

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
February 15, 2025 | Issue No. 2728



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Sinking ships, a revolutionary web-site, and more.

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CAN POP TARTS BE RAVIOLI ?

A comical prompt challenging the rigidity of food labels.

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THE WEEK GONE BY

Two weeks in – stay safe!

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Closing Doors

Opinion

Omar Malik *reflects on the larger implications of the recent executive order in the US.*

Trump 2.0 is back. Since his inauguration on January 20, the American President has signed a multitude of Executive Orders. Among the various implications of these mandates, the administration has explicitly redefined the law to put an end to birthright citizenship, declared a national emergency at the country's southern border, and to only allow for two unchangeable sexes, all of which are aligned with his vision of 'Make America Great Again'. The implications of these could be far-reaching, potentially threatening the future of the millions who, according to the American President, are not "great enough".

There are millions who are rallying for 'Making America Great Again, just as there are many who cherish the idea of the open American society.

The nativist political movement that pushes for a non-negotiable puritan society is perfectly in line with the Republican vision, which is exclusionary and opposed towards diversity of all kinds.

As stated by The White House, the aim of these orders is 'protecting women from gender ideology extremism and restoring biological truth to the Federal Government.' The Executive Order states that the problem lies in 'intimate single-sex spaces designated for women' being

use by other genders. However, using women's safety to justify the curtailment of gender diversity is reminiscent of the anti-abortion legislation a few years back. Many feel that both acts attempt to resolve a problem that may not exist, while adversely impacting vulnerable populations.

The Republican vision for the upcoming four years is crystal clear; the goal is to make America great again. I think, what the whole world felt stood out about America, was the equitable and accessible American Dream that gave everyone willing to try, an opportunity for success.

The Executive Order that revokes birthright citizenship is aimed at 'Protecting the meaning and value of American citizenship', which however comes at the cost of overturning centuries of a free

country. This Order is probably one of the most relevant ones to the expatriate community of America, especially the Indian diaspora. Although this Order was passed on January 20, it will come into effect only from February 20. As a result, couples are rushing to maternity clinics and scrambling for preterm births, something that is predicted to exponentially compound in the last week before the Order's implementation.

However, this is not only about gender diversity; it's about a complete withdrawal of funding from Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) programmes which also warrants the equitable representation of all Indians living in the USA, probably setting the trend for the future as well.

Additionally, the language used in all of these Executive Orders being so equivocal gives them a scope for a broader range of interpretations. This could potentially allow the implementations of the Order in differing manners throughout the country. Through the abundant usage of strongly charged diction in his Executive Orders and public statements against the 'woke' movement, Trump has also been significantly successful in ensuring the implementation of these policies.

Close to one million Americans are in the same place single-sex

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This Week in History

1915 CE: In one of the worst maritime disasters in American history, the passenger liner *SS Eastland* capsizes in the Chicago River, killing more than 840 people.

1974 CE: Steve Chen registers Youtube, a video sharing service.

1984 CE: Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Yevgenyevna Savitskaya becomes the first woman to walk in space.

2007 CE: Indian lawyer and politician Pratibha Patil is sworn in as President of India, becoming the first woman to hold the office.

PASSING ON THE TORCH

The following are the **co-curricular appointments** for the upcoming year:

Publications:

Echo:

Editor-in-Chief: Shrikritt Jajoo

Chief of Production: Soumik Agarwalla

Public Speaking:

English: Kanishk Bammi

Hindi: Ayaaz Ferozi

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

“

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity

Henry Van Dyke

MELODIC MAESTROS

The following are the **Music appointments** for the forthcoming year:

Music Captain: Agniv Acharjya

Dance Captain: Savya Somani

Orchestra Leaders: Yuvaan Todi

Choir Leader: Shaurya Beriwal

Popular Band Leaders: Shaurya Garg and Anant Vikram Singh

Percussion Leader: Samarth Pundeer

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

You don't have good unquotes anymore, man!

ARJ, wait and watch.

My hotness has increased the temperature of the room.

Vir Sandhu, not likely.

If you can't look like a cricketer, at least look like one.

PTV, gentlemen's sport.

LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

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

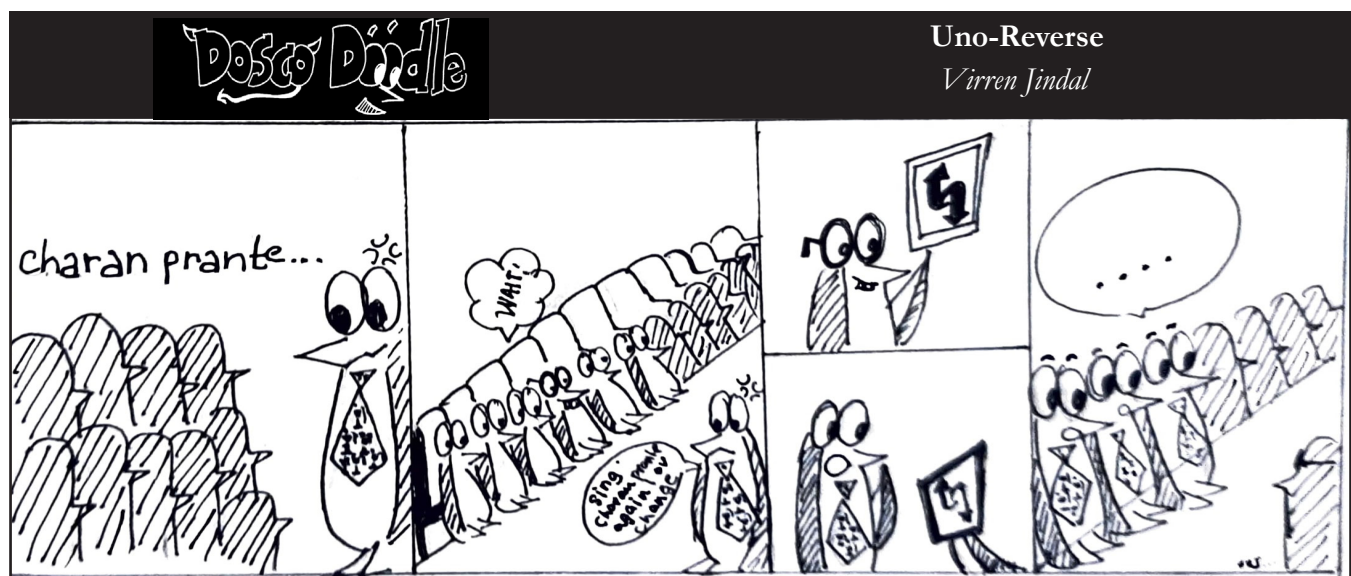
Amarnath Sahu: *Babli Tero Mobile* by Gajendra Rana

Rian Gupta: *Excuses* by AP Dhillon

Sriyash Tantia: *Please Please Please* by Sabrina Carpenter

Around the World in 80 Words

A Satirical Petition to allow Denmark to buy California attracted over 200,000 signatures. The Italian Police arrested over 130 in a Mafia crackdown. Kanye West faced multiple lawsuits over wrongful termination of employees and controversial t-shirts with Swastikas. Former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was found guilty of a murder in 1984 linked to anti-Sikh riots. Kendrick Lamar performed at the 59th Super Bowl, sparking controversy. Real Madrid won against Manchester City 3-2 in a first-leg match at the Etihad Stadium.



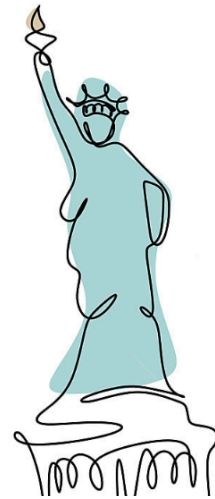
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couples were in, forty years ago. Women seeking abortions also found themselves in a similar predicament that they were in decades back.

Given the present trend, it is possible that student visas for higher education in the USA are also going to be impacted sooner or later. Even if Trump's latest policies do not have any direct, conclusive impact on us as of now, they impart a very important lesson to each one of us. If we could draw one takeaway from all of this, it would be the understanding that nothing can be

taken for granted and that is the reality of our world.

The Republican vision for the upcoming four years is crystal clear; the goal is to make America great again. I think, what the whole world felt stood out about America, was the equitable and accessible American Dream that gave everyone willing to try, an opportunity for success. Now it remains to be seen whether closing their doors to that same world make them great again or will it worsen their globally perceived greatness.



Can Pop-Tarts be Ravioli?

Anvit Agrawal

Let's face it: the culinary world is anarchy in disguise. We pretend there are rules — neat little categories that tell us what's a sandwich, what's a soup, what's a dessert — but deep down, we know it's all chaos. That's how we end up asking serious, life-altering questions like: Is a hot dog a sandwich? Is cereal a soup? And, most pressingly, is a Pop-Tart a ravioli?

On the surface, the idea is absurd. One is a proud American breakfast staple, stuffed with fruit (or whatever flavor "brown sugar cinnamon" is supposed to be) and eaten straight from a foil wrapper. The other is a beloved Italian dish, a pasta layer cradling ricotta or meat lovingly drowned in tomato sauce. But if we strip away the cultural baggage and get to the cold, hard facts, the case for Pop-Tarts as ravioli is surprisingly strong. The basic structure of ravioli is fairly simple: a filling enveloped by a thin layer of dough, sealed at the edges, and cooked. Now, let's examine a Pop-Tart. It has a fruit-adjacent goo filling with a thin, dough exterior — flaky, golden and sealed at the edges. While ravioli is traditionally boiled, some fancy recipes involve baking and pan-frying it as well. So, if a baked ravioli is still a ravioli, why not a Pop-Tart?

Of course, the opposition has its arguments. "Ravioli are pasta," they cry, pointing at their Italian grandmothers for validation. "Pop-Tarts are not." A fair point — except the definition of "pasta" is more flexible than you'd think. Pasta, in its simplest form, is dough made from flour and water. While Pop-Tart crusts might lean more towards pastry than pasta, they share a common ancestor: good old-fashioned wheat-based carbohydrates. If we're

being picky about pasta purity, then what about all the variations out there? Pumpkin-turnip ravioli? Nutella-stuffed ravioli? Can these not be considered ravioli simply because they defy tradition? Another argument: ravioli is meant to be eaten hot. To that, I say: have you ever microwaved a Pop-Tart? It turns into a molten, lava-like delicacy. And if you want to get really controversial, ravioli can even be eaten cold. Leftover ravioli from last night's dinner, straight from the fridge? Frigid ravioli is a delicious tradition followed by a plethora of food-lovers, including Italians. Just as a Pop-Tart is still a Pop-Tart whether toasted or not, ravioli does not need to be steamed in order to retain its ravioli-ness.

The debate, of course, is not just about Pop-Tarts and ravioli. It's about the way we categorise things and the weird, stubborn rules we impose on food, language and life in general. Why do we draw such hard lines between what belongs and what doesn't? At what point does something stop being what it is and start being something else? More importantly, who gets to decide? Who are we to decide matters that affect entire populations?

In the end, whether a Pop-Tart is a ravioli or not depends on how you define your terms — and how much chaos you're willing to accept into your life. Some will cling to tradition and scoff at the idea. Others, the rebels of the culinary world, will look at a toaster pastry and see not just breakfast, but possibility.

So, is a Pop-Tart a ravioli? Maybe. Maybe not. But one thing is for sure: food labels are flimsy, reality is subjective, and breakfast will never be the same again.

A Slit

Daksh Singh

As he lay down in bed,
 He felt utmost dread,
 As a wisp of moonlight,
 Stuck in his eyesight,
 Filled him with pure spite.
 He jerkily drew the curtains,
 Satisfied but uncertain.
 His worst fears had come true,
 As he saw the other end undo.
 So as he got up and bid his impatience *adieu*.
 He calmly drew the drape, all the way through.
 For this time he was certain!
 He could finally go back to bed,
 With no more noises in his head,
 As fear had fled.
 And the slit in the curtains,
 Bore no more thought in his head.
 He could finally go back to bed.

Who did it?

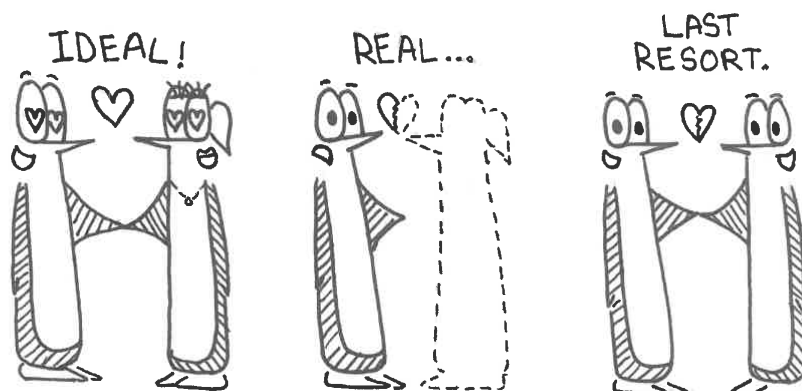
Chitransh Gulati

In the dark, a scream is heard,
 A body lies, not a single word.
 Footsteps fade, the door is closed,
 Who did it? No one knows.

A knife, a bloodstain on the floor,
 A hidden truth behind the door.
 Eyes watch close, but no one speaks,
 The killer's secret, silence keeps.

The clock ticks on, the night is long,
 Who's the murderer? Something's wrong.
 The mystery deepens, the tension high,
 In the shadows, the answers lie.

Valentine's Day Special



एक डॉस्को के जीवन मूल्य

समर सिंह द्वारा विद्यालय में विद्यार्थियों के जीवन-मूल्यों पर विचार।

यह सवाल मेरे दिमाग में बहुत बार आया है कि अगर कोई मुझसे पूछे कि मैं ऐसे कुछ गुण चुनूँ जो कि एक व्यक्ति के चरित्र को परिभाषित करते हैं, तो वे गुण क्या होंगे। दून स्कूल में मेरा दाखिला कुछ समय पहले ही हुआ है। स्कूल में अपने इस छोटे से सफर में ही मैंने ये समझ लिया है कि अनुशासन और अनुकूलन क्षमता, ऐसे दो गुण हैं जो कि एक डॉस्को की जिंदगी में ही नहीं बल्कि किसी के भी जीवन में बहुत काम आते हैं। ये ऐसे गुण हैं जो कि हमारे चरित्र को परिभाषित करते हैं और हमें एक बेहतर और सफल आदमी बनाने में मदद करते हैं।

जब एक डॉस्को को एक ऐसी जिंदगी जीने के लिए कहा जाता है जिसमें उन्हें प्रतिदिन एक ख़ास दिनचर्या के अनुसार अपने सभी कार्य करने हैं तो विद्यालय द्वारा उस व्यक्ति को धीरे-धीरे बहुत सूक्ष्मता से एक अनुशासित व्यक्ति बनाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा होता है। अनुशासन बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि बिना अनुशासन के प्रगति करना और सफलता पाना बहुत ही मुश्किल होता है। दून स्कूल की जिंदगी कुछ इस तरह से व्यवस्थित की गयी है कि अनुशासन हमारी आदत बन जाती है और हमारी जीवन शैली का अभिन्न अंग बन जाती है। जब हम दून स्कूल से पढाई खत्म करके बाहर की दुनिया में कदम रखते हैं तो वो कदम एक ज़िम्मेदार और अनुशासित युवा के होते हैं। एक डॉस्को के लिए सर्दी हो या गर्मी, आँधी हो या बारिश, वह हर हाल में चुनौतियों का सामना करते हुए सुबह छह बजे जाग कर अपनी दिनचर्या का सम्पूर्ण तरीके से पालन करता है जो उसके अनुशासित होने का प्रतीक है। यह शुरुआत में एक बहुत ही छोटी आदत लगती है लेकिन यह आदत ही हमें अनुशासित और मूल्यवान बनाती है। अनुशासन देखते ही देखते हमारे जीवन का एक अमूल्य हिस्सा बन जाता है।

दूसरी तरफ हम यह भी मानते हैं कि अनुशासन के साथ-साथ एक आदमी के पास एक नए तरह के परिवेश और दिनचर्या में रहने की क्षमता भी होनी चाहिए। किसी भी इंसान को अगर किसी भी तरह की परिस्थिति में बिना किसी परेशानी के, सहज ढंग से जीने का हुनर आ जाए तो उस व्यक्ति को जीवन सरल लगने लगेगा और सफलता उसके कदम चूमेगी। एक डॉस्को को

विद्यालय में कुछ इस तरह से तराशा जाता है जिस से कि उन में अनुकूलन क्षमता पैदा हो जाती है और वे विषम परिस्थितियों में भी आगे बढ़ते जाते हैं। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण है, जब एक डॉस्को स्कूल के साथ मिड-टर्म के लिए जाता है, वह नए तरह के वातावरण, कम से कम सुविधाएँ, संसाधन और प्राकृतिक रहन-सहन में भी सहजता से रह कर उस जगह का मज़ा ले पाता है। इसका एक और पहलू यह भी है कि हर एक डॉस्को अपने घर की विलासिता को भूलकर नए लोगों के साथ अपने घर से दूर एक नया घर और परिवार बना लेता है। यह गुण महत्वपूर्ण हैं क्योंकि ये हमें हमारे भविष्य में होने वाले बदलाव का सामना करने के लिए तैयार करते हैं।

जब एक डॉस्को इस महान विद्यालय से स्नातक होगा, उसे केवल इस तराजू से नहीं तौला जाएगा कि उसे अपने दून स्कूल की जिंदगी में कितने ब्लेज़र्स और टाई मिले हैं बल्कि दुनिया देखेगी और परखेगी कि उसके चरित्र में कितने अच्छे गुण हैं और वह परेशानियों का सामना किस ढंग से करता है। अनुशासन, अनुकूलन क्षमता, दृढ़ता और कठिनाईयों का सामना करने का संकल्प जैसे गुण ही एक विद्यार्थी के व्यक्तित्व को सही तरीके से समाज में प्रस्तुत करेंगे और उसके सफल होने का सही मापदंड बनेंगे।

असली दुनिया में आपकी व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धि का कोई महत्व नहीं है अगर आप उस उपलब्धि के साथ-साथ अच्छे चरित्र के भी मालिक नहीं हैं। आप कहीं भी काम करने जाइए या कॉलेज में दाखिला लेने जाइए, आपके व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धियों के साथ-साथ आपका चरित्रवान होना अनिवार्य है। ये सभी गुण एक डॉस्को की जिंदगी में सहजता से पैदा कर के भर दिए जाते हैं जो कि आगे जा कर उसकी जिंदगी में सफलता का मंत्र बनते हैं और यह तय करते हैं कि लोग आपको भविष्य में किस रूप में देखेंगे। हर एक डॉस्को अपने विद्यालय का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है और दर्शाता है कि उस के विद्यालय में किन गुणों को महत्व दिया जाता है। इसीलिए ये गुण एक डॉस्को और विद्यालय दोनों के लिहाज से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और हमें इनको अपने जीवन में अवश्य अपनाना चाहिए।

कितने तीर हैं तेरे तरकश में...

अभिनव कुमार

कितने तीर हैं तेरे तरकश में,
आज सोच नहीं, असमंजस में,
आज रही निहार मुसीबतें तुझे,
हिम्मत है कितनी तेरे अंदर में,
गौर से देख, ये तरकश नहीं, तू है,
ये तीर नहीं, हिम्मत है तेरी।

मेहनत कर, अब सब कुछ होगा सही,
अब डरने की कोई ज़रूरत नहीं,
अब डर की आँखों में आँख डाल,
और देख, तेरे अंदर का हाल।

चल, अब तरकश के अपने तीर निकाल,
पहला तीर उस डर पर साध, जो तुझे डरा रहा है,
दूसरा तीर उस लोभ पर साध, जो तुझे लुभा रहा है,
तीसरा तीर उस आलस्य पर साध, जो तुझे सुला रहा है,
चौथा तीर उस घमंड पर साध, जो तुझे उड़ा रहा है।

पाँचवाँ तीर उस संकल्प पर साध, जो इरादे को तेरे मज़बूत बना दे,
छठा तीर उस मेहनत पर साध, जो सपनों को तेरे हक़ीक़त में बदल दे,
सातवाँ तीर उस संघर्ष पर साध, जो तेरे हर कदम को और ऊँचा उठा दे,
आठवाँ तीर उस उम्मीद पर साध, जो कभी भी तुझे निराश न होने दे,
नौवाँ तीर उस विश्वास पर साध, जो तुझे हर मुश्किल में साहस दे,
दसवाँ तीर उस इच्छाशक्ति पर साध, जो तुझे हर हाल में आगे बढ़ने का उत्साह दे।

ग्यारहवाँ तीर उस आत्मनिर्भरता पर साध, जो तुझे खुद पर भरोसा सिखाए,
बारहवाँ तीर उस लक्ष्य पर साध, जो तुझे मंजिल तक पहुँचाए,,
मन की शक्ति से, भर ले अपनी ताकत, सुलझा ले ये उलझन,
अब तू अपने मन की सुन, तेरी मंजिल का रास्ता तेरी ही चाल में है,
आज तू अपने मन की कर, तेरा जवाब तेरे ही सवाल में है।

The Week Gone By

Krishiv Jaiswal

The process of writing a *Week Gone By* — the thought of which annoys you to the core when reminded by the ‘*Weekly* kid’ Thursday evening — is ironic to an extent where I now find myself squandering yet another evening Toye.

I’ve really not had the best of stints when it comes to this section but this subdued week certainly does help. Sunday witnessed two crucial innings from the *Gujjus* with the bat as the School Team were left scratching their heads due to the unfortunate delay of several ‘masterclasses’. Truly, the Sc-Ls tried their best to *joga bonito* their way to only a ‘narrow loss’, trying

their best to put Bad Bunny’s verses in *DtMF* into practice.

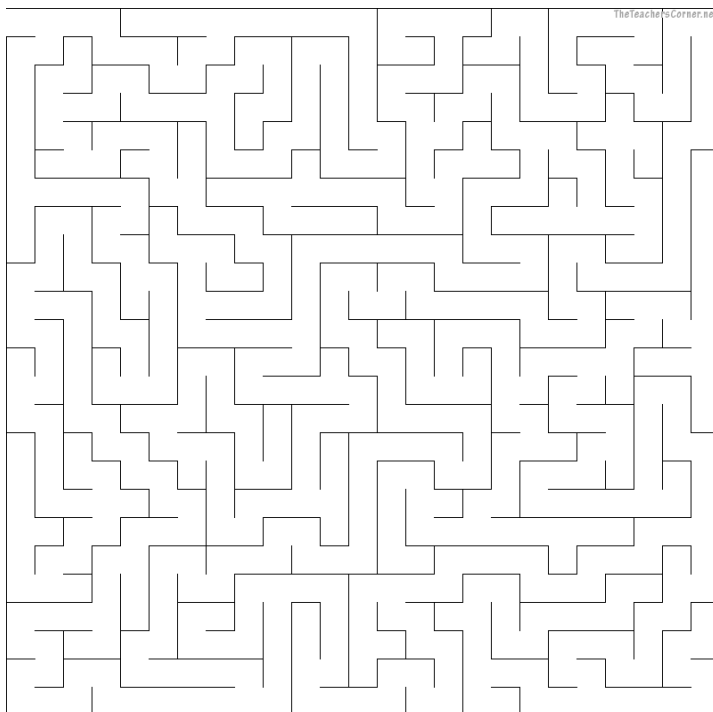
Skipping the lamentation around the resumption of PT, there is no way of bunking it without JTR Sir providing a now rather ‘expected’ visit to your dorm. As far as classes go, it’s the same story: 1st School is warm-up and then you end up knocked out by the end of the 7th School, studying Trigonometry which the Sc-Ls are trying to best incorporate into their walks through the Main Field to unknown territories. One of those unknown territories was the cultural music programme which was fun!

The pain of hearing the reasons of ‘perception’ and ‘time management’ after having a dent in your heart from the unforgiving announcements continues well into the Spring Term, as this week’s announcements saw a rise of an under-dog. Speaking of hikes, the

number of ‘verbal expressions’ exchanged in a jargon-free manner during the unprecedentedly well-arranged Inter-House Cricket matches is simply outrageous. Also speaking of hikes, the “very hardwired” 21 have already found their multiple requests being answered, be it on the 14th, 15th or any other day you can remember.

As I take my unpaid sabbatical off the *Weekly* for the next three weeks now, here is one piece of advice from my side: to have thoughts in your mind, questions on your tongue, and love for the School in your chest is the best way to be a Dosco; for only you can be you. There’s surely a lot more this term is yet to offer so fasten your seat belts!

Maze



The Weekly wishes the
entire School community a
Happy Valentine’s Day

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