The price of greatness is responsibility.
-Winston Churchill
INDEPENDENCE DAY

The hearts of all Dipsites felt a surge of patriotic emotion as the tri-colour was unfurled on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day celebrations. As expatriate Indians, we were delighted to be offered a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our motherland, and celebrate its glory, diversity, democracy and of course, its valorous freedom fighters.

While we are usually dressed in neat and tidy uniforms at school, it was a pleasant change to be permitted to wear Indian ethnic clothes. As the students assembled in the school grounds, dressed in vibrant colours, the festive mood was palpable amidst the throng of happy faces.

The special assembly commenced with a thought-provoking speech by A Level students Afreen and Karan who chose to shine the spotlight on the day’s contemporary relevance for young Indians, highlighting our responsibilities towards our nation as well as the wider international community. Then arrived the most stirring moment of the assembly- the flag hoisting ceremony. We sang the national anthem with immense pride and dedication; our heads raised high as we watched the tri-colour sway in the breeze. Next, young students of the primary section livened up our patriotic spirit further with an emotional rendition of a patriotic song. This was followed by an energetic and graceful dance performance by the secondary section participants, who portrayed the power of passion and the triumph of the human spirit. Last, but not the least, we had another foot-tapping performance by the school choir, accompanied by a team of student percussionists. A fusion of various styles of Indian folk music was a perfect celebration of our rich & diverse cultural heritage.

That was not all! How could one of India’s most celebrated days come to an end without having anything to do with the most loved sport of all Indians across the globe? To add an additional “desi” flavour to the day, a friendly inter-house cricket match was organized, and we shouted ourselves hoarse, cheering for our respective teams. It was a glorious end to a special day that underscored our commitment to preserve, affirm and advance our culture, heritage and shared values.

Vinuthna Kovvuri
(IX IGCSE)
In the current time, what does one think of after hearing the word violence? Merciless manslaughter? Fiery carnage? Cataclysmic ends of lives, countries, cultures? Chances are, all of these.

Violence, according to the official definition by the World Health Organization, is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against a person, a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation. Irrespective of the outcome caused, this interpretation even marks having such intentions on the same level as committing an actual act of violence.

While the 21st century has been a comparatively peaceful one, what with the World Wars, majority of the civil wars and the Cold War being epochs of the previous centuries, it has had its fair share of conflicts- the 9/11 attacks, the 2006 bomb blasts in Mumbai, just to name a few. However, this period of time can also be credited with milestones such as the raid and subsequent killing of the Leader of Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden who was responsible for the bombing of the World Trade Centre and many more atrocities, as well as the capture and execution of the deposed dictator Muammar Gaddafi by the National Liberation Army of Libya.

In spite of not having too many large-scale acts of violence all over the world, small incidents of brutality are provoked almost every day in some part of the world or the other. This is happening because of the false sense of security enveloping plebeians that encourages hordes to play God. Starting right from a young age, one where they should be thinking about getting the newest hot wheels or attaining the latest issue of Archies, pop culture has encouraged its patrons to embark on virtual missions to destroy gang lords or play contract killers. Mediums such as action movies, hip-hop music, and video games do more than just entertain; video games especially desensitizes its users by enforcing the notion of power over others as an exciting one and so the gamers fail to realize the real ferocity of a similar live experience.

There have been too many instances where teens and young adults have planned their crimes based on plots of movies and video games. In fact, bad guys and anti-heroes are now recognized as far more attractive than banal good guys. Yet, we say that the on-going centennial is less aggressive. So do we continue to live under the illusion of a utopian society or do we adhere to the words of Eleanor Roosevelt who said “We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together and if we are to live together we have to talk.”

You decide.

-Afreen Chawla (XI A Level)
Right vs. Rite

Conscription is the compulsory enlistment of people in some sort of national service, most often military service. The modern system of near-universal national conscription for young men dates to the French Revolution, where it became the basis of a very large military. Conscription in Singapore (NS) requires all male Singaporean citizens and non-first-generation permanent residents who have reached the age of 18 to serve a 22- or 24-month period as Full Time National Servicemen (NSFs), either in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Singapore Police Force (SPF), or the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF). Conscription is controversial because of conscientious objection to service or because of political objection to service for a disliked government or an unpopular war, and because many consider it to violate individual rights.

Many of those in opposition to mandatory military service quote Benjamin Franklin: “He who sacrifices freedom for security deserves neither”. It can also be argued that conscription during peace time is not worthwhile using a cost to benefit ratio. Months or years of service among the most fit and capable of the nation can subtract significantly from the productivity of the economy excluding the cost of training them. Compared to these extensive costs, some would argue there is very little benefit; if there ever was a war then conscription and basic training could be completed quickly, and in any case there is little threat of a war in most countries with conscription. However many people, vouch that military service acts as a rite of passage to adulthood which will bring social consciousness and maturity in young adults and that benefits the individual who will go on to become an employee, ultimately benefitting the economy.

- Shwetha Ravi (XI A level)

Army of Memories

Our class was recently engaged in a discussion regarding violence and wars in our English class. To this account, we watched the movie “Saving Private Ryan”, a movie set in the battlefields of Normandy during the D-Day of the Second World War. Owing to this and our reading of the article “The Better Angels of our Nature” by Steven Pinker which talks of his study of the decline in violence down the ages, we chose “Do you think whether the 21’st century is violent?” as the question for the Stats and Facts section.

Watching the movie roused a curiosity amongst us about the lives of army-men and we thought of asking Principal Sir, an accomplished army man himself, about his experience and his thoughts on army and violence in the world. We started off with his thoughts about the army, where he described the army as the same set of human beings as those in the civil stream, but belonging to a very different world. He went on to describe the process of induction and training for the army at different levels. He appraised the Indian army saying that, “Since centuries, the system of inducting you into the army and training you has evolved very beautifully. I have gone through it; I have spent 25 years in the army, I have been a trainee myself and thereafter I have had the privilege of being an instructor at the training academy. Seeing the training from the
instructor’s perspective and seeing the training from my own perspective from when I was a trainee, I can proudly tell you I do not think that any country can boast of such wonderfully organized training that we have in India.”

When asked about when he decided to join the army and the circumstances which led him to it, Sir recounted that he had always wanted to be in an adventurous field and thus he joined the army after finishing his Masters. His family, he said, was not entirely appreciative about it considering that he had been the only student in Asia to secure a teaching associateship in the United States in the year 1982. Nevertheless, his family was very supportive of his decision to join the army and did not question his judgement.

In response to our question as to how did he decide to join our school as the principal, he said that, “Simultaneously with the urge for adventure, there was also an urge to be very academic in nature. I enjoyed studies, and I am very proud to tell you that I got gold medals in both MSc an MPhil.” After having recalled to us the rather swashbuckling activities he was engaged in during his service, such as sky diving (Sir has been a National Ace Skydiver), rafting etc. he mentioned that his adventurous aspect had been sated and, after 25 years of service, the subdued urge for the academics resurfaced especially since he served as Principal in a military school for a period of 4.5 years. Therefore when he retired from the army, he decided to rejoin the academic career as the Principal in our school.

As indicated by Principal Sir himself, an army is an entirely different world and therefore it was only natural that we asked whether he had had any difficulties in adapting to the comparatively quieter life of academics. His reply was unhesitant, “Not really, I always remained in touch with the academics. I am very proud to tell you that, having served in the training academy is a rare honour. Not only that, I was very privileged to be made leader of a team which trained the trainers. So I never lost touch with the academics.”

When asked if the army had thought him life-lessons which would not have been there if he had stayed in the academic field, he remarked after a pause, “It’s not about lessons of life, it’s about experiences and those experiences cannot be matched with what you go through in the outside world, and so is true the other way round. I’m quite sure I would have missed a lot, if I had not taken the decision to join the army.”

When asked about his view on National Service (NS) in Singapore and whether countries should do away with their armed forces so that peace may be better maintained, Sir started off by saying that NS is a positive thing and helps people to view the world in a different perspective while also instilling in them some values which help in day-to-day life as well. He then stated that the armed forces are more of a defensive gesture to maintain peace. He described the proliferation of armaments as political decisions to prove that a nation is superior to other nations and in case of an invasion, protect the country effectively.

Sir described the 21st century as a golden era where peace exists and expressed his opinion on the Stats and Facts question that the 21st century is not as violent as the preceding eras due to the hard work of organizations such as UN and ASEAN, the media and the awareness of the people. He also stated that the current peace will not have been possible if not for the aforesaid organizations. He agreed with us that violence is intrinsic to the human nature and it is only until that the urge for violence is subdued, happiness and peace will exist.

We ended our interview with a question, more for formality than for anything else since we knew the answer especially after our lengthy conversation, about whether he regretted joining the army. His response, as expected was immediate and in the negative. He missed the army.

- Interviewed by Prashant, Shwetha Ravi (XI A Level)
Monday 5th August

The science quiz for classes 6 and 7 were conducted by Class 11AS from 1:50pm to 2:50pm. The quiz posed to the 4-member team of each of the 4 houses 4 gruelling rounds of questions, the hardest of which were filtered to the audience including a bonus audience round from the quiz's unused tie-breakers. The competition was a close one between Glacier and Lake and had the participants and audience leaving with shorter fingernails.

1st: Glacier
2nd: Lake
3rd: Spring
4th: Oasis

Tuesday 6th August

Classes 11 AS and 11 ISC were given the opportunity of giving a presentation on a scientific topic of their choosing to a panel of judges composed of teachers. It was a test of knowledge, confidence and raw explanatory skill that ensured a role reversal of sorts and a taste of presentation tasks that many of us will face at the workplace.

1st: Prashant 11AS
2nd: Gopika 11 ISC
3rd: Harshitha 11AS

1st: Spring
2nd: Oasis
3rd: Lake
4th: Glacier

Wednesday 7th August

A science fair for classes 6 to 9 (with class 11 in charge of discipline) was held throughout the day where students could show off their scientific ventures and projects to appreciative judges from the faculty. The day was undoubtedly colored with a shade of competition which fortunately did not discourage constructive peer review and assistance. Many innovative experiments were proudly on display that reflected the work dedicated to each individual project.

- Shwetha Ravi (XI A Level)
The Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi
Rating: 4/5

A well written and stirring series, it tells the stories of the old in a modern style. The books capture the reader’s curiosity and presents Indian mythology by using the fundamental concept that all Gods were once human. It tells the tale of a Tibetan tribe leader, brought to the Sapt-Sindhu, North India as it was called then, along with his tribe of Gunas by the most successful kingdom of the time, where an accident turns him into the legendary saviour of the people, the Mahadev.

- Prashant (XI A Level)

Gone series by Michael Grant
Rating: 5/5

If all grown-ups disappeared one day, would the world finally meet peace and be cleansed of all sins? "Well duh, innocent children will be freed of all things evil like wars and homework". If your answer was along those lines, then let me introduce you to the FAYZ from the Gone series. Get it? It's just a phase; they'll grow out of it. (Read to find out what that’s about!)
In this place once known as Perdido Beach, the Californian setting of this 6-book long series, every person above the age of 14 disappears, leaving behind the town's children at the mercy of each other.
Written by Michael Grant, these books will give you eye bags whether you like it or not. Though new readers are warned, this series contains scenes of cruelty and violence that could make seasoned Stephen King readers cringe.

- Shwetha Ravi (XI A Level)
Halcyon by Ellie Goulding

(Genre: Synthpop)
Rating: 3.5/5

Her sophomore record, Halcyon, is an ethereal mix of angelic vocals and sombre tone, perfect for a listen on a rainy day. The album incorporates much more earthly-bound instruments like pianos and drums, while layering Goulding’s signature airy vocals, creating a striking, sometimes haunting effect in songs like Explosions, Only You and more. Where the synth-infused songs like Figure 8 blow your mind every time the chorus hits, the likes of Bittersweet float through your conscious and settle within you. Goulding has said that she considers it to be “quite a sad album. But then the songs that are joyous are so joyous. And it’s such a beautiful world.” Halcyon indeed.

The 20/20 Experience by Justin Timberlake

(Genre: Neo Soul)
Rating: 3.5/5

After a 6-year hiatus, Timberlake returns with a much more classy and mature sound. With a majority of the album’s 10 tracks each clocking in past six minutes, The 20/20 Experience offers a hypnotic musical experience that allows listeners to get entranced by the melodic harmonies of Timberlake’s voice. By adding a mix of romance and dance tunes with soft ballads like “Mirrors”, soulful “That Girl”, and hip-hop influenced “Tunnel Vision”, and help from Timbaland, Timberlake retains his boyish charm and love for nightlife as he sings over the Bollywood-esque “Don’t Hold the Wall” and African tribal rhythms of “Let the Groove Get In”.

- Afreen Chawla (XI A Level)
Congratulations!

BOTTOM ROW:
- **SPRING**: Rakshit Mishra, Aarushi Mundra
- **OASIS**: Rohini Makkena, Vandith Sai
- **GLACIER**: Kedar Pai, Gokul Raj
- **LAKE**: Kaushik Telidevara, Takshi Thadani

2ND ROW: Shyam Sunder (VC), Tanisha Debashish (VC), Shwetha Joy (CC), Harshitha Pulla (CC), Geetanjali Goswami (C), Arsha Aggarwal (VC), Sthuthi Vijay Kumar (VC)

3RD ROW: Rhea Pai (C), Prashant (C), Shreya Mundra (CC), Vinuthna Kovvuri (VC), Nikita Vattas (VC), Krithika Lakshmi (VC), Rishabh Kumar (VC)

4TH ROW: Rakesh Rajkumar (CC), Pranay Mohnot (C)

5TH ROW: Akhil Athiri (SVC), Sahaj Sood (HB), Afreen Chawla (HG), Karan Razdan (SC)
**What I Love About DPS:**

I love that DPS is supportive of student interests and allowed me to paint a graffiti mural as my art project.

- **Pranav Hampiholi (X IGCSE (2012 batch))**

Because it's an integral place that's more than just a school, it's like a second home, with all the teachers and students becoming a family.

- **Aditya Mishra (XI A Level)**

Every time I stepped into DPS, I felt as if I was at home, with wonderful friends and teachers looking out for me in every way possible.

- **Sanskriti Garg (X ICSE (2012 Batch))**

What I love about DPS is the special bond between the teachers and the students; both have been very inspiring. The friendly environment and the fun times spent with them, are memories I’ll always cherish.

- **Shreya Mundra (XI ISC)**

**From the editorial board:**

Hey there readers!

We’ve recently taken over the newsletter and revamped it! There’s a whole new set of designs, new columns for your contributions and more! We’d love more participation from students and teachers so we can make the newsletter better every issue. Feel free to share any thoughts and ideas you have for next month’s issue by contacting us directly or on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/thedpsnewsletter. We hope you liked and enjoyed this issue!

Till next time! 😊

P.S. Best of luck for the exams, seniors (and teachers)!

**COMING UP:**

- Teacher’s Day (5th September)
- Semester Exams (until 20th September)
- Term Break II (21st – 29th September)

**CREDITS**

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[XI A Level]

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**
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RITUPARNA MA’AM