

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
July 12, 2025 | Issue No. 2742



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On Reading

Aprameya Gulati *reflects on the repercussions of the declining culture of reading in School.*

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Reading is a foundational skill that not only supports academic development but also emotional and intellectual growth. It provides tools to process and question the world. It serves as an academic asset, and also as a personal outlet, making it helpful especially for boarding school environments. However, over the years there has been a steady decline in reading habits, as is made evident by the results of the poll the *Weekly* conducted. With increasing academic and cocurricular pressure that has come to characterise School routine, DoscOs are evidently reading less. This creates problems, especially for an institution that claims to prepare the finest students for their future. How can this occur in the absence of books to spark new thoughts, inspire discourse and nurture new thought processes?

Besides the enhancement of cognitive functions such as memory, focus, and analytical skills, reading benefits various aspects of life. This strengthens the connections between different areas of the brain.

With the rise of the internet, finding information has only become easier. This poses the question: is reading still important if information can simply be found with the click of a button? However, these search engines do not teach individuals how to think, and re-wire the brain to adapt to conveniences that render the thinking process much more inorganic. Reading is key in reducing stress and improving sleep, whereas sleep is only hindered by the prolonged exposure to screens,

which are obviously required to use a search engine.

The decline of reading in school is problematic. With students feeling the weight of responsibilities increase over the years, reading would be a beneficial stress reliever. With boarding schools such as ours being very community-oriented, the lack of reading leads to a loss of personal space for reflection. The communal nature of boarding schools also leads to less intellectual independence as reliance on group opinions and social media is on the rise, while reading leads to deep and individualistic thinking. The lack of reading leads to the loss of important academic skills such as focus, analysis and interpretation.

Reading is not only limited to books, it also includes texts such as newspapers, which the reading of has also gone through a sharp decline. Our school aims to develop well-rounded and thoughtful individuals, which is difficult to create without a culture of reading. There is a loss of cultural literacy involved, as many contemporary books provide shared cultural experiences that help students engage in deeper academic conversations.

The reasons for the decline of reading can be triangulated to a few issues. Firstly, many students prefer watching short bursts of content such as YouTube Shorts or Instagram Reels, instead of reading. The addictive nature of the algorithms of such content makes it harder to do anything else. Increased access to alternative entertainment, especially digital media makes it harder for

individuals to want to read.

Currently, many individuals do not have the patience to read a book and understand its deeper meanings and implications. Many students have an increased workload in School that only seems to get heavier each year, making it harder for them to find time out of their busy schedules to read. In schools, reading is almost always exclusively associated with schoolwork and assignments, not leisure, which draws them away from wanting to read.

It is essential for the decision-makers and leaders in our school community to spur change at grassroot levels. Toye monitors and Prefects are welcome to introduce a half hour of reading time for the Junior Forms, during seasons when academic pressure is relatively lower. Removing the 'nerd' taboo from the subject of reading and recognising its actual intellectual prowess is also essential for a Spartan community such as ours, to introduce some meaningful gradation to the field of academics as well.

The decline of reading in our school is not just preferences changing, but deeper shifts in priorities and attention. While we have access to more information than ever before, the skill to deeply engage with text is worsening. Without a culture of reading, critical thinking, empathy and reflection will continue to fade. Rebuilding a culture of reading is not only beneficial, but essential for nurturing thoughtful and well-rounded individuals capable of understanding the world around them with greater clarity and depth.

This Week in History

1497 CE: Vasco da Gama sets sail on the first direct European voyage to India.

1730 CE: An estimated magnitude 8.7 earthquake causes a tsunami that damages more than 1,000 km of Chile’s coastline.

1885 CE: Louis Pasteur administers the first successful rabies vaccine in Paris, France.

1942 CE: Anne Frank and her family are forced into hiding in Amsterdam.

1979 CE: America’s first space station, Skylab, is destroyed as it re-enters the Earth’s atmosphere over the Indian Ocean.

2006 CE: One hundred and twenty-five people are killed when an Airbus A310 passenger jet veers off the runway while landing in wet condition in Siberia.

LISTENER’S CHECKLIST

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

- Yash Baid:** *Old Money* by AP Dhillon
- Rehhan Chadha:** *Ivy* by Frank Ocean
- Hrehaan Deka:** *Homecoming* by Kanye West
- Samarth Agarwal:** *Freaking out the Neighbourhood* by Mac DeMarco
- Uday Rana:** *Feel no Ways* by Drake
- AKM:** *Heal the World* by Michael Jackson
- Jaiveer Grewal:** *Clash* by Dave

“

Anything is possible if you have the mindset and the will and desire to do it and put the time in.

—
Roger Clemens

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

- Indians have a very preservative mindset.*
- Sayyam Maroo**, stuck in a pickle.
- I am going to share a study with me in Sc Form.*
- Kridaye Mundhra**, we believe you.
- You didn’t prompted the tool.*
- NAS**, why did you redeem it?
- Myself winning best delegate.*
- Arish Talwar**, Lok Sabha delegate.

FRESH FACES

We would like to welcome Ms Rituparna Chaudhary as a **Master in the Geography Department**.

We wish her a fruitful tenure!

READER’S CHECKLIST

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

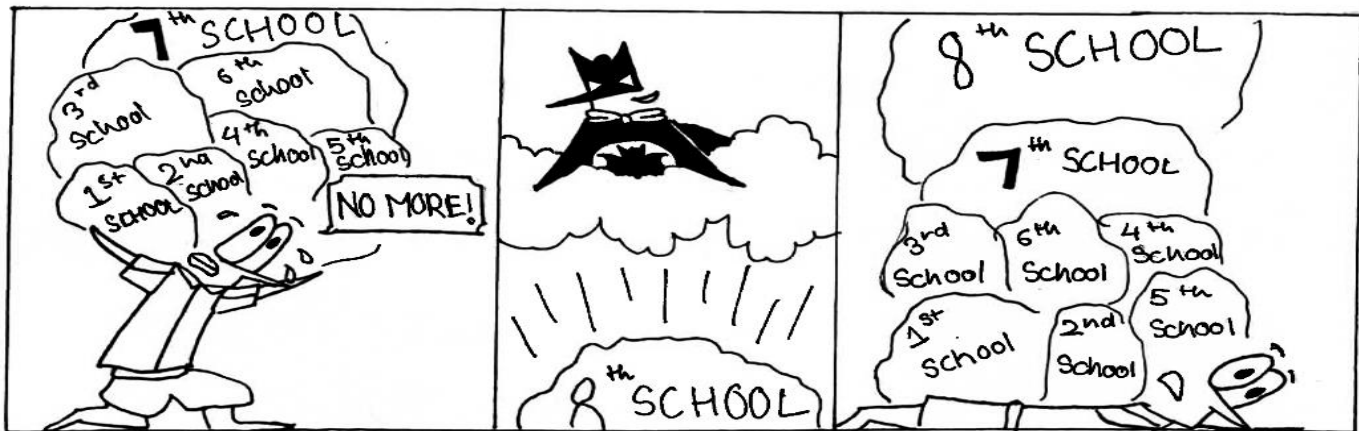
- Jai Atal:** *Homo Deus* by Yuval Harari
- Reyansh Sekhani:** *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- Vansh Nigam:** *Wonder* by RJ Palacio
- Yugveer Agarwal:** *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- Devaank Garg:** *The One Page Financial Plan* by Carl Richards
- Ritvik Agrawal:** *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

Around the World in 80 Words

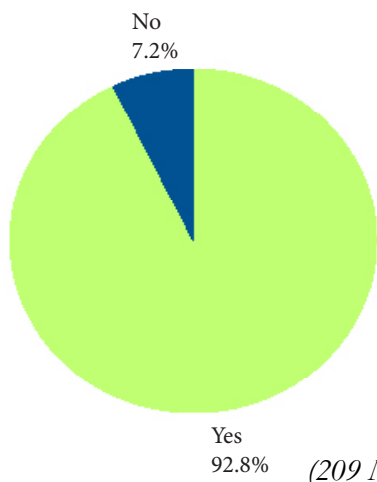
Linda Yaccarino, former CEO of X resigned. Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal indicted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Two IAF pilots were killed as a Jaguar aircraft crashed in Rajasthan’s Churu. Elon Musk announced the formation of his own political party and named it as the “America Party.” Lando Norris clinched victory at the British Grand Prix, marking McLaren’s first win at Silverstone since 2008. PSG beat Real Madrid by 4-0 to reach the finals of the FIFA Club World Cup.

Dosco Doodle

Divine Intervention
Reyansh Agarwal

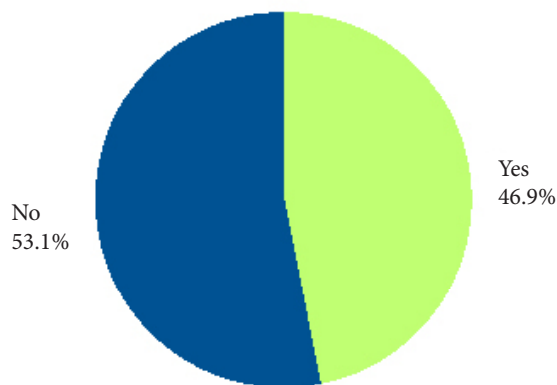


Do you watch Reels/
Shorts on a daily basis?



(209 Members of the School Community were polled)

Have you read a book in the
past month?



A High School Musical

Ayaan Mittal shares his experience of the student exchange to the Groton School, Massachusetts.

The real reason why I chose the U.S. was because I had just got over with my American High School movie frenzy and the idea of staying for a month in a school with an open campus, homecoming dances, and an overly passionate sports culture was just too tempting to resist. Also, I may or may not have assumed that there would be prom. But long story short, I was hooked.

I went to Groton to live the High School Musical life. (Spoiler: there was no singing in the lunchroom. Disappointing, but understandable). But what I found was even better. Firstly, the 480-acre campus was absolutely majestic with centuries old Classic Revival styled buildings dotting the Circle, which, like the Main Field, you are not allowed to cut. The School House was absolutely stunning and they had a literal river running through the campus.

Groton follows the AP curriculum so I had a pretty interesting course catalog which consisted of unconventional, yet captivating subjects like Religion and Politics with Dr C, Public Speaking from a Global Perspective and Acting Shakespeare with Ms Sales, and of course, I really can't ever forget Mr Das' Algebra with Trigonometry class... no matter how hard I try (just kidding).

Apart from the classes, there was always something going on in the campus every single day and it was just surprise after surprise after surprise. We had Circle Fest one week, where the school administration just set up huge inflatable obstacle courses and basketball courts and bouncy castles on the Circle, we had Spring Fling which is the inter-dorm competition day where we competed in potato sack races and slip and slide (you are reading an article written by the slip and slide champion

right now) and dodgeball, and on the weekend before their examinations started, there was rave party in the Dining Hall basement, a basketball match screening out in the Circle, a karaoke night and an ice cream truck frenzy. There was a prevailing sense of community everywhere, whether it was events just randomly popping up or people playing spikeball and football in the Circle when the sun was out or Saturday movie nights or the secret code of handshakes that we shared with the Prefects. What I really loved was how fun and warm everything felt, how happy everyone was and of course I could never forget my dormmates from Leroy's (shoutout to my roommate Will). Also, I had a very short and promising career as a JV Baseball player and for all of you who are wondering, cricket is definitely the better game.

Groton was structured more like a college than a school. The liberty of having an open campus where you can just sign out and walk into town with friends, the liberty of having your phones with you, the liberty to order food in, the liberty to wear whatever you want to wear felt alien to me. I experienced another way of High School life, integrated with a different breed of people from a place different from my own with different mindsets and expectations and I connected with teachers like they were my friends. Just being in a space so alien to you, living and connecting with people so different from you opens your eyes to a whole new world. In retrospect, my exchange to Groton has probably been the most exciting one month of my life and I am proud to be an 'honorary Grotonian', as Mr Das has rightfully titled me to be.

The Week Gone By

Kanishk Bammi

The deadly sin of greed is the excessive desire for material possessions. It is debatable whether our School is greedy for going from six, to then seven, to now EIGHT schools a day. To be frank, it's been just about a week since we've been in School and I'm already sleep-deprived and struggling to think of a better way to start this *Week Gone By*, so why don't we all be ideal Doscos and support my bad jokes?

Anyways, good or bad, one thing is certain – the extra thirty minutes before lunch now seem like a hunger-filled eternity, with attention spans in that time period giving stiff competition to First School for the coveted “Most Productive School” award. My suggestion would be to eat a little

more at break to keep yourself going, so my best wishes to the lucky few (seems like more than just a few these days) running changes.

On another note, an extremely rushed Assessment Week ended this Tuesday, and for those of us who haven't met the ideal expectation for ‘academic rigour’ in the vacations, you can take the following steps:

1. Convince your parents (and yourself) that it's “just Test Week.”
2. If you haven't got your marks yet, there's no better time to build a relationship with God.
3. Promise your teachers that you'll study next time, and finally,
4. Take a nap, since you'll be tired from doing steps 1–3.

It's been hot this week — except for when it's been pouring — leaving everyone wondering whether it's sweat or rain that they're drenched in after football practices each evening.

Oh, and how could I forget? The YEC, DSMUN, Alpha, and Sigma teams have been working round the clock this week, as a tired, droopy-eyed Dosco can be found in every corner of Oberoi House.

Among other things, assembly on Wednesday morning saw the distribution of 123 Marker Cups, leaving the poor D-Formers with wrist sprains from all that clapping. Additionally, we were also informed that not winning a Marker Cup means that we aren't ideal Doscos! The real question here, though, is whether winning more Markers makes you more of a Dosco than the rest of us.

Next week is also the first “Stroke Week,” which everyone seems to be pretty excited about.

The first five-month term is already underway and hectic, and it's bound to only get busier, so make sure to take every chance you get to take a nap — even if it means missing a meal or two.

Sudoku

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

Key

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

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

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