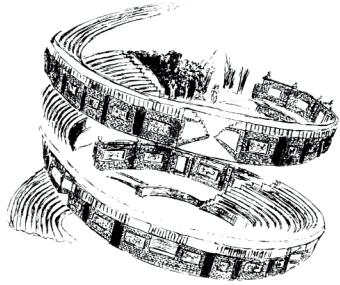


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
November 2, 2024 | Issue No. 2723



THE OBSERVER REPORT

Bringing back collective fun, while fostering an academic environment.

Page 3

INDIA'S DYNAMICS

The recent underwhelming Olympics, life in the army and diplomacy.

Page 4

MUSINGS FROM THE WRITER'S GUILD

With a newfound commitment to making waves, don't rock the boat.

Page 5

Editorial

Behind the Margins

Krish Agrawal

To be honest, I don't remember my first two months in School before joining the *Weekly* that well. But, what I do remember just fine is the burning desire to *quit* at the end of my B Form. It was an October night in the K House Toye extension... alone as I implemented proofreading edits to send in the first draft as my Editor-in-Chief watched on. I had slept at 2 A.M. that night, sure that the next few weeks would be my last on the *Weekly*.

Yet, despite the certainty of my decision, I could never bring myself to do it – to tell the Editor-in-Chief who had invested so much into me that it was all getting a bit too much, and more importantly, to let go of what had dictated and shaped my life in School so far. The *Weekly* had given me the opportunity to be part of something much bigger than just myself – and so, before I knew it, a new Board came in and I was to stay for the long haul.

Looking back, I remember my days in B Form fondly. The animosity I held for my Editor-in-Chief in the months preceding his departure seems to have faded into a sort of quiet respect, considering his love and care for the publication, which he in turn imparted into every member of the Board. So, as my tenure begins, I certainly feel a weight on my shoulders to match up to expectations, while at the same time, I find myself in front of a blank canvas defined only by the borders of every week.

Over the following year, the ambitious parts in me hope that the *Weekly* can evolve, even if it is by a miniscule amount. Transformation takes time, so bear with us as we experiment with new stylistic elements and sections — some of which may vanish, while others might become mainstays. The fundamental purpose however of this run of the *Weekly* is not to do something radically different, but rather to refine the well fed heartbeat left by my predecessor and to fulfil three very distinct objectives with every issue – To provide the community a medium of entertainment, be it our sardonic *Week Gone Bys* or the asinine 'Unquote'; to be a platform of discourse and commentary and encourage a better read and informed community and finally, the most important of them all, to provide a place to nurture and promote writers, so that they may individually be able to carry out the two objectives listed before; for that, a few thoughts from my end:

Contributions and Honesty

The truest writing is often our proudest work. But remember, don't write merely to provoke a reaction or to fight against quote-unquote censorship, as is the trend. In these scenarios, the writer is already blindfolded, often forgetting to actually ruminate or consider the other side of the coin. Write because it matters to you and you truly want to. When authenticity is lost, so too is the

meaning — for you and for us. Sure, we might still publish it, but what have any of us achieved in the process? On that note, not every submission needs to be your magnum opus or extricated from the intellectual depths. Submit that wacky essay you wrote in toye and remember: we're often our own worst critics. There is no definition or expectation of what a *Weekly* article should be like, as long as it's yours. Don't be afraid to contribute – it's a mistake I made far too many times, not learning to take a leap of faith fearing I would fall flat on my face with a poorly written article.

After all, this publication is all of ours, and your insights help us create a *Weekly* that truly embodies the vision laid out some eighty-odd years ago.

For Juniors on their first foray, a few words of advice – sometimes, you gotta keep throwing things until they stick. Or instead, approach any board member for feedback, and I assure you they will be more than willing to help. In the hectic process of making a week's issue, the board has many

(Continued on Page 3)

A LEGACY CONTINUED

The following is the **Senior Editorial Board** of the *Weekly* for the year 2024-25:

- Editor-in-Chief:** Krish Agrawal
- Editor:** Ganadhipati Aryan
- Senior Editors:** Kanishk Bammi and Krishiv Jaiswal
- Hindi Editor:** Madhav Mehra

Congratulations!

The *Weekly* would like to thank its outgoing Senior Board for their commitment to the Publication.

Around the World in 80 Words

The Taliban enforced a new rule prohibiting Afghan women to pray aloud in the presence of other women. Flash floods killed at least 51 people in Valencia, Spain. Troop disengagement was successfully completed at Depsang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh by the Indian army. China launched three astronauts on the Shenzhou-19 mission to Tiangong Space Station. Manchester City Midfielder, Rodrigo Hernández won the *Ballon d'Or*. Erik ten Hag was dismissed from his position as manager at Manchester United FC.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

- That is some really black humour.*
Jansher Grewal, no comment.
- Is Newton a part of the top ten vegetables?.*
Vedanshh Dewan, Buzzfeed scientist.
- Why you watching instagram shorts?*
Umaid Dhillon, chronically online.
- All students are good, but some students are gooder than others.*
Jaiveer Grewal, redefining Animal Farm.

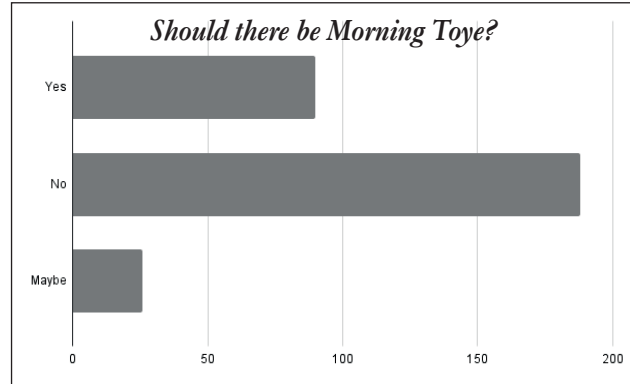


We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

Martin Luther King Jr

OPINION

The School Community was polled on the recently introduced *Morning Toye*.



304 members of the School Community were polled

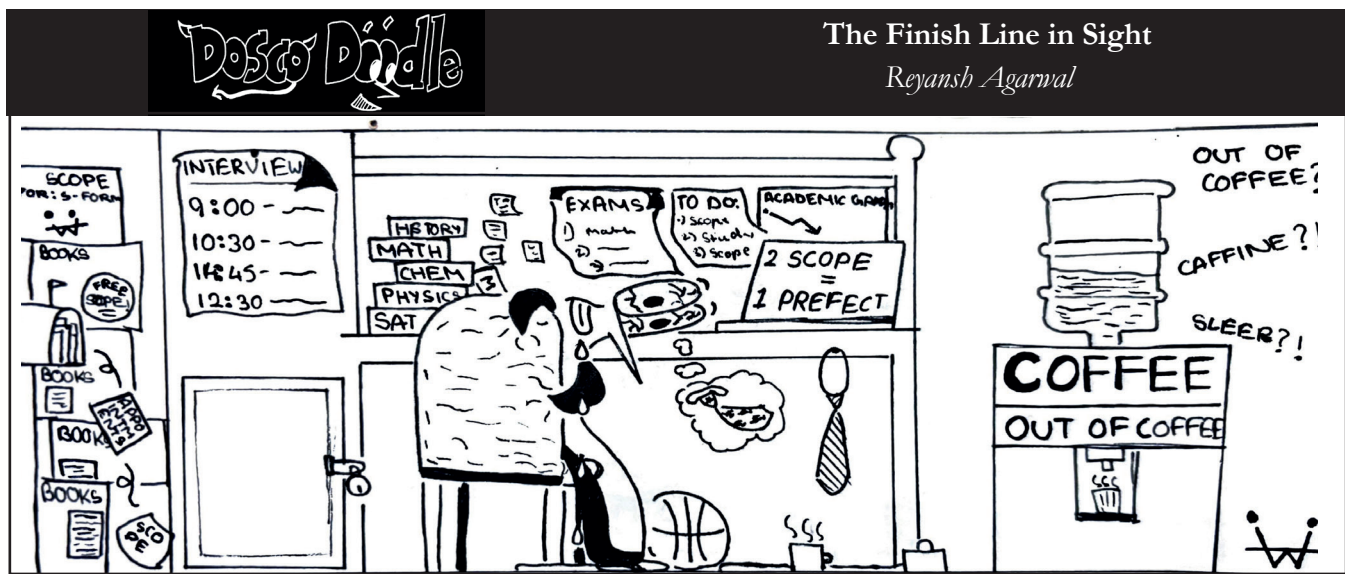
AND RATIONALE...

School's strength lies in its scheduling. It is the students who have respected the schedule and learned to balance their lives who have done well. Replacing morning PT with morning Toye, especially during this period – on the cusp of Trials – provides a fine preparedness on how you start your day, knowing very well what lies on the horizon, which, for many in School, is often overwhelming. It provides that quiet time at the start of our day which is required to accomplish a multitude of activities, including planning the day, reading, or completing homework, so that by the time you walk to your First School, your mind is alert and ready. All of us know the importance of sleep, and this allows what would be late nights to be converted into early mornings. The silent environment during toye in the morning gives you a chance to deal with tasks that would have been difficult to deal with otherwise, and it is always important for us to adapt to situations, as a life skill. This is the time we should use to focus on our academic work with rigour, and prioritise our schedule.

-ANC

Quote Floats

- “Board Year hai yaar.”
- “It’s better than double mark time.”
- “I study better asleep.”
- “I should wake up because I want to, not because I have to.”
- “Just pass me the coffee.”



(Continued from Page 1)

a time turned a blind eye to the emails in our inbox. This has been a major oversight from our part and something we hope to remedy this year, for the process of writing would be incomplete without incorporating feedback, reworking or even sometimes scrapping an article entirely because it just didn't feel right – Rome wasn't built in a day, so keeping the same expectations from yourself would be unfair.

On Inspiration

As a curious B Former who had just joined the board, I remember stumbling across an article in a past issue. Its length was a little more than half a page, and the topic it discussed was rather trivial — the meaning of a phrase. Yet, this simple piece of writing, probably the result of another simpler question before that day's

Weekly meeting, still sticks to the back of my mind despite its relative unimportance. The *Weekly* may be seen as a platform for serious discourse and change, but I believe that the small, personal stories have as much value as the sweeping commentaries or opinions on these ivory pages.

This is also something the Board will actively focus on over this year, as we intend on increasing the emphasis on what happens around us within the community so that we truly are able to 'sketch your world as it goes.' This would essentially constitute a more frequent presence of reportage after a significant dip over the past two years, as well as an increasing emphasis on community engagement via recurring polls and increased opportunities for Juniors to write. At the same time, we have no intention of backing down or scaling down

the quantity or quality of the usual commentary/opinionated piece and we hope to expand the range of contemporary articles to an even more copious variety, especially beyond our somewhat recurring cycle of pieces on global affairs or human nature.

So, as the new Senior Board undertakes this journey, I urge you to chip in. Tell us what you think of the issues, which pieces resonate, or which sections you think we could improve. After all, the publication is all of ours, and your insights help us create a *Weekly* that truly embodies the vision laid out some eighty-odd years ago. The *Weekly's* storied legacy only has room to grow – hopefully, you enjoy the cascade of issues over this next year as much as we will enjoy making them for you.

The Observer Report

Ayaan Mittal recounts the agenda discussed in the School Council Meeting held on October 28, 2024.

The first agenda presented before the School Council was 'The introduction of the House Academic Cup' in School. The House Academic Cup will be awarded on the basis of the overall average of the House, and the academic discipline of the Students in terms of attendance, submission of assignments, cases of academic dishonesty, etc. This agenda aimed towards addressing the eroding academic rigour in School by providing the Students a greater motivation to study through a House academic ranking incentive. It would also create a strong academic support system within the House as the academically stronger Students and even Seniors would be more willing to help those struggling with their academics. Point deductions for cases of academic misconduct or dishonesty would also discourage Students from cheating in examinations. The School Council was in consensus of this agenda as it would contribute towards creating a better academic environment in School. The detailed scheme and mechanisation for the same will be drafted and circulated by the School Council under the consultation of the Dean of Academics.

The second agenda discussed in the meeting was 'The installation of charging ports and Wi-Fi in Cafe Aqueduct'. This was brought up because there were reports that the charging ports in the Cafe were not accessible and that the Wi-Fi network was very weak and that this made it very difficult for the Students to

do school work there. It was recognised by the School Council that the Cafe is also to be used as an academic space where Students can study, do projects and group discussions, and the addition of charging ports and a Wi-Fi network was very important for this to happen; the agenda was passed.

The third agenda was 'Reintroduction of the Entertainment Committee'. This agenda aimed at mending the divisions within the School Community caused by Inter-House Competition. It seeks to create opportunities for the entire Student body to come together, engage, and enjoy shared experiences. Previously, the work of the Entertainment Committee included the screening of horror movies in the Rose Bowl, an S Form Entertainment Section, showing cricket matches in the Auditorium and inviting actors and magicians to perform for the School Community. It was also recognised that the differing interests of Junior and Senior Forms would have to be taken into consideration and different spaces like the AV Room, the AMC and the Auditorium could be used to screen movies or shows for the different audiences. The agenda was passed.

The Headmaster will also be appointing a Boy-in-Charge and Master-in-Charge to oversee the setting up and the running of the Entertainment Committee, and it will start its work in the coming term.

India's Dynamics

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Col Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd), the Chief Guest for the 89th Founders' Day, 2024.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Our first question is about India's performance at the Olympics. Our performance has not been up to the standard that you would expect of a major country in global affairs. What problems hinder our sports programmes, and how can we fight them in terms of finding talent and nurturing athletes to win?

Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (RSR): In order for a nation to do well at the highest level, there is a system of ladder, which starts from your school, from your colony, or *muhalla*, in which you live. How many colonies have competitions? The answer is nearly none. Whatever resources we have don't matter, because the idea is that when a child gets a pat on the back or has a sense of competition, that's what pushes them to play more and compete and perform better. That's what also brings them to people who are in banking services or businesses to start coaching, free of charge. That's what builds our community. Similarly in schools during sports periods. How are we treating the PT teacher? Is he a spare teacher or qualified? Is the school watching the sports competitions it's competing in? You need to have an audience, right? And then you gradually go up. So the Prime Minister, at the level of the Government of India, at that level, created a tournament that is equivalent to the college games of the US. The US does well because they have these college players. So *Khelo India* is the equivalent of that, and the government puts in a lot of money to get high-definition broadcasts. When we were competing, we used to be going on unreserved trains, but now it is a second-class AC fare, and you are staying in three- to four-star hotels. In our time, we used to put benches together and sleep in schools. A lot has changed. Every year, a thousand athletes from *Khelo India* get a sponsorship of five lakhs per year for eight years. So that's creating a talent pool. Then there is the target Olympic podium, which is for the best athletes of the country, and you get funded to train with any coach in the world. Sports science is there for your recuperation, for any injury that you have, for the right diet, and all of these things, plus you have fifty thousand rupees per month as pocket money. So, it's a huge programme. We are moving in a direction where our sporting system is getting better. Now we should be preparing for the 2026 Olympics. Students of your school in Classes Seven to Ten should be into

strength-based, endurance-based sports to prepare for the Olympics.

DSW: You talk about the ladder system in sports, and similarly, there is a ladder system in the army. But you said that sports were a far cry from the army. So what kind of learnings would you say you took from the army that served you in your shooting career, and how would you compare those systems?

RSR: So the Army builds character — the character of a warrior, which has all the qualities that you would need in a champion. So from planning to learning from your own mistakes, learn from the opponent as well. Not fearing losing. So putting yourself completely into it and then accepting the results and then moving ahead as well. So the whole commitment of taking on a mission, right? With the attitude of not giving up at all, which comes from the military. And so all of this helped me when I went into sports. Specifically, at times when I would be shooting a target, there would be fear, like your heart rate is at 180 beats per minute. Your hands are shaking because you're thinking about scoring very high. That fear is there sometimes. And I would tell myself that this is not Kashmir. The target is not shooting back at you. So what are you fearing when you didn't fear there? What are you feeling now? It doesn't matter. But what you need to do is be the guy focusing right till the last moment. Hold your nerves and do your bit with thousands and thousands of hours of training that you've done. Remember that, and do it like that.

DSW: Globally, I think we're seeing a rise in militarism around the world. There's an increased tendency to use armed tactics to access foreign policy. So how has militarism changed in the last ten years, in your view? And how can India use other means — more, I will say, diplomatic means, to maintain global security?

RSR: All resources are used to push the foreign policy of a nation, so economic power is, uh, is equally used in today's times. Diplomatic power is also used. Backdoor diplomacy is when all of these things are used. Strategic resources like water and oil — all of these things are used to their benefit. Security, whether it is food security or military security, is also used to bring nations around. So I can say that from the time, let's say, ten, twelve years ago to today, India is in a

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

much, much stronger position with all of them put together. And that is also the reason why a lot of our neighbours are feeling a lot uncomfortable. But do we live for their comfort, or do we live to secure ourselves first? They will come around, right? They will come around to a stronger India. To an equal India. Using all of these things, also let me tell you more specifically what you asked. The best way to ensure peace is to be ready for war, right? Then no one will fight with you.

DSW: You were incredibly successful in your shooting career. So what made you choose a career in politics after that? Where was that jump?

RSR: I always had big visions to do something big. I may not have been capable of achieving that vision at that time when I had that vision, but like all of you,

my daydreams were big, and then my military career taught me to plan. How can I reach this vision? And then when you have a rough plan in hand, you pursue it a little bit, and then you probe, and then you feel, how is it going? What are the possibilities? And so likewise, you do. But you don't fear failure at all. Like some people say, the best way to learn swimming is to jump into the pool. We will not take it literally, but the point is that what it's trying to say is you don't just keep contemplating. There's a better word for it: You just don't keep contemplating. Should I do it? Should I not? Should I do it? Should I not? Right. So rather jump in and just do it. So as they say, '*nabi hua to keya hua*'? Like they say, if you don't start, you're already a loser.

Musings from the Writer's Guild

A satire on working for the Editorial Board of the Weekly by Hrishikesh Aiyer

It's like steering a pirate ship with rickety ropes through stormy seas — except the crew vanishes below deck, and the captain can't find the buried treasure. Every week begins with a sense of noble purpose: to chart a course toward a carefully curated issue. But halfway through, the ship leaks, and by the end, you just hope at least one coherent article survives. It starts on a Saturday night, with the first attempt at a page plan — ideas tossed like cannonballs that never hit their mark.

You sit through the meeting, hoping to spark brilliance, but the ideas are dull. "How about an article on punctuality?" someone suggests, followed by silence as uncomfortable as a pirate admitting seasickness. Sunday rolls in, and the map proves useless when the EiC suddenly changes direction — just when you thought you had everything under control.

Monday is the hunt. You become a swashbuckler, chasing writers like they owe you gold doubloons. The same four dependable deckhands show up; everyone else has conveniently forgotten their duties. You beg, bargain, and threaten, but always get the same response: "It's in progress!" — as if progress is some mythical island. They always need one more night and, like clockwork, sneak their submissions in at midnight, smuggling their work past the deadline.

On Tuesday, brainstorming over Crossword collides with lunchtime. Creativity sputters between bites of rotis. Every idea feels like a ship taking on water. "Seven letters for 'stress'?" someone suggests. All you can think of is 'deadline,' but you nod along, resigned to the likelihood of building the crossword yourself just to keep the ship afloat.

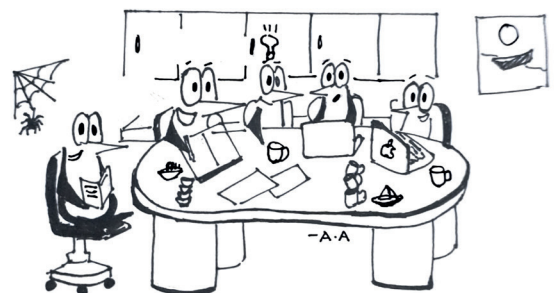
Wednesday is cartoon day — a different kind of storm. Bad ideas aren't rejected; they're digested. A single misstep sends you into endless brainstorming loops.

The teachers stand ready to edit with merciless precision. Every highlight on your article feels like a cannonball tearing through the ship's hull.

Thursday is proofing day. Every stray comma hints at a brewing mutiny. You are haunted by the demon of standardisation — is it "realize" or "realise"? In desperation, you pass copies to anyone nearby, hoping they will catch the mistakes you missed. Finally, the issue sets sail, but you know the EiC is waiting to dash you against the rocks with last-minute changes.

By Friday, you enter The Room like a prisoner on death row. Your spirit feels as bent and battered as the old flatware scattered across the table. Panic erupts as the EiC discovers a missing piece — until a saviour arrives with a cryptic poem, barely legible but enough to float the issue.

After dinner, you make the final dash, handing out the finished issues like secret maps. Most students barely glance at them before stuffing them into their bags. By the time Saturday morning dawns, you've distributed the last of the issues. There is zero celebration, no victory — just the quiet nod and hum of inevitability. Somewhere in the distance, Billy Joel is singing: "It's nine o'clock on a Saturday..." You realise the ship hasn't docked. It never will. The wheel keeps turning, the cycle keeps spinning, and next week, you will be right back where you started, on this strange, wonderful, and utterly ridiculous voyage.



The Week Gone By

Vivaan Sood

What song number was it again? Two. Also the number of cycles we've settled on clapping during Assembly, perhaps out of fatigue or perhaps out of sheer habit. Will today prove any different?

The week began with a thrilling final showdown for the Senior Basketball Cup, as the Gentlemen defeated their demons from last year to clinch the title, though the match was marked by several *offensive fouls* leading to a free-throw on either end of the court. As we find ourselves in the throws of the Medium's tournament, I'd remind everyone that it's easy to forget that some of these matches are games, not matters of life and death. Yet

I'm not sure if the same can be said of the S Form in the face of the upcoming appointments.

As Diwali provided a little happy refuge before the final Pre-Boards Mid-Year Trials, the festival could not be celebrated without the looming threat of deadlines and Diplomas hanging over the heads of our brave Sc Formers. Certainly, our daring Batch seemed to have a lot to say about the upcoming labours, as concessions and negotiations abound. Hopefully those little D Formers and their napkins give you some solace.

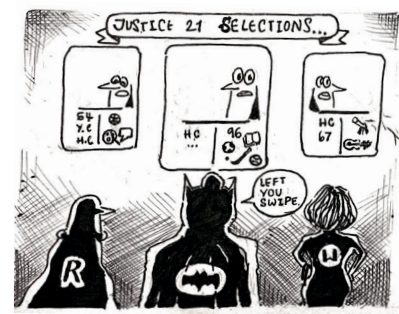
Assembly has been marked by a number of mishaps this past week, as talks of tradition left only one last man standing, while another talk was marred by an AV trouble, reminiscent of the final day of Inter-House Athletics. Why don't we all give our 100% the first time around?

I must wish our School Athletics team the best of luck for the IPSC

tournament while also thanking our outgoing Prefects for their tenure, as Thursday's 21 Gun Salute was filled with both grief and relief.

I'd also take this opportunity to bid you, my Reader, farewell. Though this will not be the last you'll hear from me, I hope you'll treat these pages with the same excitement and awe I did when I was in your place.

Finally, let's hope that today does not seem as contentious as any *Ballon d'Or*.



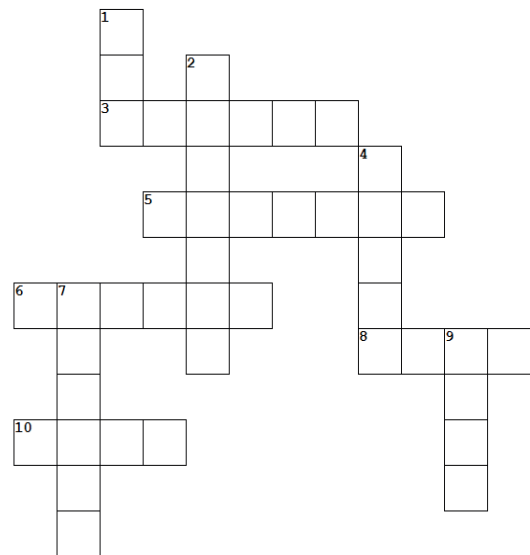
Crossword | Sitcom Characters

Across

3. A gullible character played by Rainn Wilson who called his boss a "short, little man".
5. Socially awkward genius known for his 'bazinga' catchphrase and winning the Nobel prize for Physics.
6. Eccentric neighbor with wild schemes, often arriving uninvited
8. A paleontologist who 'was on a break.'
10. A loving dad who despite trying his best always find a way to cause chaos in the Dunphy household.

Down

1. A hopeless romantic searching for 'the one' in New York City.
2. Dunder Mifflin's overly enthusiastic regional manager.
4. A safety inspector often seen at Moe's Tavern who is fond of donuts and beer.
7. This character famously ran away from her wedding to start anew, who was most certainly not 'on a break.'
9. The Iconic fourth grader from a 2D sitcom who always gets into mischief from Colorado.



- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 10. Phil | 9. Stan |
| 8. Ross | 7. Rachel |
| 6. Kramer | 4. Homer |
| 5. Sheldon | 2. Michael |
| 3. Dwight | 1. Ted |
| Across | |
| Down | |

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

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



©IPSS: All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, India. **Published by:** Kamal Ahuja, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Krish Agrawal **Editor:** Ganadhipati Aryan **Senior Editors:** Kanishk Bammi, Krishiv Jaiswal **Hindi Editor:** Madhav Mehra **Associate Editors:** Ayaan Mittal, Agastya Chamaria, Hrishikesh Aiyer, Rafay Habibullah, Rehhan Chaddha **Special Correspondents:** Aashman Agarwal, Ayaan Adeeb, Nanda Karumudi **Cartoonists:** Vihaan Lakhotia, Reyansh Agarwal **Webmaster:** Communications Department **Assistant Managers:** Stuti Kuthiala, Sabyasachi Ghosh, Purnima Dutta, Satya Sharma