

THE DELONIX

~ A COLLABORATIVE CO-CREATION ~
SRCS JULY 2022

Dear Reader,

We finally did it. We finally have hard copies of The Delonix floating around school as you read these first few lines.

An overwhelming wave of ecstasy flows within me as I try and find the words to thank each and every faculty member as well as the students who supported the editorial team through this publication's first year. After numerous discussions and deleted documents, alongside plentiful editing, we have come to the day where not just our peers, but our parents too, get to see the creativity of our school.

On that note, a huge congratulations to all those who received their badges today! They are all well-deserved positions that have been filled by worthy prefects.

It is just the beginning of this term, and our calendar is already full of upcoming events. So, I propose a pact. This term let's push ourselves to step out of our comfort zones and step into the limelight with participation. It is time to keep the faith and believe in ourselves. Despite the strange times we have been through, the back-and-forth game of pre- and post-COVID, we overcame the daunting storm and now stand in the calm of the ocean of opportunities. It's up to us now, dear reader, to push ourselves to our limits, identify our strongest fields, and leave an example for the little ones.

Your newly sworn-in captains (after careful observation of each one of them) have proven to be extremely approachable and friendly. They're more than eager to guide you through any obstacle you may face.

Remember, every day, as the rain sets in, let it wash away your past regrets. Let the sun bring in the light of change as the clouds make way for it.

With that, I urge you to sit back and savour every minute of this issue that brings forth an array of topics, a recipe to try after a long day of school, and, of course, the signature puzzles to keep you busy in between your classes. Happy Reading!

Signing off,
The Editor-in-Chief

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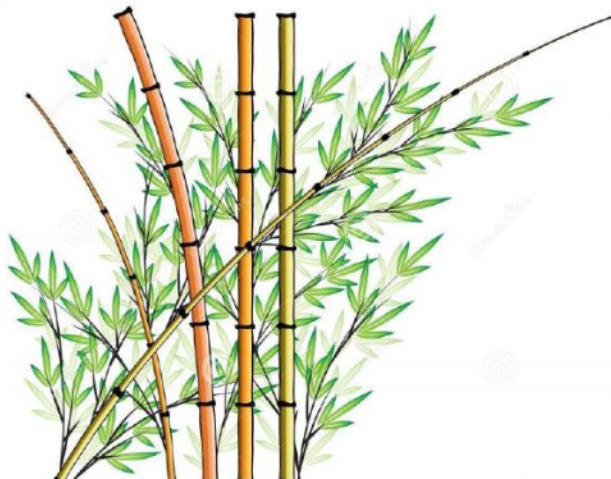
Choices

What is a choice?

According to me, a choice is a decision we make, keeping in mind the consequences that may follow. Let me put across a situation in front of all of you. So assume that yesterday, your teachers decided to take a test. You were briefed about this test a long time ago. Some of you chose to study and others didn't. Since we reap the seeds we sow, some of you got good marks and some of you did not. What was the right choice, to study or not to study? The thing is that there is no right or wrong choice. The people who chose not to study may have their valid explanations. They were probably painting, writing, singing, dancing, watching sports or playing outside. It was their own choice. But when they saw their not-so-great marks on the test, they felt that the choice which they had made was wrong. Similarly, in life, there are so many times when we make choices but we don't see the results. At that very moment, a faint voice of self-doubt creeps into us. We think the choices we made are incorrect or we don't deserve to be where we are right now and our self-worth takes a massive hit. At that moment, choose to believe in yourself because there is a person I know who often refers back to a story. It's the bamboo shoot story. Once upon a time, there was a man, a nature lover. He planted some bamboo seeds in his garden, watered and took care of them. In the duration of the first year, there was no upward growth. He kept doing the same for the next year and yet again, there was no growth. The third and fourth years passed but the result was the same. But the man did not give up. During the fifth year, he saw little bamboo shoots sprouting in his garden. Within 5 months these shoots grew into full-fledged trees. The man did not stop. He believed in the choice he had made. It took him five years to reap his results.

In the same way, every time you feel like things aren't going your way, or you are not worth it, just remember I believe in you, your friends believe in you, and the people whom you love believe in you. So choose to believe in yourself and your choices.

- Swastikaa Khanna



Consistency

Humans, from the very beginning of time, have been creatures of habit, regardless of whether the habits were beneficial or not. It is not an unknown fact that good habits lead to the overall growth and breed success whereas bad habits cultivate destructive addictions. Think about shedding weight as an example. Diet culture has shown time and time again, that humans are not designed to lose weight rapidly in a maintainable way. Weight loss is achieved only by finding techniques that work best for your body and then by consistently practising them.

Patience and consistency go hand in hand. Patience is the ability to accept or tolerate delay without the onset of anxiety and without responding in anger or disrespect.

Click baits like “Reduce 10 kgs in one week!” or “Get rich in one month!” do sound enticing, but what we forget is that they are equally unrealistic. In today’s time, everyone craves fast results but the truth is that results can only be seen when one focuses on the process, not the outcome. If an individual wants quality results and wants to sustain them for a longer period of time, he/she should practise patience and consistency.

With qualities like endurance and dedication, most things can be achieved in life.

Dwayne Johnson rightly said, “Success isn’t always about greatness. It’s about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will follow.”

- Aman Thakur

Motivation

“Motivation gets you going, but discipline keeps you growing.”

- John Maxwell.

Discipline is an act of rules and regulations which we follow from our childhood till the end of our lives. Discipline is something that keeps every person organized. It motivates a person to progress in life. Everybody follows discipline in their life in different ways. Although everyone has their own prospect of discipline, most people consider it a vital part of their lives.

Without discipline, the life of an individual will surely be dull and inactive. An individual who practices discipline on a regular basis can control and handle the situation of living in a more sophisticated way than someone who does not. It makes things easier for them to handle and ultimately brings success to their life.

Discipline, if practiced from the early stages of life, can prove to be very beneficial. Everybody can be disciplined, but it involves a lot of hard work and dedication. One has to be strict with themselves so that they can complete their goals.

If we talk about professional life, then disciplined people always get more opportunities than undisciplined. Also, it adds an exceptional element to the personality of the individual.

In conclusion, discipline is not the absence of fun; it is an organized and perfectly strategized way of life.

- Manan Khurana

At One Point In Life

We can see with our eyes closed.
May it be the sharp edge of a knife
Or a beautiful flower, gracefully composed.

Here we recite a paradox,
As no one has ever had such an ability,
Seeing without tilting an eyelid,
From hardness of rocks.
To a mother's unfaithful live full of fragility.

We have the power of sight through other senses,
That makes our surroundings crystal clear in our heads,
Before committing actions, we can see their consequences.
Cause we have seen the world brought to is how people tread.

Experience makes a boy a man,
Experience of touch, taste, sound, and emotions,
Such that we don't need our eyes to scan.
How a being is with feelings clasped in a few notions?

Let's give our eyes a little rest.
The vision can get hazy,
While the mind gets to work.
We have been so tired of seeing this world full of mess,
That it's okay to sometimes give in to our assumptions and smirk.

Is it okay for us to judge persons?
Without seeing how they truly are from within?
But people are such with their impressions,
That we don't need any eyes to see if they are rough or soft like linen.

- Myraa Jaiswal

Books to Add to Your Shelf

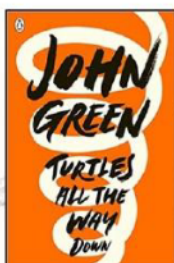
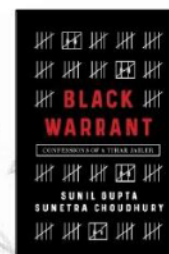


The Hate You Give – Angie Thomas:

The Hate You Give is inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and is about sixteen-year-old Starr and how she is stuck between the poor community she lives in and affluent prep school she attends. Balancing of her life becomes harder when her childhood best friend is shot dead in front of her. The book deals with racism and police brutality in America.

Black Warrant – Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhary:

Black warrant is a non-fiction depicting the experiences of Tihar jailer, Mr. Sunil Gupta. The book opens up a closed world of the Tihar jail which cannot be seen by many commoners. It talks of India's judicial and criminal justice system and also of the corruption inside the jail. It is a perfect read to keep you on the edge of your seat.

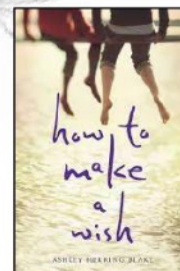


Turtles all the way Down – John Green:

Turtles all the way down is about Aza who struggles with anxiety and OCD. She tries to be a good student and daughter, but her anxiety makes it harder for her. She and her friend Daisy decide to investigate the disappearance of billionaire Russell Pickett whose son, Davis, was an old friend of Aza. The book very accurately portrays the thinking of a teenager and shows how to tackle anxiety.

How to Make a Wish – Ashley Herring Blake:

How to make a wish is an emotional contemporary with a complicated mother daughter relationship. It also shows the journey of the protagonist finding her true self.



Word Power:

1. Cacophony (kuh-**kaw**-fuh-nee)
(noun) harsh melody of sounds
2. Penury (**peh**-nyoo-ree)
(noun) a state of extreme poverty
3. Ephemeral (uh-**feh**-muh-ruhl)
(adj.) eternal
4. Conspicuous (Kuhn-**spi**-kyoo-uhs)
(adj.) easily seen



Monsoon Word Search

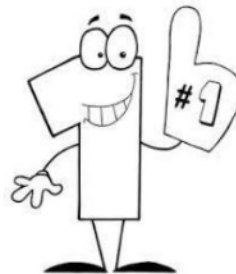
E	G	I	W	A	T	E	R	T	E	F	A	S	O
F	R	A	I	N	T	O	D	H	T	E	P	E	T
Y	E	E	N	O	E	D	A	U	G	U	O	V	E
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D	I	A	W	I	E	G	O	E	V	E	S	A	T
I	T	N	E	N	R	O	O	R	I	G	I	T	S
M	A	E	R	T	A	L	D	S	T	R	R	N	I
U	R	T	O	H	T	C	I	T	C	U	B	E	O
H	A	N	U	G	U	O	N	O	A	S	E	V	M
E	P	I	T	I	R	I	G	R	O	S	D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

MONSOON
 SURGE
 OFF
 MAINTENANCE
 CLOGGED
 FLOODING
 MOISTURE
 DEBRIS
 AIRFILTER
 PROACTIVE
 RAIN
 WATER
 EFFICIENT
 DIRT
 DAMAGE
 SAFE
 SUMMER

Sudoku

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

If you manage to complete both
 or either of the two puzzles,
 catch hold of any editor, hand in
 your work and wait for your
 reward!



Recipe to Try!

Ingredients:

- 150 grams all purpose flour
- 25 grams cocoa powder
- A pinch of salt
- 100 grams brown sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 80ml oil
- 240 ml milk
- 1 tsp. vinegar



Method:

Step 1-

Preheat oven at 160 degree Celsius for 10 minutes.

Step 2-

Add lukewarm milk to the vinegar and keep aside for 5 minutes.

Step 3-

Sieve flour, coco, salt, baking powder, baking soda, and keep aside.

Step 4-

Beat the oil, sugar, and buttermilk till the sugar dissolves.

Step 5-

Add the vanilla essence and all the liquid ingredients to the dry flour mixture and mix it gently with the balloon whisk.

Step 6-

Pour the batter into the mould and bake at 160 degrees for 20 minutes.



Are Humans Inherently Good Or Bad?

Human nature has been a controversial and quarrelsome topic since just about the beginning of our existence. The real question is, "Are humans inherently born good?" "Are they born inherently bad?" or "Is their nature completely shaped by the world around them?" "Moreover, are all people born equal or born with a disparity of worth based on circumstance?"

To answer all these questions, we have to turn to Eastern Philosophy by Mencius. He believed that humans were born with a natural tendency to goodness. According to him, humans have innate predispositions towards the virtues of benevolence, righteousness, propriety, and wisdom. He knew that possessing these virtues was essential to a life well-lived. He believed that we were all born with these so-called 'thoughts of virtue.' To prove his point, he used a wide range of examples and experiments.

One of the examples was, "Imagine a child playing in a field where he suddenly stumbles upon a pond. He climbs onto the edge and starts to teeter upon it. On seeing this, a person would instinctively feel alarmed and pity and rush to help and save the child." At least that's what Mencius thought. He believed that even the most callous person would instinctively help the child because of his or her nature. The inner sprout of benevolence, even if not developed yet, resides within everyone, driving them to save the boy.

But most of the people living on this planet believe in another theory, which was made by yet another Eastern philosopher, Xunzi. His view was that humans were born selfish, deceitful, and as terrible people, but could become good later in life. Xunzi believed that our natural tendencies led to conflict and disorder, which came with the need to radically reform people towards goodness. While Mencius used the analogy of 'sprouts' to show how humans became good, Xunzi used the analogy of 'clay.' He believed that we would use the ideas of right and wrong to shape the nature that we were given, just like clay into something much more beautiful.

- Kushagra Negi



A Subtle Rant

We live in a society that benefits from and thrives on our self-doubts. In a world, where most people were told to climb the ladder higher to be better, we now push people off of it instead to serve our purposes.

In a world, where we were once termed as blooming flowers, we now tell our children that they are the butterflies and their competitors are the thorns out to hurt them.

I don't think I only talk about myself when I say I had a phase in my life where I feared judgement from those around me, which led me to plant a thousand 'what ifs' in my head.

And honestly, I don't think I was wrong. Because most of the time, when someone decides to do something out of the box with full confidence, our first instinct is to question their actions. Why though?

Each person has a unique personality of their own and a unique thought process, and I strongly believe that their thoughts and opinions fully deserve to flourish.

So why the judgement? Why instigate them to doubt themselves? Let me rephrase that question. Why should anyone else be given the power to instigate you to doubt yourself?

We now live in a society where doubting yourself has become the norm. Questioning your actions before going ahead with them is a standard notion.

I do believe that uncertainty about ourselves is what leads to benefit off of someone else's insecurities. It gives you a sense of false superiority.

In reality, you're not superior; you're just making yourself comfortable on the ladder by pushing someone else down into a spiral of inferiority.

I'd like to leave you with a quote by Amy Pence Brown:

“In a society that profits from your self-doubt, liking yourself is a rebellious act and loving yourself is anything but naive.”

- Gaurisa Dhawan



Respect

Mutual respect is the foundation of genuine harmony.

Do you think there is a possibility to have a good relationship with anyone, no matter their religion, personal beliefs, social differences or physical appearance? There is a way, an attitude we could adapt to achieve this. The means to have a good relationship with anybody no matter the condition is summed up in one word, respect.

Respect, also called esteem, is a positive feeling or action shown towards someone or something considered important or held in high regard. This quality is important because it shows that one values another as an individual and that he honours the personal rights and dignity of the person as a fellow human being. Respect goes a long way in developing a harmonious home, work and social environment. It is thinking and acting positively about yourself or others. Respect is thinking and acting in a way that shows others you care about their feelings and their well-being. Respecting someone is an indication of ethical behaviour. But in order to keep someone in high regard, you should respect yourself first.

Self-respect is a reflection of maturity and confidence that makes us feel great and makes us believe that we are not less than anyone. It is a feeling of confidence and pride in your ability and worth.

The golden rule of respect is to treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Some of the basic actions that reflect respect are listening to others, acknowledging them, complimenting their achievements, addressing mistakes with kindness, and respecting their physical boundaries.

Just remember, be kind and respectful to others, respect your efforts, and respect yourself. Self-respect leads to self-discipline. When you have both firmly under your belt, that's real power.

- Anushka Dhyani

Wake Up!

"We can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change-it has to start today."

- Greta Thunberg

Climate change is real and human activities such as deforestation, burning fossil fuels, industrial as well as agricultural activities, farming, etc. are the main causes and have led to the gradual increase in Earth's temperature. Climate change is already having visible effects on the world. Our rainfall patterns are changing, and sea levels are rising. These changes can increase the risk of heat stress, damage to the marine ecosystem, food insecurity, and loss of biodiversity. To see a positive change in the climate, we will have to cut down the emissions of various greenhouse gases.

As of right now, this is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced. We cannot solve this crisis without treating it. If solutions for climate change are hard to find within the systems, it is time to change the systems themselves. We have to wake up and accept the change. We deserve a safe future and we should act for it because there is no planet B.

- Divyansh Sehwal

Efforts

"Don't put in half the effort unless you are okay with half the results."

There are times when we do something wholeheartedly, but then there are times too when we show the least amount of interest in completing our work. It's not every time that our hard work proves to be victorious, but in the end, we always learn something new. That something can include critical thinking, a lifelong lesson, a new concept, or even a few new words.

According to me, one should always make every effort, even if it results in losing, rather than regretting it later, because the pain of growth is temporary but the pain of regret is permanent.

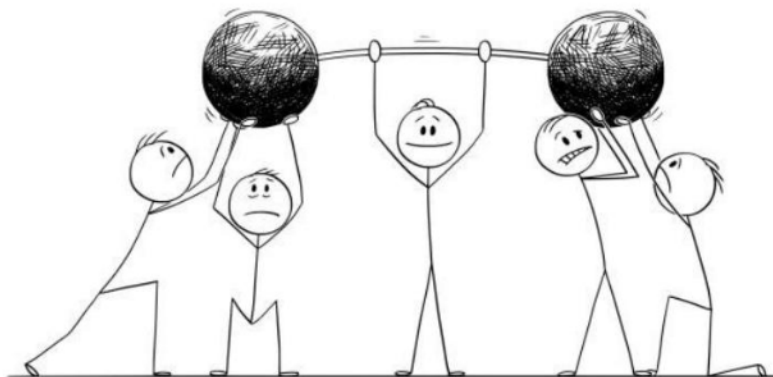
During the month of January, my friend and I participated in an inter-school competition. On the one hand, we were excited and confident, but on the other hand, we were uninterested and unconfident. As soon as we started working on it, we decided to go all in. We thought that if we won, we would bring glory to our school, and even if we don't win, we still have a lesson learned in the end, and we can still work on it to make it a success. While we ploughed through, we got engrossed in it and managed to win the competition. From this incident, I learned that developing an interest becomes very difficult until you give it your best shot.

When you are ignorant and careless about something, your chances of success automatically decrease.

Never think about the results before you start working whole-heartedly on the task at hand. Do not restrict yourself to the imagination of something hard because the imagination is scarier than the thing itself.

People will criticise you while you work, but promise yourself to turn a deaf ear to them. Remember, **"Efforts will release their reward only after you refuse to quit."**

- Unnati Gupta



Verses

The War

Looking around,
The battle was so harsh,
Bodies lay scattered on the ground
With a nauseating scent of blood.

I can hardly see,
for smoke blinds my eyes
Looking around,
my heart sinks and fills with sorrow,
I want this battle to end.

Noises of gunfire, hurt my eardrums,
Piercing and killing lives.
The images and feelings of the war
Scare me to life.

- Newton Ganguly



Ghost

In the middle of the night,
I wake up in fright,
I feel someone behind,
But don't know where to hide.

So I look around,
But no one is found
The thing I'm scared of
Is it even true?
Or has my imagination,
Left me out of blue.

Is it a ghost,
Trying to haunt me;
Or is it my imagination
trying to prank me ?

- Maira Dixit



Insecure

Here I find myself again,
fooled by my involuntary actions.
Climbing down the wall.
Each step I take,
I get hit by the dopamine ball.

This wall was built by my own desires,
Be it good physique, big car or luxurious attire's.
But little do we know how much is real or fake,
Maybe the body you always wanted,
Might be photoshopped or flaunted.

The more I climb,
The more my perception of what's normal gets screwed,
Making me insecure about what I already have,
Because of all the things I see skewed.

Earlier the social comparison used to stop after school,
But now there is no escape,
Be it the bedroom, couch, toilet,
Or while commuting, eating, and sleeping.
There used to be peaceful times for self-care
Cause of the magic rectangle now has come a time of despair.

Hours spent climbing down this wall,
But at what cost?
As soon as I reached the end
All I felt was insecure.

- Kushagra Negi



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