



MARCH-APRIL 2019 ISSUE 13

# Neev Times

The Newsletter of Neev Academy

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# Leadership Speak

## PYP Exhibition – Choice, Change, Celebration

**“Many small people, in small places, doing small things can change the world.” - Eduardo Galeano**



The PYP Exhibition is a reflection and understanding of the programme principles and the framework. Students engage in a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry process that involves them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues or problems.

Through the PYP years, students are provided with the opportunity to choose, act, decide and reflect – making learning active, relevant and meaningful. Thus, impacting learners to shift their thinking, deepen their feelings, and develop dispositions. So, making that change always begins with shifts in the self. Students are taught to think for themselves and to drive the learning process. The PYP Exhibition, therefore, is a culmination of all this learning.

The Exhibition showcases a collaborative inquiry that students have a personal interest in exploring. It also requires students to apply their learning from the previous years. Students are grouped according to similar interests that they wish to explore further. It is a demonstration of student agency, to own and take responsibility as a result of their learning. Nevertheless, the Exhibition is a celebration of who our students are, as IB learners.

The Exhibition is an intensive period during which students engage in inquiring about concept(s) that motivate them. Choosing a topic is a very important part of the exhibition process. The teachers help students to choose topics with sufficient depth and breadth, to maintain a focus on deep learning. Well-chosen topics foster engagement with an inquiry, critical thinking, and international-mindedness.

Through this process, students also display a set of traits and attributes– “The IB Learner Profiles” – their capacity and responsibility, that goes beyond academic success.

In the early stages, the teachers engage in many one-on-one conversations with students to ensure they have found something to explore that really matters to them. They ask them questions to brainstorm and get students to articulate their personal connections with their inquiries and to hear them explain, why they care. We discuss with students how global issues might affect us personally and how personal issues might be relevant in broader contexts. Some students can readily identify what bothers them, what they care about and, with minimal probing, express their personal connections. Others take longer. Some students spend time exploring one issue, only to decide they are not sufficiently engaged and would like to change direction. Some think they have a particular interest but are unable to find a meaningful way into it. Some are interested in so many things, they find it hard to choose and focus. Our job as teachers is to help them find something they care about to inquire into, no matter how long it takes.

Teachers and students find these conversations both challenging and rewarding.

Through such systematic learning, not only do students realise and utilise their own agency to make a difference, but they also acquire a deeper sensitivity and responsibility toward the local and global communities they inhabit. Week by week students move to reshape their thinking.

The students worked closely with their mentors who monitor, encourage, discuss, question and give feedback to students in a timely and constructive manner. Each mentor’s approach to learning and teaching is distinct, they bring in their interest, passion and learning to guide the students.

The Exhibition creates a unique environment that unites the school community in a collaborative experience.

We take this opportunity to wish the students, parents, teachers, and mentors all the best for the big event!

An event where everyone enjoys learning!

### Shanthi Raghunath

Head - Primary School

I am looking forward to talking about my action and getting my feedback from the teachers and parents.



The PYP exhibition has given us a platform to showcase our understanding of the learning in the PYP years.

G5 Students

### PYP Exhibition - Prep Time



It has been an in-depth collaborative inquiry. It was interesting to research on a topic we are passionate about.



We worked on our research skills and extended our knowledge about our topic. It was an exhilarating journey and we are looking forward to interacting with the school community.



Our topics for the exhibition are so diverse and the way each group conducted their research was also so different and our presentations will also be different. Looking forward to working on our final presentations.

# Learning Journeys

A determined dog limped towards us. Being greeted by a symphony of high pitched squeals, he was encouraged and continued with his performance. Limping and looking vulnerable, he was waiting for us to break. To our dismay and his, we were not allowed to give him attention. He looked at us like he had just wasted his talent and walked away with no limp what-so-ever. We had just been conned by a dog, perhaps it was not unusual that dogs in Delhi were professional con artists.

Chandni Chowk is a place where dreams are made. Have you ever heard or thought of a fruit sandwich with strawberry, mango and paneer to be good? It was an ethereal experience, far from what we eat every day, and it was great! The shop was in the middle of nowhere in some alley of an alley in the middle of another shady alley. We did not know what to expect, but something about that place and its long and rich history was comforting. It was simple, yet had a beautiful vintage quality that made me feel like I was a part of the living, breathing heart of Delhi.



The area felt dusty and humid, yet I could feel the vibrance of Barefoot College. All of us gathered around a small, physically challenged lady named Tara, and Aadi stood up next to her, ready to translate. She opened her mouth, and to all our surprise she said, "Hello". She spoke about her job, the organization and the product at hand. All in English. Even though it was a struggle, she did it. She did something no one thought she would.



Most of the structures we saw were worn down and old. Shattered and demolished. Yet, kings and important people of our history lived in and visited those structures. Maybe they were once complete and breathtaking, but time can break and ruin the most perfect things. However, for some reason, today, these ancient buildings are appreciated for their defective nature. The shattered walls were damaged and broken. So broken, that its flaws made it truly magnificent, beautiful even. It gave them a story, a reality, or a tale that lived within the collapsed walls. A death. A victory. A loss. A war. History lived and thrived in its blemishes, and just like you can't restore history, you can't restore its walls.

**G8 Students**

## Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

### Breaking boundaries at Barefoot

Our trip to Delhi and Rajasthan, where we visited cities such as Udaipur, Jaipur, Ranthambore and the state of Delhi was an in-depth exploration of culture, governance, art, history and law. In addition to these explorations, I would say that we also understood the aspects of community service (Service as Action) through multiple visits to places like the Barefoot College or Dastkar that focus on uplifting the rural community and creating a more resourceful, equal society. This, for me, was one of the most valuable experiences of the trip and will help me find more effective and impactful meaning in my own SAA projects.

At Neev, dedicated focus is given to SAA and we are taught to identify a certain issue in our immediate community and use our skills to provide service-based solution to such issues. In the Barefoot College in Tilonia, I saw an institution that focused on building skills so that women could be empowered and could create a lasting impact on the society. I saw women of the rural society working on solar cookers, heaters, solar repair, sanitation, dentistry and education - all to create a more equal, educated and healthy society. It was here that I understood the value of an equal society and how important it is that no one from any strata of the society is "left behind" as the rich get richer and the world advances. I observed that the Barefoot College was engaged with issues of global importance such as women empowerment, health, and poverty and this inspired me to bring in change, even if it is at a local or regional level. Furthermore, our interaction with 'Solar Mamas' taught me that culture, language and geographical locations are not daunting barriers if we are committed to a cause.

**Pranav Gupta (G8-B)**

### One step towards a better life

Our school, Neev Academy is situated in the Bellandur suburb of Bangalore, which contains the Kempapura village. We believe that it is our duty, as students, to use our resources and skills to make a significant impact on this community.

We started our project by first visiting the village area on 12th March 2019, to get a good idea about the situation. We found out that there was a community school for primary children that contained toilets, but were not used by the children. There was also a slum area inhabited by migrant labour workers that had neither toilets nor running water. As a result, the occupants openly defecated and had to walk a few kilometers every day to get water.

We contacted Habitat for Humanity, an international NGO that works with building housing and sanitation facilities. We attended a youth leadership program conducted by them to learn how to initiate and plan a service project. To support this project we raised funds in a variety of ways, from bake sales to asking friends and acquaintances to donate. Ultimately, we raised over 1 lakh rupees which we will use to achieve our two main goals we would like to achieve through this project-

1. To conduct sessions and educate the students of the community school on how to use toilets and maintain them
2. To build sanitation facilities for the migrant labourers of the slum area.

We have set feasible goals and have had a great start to achieving each one to the best of our abilities.

**Rohini Chakraborty and Arya Varma (G11)**

# Students' Voice

## Living the life of a footballer

Recently I got my first opportunity to travel abroad to play football at a competitive level. I have been coaching with Barca Soccer Academy and got selected in the Under-12 team to represent India at the BAWC 2019 (Barca Academy World Cup) held in Barcelona, Spain. BAWC is a huge platform with international teams coming from over 45 nations to compete in a week long tournament.

Playing against several international teams like Canada, Poland, Spain, Japan and Nigeria gave us an exposure to different match strategies and fitness levels of the players from around the world. We played at international level football facilities like Mini Estadi, Estadi Johan Cruyff where some of the greatest footballers of all times like Messi, Ronaldinho, Iniesta, Xavi and Suarez have trained.

The tournament was star studded. I met the legendary football player Xavi who was a skilled midfielder in the team that won the FIFA World Cup for Spain in 2010. In the closing ceremony, I met Rafinha, who plays as central midfielder for FC Barcelona, and got his autograph on my jersey.

The trip could not be complete without the tour to the historic Camp Nou stadium, the largest stadium in Europe and third largest in the world, and has hosted several Champions League and La Liga finals. I along with my team sat on the home bench of the FC Barcelona.

With the spirit of representing my country in an international tournament, I felt I was living the life of a professional football player for a week.

**Utkarsh Sharma (G5-A)**



Sweating it out on the field



With the legendary footballer Xavi

## The Biggest Festival of Democracy

The election process is very complicated. In each state of the country, there are multiple Members of Parliament representing each party. They run many campaigns to try to get people's support for their respective parties. In each state, there are many people. Therefore, multiple voting booths are set up so that none get very crowded. After that, people come to the voting booth and cast their vote. But one cannot simply vote. You need to have your name registered and carry a valid proof of identity.

This voting is done in an enclosure so that nobody can see who you voted for. After the vote has been cast, the voting officers in the booth take permanent ink and put a line on your finger and this line lasts for about two weeks. This mark shows that you have voted and that you cannot vote again. This prevents cheating because if without the mark, you could vote again for the party that you are supporting.

After all the voting and counting are done, the Members of Parliament meet up in the house of Lok Sabha and elect a member of the party with majority seats as the Prime Minister of the country.

**Krishay Swain (G4-A)**

## My African Safari

There are colourful fields of green and yellow,  
Sounds of animals running into the distance,  
Leaving footprints behind...

The unique birds gliding through the sky,  
Looking for their prey,

Leaving a trail of feathers blowing in the wind...

You can hear the beating of the drums in rhythmic patterns,

The innocent laughing and smiling of the tribals,  
Around a blazing fire...

The silhouettes of the giraffes,

Trotting through the sunset,

A sunset that could never be painted...

The eyes of the leopards peering through the leaves,

Snarling at the clicks of the cameras,

Brings back memories of Africa...

Once again.

**Tanaya Mehta (G8-A)**

## Utilitarianism

To judge utilitarianism's relevance today we first need to understand what it means. Utilitarianism was founded by Francis Hutcheson, Jeremy Bentham, and John Stuart Mill in the 18th century. Utilitarianism is the theory of moral good vs bad. It states that something is morally good when it produces the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people. Utilitarianism is one of the best known and most influential moral theories. However, it does not have fixed moral rules that means it can be flexible depending on the time and place.

Flashback to the 18th century. The king has multiple considerations to make - he has to decide whether to renovate his palace which follows the principle of hedonism, giving him immense pleasure or, he has to follow utilitarianism to build a fort around the kingdom providing protection for all the citizens. Flashforward to 2018. A scientist is making a robot, that can manufacture ten times as much as a human in half the time, should the scientist go ahead and make the invention and become famous and rich? But at the same time, companies will fire their workers and many will be unemployed. How will the scientist weigh these consequences? How will he know what is the right thing to do?

Whether it's the 18th century or the 21st, whether it's the driver of a horse-pulled cart or the programmer behind a self-driving car, we all face questions with no clear answer. In an accident, should the car swerve to save the pedestrian or run over the pedestrian to save the passengers in the car? Of course, there are other philosophies, be it Kantian ethics or the stoics, utilitarianism is just one of the lenses available to us. But it need not be the best to still be relevant today. Now, more so than ever, we have the ability to impact thousands of lives with a single click of a button in a globalized and interconnected world like ours utilitarianism provides a guiding light through the mayhem. The greatest good for the greatest number.

**Shriya Karuturi (G7-B)**

## Tribute

**"A day without laughter is a day wasted."**

Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin KBE was born on 16th April 1889 in London. Charlie Chaplin was an English comic actor, filmmaker, and composer who rose to fame in the era of silent film. His father was a vocalist and mother, known under the stage name of Lily Harley, was an attractive actress and singer. Charlie was thrown on his own resources before he reached the age of ten as the early death of his father and the illness of his mother made it necessary for Charlie and his brother, Sydney, to fend for themselves.

Having inherited natural talents from their parents, the youngsters took to the stage as the best opportunity for a career. Charlie made his professional debut as a member of a juvenile group called "The Eight Lancashire Lads" and rapidly won popular favour as an outstanding tap dancer.

Famous for his character "The Tramp," the little man with a bowler hat, moustache and cane, Charlie Chaplin was an iconic figure. But young Charlie only started his career at the age of 12 when he got his first chance to act on stage. He acted as "Billy" the page boy and started comedy which eventually took him to comedy in the United States in 1910. The American audience was amazed by his work, and he was even offered a motion picture contract.

Charlie Chaplin passed away on 25th December 1977. However, he will be remembered forever for elevating the acting industry, and most importantly, entertaining people for more than 75 years, in the most unforgettable manner.



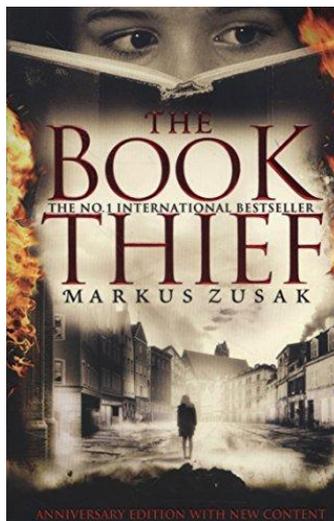
**Suhaani (G7-B) and Samitha (G7-A)**

## The Book Thief - A Review

*The Book Thief* is a novel set in World War II. It follows a girl named Liesel Meminger who is adopted by a relatively poor couple in Nazi Germany. Her real parents were communists, a group targeted by the Nazis because of their opposing views on extreme fascism. Her mother gives her away when she is ten years old with fear that the Nazis would realise who she is. On the train ride to her new family, her brother passes away. That is the first time she crosses paths with a book - *The Gravedigger's Handbook*. Through this, she becomes extremely fond of books and interestingly, in her new house, her entire basement is filled with the vocabulary she learns.

This novel is known as *The Book Thief* because she goes to a noble's house to do laundry for them and steals books from their vast library to read. The deeper meaning is that the Nazis burned books to keep people away from certain ideas as if those ideas would spread like an infection. They clearly feared those ideas, like the one in the book Liesel, steals that a Jew could be a hero because they could undermine the Nazi ideology and therefore the party's control over Germany.

The book is narrated by a personification of death. This is very interesting because by using death, the author is able to offer a unique perspective on all the death occurring during this historical period. I really enjoyed this book because it was a unique perspective to write on World War II.



**Samara Prabhakar (G6-B) and Riya Mehta (G7-B)**

## My Earth

My Earth

I love nature

And all its creature.

I love the sun, the moon, the stars  
the sea and the flowers and the bees

All its crazy adventures. It is

Our duty to protect our nature.

And all its beautiful creations

So that it's left for future generation.

**Khushi Gajanan (G1-North Campus)**

## Garbage Garbage

Garbage garbage all around

Stop now

When the sun is out for the day

Keep the driers away

ACs, fans and all your machines

Polluting the earth

Not in your dreams the earth

Is getting warmer

Icecaps melting

Oh what are we humans doing?

**Rishaan Melanta (G1-North Campus)**

## The Battle of Bands



It was the month of February, and the next house competition was announced - Battle of the Bands. Excitement filled the air as the word spread among the students. Each house was to form a band including at least one instrument and one singer, and they would have to perform 1 or more songs for 7 minutes. The four houses got to work starting with auditions and moving on to choosing and practising their songs. Two weeks later it was time for the competition. Right from 'Airplanes' by Narmada to 'Royals' by Bramaputra, followed by 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams' by Ganges and 'High Hopes' by Kaveri. It was exciting, it was exhilarating, it was what we had all worked for so long. Standing on the stage, playing the guitar for for my house, Kaveri, I didn't think of winning or losing, all I could think about was cherishing and enjoying every minute of it. You could hear the claps and screams from the audience as the bands performed. Then the winners were announced, and I was proud of our house.

**Saania Kaushik (G8-A)**

# Teachers' Voice

## Neevotsav: Shaping Expressions



**"The arts are not mere diversions from the important business of education; they are essential resources."**

Our first Neevotsav at the North Campus helped and fostered children to a higher platform of learning, performing and reflecting on their growth.

As the practice for the Neevotsav started in February 2019, children started to become responsible and reflected on their performance. We observed our children develop a passion for music as they sang in a gentle, highly expressive croon even during their free time.

The Performing Arts sessions fostered a growth mindset in children as they wanted to get better after each feedback from Louis Sir and the teachers. They were observed taking ownership of learning and recognized the importance of collaboration. Children learnt how to bring their characters to life and the importance of intonation and body language to perform for an audience with Mr. Vineet, HOD performing art being their critic. The play "The Night the Sea Came Home" was an environmental fantasy about an 8-year-old boy Pook who could not sleep in the dark. He left the light on year after year - an indulgence that had far-reaching consequences. One night, he found a homeless octopus in his bed. And that was just the beginning. His entire neighbourhood and life changed irrevocably thereafter. Aquatic animals were the new migrants and humans had to coexist with them, as a penalty for their environmental excesses.

It was an exciting production by the Grade 1 students showcasing a powerful message to the audience about saving the planet. Children displayed this message also through posters displayed in the foyer. Parents shared their opinion on the show by writing on cups and segregating them in separate bins. Children made bookmarks for parents to write "A change I want to bring". These bookmarks were read to the children to reinforce adults as role models who are a part of our global community fighting for the same cause. The children went home with a sense of pride about their performance and parents were overwhelmed with their performance and the message conveyed.

**Team North Campus**

## Deep in the realm of learning

It was the beginning of March. With the dawn of spring, Neev Academy was gearing up to host SAIBSA PYP Job Alike sessions at our Yamalur campus. As part of SAIBSA (South Asian IB Schools Association), we had a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with IB leaders from across the country and other nations.

One such session was conducted by Michael Hughes, PYP Coordinator, Seisen International School Tokyo. His name clearly indicated that he was not a Japanese, his accent led me to believe that he could be a British or an Australian national. His drawl was a bit mysterious - finally, all our guesses were put to rest when Michael announced that he was from the city of Liverpool (my younger son's favourite PL football team), home of the legendary rock band The Beatles and was currently into his fourth year at Seisen International School, Tokyo. Before this he has worked in various international schools in Singapore and Jordan and has had ten years experience in the PYP. He came across as a very pleasant person and a helpful teacher, especially because of the ease with which he mingled with the teams and asked for feedback regularly about his session.

Michael's presentation was based on Levels of Processing Theories. Using a referenced reading material he was able to show us how the theory was developed and how deep processing of information determines how deeply it gets ingrained and how easily it can be accessed or retrieved. Throughout the workshop, he brought out the fact that using the SOLO model would break up the understanding of a student as surface level, deep level and conceptual level. As the workshop progressed, we were able to envisage on how the SOLO taxonomy would be crucial in the PYP context, in order to design and develop the learning continuums and student engagements.

The key takeaway from the session was building on surface knowledge to help students move deeper into their learning by using the conceptual lens related to the topic. I have also added to my repertoire of strategies, tools that I can potentially use in my classroom for teaching and planning student engagements and assessments. It was a constructive workshop for all the teachers present and also a great learning platform provided by Neev to strive for excellence in teaching methodologies which are at par with the IB standards.

**Mousumi Choudhury (Teacher)**



# Campus Buzz - Year-end gala

## Eureka

Eureka is the Neev Science Fair that takes us a step towards the conclusion of the academic session. However, it's more than just a science fair as in this event, each student gets to explore a scientific idea that interests him/her the most and carry out an investigation on that. Eureka is a great way to pursue the field of science that one is most interested in. The term, "Eureka" is most famously known owing to the Greek mathematician, Archimedes, who was said to cry out this word when having discovered a fundamental law about density and force. As the story goes, Archimedes in his excitement jumped from his bathtub and ran in excitement, forgetting to even wear his clothes! This year at Neev, students from grade 5-9 all explore and look for their Eureka moments as they concentrate on a scientific topic that interests them the most. Perhaps, there's a bit of Archimedes in all of us.



## Language Day



Language Day 2019 - the much-awaited event! After being postponed last year in 2018 by several months, it's finally happening. Students, teachers and parents are enthusiastic about Language day; as is expected, because the opportunity to represent one's mother tongue is truly exciting. Music, dance, display of artefacts, traditional clothing and food! Excitement comes manifold for the entire school community.

On May 10th, the last day of school in this academic year, a plethora of languages will be celebrated - Hindi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Punjabi, Urdu, Malwadi, Telegu, Kannada and of course German amongst several others, showcasing a truly multicultural community at Neev.

## JUNKYARD

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# JUNKYARD

## Still Life Drawing - Best Entries



Suhani (G4-A)



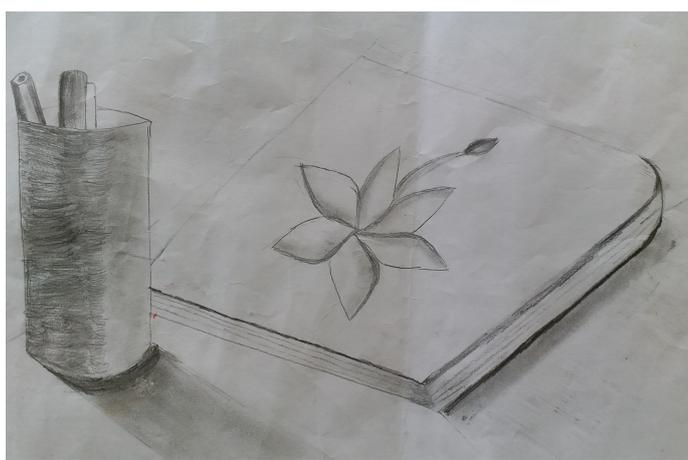
Nihaal (G4-A)



Araina Gupta (G3-B)



Reagan (G3-B)



Adarshini (G4-A)

1. Why are ghosts bad at lying?  
Because you can see right through them

2. What is the bravest type of cat?  
A Mus-cat-eer

3. What is a modern spider's home called?  
The Interweb

4. What's a tree's favourite drink?  
Root-beer

5. What's a pretzel's favourite kind of dance?  
The twist

### BAD JOKES



6. What does a cat like everything to be?  
Purrrrrrrfect

7. What's a witch's favourite kind of pasta?  
Spooooook-getti

8. What kind of injury did the monster have?  
A boo boo

9. Why don't ants get sick?  
Because they have antibodies

10. Where do sheep get their hair done?  
The Baba shop