

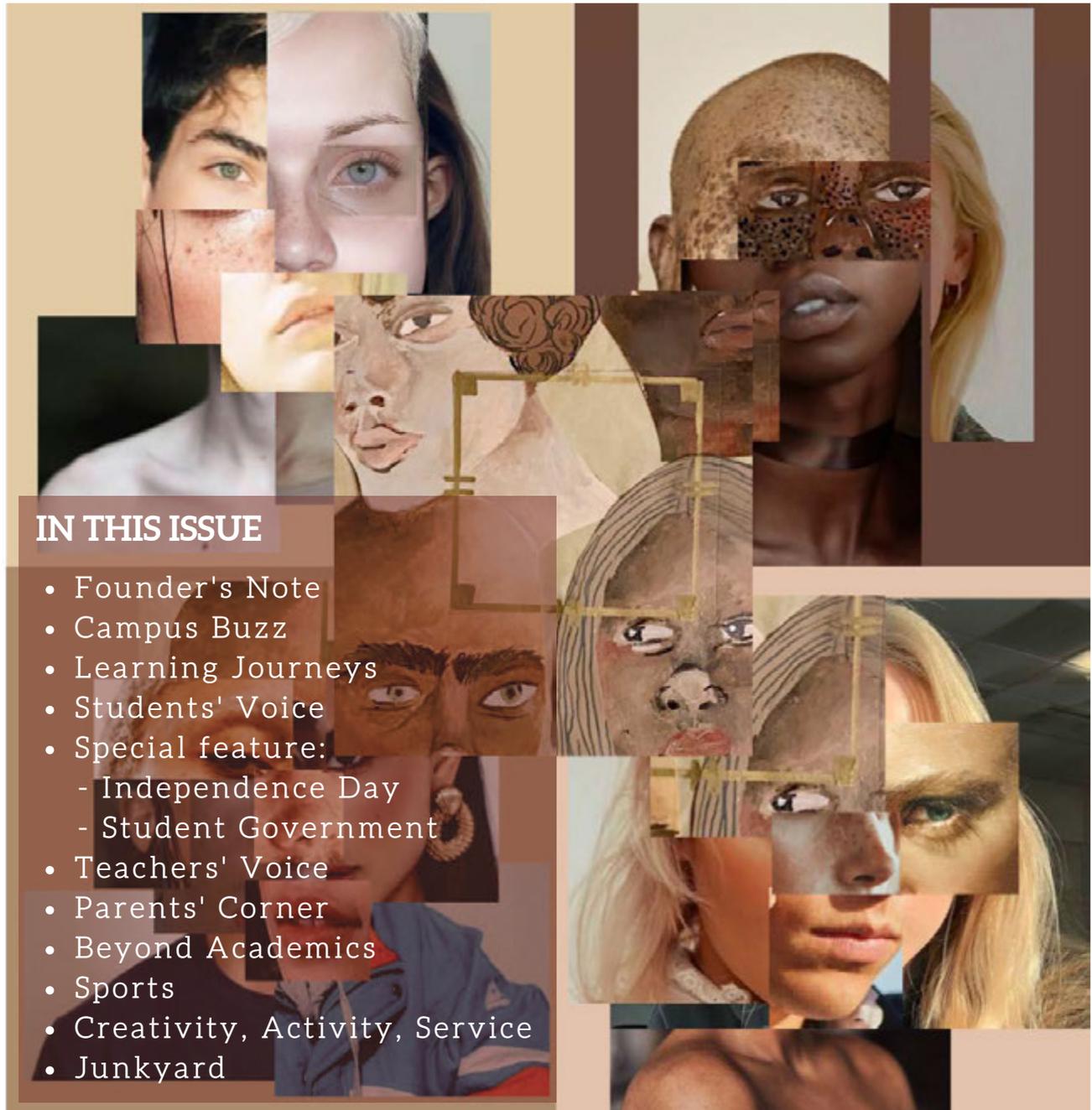
AUGUST  
2019

# NEEV TIMES

ISSUE NO.  
FOURTEEN

The Official Newsletter of Neev Academy

## EQUALITY



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As children, the only inequality we face is the difference in the size of the chocolate split between your siblings and yourself. But as you grow, you realise that equality is more than just having the same quantities, it's about not being treated differently, regardless of your gender, shape, colour, age, beliefs, religion, race etc. Four different faces, four different shades, four different expressions all held together by a golden square. The most basic property of a square is that it has EQUAL sides and EQUAL angles. Through this artwork, we wanted to bring out the fact that no matter how different one might appear to be, they shouldn't be treated in a different manner.

**Naviya Chakor Jain & Rhea Rangarajan (G10)**

## FOUNDER'S NOTE

On loving books...

I wasn't born in a family of readers, and yet I became one. I believe that in a world where curiosity matters more than intelligence, readers have an unfair advantage. And if the goal of education is for mirrors to become windows, books are the best tool, ally, and magic.

Everybody has multiples role; mine include daughter, sister, student, intern, leader, dancer, wife, mother, cook, educator, reluctant writer and relationship builder. Books have been my refuge in these roles and four career changes; first from a limited school library, then a neighborhood library, then the second-hand book vendor - who exchanged old newspapers for used books - and finally my own library. I started with-Enid Blytons, Nancy Drew, and Comics (Commandos, Mandi and Debbie, Mandrake, Phantom, Amar Chitra Katha, etc). My move thrillers like Sheldon or Follett was accompanied by my father insisting on Vivekananda; I read both. I didn't love school nor did I do well in my exams, but I always read a lot. I read Encyclopedia Britannica like a book. I loved science and read about immunology and genetics. My Bharat Natyam Arangetram catalyzed reading mythology, culture and history. Work took me to read about biotechnology and then finance. Books became my solution to understand each world and answer questions. My MBA reminded me of the limits of my ignorance but introduced me to wonderful ways to master the knowledge and the internet. And finally marrying a voracious reader who reads at 4 times my speed, was humbling but another invitation to read. My library reflects my evolving interests; books on science, history, architecture, design, cooking, leadership, philosophy, mythology and now children's lit. Books are bricks that built me, buddies, that have traveled with me, and the answers that lead to more questions. Susan Cains's wonderful book Quiet suggests that that reading is something I use as an introvert to connect with the world. Rich Karlgaard's recent book on Late Bloomers suggested that books helped me build strengths - curiosity, resilience, compassion equanimity, insight, and wisdom - in the absence of early success. Maryanne Wolfs's books revealed how reading brings together all the parts of the brain and the science behind the physical, neurological and physiological drama. 'Being educated' now means having depth, but also breadth, the awareness to cut across disciplines, and finding creative intersections where innovation occurs. The changing world of work needs us to think about careers and not life-time jobs, backing up knowing who we are with what we want to be, and growing our impact. Reading makes us capable of learning, being and doing anything we want. We see in school the distinct advantage a reader has over a non-reader - one that grows over time. Reading is the sharp silver dagger, in the noise of blunt iron hammers, the gun in a knife fight. Neev aims to reimagine excellence in education for a changing India with a deep commitment to reading. Our third lifest (Sept 20th and 21st, 2019), second book awards (2019 shortlist is out), guided reading for K1 - Grade 2, novel study program from Grade 1 - Grade 5, Uninterrupted Silent Sustained Reading time in class, PYP reading workshop to back up PYP writing workshops (strong readers make strong writers), research opportunity (PYP exhibition, MYP personal project, DP extended essay, and other unit led work), student government (all leaders, after all, are readers!), learning journeys (covering history, geography, science, culture, arts, politics, economics), CAS (Aristotle to Tagore), Neev books and Neev times - all align with the motto - Learn to Read, Read to Learn. Our new Head of Reading has joined. But the journey is co-created; we need every student, teacher, and parent on the goal of being and building readers for life. Reading is not an intellectual decoration but a vital force; 'as meat and medicine and flame and flight and flower'. A book lets you fly, become different people, know yourself, it soothes, it teaches. A book is a tree, a horse, a plane, a question, it opens up worlds inside your head. Don't let this moment pass...turn that page! Yesterday I read in Maria Papovas, Velocity of Being, of a reader who looks for sentences that she loves as much as her favorite animal, a lioness, sentences that stalk her and pull her in with all their teeth. And I'm wondering which are mine...And then there's a load of books, always waiting, like a faithful friend on the bedside table, beckoning, taunting. So much more. To read. To enjoy. To question. To change. To learn. To love. Read always! Urdu poets believe there is a thread that connects your aarzo (ambition), niyat (motivation), and fitrat (nature). I believe this connection is fed by reading, writing and books. I believe that I am older, wiser and more dangerous than I was because I am a reader. If there was one dua that I could be granted, it would be that all kids at Neev become readers and love books!



**Kavita Gupta Sabharwal**  
(Head of School & Managing Trustee)

## CAMPUS BUZZ

**Trip to Aurangabad** - From the exotic Ajanta and Ellora caves to the marvelous ancient ruins of Daulatabad fort, the 7th graders are really looking forward to their field trip. Beginning in the 4th week of September, the trip aims to teach the students the history and geography of the region along with an amazing opportunity to study religion in caves dated back to the 2nd century BCE!

**NLF 2019** - The annual Neev Literature Festival is right around the corner- the event where authors and children meet with the purpose of creating lifelong readers! Sessions with authors, bookstalls, and the Neev Book Awards is something to look forward to this year. This festival brings light to the simple joy that is reading and allows students to "love to read and read to love".

**NSFL** - Another year at Neev brings another Neev Sports Friendship League! Motivating cheers, waving hands, yelling students - it's that time of the year again. The purpose of the NSFL is to give our students greater exposure to the thing called sportsmanship. Neev aims to be the hub of collaborative team sports so that our players get to meet new players from different schools, acquire new skills and above all learn the rules of the game. This September you will be witnessing the junior and the senior basketball teams competing against schools from all over Bangalore.

# LEARNING JOURNEYS

Sitting bored in an empty hotel room, I stared outside the window. An array of snow-peaked mountains presented themselves before me. Feasting my eyes on such a beautiful sight, I was oddly filled with despair rather than awe. Gazing at this natural wonder, I imagined myself trekking amongst the ferns, the boulders, the gravel. The walls of my hotel room were going to be the limits of my confinement for the next three days.

## Julley Ladakh!



Julley" is how you say hello, ok? Remember that. We stand in a single file, trying to match the discipline of the 50 or so students waiting patiently for their 20 teachers for the next 3 days in Druk Padma Karpo School. There was a noticeable awkwardness in the air as we wondered how to break the ice. Do we say Hi? Hello? Jhulley? I was beginning to doubt my capabilities when I heard a chorus of 50 "Julleys". And my confidence grew back. Julley.

Behind the Shanti Stupa stood glamorous mountains, their tips engulfed in clouds. The view in front of me was picture perfect. But almost as soon as I felt it, the feeling left. None of this really changed the fact that I had to climb 547 steps. Who knows maybe the long journey ahead of me held more than I expected. Maybe I would actually make it to the top. Anyway, something told me that it would be worth it. Well, only one way to find out.



I felt my stomach tingle as butterflies fluttered in my body. We were on our way to a Buddhist monastery, a religion driven by the spirit of realization. As these thoughts filled my mind, I felt the butterflies once again. I realized that it was not my stomach that had butterflies but my bladder instead.

**G9 STUDENTS**



## Gallery walk



The purpose of our visit to NGMA and Chitrakala Parishat was to experience artworks from great Indian artists. It was also to understand how these artists communicated their subject matter. We observed various artworks and tried to interpret and then analyze them. The arts were curated surrounding the theme "Itihaas", meaning history. We saw myriad portrayals of the history of India. There wasn't a piece which was not done without a purpose, even if untitled. Indian artists had taken to art to convey what was happening around them in their time. They had deconstructed each element in their work to a basic figure. We noticed a drastic transition in the styles and techniques used in art, representing prevalent concepts of the time. We experienced new mediums, analyzed the intentions and themes of the artworks and tried to understand the role of a curator. Coupled with that we had a creative thinking exercise on the artwork each one of us chose to analyze. We were asked to weave a story wherein we were one of the elements in the painting while explaining our interpretation from their point of view. The challenges and the joy of viewing the same artwork from different perspectives came alive.

**G11 & G12 STUDENTS**

## System speaks

As part of inquiring into the unit "How we organise ourselves", Grade 3 students visited Tzed (Zero Energy Development) homes to identify the needs and systems in a community, understand the services offered by the systems and the need for these systems. Students also analysed the interdependence of systems in the community.

The field trip helped students to inquire deeper into how waste management and water management systems are developed to meet the present and the future needs of a community. They also made a connection as to how the current need of a community can be connected to being eco-friendly while addressing the ever growing requirement of having a sustainable lifestyle within the community.

**G3 STUDENTS**



Session at TZED Homes

# STUDENTS' VOICE

## Wake up and smell the air

The word pollution tends to hit the mark of being a euphemism for planetary poison. Suffering as our world is, some cities in the world are especially riddled with pollution. In a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) establishing the 10 most polluted cities in the world, 9 are from India. Bangalore does not feature on this list. However, the alarming rise in air and water pollution (emphasis on the former), as well as the loss of drinking water due to ill management of our freshwater resources, leaves every Bangalorean deeply concerned. The problem is that Bangalore is making its way to that list, and it's happening fast. Vehicular emissions and burning of waste contribute to 25% of the pollution in our air, the rest is by construction dust, brightly outlining the overseen consequences of rapid urban development. The former garden city's air pollution index is 82.10 (listed as "Very High") and is expected to reach 146.11 at some point. Bangalore is also likely to be the third city to run out of the water, right after Cape Town and São Paulo, as per a BBC report last February. We can see these changes happening right next to our very own school, where we get to witness, first hand, a lake with extremely polluted and visible segments. Now, it may be easy to see why Bangalore is facing a lot of trouble environmentally, but it's never too late for some much-needed change.

**SANJEET PANIGRAHI (G9)**

## Light

*This poem is dedicated to the victims of war. It is also about the significance and hardship these victims have to go through in order to take care of themselves and survive. It is related to India's independence also because at that point we were at war with the British and millions of people suffered. It is our fundamental right to be free and to make decisions for ourselves.*

As the steady sounds of sadness,  
And rivers of despair come through,  
that spark of light,  
The one spark of light,  
hidden in the pain.

Somebody was looking into the sky,  
Somebody was reaching out to hold the light,  
for we must live in hope,  
only to discover that our own light was limited by ourselves.

The pain and the screams,  
the hurt and the darkness we were shrouded in,  
we forget that it is there. Hold on, and reach out to that light.  
Forget about the threats and taunts  
For this is who you are

**MYTHRI SWAMINATHAN (G5-B)**



**BHUMI (G2) - NORTH CAMPUS**

## "Stay Home till 15th is over"- A perspective from the other side

As we see our tricolor soar through the sky while we hear the words of Rabindranath Tagore echoing around us, we know that we stand tall celebrating 73 years of independence. 73 years of freedom. 73 years of ignoring many truths. The truth that up North in Kashmir, the 15th doesn't hold the same meaning as it does to us but is yet another day of siege and state enforced silence. The Valley of Kashmir, which goes back to over two decades, experiences a sudden change of atmosphere within moments, every year on this day. The government's security system works on 'protecting' the world's largest militarized zone but in the citizens' eyes, it is a crafty mechanism of controlling people's lives, thoughts, choices and desires. This oppression is carefully packaged and presented under the name of "peace and normalcy" to us, the rest of India and the rest of the world. On the morning of the 15th, Kashmiris wake up to blocked cellular services and armed soldiers on the street while we, on the other hand, can wake up knowing that freedom is our birthright. It is a day reminding the citizens of Kashmir of the fallen soldiers who fought for their nation, only now to be victims of unabashed majoritarianism with the overthrow of article 370. During any celebration in India, be it Independence day, or republic day, Kashmir is left groping in the dark to continuously make it seem as though Kashmir is not India. Of course, in the name of 'celebration', there is an official ceremony in which the chief minister will salute the tricolour, though it will be an empty stadium with no Kashmiri commoner wishing to attend the ceremony. It was in this stadium in 2010, that a suspended police cop threw a shoe at Omar Abdullah, who was saluting the tricolour. While flinging his shoe, the cop named Abdul Ahad Jan, shouted "We want freedom." This slogan has haunted Kashmir for 73 years and now, more than ever, it is true. As the dusk of independence day approaches, the prayers chanted by Kashmiri women for safe return to their loved ones are often left unfulfilled. It is said that wars are won against armies in battle fields and not against people denied of their freedom, but till that holds true in one of the corners of India, Kashmir is forced to stay home till the 15th is over.

**KRITI SARAWGI (G10)**

# STUDENTS' VOICE

## My visit to an active volcano

In New Zealand, I had one of the most breathtaking experiences when visiting the White Island or Whakatane. It is an active cone volcano. The tour to White Island takes place only when the seismic activity on the island is under control. Our tour guide was worried about the high seismic activity the day before our tour. It was only the next morning that our trip was confirmed. When we reached the tour office, we boarded the boat. The ride to the island was an hour and a half at 25 knots. When nearing the island, we could see the smoke and steam clouds created by the volcano. We also saw dolphins on the way. They were so close that if I jumped off, I would land on one of them. Not that I tried! Before stepping on to the island we scouted the perimeter to make sure it was safe. We were equipped with a gas mask for the smoke, a hard hat in case of landslides and a life jacket for the inflatable boat journey. Before we started our exploration, we were given a safety briefing about what to do in case of a sudden eruption. We had to stay on the exact path the guide took in order to make sure no one fell into scalding pits of mud. On the way to the main crater, we saw glittering crystals, roaring fumaroles and burning pools of acid. There were yellow mounds of sulphur deposit all around us. After that reached the main crater it was a sight never to be forgotten. One could see the crater lake as black as the night sky. The crater lake was made up of highly acidic substance and was very hot. We were asked to maintain a safe distance from it. We saw two streams of water that were quite acidic. One was cold while the other hot. We conducted an experiment by sticking a copper coin in the water. It started sparkling as the acid had cleaned and polished it! We were told that this island was discovered by James Cook in 1769. In the 1950's, the locals established a sulphur factory which prospered for a few years but demolished in an eruption. The only survivor was Peter, their cat. He is now a Kiwi icon and a hero. On our way back to the mainland, we got to see seals. It was an unforgettable experience.

**VEDANT DIVKARIA (G5-C)**



**AADHYA (G2) - NORTH CAMPUS**

## The making of India - an expert visit

In the unit "How We Organize Ourselves", grade 5 learnt about the government via an expert visit by Mr Manish Sabharwal. We discussed the impact of the British rule on India where he spoke about the famous freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel, Subash Chandra Bose and how they contributed to India's independence. We learnt about the key events during the freedom struggle- the Dandi March, the Bengal Famine, the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, Quit India Movement, and most importantly the constituent assembly. We understood how it took 300 people and 3 years to frame the Indian constitution that is unbiased towards any particular religion, gender, or caste. Adopted on 26th January, 1950, the judicial branch of the government makes sure that laws are not violated or actions are taken as per the seriousness of the offence. Lastly, we talked about the type of government that India follows. Democracy is the best kind of government as it is a fair and just way of choosing the ruler. Every citizen has a say on various matters and problems are solved fairly without force. There are other kinds of government as well, such as dictatorship (rule by force), monarchy (ruled by a king or queen), oligarchy (rule by few) and theocracy (rule by god). All countries which have a healthy economy are democratic. A great learning experience!

**SUHAANI AGARWAL (G5-A)**

## Tipu Sultan: The tiger

Tipu Sultan was the king of Mysore, and was almost like a tiger himself. Did you know he owned four tigers?! He won two wars out of four- the first and the third. The second and the fourth Britishers won. Tipu Sultan built a throne for himself which had its eight sides covered with gold and gems. He promised himself that if he defeats the British in the fourth war, he will sit on it. But sadly he died and the British melted the throne. They sold pieces of it later. I had a lot of fun seeing Tipu's Bangalore palace and want to see Mysore palace too.

**DAISHA SARDANA (G1-A) - NORTH CAMPUS**

## Moonstruck

3...2...1...blast off! India's first lunar expedition since 2008 has begun with a successful launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on July 22, rising off the pad atop a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) rocket. The primary objective of this mission is to demonstrate the ability to soft land on the lunar surface, followed by the operation of a robotic rover on the surface. Originally set to launch on July 15, the Chandrayaan-2 mission suffered a week of postponement due to a technical glitch that arose less than an hour before liftoff, as reported by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Chandrayaan 2 consists of three vehicles: an orbiter, a lander called Vikram and a small rover named Pragyan. According to its flight plan, Chandrayaan-2 is to orbit around the moon with gradual descent over a period of four weeks, after which the Vikram Lander is to separate from the orbiter and touch down on the southern region of the moon following a four day maintenance of its orbit after separation. If the mission is conducted successfully, India will earn the title of the first country ever to land on the south pole of the moon, along with becoming the fourth country to achieve a soft-landing on the lunar surface. "It is the beginning of a historical journey of India towards the moon and to land at a place near the south pole, to carry out scientific experiments, to explore the unexplored," says K.Sivan, Chairman of the ISRO. Lander Vikram is scheduled to touch down on the moon's surface by the 6th of September, till which day we can only pray for the continued success of this mission!

**DEVANSH MAJITHIA (G9)**

# MAA TUJHE SALAAM

The 15th of August at Neev Academy witnessed an array of creative expressions. The spirit of celebrations was set high with our gratitude towards freedom and praise for the great freedom fighters and a question - what are we making of the freedom that we have? We were made aware of the people around us that may not be able to enjoy the same freedom that most of us can take for granted. We were able to look at ourselves and our nation with a new set of eyes. The day started with an Odissi and Bharatnatyam performance that perfectly encompassed the cultural diversity in India. A walk of freedom fighters allowed us a glimpse back into history where students impersonated revered freedom fighters. A house contest was also conducted for grades 6-8 as they showcased their understanding of the concept of freedom and India's independence through setting up displays for the soft board. The day ended with sumptuous Thukpa, a popular dish from Ladakh cooked for the entire Neev community by the high school students. We had an enduring discussion session on the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A. This day was the anniversary for the 73rd Independence day in India, yet, the meaning of this day seems to have evolved and changed its hue in these 73 years. It is said that freedom doesn't come free therefore we must show our gratitude to those who have carried our nation through the long walk to freedom. We must always remember to show gratitude for things in life that seem almost trivial to us but is actually a great luxury to some.



## EDITORIAL TEAM



## Freedom

Everyone should have freedom. Everyone has the right to do what they want. But 'rights' don't mean they have the right to do the wrong things. Everyone has rights. Everyone? Well not really! Here in India, people cannot afford to do what they want. Some people do not have basic rights even. Do you think we should help? Yes! Everyone is here for a reason, and we are here to help. We don't always know how to do so, but we'll figure out!

**IRA DWIVEDI (G3-B)**



## Back to independence

It all started on the best day of the week, Friday. My sister and I were walking home as she boasted about how smarter she was than me. I tried to turn her attention to a ball bouncing across the street. It was red in color and upon closer inspection, there was writing on it: August 15th, 1947. I told my sister, "We don't know what this is; don't touch it!". As usual, she ignored me and took it. "Hey!" she said, "Look at this button!" And she rolled it over. We looked around and all of a sudden this was not home. Everything looked old fashioned and sepia in colour. We heard shouts around us, "Angrez bhag gaye! Bharat Zindabad!" I knew exactly where we were: Year 1947, 15th August, INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE. My sister was very excited, "Let's meet Gandhiji!" I warned her not to change the past or we might not be born. She spotted the red ball amidst the celebrating crowds rolling away into a house. We had no choice but to break in and find a startled bunch of people looking at us. My sister picked up the ball and pressed the button again. We were back home! We decided not to tell anybody about our adventure. Home sweet home.

**ZIDAAN (G5-C)**

# INDEPENDENCE DAY @ NEEV



**Am I really free/independent?  
India of my dreams  
through the eyes of the  
freedom fighters**



Inter-house soft board competition revolved around these two themes where students collaborated to give shape to their creative expressions and thoughts



## Lola's Story

### Independence is also to choose the way you are being treated

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Lola. She was from Africa but at a young age she moved with her family to London. Her parents worked very hard but were still not able to earn a good living. In fact, Lola was not able to go to school until second grade. She was the only dark-skinned girl in the whole school! Almost everybody tormented and bullied her, but all she did was ignore them. One day, when she happened to be eating lunch alone and quietly, the class bully walked up to her. He was reasonably short for his age and a little plump, and looked like a sweet boy who minds his own business. Actually, he was an annoying little boy capable of hurting others' feelings. He said, "You were not meant to be put in this school; you were just accepted out of pity". After this incident, she was so sad that she walked home alone, sat on her bed and cried. Her mother came in and asked her, "What happened?" Lola explained the whole incident and started to cry again. Her mother kept quiet for a while and then whispered, "We black people are stronger than you think. I learned this when I was young, and if you want to be strong too, you have to face the bully and not take his words seriously." Lola was so encouraged by her mother that she walked straight back to school and told the bully, "From now onwards whatever you say will not irritate me!" The bully was taken aback but still continued bullying Lola. After a while, as Lola was not getting troubled, he realized his mistake and apologized to Lola. She accepted his apology and since then both of them have been the best of friends.



"Hum hain India" - the song that moved the audience

**MIRAYA ROY (G4-A)**

### Being Indian

My responsibility as an Indian citizen is to switch off the electricity when not required. I should also keep my surroundings clean by not littering. I like India because we fought to win our country against the British and never gave up. We won. That's the reason we celebrate Independence day.

**KIARA DAROLE (G2) - NORTH CAMPUS**

### Thukpa for one, thukpa for all

High up in the foothills of the Ladakh range, resources are scarce. Food is simplistic but flavourful. After trekking through rough terrains, grade 9 savoured their bowls of thukpa, the warm soupy noodle studded with local vegetables and just the right amount of spices. Thukpa for All, a charming picture book featuring in Neev's upcoming lit fest, struck a unique chord with the students. It brought back fond memories and with that the idea that serving a bowl of this delight to the entire Neev community wouldn't be a bad thing after all. With the Independence Day arriving soon, the senior school decides to engage in a grand celebratory cooking spree. Thukpa for one and Thukpa for All!



# STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## What makes a leader?

When the world thinks of leaders, it thinks of people who are strong, outgoing, and who have copious amounts of self-confidence. Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks, and Eleanor Roosevelt were all great leaders but they actually described themselves as being quiet, soft-spoken and some even went as far as calling themselves shy. Many would think that these qualities would adversely affect leadership skills and the ability to be a good leader. However, an interesting study done by Adam Grant at the Wharton School states that introverted leaders generally deliver better outcomes than extroverts do, because when they are managing or interacting with other individuals they are more likely to let them express their own ideas and actually execute them. Extroverts, on the other hand, may get so caught up in their own opinions that the ideas of others may not as easily come to the surface. If introverts are just as capable of being leaders as extroverts, why aren't they as celebrated? Society has created negative associations surrounding introversion that makes introverts feel as though they are wrong for having such a nature and eventually causes them to subdue this to appear more extroverted because of societal pressures. This, however, is a loss, not only for the introverts themselves but for the world around them. If society continues to shame introversion, it would have lost voices that could otherwise create a unique and everlasting impact on the world and could prove that you don't have to be the loudest voice in the room to be heard.

### GAURI BABU PADMANABHAN (G9)

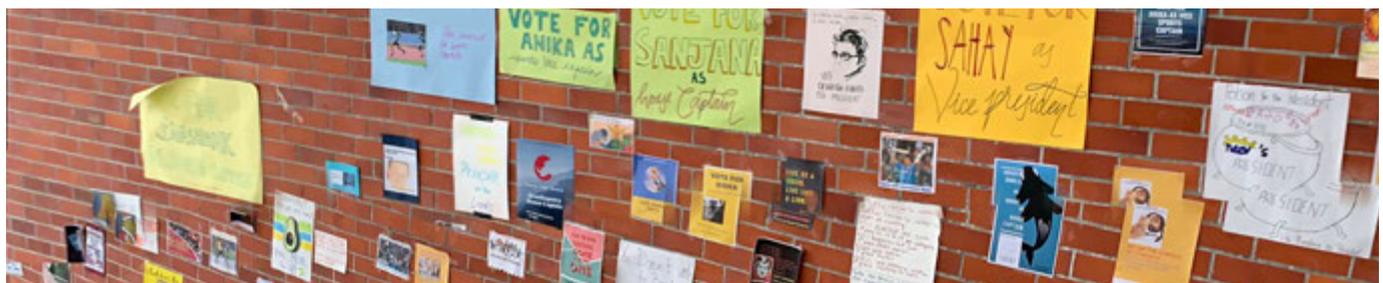
The Student Government at Neev Academy can be summarised in the following phrase– “by the students, for the students, of the students”. The vision of the student council, consisting of students from grades 4 to 12, is to create an inclusive and independent environment that can make smart decisions and learn the importance of healthy competition. This independent committee has taken its baby steps and is now set to embark on its second year. However, this time it is a new body with new leaders representing the face and voice of our student community. The past couple of weeks have been exciting and nothing short of eventful with several grasping speeches and eye-catching posters decorating the walls. Regardless of the competition between the individuals running for elected positions, school spirit has truly been high and beaming.

The speeches on the 6th of August were delivered by the candidates of the executive committee– Vice Sports Captain, Sports Captain, Vice President and President. Navya Sahay attempted to use the power of reverse psychology by screaming, “DO NOT vote for me”, whilst Anoushka 'moved' the audience literally by asking them to sway their arms, and Shashank Prabhu promised us that he would strive towards “making sports fun again”. The students trying out for the prestigious roles of House Captain and Vice House Captain on the 7th of August left us with memorable words and visions as well. Mudit Kohli dazzled us with his wits and reminded us to vote for him as he shares a surname with India's cricket captain; Aaryan Mehta proudly proclaimed, “One guju bhai gave the country its freedom; another guju chai wala become the country's prime minister; this guju would be happy to become your house captain”; and Noor Sabharwal reminded us that, “Neev is on its way to becoming one of the best schools in India”, and she wants to do her bit for this cause.

### EDITORIAL TEAM

### Election Results:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Devansh Gulati
Vice President	Aryan Kota
Sports Captain	Dhruv Sabharwal
Vice Sports Captain	Anika Hiremath
Ganges House Captain	Mudit Kohli
Ganges Vice-Captain	Ananya Singla
Kaveri House Captain	Aryan Mehta
Kaveri Vice-Captain	Saania Kaushik
Brahmaputra House Captain	Noor Sabharwal
Bamhaputra Vice-Captain	Ananya Sahay
Narmada House Captain	Sanjit Panigrahi
Narmada Vice-Captain	Disha Aadiya Ajit



## TEACHERS' VOICE

### Workshop with Ms. Kristen Pelletier

Kristen Pelletier is an independent educational consultant, coach, co-creator and teacher trainer driven by a mission of supporting exemplary inclusive cultures and practices in international schools. Her company, Redefining Access, is based in Brussels following 19 years at the International School of Brussels where she was most recently the Director of Student Support Services. Ms. Kristen now works full time supporting international schools with inclusive practices. She has been associated with Neev since June 2018 and has been conducting teacher training programs to strengthen the Student Support Services and to streamline the Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) effectively. From 8th to 10th August 2019, the Students Support Services team, which includes the Learning Support/ Academic Coaching team and Counselling team (Socio-emotional and Career counseling) from Neev Academy and our Early



Ms. Kristen Pelletier

Years branches, along with the Leadership team, had the privilege to attend a workshop conducted by Ms. Kristen Pelletier. This was our third workshop with her in a series of ongoing professional development sessions, planned over two years. The workshop was conducted to reach our one final goal which is building capacity and capability for strong classroom practice that serves all students and is accessible to those who learn differently. As a team, we looked into essential questions that revolved around best practices to sustain MTSS. We also looked into Grade 8 case studies that drove our practices; what worked well and which aspects would require more attention. Kristen helped us review the elements of MTSS practice which consists of 4 touchstones for practice namely Identification, knowing our students, sharing responsibilities and service delivery (differentiation, remediation, collaborative teaching). The team also delved into 'Behavior' and functions of behavior and worked on different case studies related to challenging behavior. The purpose was to focus on data collection and analysis of behavior. We further worked on creating best practices for developing collaborative relationships in working with teachers to develop a shared understanding of the MTSS framework and their role in Tier 1 support.

Kristen helped us build upon executive functions using collaborative approaches that involved working with parents too. She also helped us understand the difference between differentiation, accommodation, and modification. Based on this understanding, differentiation will be carried forward into the classroom. The plan ahead is to take this learning forward to the larger community and implement the same effectively.

**MADHUMANTI MAJUMDAR**  
(TEACHER)

## PARENTS' CORNER

### Feed a Child. Starve Cancer

In India, 8 out of 10 children who are malnourished are less likely to survive cancer. An alarming statistic, given that, Childhood Cancer is curable 9 out of 10 times the world over.

We are Cuddles Foundation, a national award-winning non-profit based in Mumbai backed by a strong team of clinical nutritionists across India. We have collaborated with 27 government and charity cancer hospitals in 19 cities across India, to help children fight cancer with food and nutrition.

#### Food Heals

Children seeking treatment for cancer are often malnourished and also suffer from treatment-induced malnutrition - stemming from side-effects to chemotherapy. This makes it difficult for children to cope and they deteriorate even further, often scaring parents into abandoning treatment midway. A well-nourished child, on the other hand, is more likely to complete treatment and fight cancer. Our FoodHeals program consists of placing a trained pediatric-oncologist nutritionist in a government hospital. She assesses children's nutritional status and provides them with a customized diet plan. The counsel is followed by an aid program that includes nutritional supplements, eggs, fruits, dry fruits, monthly ration baskets to a family of four, and hot meals for in-patients and out-patients. Nutritionists work closely with senior oncologists so that food and medicine go hand in hand. They also support caregivers with the tools and means to incorporate locally available ingredients in their food.

#### Our Impact

Some of the hospitals we work with include TATA Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, AIIMS New Delhi and Kidwai in Bengaluru. We conducted over 1.5 lakh counsels last year alone. An impact study at India's largest cancer hospital, Tata Memorial Centre, found that treatment dropout rates among children with cancer reduced by 86% after planned nutrition became a part of cancer treatment. This year, we will be planning on reaching out to more children in hospitals in the South and the North-east of India. We have also collaborated with the National Cancer Grid to take our counsel online.

**SUHANI MEHTA**  
(PARENT OF ISHIKA (G1) & PRITHVIRAJ MEHTA (G3))

## BEYOND ACADEMICS

Model United Nations is an educational simulation or academic activity in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. Delegates (students who have been assigned a country who they must represent) work individually or in groups in the committee (the discussion room assigned their topic) to find a resolution to the problem at hand.

MUN @ Neev is a platform for young aspiring MUNers and older experienced MUNers to showcase their talent and skill of public speaking. Recently, it went through a big change, bifurcating from a joint MUN to a junior and senior MUN. This change transforms the way the committees will function in future sessions. The senior MUN is a higher difficulty MUN with fewer, more skilled delegates, while the junior MUN is a platform for the new and younger MUNers to develop their skills of debating and research and a way for them to get prepared for senior MUN. While the committees are separate, both deal with the same topic. Last year, we dealt with complex topics like International Drug Trade or India Pakistan conflict following the Pulwama attacks and we plan on discussing similar topics this year as well. Our first topic for the year is World War 2 and delegates will have to put themselves in the league of nations to sort out the crises which will be presented in committee.

This year, I can promise you that neither the topics nor the delegates will be a walk in the park, and we can expect some very valuable committee sessions from the MUN.

**VEDANT RAO (G9)**

### MUN @ Neev



## SPORTS @ NEEV

"From small acorns grow mighty oaks". The investment in providing world class infrastructure, time and experts/coaches has resulted in formidable achievements by the student athletes of the Neev Academy. During the last year, Neev Academy finished third at the TAISI as well as winning numerous medals in the other sports meets that we took part in. Building up on the successes of last year, we look forward to another eventful year of student achievements. The 2019 season started off with a bang with Sara Vats winning the Karnataka State Squash Championship along with Anika Hiremath and Sachi Vats finishing runners up in their respective age groups. Other notable achievement was of Dhruv Sabharwal finishing the Mumbai marathon with vastly improved timings. During the month of August we have completed the conduct of trials of After School stay backs and selection of probables for the school teams. School team practices have started off in the right earnest and we look forward to defending our Basketball title in the NFSL Basketball Championship in September. The 2019 season is packed with competitions and a whole set of new activities are planned including inviting top level players/expert coaches to augment our in-house faculty as well as to motivate children to scale greater heights.

**BRIGADIER RAVINDER MALIK  
(DIRECTOR, PHE)**



As we added one more grade to the North campus, we became a bigger community. The need for our children to move to a bigger space for their PHE was required. We decided to have our PHE sessions at the Kanteerava stadium. Children got optimum space to exercise and develop their gross motor skills. They enjoyed the sessions and now look forward to their PHE days. They are overwhelmed by the big stadium and get to observe various athletes training which gets them motivated. The coaches concentrate on their locomotor and non-locomotor skills through different drills/activities.

**TEAM NORTH CAMPUS**



**PHE sessions at the stadium**

### Our vision of sports at Neev

The Neev sports team has had a clear improvement in performance at championships like TAISI in recent years. However, as the newly elected Sports Captain and Sports Vice Captain, we can still find areas for improvement in our sports program which are holding us back from peak performance. During our term, there are a few changes we would like to facilitate. Firstly, we would like to encourage sports more at Neev while maintaining a balance with academics. Secondly, we would like to provide more focus on the skill development of students who are not as well-versed as others. Thirdly, we would like to increase the discipline and commitment that students have towards practice. Fourth, we wish to see an increase in punctuality among team members. Fifth, we would like to improve the planning and structure of practice sessions. Finally, the introduction of new sporting disciplines such as cricket, throw ball, volleyball and long-distance track events for girls. With these changes, we believe that sports in our school will become more attractive, welcoming and inclusive for all students and that our school will be able to reach the top of the medal standings at a school level sporting championship such as TAISI in the future. We hope that during our term the school team goes "Faster, Higher and Stronger" as the Olympic code states

**DHRUV SABHARWAL (SPORTS CAPTAIN) & ANIKA HIREMATH (VICE SPORTS CAPTAIN)**

# CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY AND SERVICE

## The importance of recycling

It is important to recycle, as waste has a huge impact on the natural environment. Littering can disrupt the flow of an ecosystem in many ways. For example, an animal can eat waste affecting its next consumer. Materials such as plastic are poisonous that can kill flora and fauna, for example water polluted with harmful chemicals or materials. Materials which are harmful to the environment should only be used for needs, not wants. In my opinion, recycling is not the best way to reuse materials because you are just taking a piece of waste from one generation into another. The best way to lead life is by not harming the environment, but we humans need supplies from there so we are left with little choice but to harm it. I have often thought about this quote, "Every day is Earth day." To me, this means that every day is a day where we try to save the environment. We humans should continue to sustain and conserve so that the future is a better place to live in. Even small actions in helping to save the environment can be useful. For example, when we had gone for a field trip to Nadi Hills, Aarya and I began picking up trash to clean the surroundings. This action influenced our classmates and they began helping too

**RANVEER SINGH PARIHAR (G5-A)**

**"I slept and dreamt that life was a joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy".**

**- Rabindranath Tagore**

SAA & CAS at Neev is about experiential learning- learning by doing, exploring, taking risks, applying skills to solve real life situations and challenging oneself. We want our students to be individually committed to making a difference to the lives of others and become purposeful members of society. This year we aim to engage students in immersive learning experiences where they get a chance to demonstrate planning, collaboration, design, time-management, resilience, creative and critical thinking, communication and above all compassion. In MYP Grade 6 to 8 will be exposed to SAA through local trips to NGOs, our learning journeys to DBMGSF in rural Maharashtra, the Barefoot College in Rajasthan and Hunarshala in Bhuj. We aim to build awareness and prepare students to take indirect action and plan awareness projects to meet the 'authentic need' of society. Grade 9 & 10 students move from the exposure stage to the engagement stage. Students choose an issue that they truly care about and work on perseverance projects individually or in small groups to meet a challenge that they seek to solve through their action. Grade 11 & 12 follow a structured IBDP CAS program. Our senior school students choose a range of activities from the ICLs and after school staybacks for the Creativity & Activity strand of CAS. For service strand, students will be exposed to various issues like homelessness, old age care, healthcare, right to education, sustainability, right to water sanitation etc. The ultimate goal of CAS for our DP students is to independently identify, plan and carry out CAS projects, with complete awareness of the challenges ahead and the ways of surmounting them. This year our ambition is to sustain a flourishing services program that sits at the heart of the school's mission and vision, while working together with students, parents and teachers. Thanking the CAS task force of PTA in helping us achieve our goals for the academic year 2019-20.

**SHUBHA JAIN**  
(CAS coordinator)



## Shelter from the storm

The grey clouds of the morning hour floated high above the grounds where a small group of Neev students waited, excited that they would build houses for the underprivileged. The long ride to the village sprouted various talks about the conditions at the village. However, none of us were prepared for what the village held for us. The roads slowly faded into a muddy narrow path studded with numerous potholes. This was the start of many occasions where I started appreciating the little things that we take for granted. The village had numerous houses that were extremely small; some being smaller than my own room. Many villagers explained that they didn't even have access to electricity for generations. The construction site was just a heap of debris; an uneven land with heaps of mud and boulder-like stones. We had to level the entire land and clear out all the heavy rocks. Lifting the rocks and bricks required a lot of effort and strength. While shoveling the rocks I hurt my lower back. This pain seemed to increase as I worked till at one point I couldn't lift the rocks anymore. This was a turning point; a test, not only of my physical strength but also of my mental ability. I could have given up but I felt that if I gave up now I would be giving up on all the families that didn't have a roof on top of their head. So I took the risk and continued to work, pushing the limits of my endurance. However, the day soon gave way to delightful moments. We worked as a team, collaborated taking everyone's viewpoint into consideration while turning ideas into executable actions.

**ARYAN REDDY KOTA (G11)**

# JUNKYARD

## WORD SEARCH

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

### Words:

- Enslavement
- Inspire
- Freedom
- Independence
- Patriotic
- Celebration
- Annual
- United
- Liberty
- Citizen
- Liberation

## COMPETITION

Photograph/ painting/ artwork capturing the essence of reading and imagination with a brief write-up on the creative choice.

Selected piece will be featured on the cover page of the next issue of Neev Times

Please send your entries by 10th September 2019 to neevtimes@neevschools.com

### A special item on sale!

A one-of-a-kind item in the history of space exploration went on the auction block on July 18 at Christie's in New York City. The timeline book from Apollo 11's Eagle lunar module, One Giant Leap: Celebrating Space Exploration 50 Years After Apollo 11, annotated by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, is expected to command a staggering \$7 million to \$9 million. They rode to the moon and marked entries in this book detailing every step of the procedures that guided the astronauts to the moon's surface and back, half a century ago.

<https://www.livescience.com/65960-apollo-11-timeline-book-auction.html>



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## DID YOU KNOW?

### A unique animal

Thorny Dragon is a small species of Australian lizard, covered entirely with conical spines. The thorny devil lizard usually lives in the desert of central Australia.



## Sneak peak - NLF 2019 - LOVE TO READ, READ TO LOVE

