

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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DOONSPEAK

A series of events lined up. Have you braced yourself for impact?

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The Cult of Melted Wax

Uday Thakran *comments on the rise of burnout in our School Community.*

Four clubs. Three deadlines. A match in the afternoon. No hours left that are your own. You see it every day — boys sprinting from one obligation to the next, eyes fixed, breath short, as if the bell were a starter pistol. Busyness here isn't a flaw; it's practically currency. But there's a moment when the same pace that built you up begins to strip you bare, when every added point on your blazer costs you more than it gives. And in a place where Seniors, teachers, and parents push you to be the "best version" of yourself at all times, you have to wonder — what's left when there's nothing left to give?

Somewhere along the way, being tired became part of people's personalities. It's not just the workload — it's the way we've turned exhaustion into proof that you're doing enough. The "perfect Dosco" image feeds into this: the student who somehow plays every sport, joins every club, nails their academics, and still has the energy to be everywhere else too. However, the simple reality is, that level of output is indescribably rare and usually comes from a mix of talent, time, and circumstances most people don't have. But because a few people manage it, everyone assumes it's possible for anyone. If you happen to

not be matching it, you must not be trying hard enough, or as we like to call it, 'slacking.'

This is where "hard work beats talent" gets thrown around, and while it sounds nice, it's unfortunately not how things always play out. If you're behind in academics, sure, giving more hours to study can pull you ahead. That's a direct trade: more time, better results. But the perfect all-rounder standard demands that you giving "more time" to every single thing you're weaker at. The problem is, there just aren't enough hours in a day to give your "all" to everything.

The cost is bigger than just feeling tired. Your brain holds on to less of what you study. Your body recovers slower. You stop enjoying things because everything feels like an obligation.

So, you begin to spread yourself thin, you sleep less, you rush from one commitment to

the next, and you still feel like you're falling short. You never get the depth of improvement you want in any one area, but the exhaustion keeps building. Rest starts to feel like laziness, and if you can't keep up, it's seen as a flaw in who you are, not a limit in how much anyone can realistically do. That's how the culture turns ambition into something that quietly chips away at people instead of driving them forward.

The cost is bigger than just feeling tired. Your brain holds on to less of what you study. Your body recovers slower. You stop enjoying things because everything feels like an obligation. Your motivation drops because nothing feels exciting anymore — everything's just another thing to get done. When every spare minute has to be justified, there's no space for the parts of life that don't look "productive" on paper.

If the idea is to keep raising the standard of what our community can do, then this system doesn't actually get us there. When most people are spread too thin to focus, you end up with a lot of surface-level achievements and fewer moments of real excellence. It's not about people being lazy — it's about the way the expectation itself is set up to

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This Week in History

1057 CE: Macbeth, King of the Scots, was killed in battle by Malcom, the eldest son of Duncan the First.

1947 CE: The Indian Independance Movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, achieves its goal, establishing a free and independent India.

1960 CE: The Republic of the Congo gains independence from France.

2021 CE: The Taliban regains control of Kabul, Afghanistan, as U.S. troops withdraw from the country.

DOMINATING DISCOURSE

A delegation comprising of students from the S and Sc Forms represented the School at the recently concluded Welham Boys’ Model United Nations Conference.

The delegation was adjudged the **Best Delegation**.

Rehhan Chadha, Pranay Gupta, Vedant Mangal, Ayaaz Ferozi and Dinanjai Singh were awarded the **Outstanding Delegate** award.

Madhav Mehra, Omar Malik, Hemant Khandelwal, Aditya Koradia, and Shaurya Beriwal were declared the **Best Delegates** of their respective committees.

Congratulations!

“

Sometimes everything has to be inscribed across the heavens so you can find the one line already written inside you. Sometimes it takes a great sky to find that first, bright, and indescribable wedge of freedom in your own heart.

—

Vince Lombardi

FICTION

In order to foster increased writing participation among the Readership, you are invited to contribute with a 50-100 word continuation to the story.

I have started to adjust to it now. The cold metal doors hum with a sadistic sort of calm, always moving, whirring. I drag myself out of Floor 643, which looked and smelled the same as 642 before it. In the beginning I screamed for hours. The tears dried, but the floors kept going. Every hour, a new white button appears, barely a millimetre wide, adding itself to the steel walls’ strange collection. Press one and the elevator moves — not up, not down, not sideways, but somewhere else entirely. The air thickens as a button appears. But it’s not white. It’s red.

-Sumer Gill

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

The shark is not killed, she is dead.

ARM, the Reaper’s left hand.

Today is the deadline, and tomorrow is the submission.

Atharva Jajodia, punctual.

IB is not a flight; it is a bus, and I will board it for you..

NAS, Head of IB Transit Affairs.

Let us wooven the tapestry.

Aditya Koradia, on his A-game.

Around the World in 80 Words

Mexico extradited 26 cartel leaders to the U.S. under a no-death-penalty deal. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear cases from Idaho and West Virginia concerning trans-athletes’ participation in school sports. Tropical Storm Erin is expected to strengthen into a Category 3 hurricane, threatening the Bahamas and Florida. Benjamin Netanyahu defended Israel’s Gaza occupation, despite condemnation from the EU, and the Arab states. The U.S. and China extended their trade truce until 10 November, avoiding immediate tariff escalations.



(Continued from page 1)

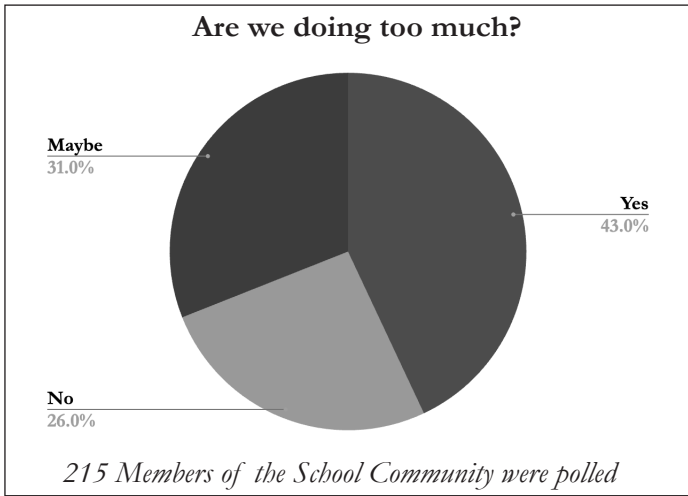
burn them out before they can reach their best work.

The problem isn't just that people burn out — it's that we've turned the burnout itself into something worth cheering

for. The boy who drags himself from one commitment to another, eyes half-shut, running on caffeine and stubbornness, is somehow seen as admirable. We treat the melted wax as proof of how brightly the candle must

have burned, forgetting that the candle's gone. Dear Reader, take that as a warning sign that you're next in line to fade out.

What does your August look like?



August has me sprinting from one commitment to another. As a delegate at DSMUN and Head of Publication for the Kamala Jeevan newsletter, my days dissolve into a blur of rehearsals, edits, and deadlines. Afternoons vanish into meetings and evenings turn into work sessions. It is a month where I am everywhere at once; everywhere but at rest. Still, I hope to look back with gratitude for the effort that those around me have poured into making these ongoing and upcoming events a success.

-Kushaagra Mittal

It's no stretch to say that hardly anyone can catch a break this month. For me, it's been crammed with a plethora of activities from every sphere of School, including DSMUN, IOQM preparations, SSDC selections, and the unrelenting academic pressure of my A Form.

-Siddhant Fatehpuria

August for me almost resembles a three-piece suit. Trying to prioritise academics, all while juggling these football wins and personal MUN alliances. Everyone is made to be an all-rounder, and somehow people are only ending up worse for it. Times are excruciatingly busy for everyone. I just wish it wasn't so close to my college applications!

-Neil Kashyap

August is whooshing by with the upcoming DSMUN, and Inter-House Football coming to an end. Also, preparation for September Assessments would start towards the end of August. August is a mix of both sports and academics.

-Swarit Chaudhary

My August is looking quite hectic: MUNs, Inter-Houses, that one extra School, are all piling up. The rain doesn't seem to be stopping any time soon. It's got the entire school begging for one more of those much needed 'rainy-days-off.'

-Uday Rana

August has been a productive but busy month for me. It has helped me increase my learning and become a better person. But, at times, it felt like I was overworking myself just due to the sheer number of Inter-House and Inter-School competitions we had this month. However, overall, I am truly enjoying the month a lot as it opened many new opportunities for me, at which I could excel.

-Samar Singh

August for me has been a month full of ups and downs. It started off with YEC with the intersting IPL Auction. Mother nature tried with all her might to wash out Inter-House Football, yet somehow, it calmed down and all matches took place with Oberoi J1 going unbeaten. DSMUN, the Chuckerbutty Debates, JEDI, and many more festivals not only make August interesting but also relaxing because of the many holidays these big events get us. August has been a very interesting month and hopefully it will continue to deliver.

-Arsh Jain

Is Saudi Arabia the Future of Football?



Aashman Agarwal

As of today, the Saudi Pro League is far from what many thought of as the Royal Family's side project. It has transformed into a genuine force in world football, with early signs of its potential visible. The arrival of elite talents such as João Félix, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Karim Benzema has not only introduced global fans to the league but also elevated the competitive and technical standards of the league, creating an environment where younger local players can improve by training alongside world-class and seasoned professionals. This flooding of talent has been backed by substantial investment from the Saudi government and Public Investment Fund, which is channelling resources into stadium renovations, modern training facilities, and the establishment of youth academies, critical infrastructure that forms the backbone of any footballing nation.

The trajectory of the Saudi Pro League resembles the early years of Major League Soccer (MLS) in the United States, which launched in 1996 after the 1994 World Cup. MLS faced similar scepticism: low homegrown talent, reliance on foreign stars for viewership, and doubts about its long-term viability. Big-name signings like David Beckham in 2007, Thierry Henry in 2010, and Zlatan Ibrahimović in 2018 helped MLS gain legitimacy, while steady investment in soccer-specific stadiums, youth academies, and local fan culture eventually transformed it into a stable, respected competition. The difference is that the Saudi League wants to cut that time in half; what MLS achieved over decades into just a few years, backed by far greater financial muscle and an existing passionate football culture, thus eliminating one of the biggest hurdles MLS faced.

With its aggressive recruitment of world-class players, infrastructure development, and strategic push for a global audience, the Saudi Pro League seems to be on the right track to rival the European leagues. What some dismiss as 'sportswashing' may, with time, prove to be one of the most ambitious football development projects in the current era.



Ayaan Adeeb

In the eyes of most football fans around the world, the so-called 'globalisation' of football to reach markets such as the Saudi Pro League is not a cause for celebration, but rather a synecdoche for everything going wrong in the modern football era.

Kickstarted by the moves of footballing superstars such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema as well as Saudi-funded groups buying significant stakes in the European clubs such as Newcastle, more high-profile transfers and a FIFA decision to host the 2030 World Cup in Saudi, it appears that the gulf nation is well on its way to being the footballing pinnacle. However, behind all the apparent sportswashing, there lies a less idealistic truth.

TV viewership is declining, stadium attendance rates are low, and a lack of homegrown talent suggests an artificiality to the footballing oasis created by the Saudi Royal Family. While little was expected from a global organization which takes its tournaments and resources wherever the money finds it (the recent Club World Cup, featuring some of the biggest names and teams, was overshadowed by political involvement and record-breakingly low attendance rates), but the strategy adopted by FIFA to swing the footballing landscape to the gulf states seems tone-deaf, especially considering the fact that entire continents such as Africa, with a much richer footballing legacy and passion for the sport, are being overlooked with regards to the development of the sport. While football is undoubtedly on the rise in Saudi, human rights issues ultimately overshadow the development of *o jogo bonito* in the nation. It appears that bringing the World Cup and footballing stars to the Gulf state mean little more than collecting another 'infinity stone', with sports such as Golf, Boxing, and Tennis already featuring as investments in the recent portfolio of the Sports Ministry. Football must go where the passion lies, to avoid becoming yet another sport which falls prey to the commercialization bug.

Exploring Entrepreneurship

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr Prithvi Tejavath, Business Head of Investments for Jupiter

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): All of us are consuming popular culture including movies, TV shows, and social media, talking about entrepreneurship, speaking about the goal of getting rich, having lots of cars, and living an easy life. Could you elaborate on that effort and whether it should be as glorified as it is now?

Mr Prithvi Tejavath (PRT): When you get into entrepreneurship the chances of success are just one percent. One percent means 99 percent failure. Most people assume they are part of that one percent. Stories of success are more popular, but they hide the work people do. I sold my company twice. The first time, my co-founder quit when we ran out of money. We were first-time entrepreneurs and didn't know how to conserve cash. We expected to raise a second round which didn't happen. I had to manage alone until we found another investor. Eight months later our venture capital firm shut down. Entrepreneurship throws challenges you're not prepared for. There are internal and external challenges, and regulatory hurdles in sectors like finance. What keeps you going is your purpose. When success is glorified, people miss the grit it takes to go through setbacks. It's important to highlight the struggle, but people don't want to hear only about the pain. Entrepreneurship is still new in India. America today has many more entrepreneurs than India. We traditionally had secure jobs and only large industrialists. The change started with companies like Infosys, showing you could build a business without massive resources or connections. Over the next ten years, as more people become entrepreneurs, the conversation will include the hardships too.

DSW: For you to continue in that business, there's a lot of passion needed. Is passion enough to build something that lasts?

PRT: These aren't different sides of a coin. Passion gets you in. It's your "why." But creating something of value is what sustains you. For example, being passionate about sport doesn't mean it will make money in India. Passion helps you start, but you need twenty years of hard work if it's not profitable yet. Entrepreneurship is like jumping off a cliff and building a parachute on the way down. There's never a perfect idea. Whether it's passion, purpose, or creating value, you still need to make a business out of it. Passion gets you in, value keeps you going, and purpose ties it all together.

DSW: Speaking about building a parachute, marking your presence can be one way to do it. There are loud people and there are those who

leave an impact through their work. In your experience, why is the latter more impactful, especially when asking for investor money or trust?

PRT: In India, with 1.4 billion people, the loudest is often heard. In Nordic or European countries, you don't need to shout to be noticed. Here, in a job interview group discussion, if you're silent, your time is up. But the most impactful aren't necessarily the loudest. To create an impact, it's about how you make people feel. People remember you because you made them feel motivated, happy, or charged up. That happens when you listen. Those who listen well, have meaningful conversations, and connect with people create the most impact. Sometimes you have to be loud, but I rarely am. I prefer making my point through listening and delivering the right content.

DSW: We have seen so many businesses starting up, with many of them failing. Can you tell us whether the product is not useful, or they are not passionate enough or simply they are chasing after success and burning out too quickly?

PRT: Burnout happens when you chase something you don't value. Most fail due to lack of perseverance. Success rarely comes immediately. Finding the right idea, timing, and people is rare. Many give up too soon. If I had quit in 2013, I wouldn't have sold my company to Urban Ladder. My co-founder quit early. I had to pay from my savings when my VC firm shut down. I stretched it to my last 8–9 thousand rupees to fly to Bangalore for the final acquisition meeting. My idea was to create an online platform for independent designers. I believed their time had come. India has many people who can make amazing products, but they need a platform. That belief kept me going. Entrepreneurship is a career. The entrepreneur I was in 2012 is very different from today because you find your strengths and manage them. There are countless reasons why businesses fail, but giving up too soon is the main one. Airbnb and Flipkart struggled to find investors for a long time. I even laughed at Flipkart's idea early on. At first, they packed books themselves and used a courier service. Many big projects aren't obvious at the start, and creating a new trend takes money, courage, and selling skills. Many entrepreneurs fail because they're bad at sales. As an entrepreneur, you're selling every day — to employees, investors, clients, everyone. If you're not good at it, find someone who is and make them your partner.

The Week Gone By

Ganadhipati Aryan

I hate to do it, but I have to start this *Week Gone By* drawing inspiration from my bathroom singing, for I truly hope ‘*August slips away like a moment in time*’. Much to the relief of the School community, rain came down hard as we entered the week, bringing a rare moment of calm and a chance for much-needed rest. We collectively reverted to the ideal wake-up time of ~~after breakfast~~ in time for breakfast.

The rain inspired a campus-wide prayer circle for a rain holiday. Unfortunately, Batman remained unmoved in his outlook, and it seems that one such holiday may have already filled our annual quota. Meals in the Dining Hall have been

seeing noticeably less enthusiastic attendance, as the damp penguin prefers the dry comfort of the Main Building or, more often, the warm bedding of the dorm. For some, this reduced dining enthusiasm was followed by not-so-pleasant mid-break encounters with Batman, resulting in a brisk pep talk and, in certain cases, the gleam of a freshly issued Yellow Card.

The Football Inter-House fixtures continued with Oberoi putting in a spirited effort in the H2, although the Eagles were blessed with the fortune of a favorable offside call. On the Junior front, the Swans managed to keep the J1 streak alive with characteristic grit. Meanwhile, DSMUN preparation reached fever pitch. The Θ€ Secretariat could be spotted pacing corridors, murmuring indecipherable codes, and making several trips for ‘quality checks’ to the *Grand Hyatt*.

The “Eight Schools” stretch has begun to feel longer than ever, with rest hour gradually dissolving into all other parts of the day. Assemblies have tested both physical and mental stamina, to the point where the 8th School could almost be considered a substitute for the third. Our minds have been further challenged by the D Form’s endless curiosity engagement questions, which, though innocent in intention, have got everyone questioning the morality of war. To my batchmates in IB, I hope this serves as some inspiration to your next essays.

As we, as a Batch, start ticking off our lasts, we can only hope we are remembered with the same fondness we all yearn for a rain-free DSMUN. Stay tough for rest is fleeting, and keep your eyes peeled for those late marks. They do add up.

Sudoku

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

The *Weekly* wishes the School Community a happy 79th Independence Day!

Answer Key:

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

<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>

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