

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
August 3, 2024 | Issue No. 2711



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The decline of young writers, is it a fault or a sign of changing times?

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AUF WIEDERSEHEN

Students, Colleagues, and friends bid farewell to a dear Master.

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WEEK GONE BY

A week marked by heat, the YEC, and fantasy football.

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No More Old School

Agastya Chamaria comments on the renovations made in School recently.

The School community was greeted with a sight for sore eyes following its return. The renovation of some of the School's most visited areas — the Science Block and the CDH — quickly grabbed our attention. The 'state of the art' class equipment in the Science Block filled our empty hearts with, well, a fair bit of joy. However, it did make us wonder: Did the School need it right now?

The CDH was granted a full makeover over the course of the holidays. We were greeted with an all-new wooden countertop and an entirely renovated display wall. What does this wall display do, you ask? Well take a look for yourself. A grand display of pottery. Fancy!

A considerable amount of resources, including time and

energy, were invested to create a better looking countertop to serve food. The reason for this is likely the need for better hygiene. The old white marble countertop was — to be frank — worn out. So to the relief of every Dosco, School decided to make a change. And they did this by... decking out the entire area with warm lighting and decorative art?

A likely reason for this change in aesthetic is that the previous version was not as pleasing to the eye. The new design, without a doubt, is a definite improvement. The glorious lights shed their fancy glow upon the latest Inter-House 'points tables' — the food wastage boards. The new ambient lighting coupled with the rather charming pots create a sort of miniature art gallery. Objectively speaking, it is actually quite nice.

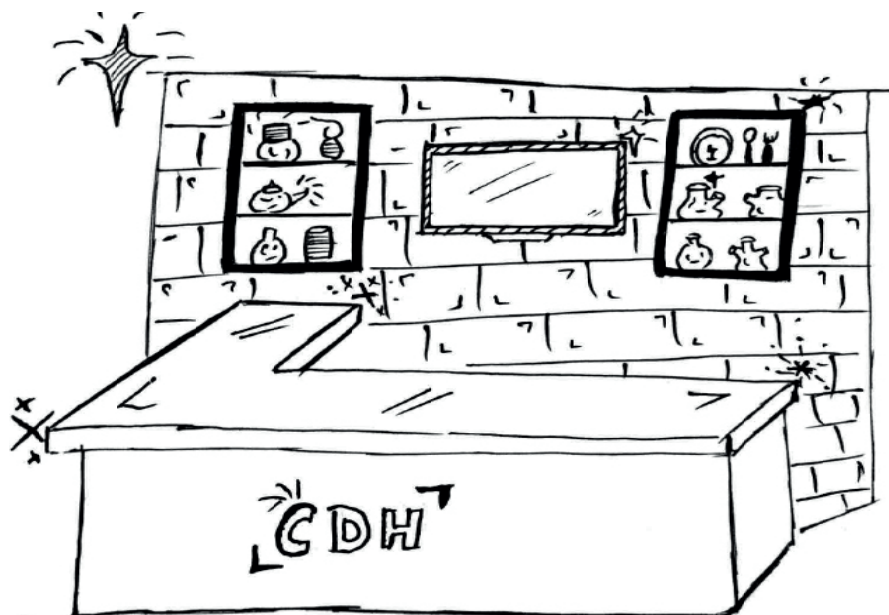
This gallery is not, by any stretch of the imagination, unattractive. Nor is it, by any means, useless.

However, it is not urgent either. There is hardly a Dosco who would complain if the marble was just cleaned and redone. Or if the showcase was never there. If all the soft and glowy lights were never placed. If the ceramics and the shelves and the full wooden panelling and the entire gallery were never displayed. If the resources were spent to address more urgent requirements. Not one person would mind. *You can never miss what you never had.*

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Resources are very precious to a boarding school like ours. The toll it takes to help near six hundred boys not just survive but thrive is immense and unignorable. This is why resources need to be allocated carefully, keeping our priorities in mind. The washrooms in common areas, for example, have been in a constant

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This Week in History

1492 CE: Christopher Columbus sets sail on his first transatlantic voyage from Spain.

1704 CE: Britain takes control of Gibraltar during the War of the Spanish Succession.

1913 CE: Albania is recognised as an independent principality by the major European powers.

1930 CE: Uruguay defeats Argentina winning the first FIFA World Cup.

1987 CE: Boxer Mike Tyson defeats Tony Tucker and is crowned world heavyweight champion.

1990 CE: Iraq invades Kuwait, sparking the Persian Gulf War.

READER'S CHECKLIST

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

Atiksh Kasana: *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne

Dhruvraj Negi: *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

AAQ: *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo

Naahar Khattri: *The Eagle has Landed* by Jack Higgins

LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

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

Vir Sandhu: *Udta Punjab* by Vishal Dandlani

Aanay Goel: *Seek and Destroy* by Metallica

Aswarya Thapa: *Houdini* by Eminem

Loechin Phangcho: *By Demons Be Driven* by Pantera

Arjit Sandhu: *Wicked Game* by Chris Isaak

“

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.

—
Henry Ford

DRESSED TO THE NINES

Aradhya Jain, Arjun Mitra, and Sriyash Tantia have been awarded the **Scholars' Blazer**.

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Five minutes means six minutes.

PRC, fudging the numbers.

You guys will keep running changing.

Anant Jain, sadist.

I am hot man.

SRT, aren't we all?

The smell is fusioning with the odour.

Rudra Sarin, something smells fishy.

Our bad luck is bad.

Veer Duggal, so is your grammar.

My family will fire my brother.

Shaurya Surana, the favourite son.

I replied to her instantaneously.

Udathveer Pasricha, desperate.

I'm going to articulatively articulate my thoughts in this article.

Aarav Shukla, struggling to put a word in.

My inspiration has been come.

Abhijit Sannamanda, are you sure?

I am going to work my hard work.

Samarth Gupta, perhaps you should work on something else.

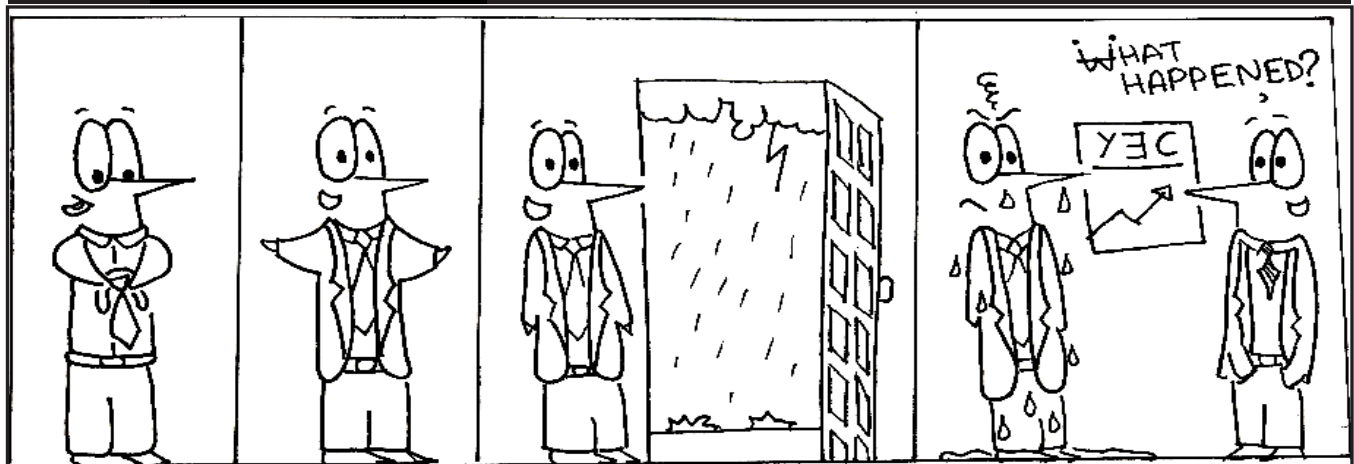
Around the World in 80 Words

The Hamas Chief Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated at his residence in Iran's capital. Nicolás Maduro won a third term with 51% of votes to extend a quarter-century of socialist rule, triggering protests in Venezuela. At least 250 people were killed after a landslide in Wayanad, Kerala. Eurozone inflation rose to 2.6%. Manu Bhaker won two bronze medals along with Sarabjot Singh for India in Shooting at the Olympics. France beat New Zealand 3-0 in men's football at the Olympics.

Dosco Doodle

Liquid Assets

Reyansh Agarwal



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state of decay. This has always been an inconvenience for boys stuck in the CDH or at the Library with less than favourable facilities. And while it would take exponentially more effort to do anything about this, a change like this would more directly impact students and be much more useful than a simple remodelling. Not only would this be a smarter way to go about making progress for the School, it is also the most sensible course of action to take.

If resources are to be allocated more effectively, they need to be based on a priority of needs.

There are other pressing matters in School, like water coolers that desperately need reworking, or House Linen Rooms that could do with a few upgrades. Or even just more bearer *bhaiyas* to help around the House.

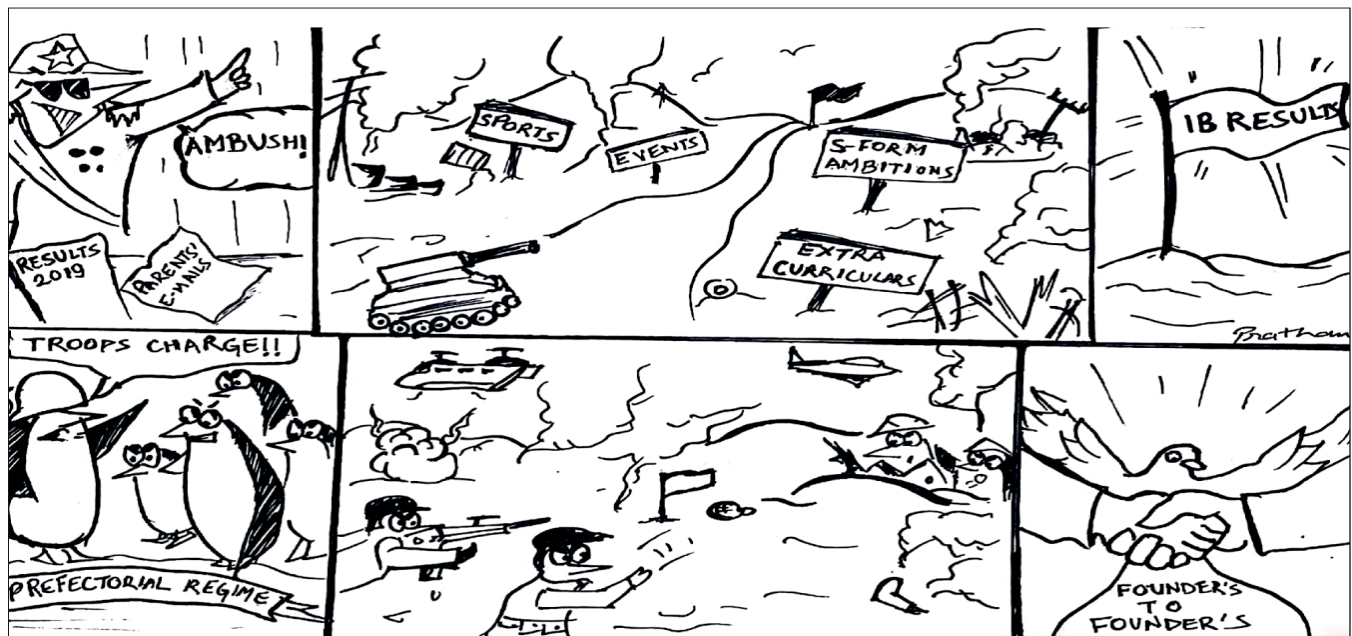
But here's the neat bit. There is no reason to presume that School won't eventually catch up to this. The fact of the matter is that School is making progress,

regardless of the magnitude. As the popular saying goes, one must learn to walk before they learn to run. Who's to say School won't eventually use its resources in the right places? We already have ACs in the CDH, a brand new gym, and an ongoing renewal of the tennis courts. For all we know, there may be a lot more changes coming our way and the important thing is that School has taken the first step.

Who knows, maybe just a few terms down the line, School would reflect a more inclusive and diverse community?

THIS DAY, DIFFERENT AGE

A doodle from the Weekly on this very day, five years ago



Letter from the Editors

This is with reference to the 'Letter to the Editor' published in Issue No. 2710 of the *Weekly*, which condemned what the writer claimed was the decline in penmanship School-wide and the prioritisation of content of 'superficial appeal'. The attempt here is not simply to clarify what the *Weekly*, in the eyes of its Senior Editors, stands for, but also a contention to the arguments presented in this letter.

A cursory glance at this particular article reveals a number of contradictions. First, we must contend with what the author believes is the 'spirit of the *Weekly*'. We agree with the ideal that the *Weekly* must strive to uphold its motto "I sketch your world exactly as it goes." However, we disagree with the

claim that the *Weekly* aims to "sketch your world as it should go". As a former member of

the *Weekly*, we are certain that the author can attest to the fact that, over the course of the week, the *Weekly*'s content, editing, and reviewing processes are largely carried out by its board members, just as every single publication in this School does. Board members do not exist within some echo-chamber separate from the rest of the student body, but are instead members who seek to contribute directly to this publication. If the *Weekly* presents an idealised version of the School, then it is likely that that is the sort of ideal that the wider student body holds. This may be pernicious to the functioning

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of a publication that seeks to uphold journalistic practices, but it is then upon us as a community to maintain this standard. Perhaps rather than a letter, the author could have contributed their faculties to an article they think merits publishing.

We also find flaws in the author's critique of the "surface-level reporting of events and activities". In the same breath, the author also seeks to promote the duty of presenting the "nuanced narratives that shape our School's everyday life." We think that the events and activities that are carried out in this School do indeed reflect 'everyday life'. A quick analysis of the daily schedule of a Dosco, and one would find that it is liberally sprinkled with Inter-House practices and events, commitments to activities and sport, and academic responsibilities. It is these supposed 'surface-level' commitments that define the shaping of the character of a Dosco. One's journey is not defined by large, isolated events; it is instead a constant growth over the long-term that comes to define the individual. It is with this ideal that Arthur Foot penned down the words that would come to be this publication's motto. The world, as it goes, is the daily experiences that come to shape us in some, however little, way.

Similarly, 'the collective journey' that the author espouses is not a singular narrative. It is instead a tapestry of shared and individual experiences that at times merit sharing in the *Weekly*, and at others, deserve to be enjoyed alone. The same way that a loss in the Inter-House football tournament is something that a team collectively shares the burden of, the joy of a phone call to one's parents after Midterms is something that only the individual can truly savour.

The only way this publication can represent the 'full spectrum of experiences and view points that constitute the fabric of our School' is if we also display these experiences, no matter how insignificant they may seem.

Quoting the letter, the author mentioned 'the pressure to produce polished and appealing content'. If the *Weekly* is truly meant to be a medium to 'chronicle the School's history' then the most effective way to do so is through earnest and good writing, something we strive to promote. For writers who seek to be published in the *Weekly* (a desirable goal for many, we hope), it is crucial that they take the step to send their articles in for us to review. Several articles you see in this publication are far from the first or second draft of the article; they are the result of continued efforts of both the writers and editors. We've seen members of the Board sitting with Juniors outside the CDH after lunch, refining their creative process, to ensure that,

although they won't make the pages for our dear critic to feast upon, are still inspired to work towards becoming a better writer. Like a past Editorial once mentioned, 'the reckless writer' is the beginning of a mature one, but for the publication to grow, we must not be afraid to share what we create, no matter which names finally end up on the pages of the *Weekly*. This pressure is not a burden we unwillingly carry; it is instead a standard we hold ourselves to.

Quoting the letter, the author stated that recurring names in the pages of the *Weekly* defeat the notion that the *Weekly* is a platform for all. To that, it would be easy for the editors of this publication to say that that is a responsibility that the entire community must shoulder and strive to uphold, but we have another contention with this argument. We think that there is a distancing between the problem the author proposes and its cause. Yes, we do find a decline in writers in this community, but we do not believe that the author has done justice to this problem. To say that the *Weekly* has failed to promote young writers seems to imply that it is a problem the *Weekly* has uniquely caused. While that may have been the author's intention, it is nonetheless misguided. We would gladly welcome more writers contributing to the pages of this publication. We would in fact invite the author to encourage more young writers to write. For a new writer to be identified by the Board, it is imperative that that person first submit a piece for consideration, which would allow the Board to recognise aptitude for writing in an individual. It is not for lack of trying that the *Weekly* faces this dilemma; it is out of necessity.

We think that the circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the proliferation of technology within School, and the inadequacy of time given to creative pursuits within the daily schedule have all contributed to the decline of penmanship.

It is indeed our problem, as the board, to solve; but we appeal to the author to refrain from equating the problems that plague our community to those whose burden it is to solve them without considering the myriad factors that influence it.

In conclusion, no matter how many times we think that the *Weekly* is perfect, we must redirect our energies and know that there is always a chance at improvement. We truly believe that the author had the *Weekly's* best interest in mind, but we also believe that this was not the way to serve this institution within an institution.

Regards,
The Senior Board

Auf Wiedersehen!

The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to **Ms Malvika Kala**. On this occasion, her friends, students, and colleagues share their thoughts on their time spent together.

Words cannot capture the true essence of the impact and the relationships that MLV ma'am had in our school. Whether it was handling JEDS and SEDS or going to her for life advice, one of the best parts of School was the fact that we all knew that MLV ma'am was always open to talk to or approach at any time. We were truly blessed to have MLV ma'am's intellectual, caring and witty nature surrounding us and loving us at all times. She was always able to identify the positive aspects of any individual, and nurture it to bring out their best. It is perhaps impossible to truly denote how much of a void her absence will create for times to come but I take comfort in knowing we have etched a place in her heart. We hope her all the best in whatever the future holds for her. Thank you ma'am, and we shall all miss you dearly.

- Avi Bansode



The first time I met MLV ma'am was in C form; she was my Tutor. Never did I know I would grow to be fond of her. From C to S form, MLV ma'am has been one of the most caring Masters I've interacted with. Instrumental in shaping my form's identity and a motherly figure for all of us in Tata House, she was a true force to be reckoned with. Having intellectually stimulating conversations with her in the CDH was always something that I fervently looked forward to. I feel lucky to have known MLV ma'am as my tutor and the debating Master-in-Charge. We shall miss her absence dearly.

- Omar Malik

As time goes on, we come to understand that nothing remains permanent, and the tenure of MLV Ma'am exemplifies this. Throughout the years, Ma'am has consistently been an exceptional mentor, whether it was assisting me to improve my language skills or supporting us in any way possible. I never anticipated that this journey would come to an end so soon. It was truly a pleasure to learn and work under her guidance. I recall vividly how Ma'am provided substantial help during my junior years, particularly with my exams and in assisting with B-form promotionals. I am grateful to Ma'am for everything she has accomplished, and I wish her a wonderful time in Salzburg.

- Pratham Agarwal

I have known Malvika since our JNU days, when we initiated ourselves to learn foreign languages. Some years later, our paths converged in Doon, where I had the opportunity to work closely with her. Malvika is an exceptionally warm and supportive individual, always ready to assist with any challenge. As Head of Department, she elevated our department to new heights. Her enthusiasm for any initiative has been inspiring, and her dedication has been evident not only in her academic role but also in her passion for debating. Malvika's zeal for life is truly remarkable. I am confident that she will continue to achieve great things in life. Wishing her all the best in this new chapter in Austria.

-MPY

I have had the privilege of working closely with Malvika despite belonging to different departments. I remember our interactions during the Inter-House Debates, History seminars, and even IB History. Her inputs are always insightful and reflective of her deep knowledge in an extensive range of subjects. At the same time, I have found her to be a person with a great sense of humour and *joie de vivre*. As she heads out on a new venture, I wish her, Rishabh, and little Rumi all the luck and happiness in their journey ahead.

-PDT

The Week Gone By

Arjun Prakash

Quite a few spots in Chandbagh have been living double lives recently: The Main Field becomes a swimming pool of mud and chalk with every deluge, my Sc Form study in Kashmir House feels warmer than a sub-Saharan desert (the fan being switched on), and a walk through the heavily refurbished CDH has got us all celebrating our lunch chocobars like a certain English football player.

Our beloved Main Building had its soul restored, as a cursory glance through the windows during activity time showed an

increased enthusiasm amongst the student body. We may have thwarted the early onset of dengue season with the new tracksuits and full sleeved monsoon uniforms, but the uncanny similarity to a prison inmate’s uniform must not fool anyone into thinking our School is a penitentiary, especially not our esteemed visiting YEC delegates, who I hope have had a wonderful time at the conference over the past few days.

Speaking of which, YEC seems to be providing DSMUN with some stiff competition, as a certain Warrior was seen turning the School into Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory, with golden tickets scattered across campus. Nothing less than a stroke of marketing genius, I’d say, as food once again proved to be the primary incentive for C Form

— some having been spotted excavating the insides of a water cooler in search of this ticket.

With one event coming to a close, another is just around the corner, as the Eagles have their sights set on another thrilling Grand Slam chase, although their wings risk being cut after perhaps flying too close to the sun, or in simpler words, incurring injuries. Nevertheless, the return of the DSFL has had another *Grand Slam* hard at work, hoping to create a flawless platform this time around. The second week, which started with the first ever Doon School Junior Inter-House quiz, and ended with YEC, seems to have whizzed over our heads amidst all the excitement, but the third is set to be even more jam-packed, so hang in there, and join the ride!

Wordsearch | Famous Explorers

1. The man popularly credited with discovering America.
2. The man known for leading the first circumnavigation of the Earth, though he was killed along the way.
3. The man whom America is named after.
4. A British naval officer and cartographer known for his voyages to Australia.
5. An English sea explorer with two separate bodies of water named after him.
6. An English explorer and privateer popularly known as ‘The Navigator.’
7. The man who discovered India.
8. The first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe, and the second circumnavigation overall.
9. The most famous Spanish conquistador and former governor of Puerto Rico.
10. A Venetian explorer with a popular childhood game named after him.

S J D M S Y R N O E L E D E C N O P F X
 Y E U K R C Y B V B C G T W F I S A Z N
 W E G R M E B L R R K D V N Z C Z K Y B
 U G G R P Y N Q D L F A Z H O K J C V L
 C K I I Q X S D F A O G N Q J O S P J D
 G X U J W G Z O Z D C A I Y T R J B P B
 N A Z J B B W Z B G I M M U E E H O N Y
 J P H D K S C N W A G A V V D P G T R G
 N B A W X C L T K F G H G P C C O O K H
 P L S A G J S U U E Z S L D O R U E F W
 D H G W N B P O L O Y Q X L W J I F D F
 H P I C I M U L D X G N U R K Q X O L F
 Q O T N C W A S W H D M X F P C X G F S
 B Y F F D N G W G L B A R J A N C X P R
 H W Q F V V E S P U C C I H E F M U H U
 W Q R R G K C F S M P X V V V M X U E J
 H S D I A Q G T M C L P I T T S E Y K P
 H U D S O N Y I H S L E G M H V V H A N
 X G S L W V X Y T Y B I G I B H V Z R Y
 K T Q Q A E T G Y C A V E N D I S H D P

1. Columbus	5. Hudson
2. Magellan	6. Cavendish
3. Vespucci	8. Drake
4. Cook	9. Ponce de Leon
10. Polo	

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