour as *The Real Inspector Hound* went frantically guessing for a Clue to who would win the Inter-House One Act Play competition.

5. Then came back classes, to everyone's dismay, with Friday night's dancing returning the same air of excitement and tension of competition as did the previous two days.

To everyone, I bid you the best of luck ahead, this term will have a busy end, and at this point holidays always come who knows how late. Until next time!

Sudoku

			2			9		8
3	9	7			8			
		5		7	9	3		6
		2			1	7		
1		4		3		2		5
	3			2	5			4
		9		1	7	4		
7	5		3			8	9	
8					2		6	7

Source: <https://www.theteacherscorner.net/>

Key:

7	9	1	2	6	5	3	4	8
2	6	8	4	6	3	1	5	7
3	5	4	7	1	8	6	2	9
4	1	6	5	2	7	8	3	6
5	8	2	6	3	6	4	7	1
9	3	7	1	8	4	2	5	6
6	3	4	6	7	1	5	8	2
3	6	7	6	4	8	5	2	1
8	7	9	3	5	2	6	1	4

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/ weekly@doonschool.com



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