Camaraderie or Curriculum?

Ganadhipati Aryan and Krish Agrawal explore the relevance of boarding schools today.

This publication often critiques/discusses our School at length, we often forget that these issues probably aren’t unique to Chandbagh. After all, we aren’t the only boarding school out there, are we?

From my still-developing perspective on this matter, every school has its priorities. Some completely academic, some holistic. For traditional boarding schools, it’s the latter — for some others, it’s the former. But the fundamental tenet of every boarding school remains the same — a place of boarding, a place to study, and a place to play. But education is a dynamic landscape, and boarding schools often seem like a fixture of the past.

Thus the question: Are boarding schools as a concept still relevant in this day and age? Like most things, there are two sides to this coin. The primary argument that boarding schools rely on are the social aspects of ‘the boarding school education’. The friendships that you forge last a lifetime, and the tough times will make you resilient.

However, in the case of most boarding schools like ours, there are also certain detrimental aspects. Your interaction with the opposite sex comes to a screeching halt for a little under six years, barring a few Socials in between. Not very enriching if you ask me. Then you have the academic aspect of this argument. A few decades ago, boarding schools served as educational hubs when most towns and cities did not possess the educational infrastructure that parents wished for. Today, barring smaller towns, that is not the case. Most boarding schools do not offer anything special in terms of instruction, or curricula. In those cases, why don’t you stay at home and relax?

If boarding schools want to survive today’s competitive education environment, they have to reevaluate their priorities. This means reassessing how academic rigor and extracurricular activities — sports in particular — are balanced.

To effectively compete with top-notch day schools, the focus should be shifted to a model that is more in line with modern teaching methods seen in many institutions. This entails implementing a structure in which leadership appointments and sports competitions are subordinated to academic pursuits. Sports can still play a significant role in education, but they shouldn’t take away from the main objective of encouraging academic success.

For alumni who have gone through the system, sending their wards back to boarding school is often a no-brainer; but for new parents, the question is a lot more complicated. While camaraderie and brotherhood are appealing, unless one has first-hand experience, it holds no tangible value in the minds of many. At the risk of generalising far too much, education in the Indian society is considered simply as a means to an end, with all these extracurriculars and sports considered to be mere supplements. The system values pure academic aptitude over any other factor. Apart from a smaller segment of the populace, the value of what a ‘boarding school education’ entails specifically is severely misunderstood.

So why did we choose a boarding school, knowing full well the challenges it presents? Personally, we didn’t want to spend our time trapped within four walls of our homes (something which the Pandemic helped us realise), and I knew that restricting myself to just books for the final years of my schooling was a bleak prospect. For others, joining boarding school was a necessity; for yet others, it might have been a whim after passing the entrance. Needless to say, a majority of us here probably don’t regret our decisions, so maybe choosing boarding school was the correct choice.

As one navigates through life, it becomes clear that the decision to attend boarding school is not to be taken lightly. It necessitates careful assessment of not only the immediate rewards post-high school but also the long-term
Around the World in 80 Words

Pro-Palestinian protests across universities broke out globally, sparking clashes and arrests. The Met Gala took place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The Supreme Court extended the pre-trial detention of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal until May 20. The launch of Boeing's first spacecraft, the Boeing Starliner, which was set to take astronaut Sunita Williams to space for a third time, was called off due to a valve issue. Manchester United lost 4-0 to Crystal Palace.

Who is Yuki Tsunoda?

Yuki Tsunoda is a Japanese race car driver currently competing in Formula One. He was the 2018 Japanese F4 champion. He finished third in the 2020 Formula 2 Championship and made his Formula One debut in 2021 for AlphaTauri.

Unquotable Quotes

If men have histones in DNA, do women have herstones?
Viraj Rastogi, gender-inclusive.

Where are my eyes?
SRT, looking for them.

Red is not red enough.
Sagnik Biswas, colour-conscious.

My biggest accomplishments include my mistakes.
Prabhav Jain, suffering from success.

People tree cut, my heart fall.
Abir Garg, falling for the environment.

1821 CE: Napoleon Bonaparte dies in exile on the island of Saint Helena.
1886 CE: Coca-Cola is made available to the public at Jacob’s Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia.
1937 CE: The German passenger airship Hindenburg catches fire and is destroyed during its attempt to dock in New Jersey.
1945 CE: Germany surrenders unconditionally to the Allies in France, marking the end of World War II in Europe.
1998 CE: India successfully tests nuclear weapons in Rajasthan, leading to sanctions.

Reader's Checklist

What members of the School community have been reading this week:
Phongang Buchem: *Chainsaw Man* 14 by Tatsuki Fujimoto
Yuvaan Jalan: *Arthashastra* by Chanakya
Ayaan Adeeb: *The Godfather* by Mario Puzio

Listener's Checklist

What members of the School community have been listening to this week:
Samarth Pundeer: *The Summoning* by Sleep Token
Abhijit Sanamanda: *Roar* by Katy Perry
Loechin Phangcho: *Gods* by Sleep Token
Aprameya Gulati: *Piano Man* by Billy Joel
Pange Buchem: *Drops of Jupiter* by Train

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.
— Mahatma Gandhi

Scales of Justice

Yuvaan Todi

All scales are made equal...

But some scales are more equal than others...

Ha ha...
Mosquitoes, Murder, and Mayhem

Omar Malik pens down his thoughts regarding the recently concluded Inter-House One Act Play.

With the last month being all about utilising each and every second of our invaluable one hour of Rose Bowl rehearsals, modulating and projecting our voices at the same time, ensuring all props were placed properly and that we were following our cues on time, the Inter-House One Act Play has been nothing short of a memorable experience.

Being continually vexed by mosquitos, Doscos still managed to scamper to the majestic amphitheatre to witness the final performances; a result of the long nights spent rehearsing by each Houses’ cast and crew. We were up for a unique start, with the Nizams presenting a dark comedy aptly titled The Pillowman. Through a horrifying tale of murder, the production certainly was successful in leaving the audience with a sense of forboding.

Following that, Oberoi House presented a scintillating act, as ‘The Bear’ was conflicted between his misogynistic ideals and his untameable love for the widow in black. We still don’t know whether to be a lover or a lender? As for the final performance of the evening, the audience was treated to an absolutely thrilling experience. Comically unveiling the harsh reality of the media, ‘Maya’ and ‘Punditji’ from the House of Steel revealed how people may sometimes not be as ‘true as steel’.

Even though we walked away from the Rose Bowl after that, our hearts and minds were still deeply rooted in our seats, as increasing anticipation and anxiety took over and made for yet another sleepless night. It’s also worth highlighting, for the record, that the Headmaster’s Day off really did help make a difference in next day’s performances. The Eagles seemed to have soared high and the Gentlemen appeared even more energetic since their last rehearsal. Nevertheless, Day 2 still seemed to be blanketed with mysteries as both strived to use a ‘Clue’ to find the ‘Real Inspector Hound’. Both attempted to answer the moot question: Who committed the murder?

Now that it’s all over, I wish it wasn’t. This being my first experience in theatre, I am absolutely overjoyed that it did happen. The preparation for this Inter-House provided me with the opportunity to indulge in an extraordinarily magical experience. Every night, I was transported into my character, priding myself with its behaviour, celebrating its flaws and embracing it with open arms. To put it simply, I spent time within my character understanding its needs to cater to them. I felt that there was room for a lot of improvement, so my heart aches to perform just once more, and perfect it. But perhaps the learning lies in that; being able to put up a performance after which there are no regrets of any sort.
Turning a New Leaf

Yash Dongre and Reyansh Agarwal comment on the Eco-Bricks in School.

Be young, be free, but be responsible for the globe and its people. We see media outlets throwing around the phrase “You can make a difference”, but what really would you classify as meaningful change? It seems many of us have been keeping our motivation idle — but it is simpler than one would think to truly make a difference. As two people involved in the eco-brick project, we can at least say that we are happy with our service, and while we are not in much of a position to talk about other initiatives in School, through our own experience we can shed light on one of the many ways one can leave a mark on this place.

It is the little things we take pride in. For example, when people take a keen interest in the eco-brick bench which we have laid outside CDH. While it seems like something inconsequential, how much convenience have we provided to the numerous Doscos who frequently sit on that bench? The eco-brick project has grown exponentially since its inception in the 2022 Founder’s Day Celebrations. What seemed to be a small and neat project for exhibition evolved into a large and hidden undertaking in School.

Normally, these 18.4 kg of plastic would end up rotting in landfills or being incinerated along with mounds of hazardous waste...

Collaborating with the Houses and across the School, approximately 18.4 kilograms of plastic, including tuck wrappers and bottles, have been disposed of carefully and sustainably. Normally, these 18.4 kg of plastic would end up rotting in landfills or being incinerated along with mounds of hazardous waste producing harmful substances such as carbon monoxide and methane. We thank the Housemasters and Dames for ensuring strict segregation during ‘night cafe’ distribution and otherwise, but here we must also thank the community for their responsible disposal of waste into the correct provided bins. An eco-brick lasts for ages, longer than the invincible plastics in the environment, and will always serve a purpose, unlike their deadly castaway former selves.

While fundamentally the eco-brick project is straightforward, it required a good amount of time for us to consider and actualise. It was all a cakewalk from then on, just going to show it is not too difficult to make a difference. We collect plastic bottles from House feasts and tutorial treats, measuring a clunky two litres each, while also collecting the dreadful multilayered plastics from all Houses.

After collection, we start with the main process. The plastic is sliced and shredded into thin layers, making it easier to fill the plastic bottles without compromising their structural integrity by cutting openings, which is pushed firmly through a rod in a highly dense and compressed fashion. This process continues until the bottle is completely stuffed with plastic and is as hard as a brick; you would be surprised to hold it! In fact, we even step on top the bricks after they are made as a strength test!

It is here where we encourage the School community to continue to actively participate in this project despite time constraints and greater commitments — the little acts, like we mentioned, are what bring about real change. We need to indulge in these small steps not only for the sake of sustainability or any other credits but also to enhance individual growth and skill-making, shaping us to become a part of the ‘Aristocracy of Service.’ Such projects not only help the School community follow the concept of sustainability but also helps us to follow up with and learn the morals and ethos the School seeks to foster within young citizens of the country. The eco-brick project has served as a testament to our School’s green philosophy, and as we move along with our busy routines, we must remember that it is these basic and minor services we can provide to our community to step forward into a better world.
Beyond Harmony

Loechin Phangcho shares his experience of the recently-concluded Band Workshop.

Last Sunday marked a remarkable day at School, as the air was filled not just with excitement but with the promise of musical exploration. Our Guitar and Band Stage Performance Workshop, directed by the renowned musician and guitarist Chandresh Kudwa, was a life-changing event that went beyond simple notes and chords.

From the moment Mr Kudwa took the stage, his passion for music radiated through every word and gesture of his. As the workshop unfolded, Mr Kudwa shared invaluable insights into the art of stage performance. From stage presence to communication with bandmates and audience engagement, he equipped us with the tools to command the stage with confidence and charisma.

In addition to honing our ensemble performance, Mr Kudwa conducted individual sectional workshops with each house band of School. During these sessions, Mr Kudwa offered tailored guidance on repertoire selection, arrangement, and performance techniques. He nurtured leadership skills and fostered camaraderie within each band, empowering us to collaborate seamlessly and achieve a shared musical vision. Furthermore, he didn't overlook the individual growth of each participant. His patient demeanor and encouraging feedback motivated us to push our boundaries and strive for excellence in every strum and pluck.

As the workshop drew to a close, I was left with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and purpose in my musical pursuits. Chandresh Kudwa had not only imparted his musical wisdom but also inspired us to continue our musical journey with passion and dedication. In retrospect, the Guitar and Band Stage Performance Workshop was more than just an event; it was a transformative experience that left an indelible mark on my musical journey. I am immensely grateful to Chandresh Kudwa and to School for providing this opportunity to explore, learn, and grow as a musician. Armed with the lessons learned and memories cherished from this unforgettable workshop, I am eager to continue honing my craft and sharing the gift of music with the world.

Teamwork to Triumph

Shiva Shamanur reports on the School's participation at Smarika held at the Welham Girls' School.

The Inter-School event, Smarika, held on the 3rd and 4th of May 2024, was an unforgettable experience which provided many learning opportunities. The Welham Girls’ School hosted this cultural festival, catering a variety of activities like both English and Hindi debates and visual arts, which our School participated in. It provided a stage for students to display their abilities and creative talent.

School won the runner-up position in two of the four art divisions. This result, which emphasises our collaborative and creative prowess, is not only a sign of teamwork and effort but also a manifestation of the nurturing atmosphere and artistic focus that School boasts of. I found the helpful tips and wise words of my accompanying Dosco, Ashima Dean, in particular, quite encouraging. The event also made evident to me the value of practice and effort.

The category I practised for, which was Lino print, I was awarded the runner-up position. However, the category I decided to participate in with no prior practice, ended with a below-average performance.

Our performance in the English debates was nothing short of exceptional. Engaging in thought-provoking discussions and presenting articulate arguments in the debates sharpened our critical thinking and oratory skills. These experiences not only showcased our abilities but also reinforced the importance of collaboration, as we worked together to bring arguments to life.

However, what truly made the event memorable was the opportunity to interact with other participants and witness their creative insight. The Smarika event served as an eye-opener, broadening our perspectives and inspiring us to push the boundaries of our creativity.

The diverse range of artistic expressions on display fostered an atmosphere of mutual learning and appreciation. The event also taught me how vastly talented my fellow students are, and of the presence of better and more skilful people all around and in every field.

The occasion provided me with an avenue for an invaluable interchange of ideas with other participants, out of which we gained integral insights into our content. I am certain that we will always look back at Smarika with fondness.
कीश्तकीारों की बीते हुए दुःख और सुंिे लोगों की आयी स्रोत से बढ़े हैं। इस से ज्यादा इसी क्षेत्र की जीवाणुओं से लगभग दो अन्य वीलाम का प्रभाव है।

इस पाठ के बारे में बांट हैं और उनकी प्रायोगिक क्षेत्र है। यहाँ कौशल्या और उनकी प्रशिक्षण जीवन और सुंिे बढ़े हैं।

सुंिेब और टीैैली के लोगों का प्रामाण्य व्यवास बनाने के लिए इस क्षेत्र के लोगों हिमालय की मुख्य पूर सुंिेब उनके उत्पाद जीवन है। इसे स्वभाव में पूर सुंिेब उत्पाद जीवन में आयी स्रोत से बढ़े हैं।

सुंिेब और टीैैली के लोगों का अंदर यहाँ की प्राकृतिक सुंिेब की दूरी आ है।

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अद्वातास के दिनों में पांडवों की शरण स्वतः लाखामंडल भी इस क्षेत्र से काफी नज़रबांद हैं। महाभारत पूर्ण के बाद अपने संस्कारकाल में युजीरिस्त्र जिस समस्त रोहिणी से समय गया वह पत्रकारीता भी ही की दुःख से बिल्कुल जानाने दिया जाता है। इस तरह यह गांव महाभारतकालीन मान्यताओं के लिए भी जानी जाती है।

मन में दुःख करने से पहले मन में सबसे उच्च कि क्या यहाँ दुनिया की पूजा होती है? इस स्थल का हमारे कई स्वतंत्र लोगों से पूछा। इस तरह की पूजा के इतिहास को जानने की कोशिश की।

देवावल में महान योगी का मंदिर भी बना है। स्वतंत्र लोग काफी मंदिर में पुजा अर्चना आज भी करते हैं। यानी लोग दुनिया का महाभारत पूर्ण में साथ देने वाले की पूजा करते हैं। इसके पीछे जो भी कारण हो लेकिन दुनिया को देखते मानने वालों की संख्या आज भी कम नहीं है। हो सकता है उस काल में इस क्षेत्र के दुनिया की परिवेश से हो रहे हो। जब मैं यह ट्रूक के अभी गांव आयोगों के बुधकों से गांव में स्थित मंदिर के पास में पूजा करता हूँ उन्होंने मुझे बताया कि गांव में स्थित मंदिर सोमशेष भगवान का है और वे सभी शिव भी पूजा करते हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि 22 गांवों में सोमशेष भगवान को डोली में सवार किया जाता है, और यही उनके आराध्य है। मैं भी पूछा कि दुनिया मंदिर क्या है? उन्होंने दोबारा जवाब दिया कि दुनिया मंदिर भगवान की इमामशाही के पास ही था लेकिन अब वह दुनिया मंदिर भी समाहित हो गया है। दुनिया की अब कई तरह होती है।

जब नहीं प्रबंधन करने में पूजा को जगह देने और उनके मंदिर में बीज भगवान की मानने वाले नाम सुरूवात करते हैं। इसका मूल कारण उन्होंने बताया कि उन्होंने अपने बाबा मंदिर की जगह अन्य बगी लिखनी है। दुनिया की मंदिर में इसका नाम सुरूवात करने वाला है।

हर की दुःख में ट्रूक गांव स्थानीय सिंह राजा ने बताया कि दुनिया का क्षेत्र स्वतंत्र बुद्धि से बुत्ता माते थे और उनकी बीमारी का बचाना भी करते थे। बाजार में कई गांवों में सोमशेष की वीरता और राजपत्र पर स्वतंत्र भाषा में उन्होंने अपने माँ-बाप से ही सुने। भी काफी निरन्तर था कि दुनिया की पूजा अपराधी थी भले ही आज की देखी है इस बात का नकार रखता है।

ट्रूक के किंग्ज जंगल में चार की दुनियों की बाहर का काल जुकाम ने बताया कि सूर्योदय के देवता का रूप अप्रत्यक्ष निलोट, लेकिन समय के साथ यह मानना कम हो गया है। हुड़के का चारा में सूर्योदय आता है या फिर और कोई लेकिन स्वतंत्र देवता, प्रकट अवसर ही।

जब हम आयोग गांव में स्थित सोमशेष भगवान के मंदिर में दुर्गाह गये तो गांव में बताया कि आजकल भगवान सोमशेष स्वतंत्र मंदिर गांव में विश्वसनी हैं। मंदिर के पास में दो और मंदिरों को उन्होंने हमें देखने रूप बताया। इसका संकेत है कि दो स्वतंत्र रूप सूर्योदय के मंदिर हो। सुरूवातने अपराध

इस क्षेत्र में कई अपार वर्षी भी हैं। तभी आज भी लोग उसे बताया जा रहे हैं। पाच हजार साल पुरानी विश्वसनी अपार वर्षी से अपार वर्षी नहीं हैं। जिन पर किसी भी रास-भुजा पर विश्वसनी है। गांव के ही बुद्धि भी राजा परि से भी जब ज्यादा प्रभुवास ने बुध्या तो उन्होंने बताया कि राजाजों की पूजा तो सभी करते थे,
The Week
Gone By

Arjun Prakash

“When you can’t make them see the light, make them feel the heat.”

The week began with a horde of visitors on campus, as School hosted the BSAI leadership workshop for prefects in boarding schools around the country. As lectures and discussions became the Auditorium’s focal point, the Inter-House hockey competition commenced in full swing — with a record number of players being seen giving their all under the scorching sun. Amidst the relentless heat however, cries of victories and tears of joy have been quite the commodity in our sports teams, with another historic Afzals triumph adding to the double hockey surge. Our school lives are about the small moments that make it worthwhile, and those three-pointers with the entire School going wild will have a special place in our memories for time to come.

Looking at the time to come, this Sunday’s inauguratory triathlon is gearing up for a fierce battle of pull, sprint and wheel. The summer weather has forced Doscos to roll up their sleeves, and perhaps pull up their socks as well — since assessment week has caught us in the thick of a plethora of activities. Everyone seems to be running from one place to another, trying to catch a few moments of shut-eye amidst it all, but our fears of being inadequate to our house, and our ourselves even, is unknowingly pushing us to end this term on a strong note.

As one bunch of Sc-Leavers grind through their last bout with IB, the School’s ISC results proved to be a mixed bag of high highs and lower lows. All in all though, it is important to appreciate the work they’ve put in alongside our Masters, and long may their success continue beyond the confines of these walls.

Dear reader, as we head into the last two weeks of what’s been a jam-packed term, I hope today’s section offers a momentary pause — for reflection and recovery, because we all know that the last two feel like the longest few, and if you don’t believe me, check out the end of term schedule outside the DHM’s office. So grab your lemon ORS and strap in for what is going to be a rollercoaster of events, right from the Old Boys’ hockey match to the 12x25 swimming relay. Until next time!

Wordsearch | Prime Ministers

Clues:
1. This Prime Minister was assassinated by her bodyguards in 1984.
2. The first Prime Minister of India.
3. The Prime Minister who was in office during the Kargil War in 1999.
4. This Prime Minister implemented the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.
5. The holder of the office of the Prime Minister during the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
6. The shortest term was served by this Prime Minister.
7. The economic liberalization of India in 1991 is credited to this Prime Minister.
8. This Prime Minister announced the “Operation Flood” program to increase milk production.
9. This Prime Minister introduced the concept of Panchayati Raj (local self-governance) in rural India.
10. The demonetization of high-denomination currency notes in 1978 was announced and looked over by this Prime Minister.

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