

October
2020

NEEV TIMES

Issue no.
20

You declare you see me dimly
through a glass which will not shine,
though I stand before you boldly,
trim in rank and marking time.
You do own to hear me faintly
as a whisper out of range,
while my drums beat out the message
and the rhythms never change.

Equality, and I will be free.
Equality, and I will be free.

Extract from 'Equality'
By Maya Angelou

EQUALITY



Sneak Peek :
Survival Kits, CAS
Opportunities, Music,
Movements to get
Behind, and much
more!

*"Coming generations will learn equality from poverty, and love from woes."
-Khalil Gibran*

Poverty is a significant issue prevalent in society today. A large percentage of people live in conditions unimaginable to us and struggle to meet their basic needs. This artwork draws inspiration from a nearby building and intends to highlight inequality and the circumstances that many in our country are subject to.

Gayathri Nair (G12)

LEADERSHIP SPEAK

A World More Equal?

The debut issue of the new Neev times editorial board is delightful and reassuring in its empathy. Students write on gender inequality, learning access, and the digital divide, and much else. Of course, India has many more inequalities...of wealth, food, water, shelter, roads, security, and opportunity. Many Indians will never ride in the car that they clean, read the newspapers they deliver or send their children to schools that they build. We, a microscopic minority at 0.5% of India, have had the hereditary privilege that gave us wonderful opportunities like the quality online learning during the pandemic that only a small percentage of children in the world have access to. The opportunity for excellence is a guarantee we have. How can we create a world that can be excellent and also more equal?



An individual's status is often determined not by his/her capacities but by his/her membership in a family, a caste, or a class. This membership determines our rights, privileges, prestige, power, and status. Professor Michael Sandel's new book 'The Tyranny of Merit' reflects on three important points. First, that the 'best man for the job' is often not a fair competition because of the inequality of opportunity of learning, performance, or who you know. Second, modern meritocracies cannot exist like monarchies and serfdoms did, and must provide a more equal opportunity for all. Third, and importantly, the resentment at unequal opportunity has fueled the revolt against the 'global elite' since 2016 when Britain voted for Brexit and America for Trump.

COVID has made the world even more unequal. As a large, poor on average, but not in the top-echelon democracy, our country has to provide a fair opportunity for not just roti / kapda / makaan anymore, but also shiksha/ rojgaar / bijli / sadak. I know a more equal and fair India can begin to grow in the dreams and aspirations of the children at Neev. This needs...More empathy. More hard work. More gratitude. More relationships. More inclusion. Less consumption. More creation. More reading!

Kavita Gupta Sabharwal
Head of School

EDITORIAL

THE GREAT INDIAN DIGITAL

The novel coronavirus is perhaps the most pressing puzzle the world is currently trying to solve. It is a battle with no borders, and the widespread impact that COVID-19 has already caused is tremendous. Not only have economies and political structures been rattled, so have educational institutes worldwide. While some schools have managed a near-seamless transition to distance learning, the promise of online learning remains a distant dream for a large sector of the Indian population. The pandemic has put restrictions on traditionally practiced classroom-based teaching, forcing schools and universities to shift to remote-based or digital learning platforms. However, structural and institutional issues such as accessibility, proper gadgets, and proficiency, have been recognized to hamper this transition. A recent report by the Digital Empowerment Foundation indicates that 30 percent of our population lags on basic literacy and thrice that for digital literacy.

I The digital divide runs deep across India, and as **V** marginalized populations do not have access to digital resources and tools, there is a loss of academic learning that **I** furthers the education gap as well. Schools have always **D** played a role in protecting the well-being of students, and there is a definite need to re-imagine the role of schools and **E** teachers in the life of children coming from marginalized communities. Our smooth transition to distance learning is a privilege, and there are numerous ways that we can help ensure continued education for marginalized communities. Albert Einstein said, "in the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity." This is an opportunity for us to count our blessings and hopefully bring a change to those students' lives who may not be as fortunate as us. Remote schooling is an option very few can afford; while educational ecosystems are working on being more inclusive in their approach, we need to respond from a space of empathy.

Note: The editorial represents the views of the Neev Times Editorial Board and is written by the editor. It is informed by research and certain longstanding values.

Here is how you can help! Please scan the QR codes to access the organization's website. Kindly note that this is not reviewed by the Neev Team and is shared as information only.



eVidyaloka



Make a difference



Angelxpress foundation



Parikrama

LETTER FROM THE SCHOOL PRESIDENT

Dear Neev Community,

I hope this letter finds you safe and in good health. We are slowly coming to terms with the fact that this pandemic isn't a sprint, but a marathon, where we're all participants among a billion others. So, in times of mask-wearing, hand sanitizing, and social distancing, how do all of us, as the Neev community come together? That's a question whose answers are many, but as the student government, we plan to bring together the community via inter-house and communal events, divided into 4 categories: 'Academic Pursuits', 'Creative Arts', 'Opinion Matters' and 'Sports.' They encompass of the four key themes that make up the Neev ethos: wellness, interactions, imagination and a mindset of service. So, in the coming months, expect the announcement of fun, unique events not created out of necessity, but out of the willingness to bring the Neev community together.

And finally, although these times are pressing, let's focus on the good, rebuild the rapport between the Neev community, and most importantly, stay safe. Do reach out to any member of the student government; we are always here to help!

Regards,
Maithreya Karthik
President, Neev Student Government



PRESIDENT

Maithreya Karthik
"Becoming is better than being" -Carol S Dweck
Reading, woodworking,
cycling, baking (trying not to
food poison anyone)



VICE PRESIDENT

Mehr Sohal
"Can't Do is like Don't Care. Neither of them have a home" -Vivian Baxter
Reading, writing, cooking,
(most importantly)
eating



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Navya Sahay
"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all" -Helen Keller
Discussing philosophy,
writing, watching films,
reading (all the time)



SPORTS CAPTAIN

Anika Hiremath
"Nobody is born a champion. You have to earn it through hard work" -Wladimir Klitschko
Running, playing squash,
reading novels, cooking
(a tad bit)



TREASURER

Aadit Kolar
"Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard" -Tim Notke
Programming, doing
math, cycling, (trying
my hand at) gyming



LETTER FROM THE NEEV TIMES EDITOR

Dear Readers,

In every writer lies the ability to draft the story of our times, the raw material that makes up history. With our words, we have the power to influence perspectives and emotions; it's an extraordinary gift, but even greater responsibility. Since its inception in 2015, Neev Times has devoted itself to be an engaging platform for self-expression and the responsible use of words to highlight the collective voice of our school community. With a new year comes not only new beginnings but also fresh initiatives and expectations. After having been part of the newsletter team for these past five years, I am proud of how far we have come, and am excited for the journey ahead. With your support, we look forward to strengthening this symbol of advocacy that serves as a representation of our school ethos.

In that spirit, I would like to conclude by saying, there is always plenty to interest us in the writing of our moment. Everywhere we look, we find opportunities, so write! Write about what you see; write about what you perceive; write about what you cherish. As we always say, feel it, write it, and you'll love it!

Best Wishes,
Kriti Sarawgi
Editor, Neev Times

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEEV TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD



Kriti Sarawgi, Editor

"A hundred bad days made a hundred good stories" -AJR

Doing ballet, writing, cycling, jamming
(and awfully dancing) to music



Naviya Jain, Design/Production Editor

"If you only do what you can do, you will never be more than you are now" -Master Shifu

Swimming, visiting museums, and exploring aesthetics



Gauri Padmanabhan, Books/Opinions Editor

"I want to be great or nothing" -Louisa May Alcott

Playing the piano, playing basketball,
teaching my dog new tricks, (of course)
reading



Sarah Samad, Chief Reporter G11

"Sometimes you've just gotta lick the stamp and send it!" -Daniel Ricciardo

Learning new languages, singing, playing instruments, (obsessively) watching F1

LETTER FROM YOUR PTA

Dear All,

The sad demise of the Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a fierce proponent of fairness, makes it a particularly appropriate time to talk about equality. While the notorious RBG's primary causes were gender and racial equality, the principles of her beliefs are universal; equality of rights, access, and opportunity.

The current pandemic has had many horrific impacts, but maybe one silver lining is that it has exposed fault lines in our closest neighborhoods. We can see that not everyone has the same access to everything. As students, and parents of students, perhaps the most obvious thing for us to notice is access to education. Learning from home has been hard for everyone, but especially so for students in low-income communities. Imagine being a first-generation learner in a family where your parents can't explain school assignments to you, and having to understand what the teacher is saying on a tiny phone screen and patchy 4G connection? The good news for us at a school like Neev is that this kind of knowledge doesn't have to depress us. It can just motivate us to focus on the needs of our society. Community, Action, and Service (CAS) is a core part of the IB Curriculum, and equality can be a powerful underlying theme to work on. There is an urgent need for action, and there are lots of opportunities to make it happen, so do your part!

Warm Regards,
Maya Chandrasekaran
PTA Member

PARENTS CORNER

Neev Academy to Zoom Academy

Sudden school closures triggered by the coronavirus pandemic led to a rapid transformation of learning for our kids –they went from Neev Academy to Zoom Academy! Their whole learning ecosystem changed from in-school to online. So how have they coped to this dramatic change?

In my opinion, with the phenomenal support from the teachers, school staff, and parents, they have adapted very well! The kids have accustomed themselves to a daily routine in which they sit in front of their computers from 8 am; some with half-open eyes and in their PJs (the new school uniform). I could have never imagined something of this sort when I was in school! Mid-term is now over, and I think they have achieved a lot given the not so perfect learning environment. We also attended our first online PTM, and it went very smoothly; however, we did miss chatting with other parents, and the chai, coffee, and samosas!

Distance learning will continue for some time more, maybe the whole academic year. While kids will miss their social interactions and hands-on learning, let's continue to provide them the emotional support needed to cope with these unprecedented times.

Bikram Sohal (Parent)

Helen Keller very wisely said, "a bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn". This quote applies to us now more than ever. The outbreak of the coronavirus came with its challenges, but we adapted well and quickly and implemented distance learning. I believe that online school is an experience I will never forget. It was the most practical way to adapt and overcome the situation at hand and has forced us to manage our time and ourselves with more efficiency. Although we could never have predicted this situation, I have learned that we can't be certain of the obstacles that are put in our path, we can only improvise in the best way possible.

Sunav Bajaj (G9)

Everything is moving to an online platform now, even education and schools. Many people find this fun, easy, and amazing, but many don't. I have mixed feelings about this. For instance, online PHE is not as exciting as actually going out in the open and playing. I also don't like the fact that we all are stationary and stay in one place the whole day in front of the screens. However, E-learning has made me realize that I took my routine and school day for granted until now. I miss walking down the hallways with my friends. I miss the loud and crazy lunchroom. I miss things I didn't even know that I loved about my school and have learned not to take things for granted.

Shivikaa Gupta (G6)

LET'S TALK

Opinions on Distance Learning

Most of us could never have imagined attending classes from home, and only seeing our friends and teachers virtually. However, the pandemic hasn't failed to surprise us, and distance learning has become the new normal. This new model brings challenges, as well as merits; what do the students of Neev Academy think? Let's talk!

The task of waking up in the morning and opening our laptops has now become as menial as getting dressed in the school uniform and arriving at the bus stop. These past six months have passed without any major jinks, primarily due to the preparedness of our school when dealing with the circumstances at hand, but also due to this generation's technological proficiency. Yet, every single day of online learning, I realize why I miss physical schooling so greatly; the sound of your classmates chattering in your ear, the teacher shouting at them for doing so, and the echoes of 7th and 8th graders shrieking in the corridors. Since online learning began, I feel as though I am stuck in a limbo of sorts, constantly awaiting the judgment of whether we would be allowed to resume our year physically or be stuck at home instead. Which of them is heaven and which is hell is up to your perception. I can not wait for physical school to restart, and I hope to see you all six feet away rather than a few kilometres away.

Tarun Padmanabhan (G10)

Digital school is a blessing during the COVID-19 lockdown as it has allowed us to learn during these difficult times. On the other hand, I do feel that physical school is better for me as it allows us to learn hands-on. What I mean by this is that we get to experience what we learn beyond the classroom. Additionally, it is easier for online classes to get disturbed. I say so because everyone is staying at home, and everyone is using the internet, so interruptions are very common. To conclude, while I respect the opportunity to learn while safely at home, I can't wait for us to meet back in school.

Adarshini Chandrakanth (G6)



You Can't Be What You Can't See

There seems to be one unspoken requirement for many top leadership positions in India - 'be a man'. Women are under-represented in positions of power in our country, and it is disheartening to see that it is accepted in our culture. It is no secret that for a woman to get her foot through the door, she must fight, climb, and claw her way there, while her male counterpart waltzes right in. She faces obstacles in the form of the media, social stereotyping, discrimination, and double standards. We see this in the stories of hundreds of women who will, unfortunately, remain unnamed and unheard of because they did not get the opportunity to share their contribution to our country. It has been years since the emancipation of women took place, yet the general public view on the abilities of a woman has not changed. Instead of questioning a woman's capacity to be a leader in terms of her experience and education, we question her based on her beauty and her sexuality. From a young age, girls are subject to discrimination that leaves them questioning their abilities. As Marian Wright Edelman said, "you can't be what you can't see." This is why female representation matters; it creates strong leaders, and more importantly, powerful role models.

Compiled by the Books/ Opinions Editor



LET'S TALK

Opinions on Gender Equality in Sports

Women in sports defy gender stereotypes and social norms, making them inspiring role models who show men and women as equals. Sports has the power to change lives, and has no gender; what do the students of Neev Academy think? Let's talk!

From time immemorial, women have been fighting a battle for equality. Although women's rights have evolved, women and sports used to be considered opposites. Sports were played by those who had physical endurance and strength, and society decided that women were supposed to be feminine and graceful. Despite archaic stereotypes, Suzanne Lenglen, and Gertrude Ederle, among others, all became successful female athletes and have set a strong example for women and young girls all over the world. While women's sports are slowly starting to be normalized, there is still a long way to go. Boys will be boys is a common phrase used to justify the actions of men. Similarly, it is crucial to understand that a girl will throw like a girl, fight like a girl, and run like a girl. Girls will be girls, and there is no shame in that.

Tavisha Jain (G11)

India's fastest woman, Dutee Chand, made headlines a few years ago with a jarring battle with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). She accused them of sexism and racism after they questioned her gender due to a medical condition creating extra male hormones (Hyperandrogenism). Similar allegations arose in 2019 when the sports world's highest court ruled that female runners with unusually high testosterone must take medication to reduce their levels of the male sex hormone if they want to compete in certain events. Michael Phelps's double-jointed ankles and disproportionately large wingspan have been celebrated for years, so why restrict some and glorify others?

Noor Sabharwal (G10)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) states that "sport is one of the most powerful platforms for promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls." Unfortunately, women still face discrimination and oppression in various fields, including sports. Archaic thought processes, stereotyping, and lack of recognition lead to very few players and little exposure. A classic example of this would be the 28 players of the women the United States women's soccer team who filed a gender discrimination lawsuit against the United States Soccer Federation. Although the players played more games and have won most of them, the institutionalized discrimination greatly impacted them. We need to start respecting all players for their talent and give them the recognition they deserve. There is still a long way to go, but one day, this issue will hopefully be set right.

Akshita Rajesh (G11)

THE SPORTS SHOW

STAYING FIT AT HOME

“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.” This quote by the iconic Michael Jordan accurately represents our mindset and approach for sports at Neev this year.

The pandemic brought with it its share of obstacles for sports; problems such as the lack of common facilities for student usage, the impossibility of physical interaction, and the absence of competitions make it is extremely difficult to stay motivated through these times. Despite this, as your Sports Captains, we are motivated to use all avenues possible to ensure every ‘Neevite’ stays fit and practices a sport of their choice. Hence, we have decided to launch an Optional Evening Sports Programme for all grades. The ‘Optional Online Evening Sports Programme’, being conducted from 3:15 to 4:00 pm, is designed for all grades, targeting the necessary skill training, fitness, rules & regulation for a sport of the students’ choosing. Owing to the restrictions of practicing a sport through this online medium, the Programme is only offering five sports-athletics, volleyball, basketball, football, and table tennis.

This Programme is just one of our first initiatives, and we are looking forward to many students participating in the program. Until then, together with the student community’s participation, we will do everything we can to ensure we uphold the spirit and name of sports at Neev this year.

**Anika Hiremath (Sports Captain, G11),
Pranav Gupta (Sports Vice Captain, G10)**

WOMEN’S IPL

After the exciting start of the men’s IPL this year in UAE, the BCCI has announced that the women’s IPL will take place in similar venues in UAE, starting on November 4th, directly after the men’s tournament comes to an end. Women’s cricket has flourished, after its increase in popularity in 2018, with thousands of young girls being inspired by female cricketers to take up sports. The women’s IPL will feature three teams- Velocity, Trailblazers, and the Supernovas. The supernovas, captained by Harampreet Kaur, will try and defend their title from last year, after a simply mind-blowing final against the trailblazers, who were captained by Smruti Mandhana. Mithali Raj, captain of the Velocity team, will also be looking at making a podium finish after narrowly missing out last year. Women's IPL has never received much attention and popularity, and it would be a massive step for gender equality in sports if we came together and gave it the recognition it deserves.

Daksh Sarawgi (G8)

IPL- A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

A cricket buzz has been flying around for a few weeks now, and as an Indian Premier League (IPL) enthusiast, this is easily my favorite time of the year. IPL is probably the easiest cricket format to follow, and definitely, the most publicized. If this cricket season is going above your head with all the conversation roaming our (virtual) hallways, here is your guide to understanding how the IPL works.

IPL has eight teams, all of which are named after cities and states in India. However, the teams don’t represent the city but are owned by private entities instead. Each team bids for players, and so the players tend to switch around every season to some extent. Each match has a total of 40 overs, 20 overs per team, and the entire tournament follows a classic league format. This means that each team plays every other team twice, and the four top-performing battle it out for the grand trophy.

IPL is a great way for beginners to get into cricket; it is flexible, simple, and extremely fun to follow. As Mumbai Indians strive to defend their title, the other teams are putting up no less of a fight; so definitely tune in! As controversial as it may be, my loyalties will always lie with the Royal Challengers Bangalore. *E Sala Cup Namde* (this time, the cup is ours)!

Noor Dixit (G11)



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Vineet - The Journey From Engineering to Theatre

Mr. Vineet, our passionate theatre teacher, who will never give up on a TEAM analysis and Commedia dell'arte opportunity, made the remarkable journey from engineering to the performing arts. When asked about this unique course his life took, this is what he had to say.

Throughout my life, there have been two things that stayed with me- gardening, and theatre. I grew up in a town called Jamshedpur, and as I was the youngest child, I had to always prove to my parents that I would come in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in class. In 6th grade, I remember writing long letters to my parents agreeing to do well at school if they paid the fees for my annual day. This was probably when I started enjoying theatre and the craft and the light, sound, and other aspects. This love for theatre was always within me.

When I got into engineering and moved away from home, I would use the money my parents gave for books to get into theatre workshops and education. Around my 2nd year of college, I met Saad Khan; a theatre person and also my senior. I reached out to him and said I want to do theatre seriously, and together we created a theatre club. I kept going on with engineering on the side, building a sort of capsule around me so that nobody knew what I was doing. In my 3rd year, I got my placement at Infosys, and I directed my first ticketed play.

After that, engineering and art education went hand in hand in my everyday life, and I started an NGO and company for art education. I want an education in the arts to be treated with equal importance to math and science, which is not the case in mainstream education right now.

Please scan the QR code to listen to the full interview.

Compiled by the Chief Reporter



STUDENT VOICE

We are a Family

A family is sharing, comparing, bonding, and caring,
It's hugging and squeezing, talking and teasing.
It's praising and knowing, belonging and growing,
It's working, playing, creating, and giving.
It's occasional fighting and often delighting,
It's relaxing and laughing, most reassuring!

Family is understanding, never demanding,
I will never leave the family alone standing.
Family is one in itself,
I promise to never leave you by yourself.
Family is forgiveness and patience,
It's sweeter than the sweetest fragrance.

Our family is a circle, of strength and love,
With every birth, the circle can become as big as a
dove.
Every joy shared adds more love,
Every crisis faced together makes the circle stronger.
Family is gold sent from the ones above,
bonded by the power of love.

The power of a family is god's magnificence,
Forever to eternity,
We are a family

Nirvaan Daga (G6)

SURVIVAL KIT

School life is an unforgettable experience, however, it can be quite challenging at times. During these times, it helps to have someone to turn to for guidance and support. While teachers and parents are always available, our very own seniors have years of first-hand experience and an armload of tips up their sleeves. Hopefully, this 'survival kit' offers you some advice to help ace your courses!

For the PYP Students

Firstly, congratulations on making it this far! I am sure it has been an exciting journey up until now, and there is a lot more learning and joy waiting for you. Online learning is new to all of us; we get to learn from the comfort of our own homes, and the teachers have the power to silence all of us with the click of a button! Embrace this new normal, and try to do learn, grow, and enjoy during this time. The IB Primary Years Programme offers you tons of experiences and opportunities- everything from lemonade stalls to countless field trips. During these years, you would have just begun to discover yourself and explore your options. I suggest you keep an open mind and try to experience as new things. You have a long way to go, so work hard, but at the same time, relish the time that you have.

Aida Sree (G8)

For the MYP Students

When I was asked to write this article, this image flashed before my eyes- my younger self, whose anxious eyes would have quickly skimmed through this survival article, desperately grappling for some sort of advice to get through what I then considered to be the most daunting course of all time. I now find this image of myself rather comical because while the IB Middle Years Programme was certainly challenging, my unnecessary anxiety blinded me to the treasure trove of experiences that the course helped me gather. So my advice to all those currently in the course is to enjoy the journey. What other course lets you paint, act, and do math all in one? However, I can sympathize with those of you who find it frightening, so here are a few tips. Firstly, read the criteria; it lays down all the expectations you need for your answers. Secondly, for personally driven tasks, choose something you genuinely like as personal engagement is crucial in portfolios and processes. Lastly, calm down; the most crucial thing of all is to not panic as you cannot do anything well if half of you are frozen in fear. My memories from MYP are colored in delicious red, nostalgic blue, and lush green. I hope that a black and white seeming course will spring to life for you!

Navya Sahay (G11)

For the DP Students

The IB Diploma Programme is a course that gets a lot of flak for being unbelievably difficult. Across the internet, you'll find hordes of anguished DP students complaining about their lack of sleep and lack of social life, all of which can seem pretty intimidating to newcomers. Coming from a current DP2 student, the IBDP is not as terrible as the internet makes it out to be. That being said, it's certainly not an easy course, so be prepared to have a much higher workload than you did before. As someone who went into DP pretty much blind, my biggest advice would be to prepare for the expectations of this course. Before you start, revise what you learned in the 9th and 10th grades to have a strong foundation in your subjects. Make sure you're familiar with the course outlines and syllabus, note down important dates, and try your best not to procrastinate. Revise topics you're doing in class regularly and practicing past paper questions also helps enormously. There are a ton of resources online to help DP students, so make sure you make good use of them. Most importantly, remember that it's okay to ask for help when you need it. Keep your friends close and try to support each other. Don't always hold yourself to unreasonably high standards and give yourself time to unwind. If you want any more advice or resources, please feel free to reach out to your seniors, we would love to help!

Aditi Kanchibhatta (G12)

ROAD TO COLLEGE

The ongoing pandemic has disrupted life for communities around the world, and the student community is no different. Applying to colleges is stressful even in the best of situations, and the stress level of students applying to colleges during these times has gone up due to misinformation floating around regarding the admission requirements. With the absence of extracurricular activities, cancellation of exams, etc, here are some points for students to keep in mind:

- Grades are the most important aspect to make your application stand out
- Many universities have even become test -optional with regards to the SAT, ACT & entrance exams
- Only take part in meaningful activities -Quality over quantity, always
- Attend the virtual college presentations & university fairs for credible updates

These are just a few pointers for high school students to keep in mind during these times. If you would like any further information or guidance, feel free to reach out to the career counseling team at school.

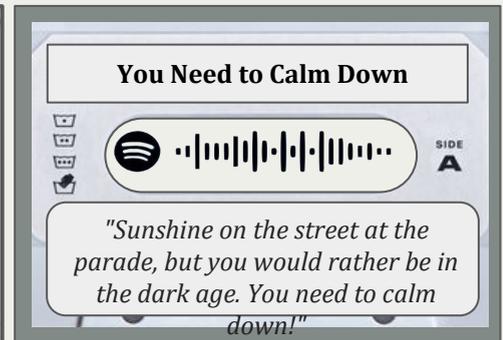
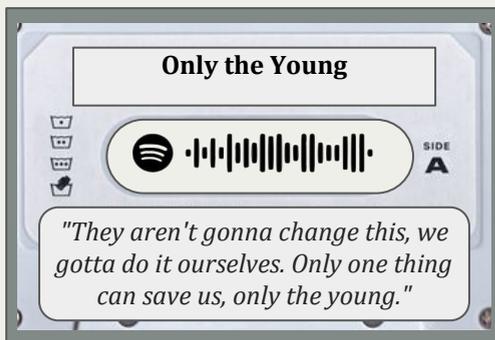
Ms. Shalini Sharma (Career Counselor)

HAND ME THE AUX

"Music takes us out of the actual and whispers to us dim secrets that startle our wonder as to who we are, and for what, whence, and whereto." -Ralph Waldo

These are three of our favorite tracks that promote equality, and youth empowerment.

You can either search these songs up or scan the Spotify code provided.



BUCKETS OF POPCORN

Who doesn't enjoy a good movie to end the week? We sure do! These three films are our top picks for you. While we have made a sincere effort to ensure that the content is appropriate for the school community, please follow the age guidelines (and your parent's approval)!



Hidden Figures

Age 10+

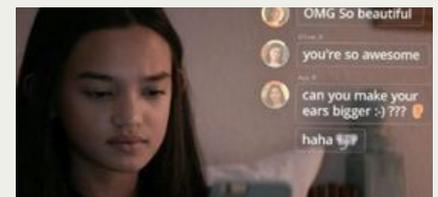
"Separate and equal are two different things. Just because it's the way don't make it right."



Enola Holmes

Age 12+

"The choice is always yours. Whatever society may claim, it can't control you."



The Social Dilemma

Age 13+

"There are only two industries that call their customers 'users': illegal drugs and software."

CAS CORNER

Why Creativity, Activity & Service (CAS)?

"This is a story about ... whether an entire generation of kids will fail to make the grade in the global economy because they can't think their way through abstract problems, work in teams, distinguish good information from bad, or speak a language other than [their own]"
-How to Build a Student for the 21st Century, TIME Magazine, December 18, 2006

Preparing students workplaces that don't exist yet

CAS enables students to grow as unique individuals and to recognize their role with others. For future success, students should be provided with opportunities not only to apply knowledge/content learned in the classroom but the tools to be creative problem solvers, and develop persistence and determination. Students develop skills, attitudes, and temperaments through a variety of individual and group experiences. Each of these allows them to explore their interests and express their passions, personalities, and perspectives while preparing them to become global citizens, and lifelong learners who embrace new technologies, ideas, and skills.

Staying involved during these times

In such an unprecedented situation as the COVID-19 pandemic, humanity is facing numerous challenges that have never been dealt with before. With everything going online, the process involves many logistical challenges as we had to come up with an easy way of continuing ongoing experiences. Students were thinkers, risk-takers, compassionate, and remained open-minded about exploring new ideas and skills.

A few examples of ongoing online CAS experiences include online workshops for younger students on sustainability, art appreciation, storytelling; online workouts; growing organic gardens; publishing websites for teachers to help them with technology, etc. Students have also used this time to try and solve some of the challenges arising from the pandemic by making and distributing face masks, distributing food to community workers & stray animals, doing online workshops, and raising funds for organizations like CRY & Parikrma.

Ms. Shubha Jain (CAS Coordinator)

Data has proven that we, as human beings, are wired to dwell on and stress over the bad things in life –known as an “over-dramatic worldview”. Hence, I have decided to ‘keep it real’ and give the community their much-needed dose of positive news on a platter. This is the exact purpose of ‘*The Joyful Peach*’ –my news portal that strives to focus entirely on the happy events that we usually overlook.

Mehr Sohal (G11)

The Joyful Peach

Read to Stay Happy

[HOME](#) [Peach-isms](#) [Peachy News](#) [Artsy Corner](#) [COVID Plus](#) [ABOUT ME](#)



We think of sustainability in terms of scarce resources, but what about the waste that we generate? *Sustineri* is a 31-day Sustainability workshop initiated to help students incorporate sustainable practices at home during COVID-19. This workshop has helped students and teachers identify, reflect, and replace the unsustainable practices that are deeply instilled in their lifestyles.

Anoushka Manik, Dhvani Nair (G12)

sustineri



We know first-hand how difficult things have been for everyone recently, and so, during this time of separation and uncertainty, we wanted to create a safe space for people to relax and destress. We found the best way to do this was to create opportunities for people to explore and engage with art through weekly interactive sessions. Although we might not all be artists, art can be something for every one of us. Essentially, *Amarte* is 'the love for art.'

Hashim, Soumya, Gayathri, Kakuly, Aditi (G12)



NEEV LITERATURE FESTIVAL

NLF Imaginary Lines

Neev Academy has been home to the Neev Literature Festival for the past three years, and this year, the much-awaited reading festival is back! NLF Imaginary Lines will draw and redraw our experiences through stories. The more children read, the farther their minds will stretch and push against the fictitious boundaries we have set for ourselves. Whether you choose to draw the line or cross one, let's throw each other a line, thus blurring the lines that divide us and forge those that connect us.

The first session was a panel discussion called "Memory and Memorialisation." It was centered around examining the history of the India-Pakistan partition, its many narrative strains, the aftermath, and "separation or reparation?" The panel of authors and experts included Kamla Bhasin- an activist and children's author, Mallika Ahluwalia- the CEO and co-founder of the Partition Museum, and Santosh Sivan- a filmmaker, cinematographer, actor, and producer. The second session was a compelling performance of Lakeerein by Kapil Pandey, who is a storyteller and author. He presented a captivating rendition of the song "Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream" By Simon and Garfunkel. The third, session was a panel discussion on peripheries, called "Boundaries on the Edge, Boundaries Within". This discussion was about the conflicts in Kashmir, the Northeast, and Central India. It offered an insight into people of these areas, and their representation in works of film and literature. The panelists for this discussion were Aijaz Khan- a storyteller and filmmaker, Kenny Basumatary- a filmmaker and author, and lastly Rinchin- a well-known children's author and social activist. The panelists touched upon how literature opens up our eyes and exposes us to the inequalities of the world.

NLF Imaginary Lines is a series of digital events, including panel discussions, books clubs, and much more, that will be held year-round. Please scan the QR code to explore the hidden treasures that can only be found between the lines!



Compiled by the Chief Reporter



NEEV BOOK AWARD 2020

The Neev Book Award for distinguished children's literature aims to recognize outstanding writing that leads to a fuller understanding of India, Indian lives, and Indian stories.

The 2020 Neev Book Award was presented to *The Mountains of Mumbai*, by Labanya Ghosh, illustrated by Pallavi Jain, and published by Karadi Tales in the Picture Book category; *Friend of Numbers* by Priya Narayanan, illustrated by Satwik Gade, and published by Tulika in the Emerging Readers category; *All of Me* by Venita Coelho and published by HarperCollins in the Junior Readers category; *The Prince* by Samhita Arni and published by Juggernaut in the Young Adult category.



'Reader Come Home' with Maryanne Wolf

On the 26th of September, professor, author, enthusiastic speaker, and bibliophile, Dr. Maryanne Wolf, spoke to us – virtually, of course – about the fascinating reading brain. Her latest book, 'Reader Come Home', explores "what we read, how we read, and why we read." Even though the session took place on Zoom, Dr. Wolf emitted energy and excitement through the computer screen and was beyond captivating. If anything, it clearly shows that adding on to her extensive list of achievements, she is a great story-teller! As the session progressed, the topics of discussion became more complicated: the perils of digital reading, reading and education, and what I found most interesting– the connection between reading, empathy, and democratic society. Linking with this edition's theme of 'equality', the expert highlighted that when we read we are leaving ourselves, and are hence taking on the perspective of others. This is the essence of equality, for when we learn that we are not the center of the world, it is possible to understand "the other."



Mehr Sohal (G11)

BETWEEN THE PAGES

The Hate U Give

Novel by Angie Thomas

Racism is not dead. The false assumptions that say otherwise, are nothing, but speculations based on privileged individual's experiences. Not only are they incorrect and unworldly, but they are also menacing to our growth as a society. It is as though a section of the community is waving a 'mission accomplished' banner above their heads, while many others suffer whilst being silenced by the authority.

The young adult novel, 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas, impeccably discussed this idea through the eyes of sixteen-year-old Starr who is stuck between two stark opposite worlds; the poor 'black' neighborhood she lives in, and the posh suburban prep school she attends. On top of it all, Starr had the misfortune of seeing her two best friends die before her eyes -Innocent, Unarmed, but Black. She soon comes to realize that "it's dope to be black until it's hard to be black." Starr can either choose to remain silent or speak out for justice. A hairbrush is not a gun. Being black is not a sin. And Khalil was just a boy who died after living nearly not long enough. His story was not a fairytale, just like many other stories in our world, but by standing up towards issues that we see around us, we are making it clear that we are not willing to give up on a better ending.

Kriti Sarawgi (G11)

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda

Novel by Becky Albertalli

Simon is a "normal" teen; he has a loving family and close friends. Behind the seemingly everyday life, he has a secret. Simon is gay. He starts chatting through email with another closeted boy who has been going through similar struggles as Simon; the interaction goes from a few emails to a relationship. Simon's relationships are precious, and I adore the friend group that he is a part of. Friendship, growing up, and acceptance is prominent themes in the book. Although these themes are commonly explored in young adult fiction, there is something about this book, that makes it different; it made me feel for each character.

I found this book to be heartwarming and real; while depicting both homophobia and bullying, it also expressing values such as courage and self-love. I found this book to be an absolute page-turner and couldn't wait to see what happened next. 'Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda' is a big step towards inclusion as Simon is a depiction of teens and young adults who are struggling with identifying and accepting who they are.

Pranvi Khare (G10)

EXPERT TALKS**'Why is India Poor' with Mr. Manish Sabharwal**

The essence of liberalism is to live and let live. In India, many choices got taken away from us because we were poor, and survival inevitably made its way to the forefront. We lived by the thought process, "we have to fill their stomachs and empty their minds." The expert talk with Mr. Manish Sabharwal on 30th September looked at the pre-existing conditions of the Indian economy, offering an insight into why our nation is in the condition it is in today.

India is a miracle of democracy that built itself up even though the odds were not in its favor; where did it fail in becoming the world's largest economy? Cultural exploration is at best a soft explanation for the situation of our nation, and it is much more reasonable to blame the infrastructure of opportunity; India is poor because it opted for the wrong economic system that handicapped the private sector. To build a strong growth narrative, India needs to strike hard with reform on the banking, labor, and farm front. While there is nothing wrong with the new economic thinking that says that there is more to life than money, this is a privileged thought process that is only possible for societies that have reached a certain standard of living. We must be careful about extrapolating our experience of life, to everyone's experience of life, as "where you stand on an issue depends on where you sit."

Compiled by the Editor

'The Power of Biotechnology' with Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

On October 9th, Ms. Shaw set the ball rolling for Ideas@Neev this year. She started the session off by describing herself as an 'accidental entrepreneur', who stumbled into the business when seemingly all doors were closed due to her gender. Driven by a sense of purpose and the noble goal to make a difference in global health care, she started a company that is now a worldwide success. While on this journey, Ms. Shaw noticed that India was at the epicenter of a diabetes crisis and that the general Indian public was not able to access recombinant human insulin but had to settle for animal insulin as it was cheaper. She witnessed the injustice every day; people facing the side effects of using animal insulin as they were not able to afford recombinant human insulin. Ms. Shaw set a goal for herself and her company to make recombinant human insulin affordable to all. Fast-forward to today, her company sells insulin to 75 countries, and almost no one in India uses animal insulin. This is a commendable feat and shows us the real power that biotechnology has to bridge gaps between the wealthy and the poor; when biotechnology is harnessed with the right intent, wondrous things are possible.

Compiled by the Books/ Opinions Editor

CAMPUS BUZZ**We the People of...**

What is the Indian dream? Self-reliance? Domination? Freedom? Jawaharlal Nehru, a central figure in Indian politics, said that "the ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye." 15th August 1947 marks the day that a new nation was born, free from the British colonial rule, but are we truly independent? India, as a democracy, with all its diversity, is still struggling for liberation from a multitude of social problems. Independence Day holds a special place in all our hearts, but as our tricolor sours above, it is necessary to wake up and stand for the cause of our country. We can only relish the state of being free, when we the people of India, work to give reality to our dreams.

15th August also marked an important day for the students of Neev Academy; the investiture for the student government of 2020-21. Although the ceremony was unconventional, it served as a symbol of leadership in our school community. We hope that it reminds students at Neev, that the power to bring about change lies in each of us; with or without a title, we must strive to uphold our school's, as well as our nation's, mission and dream.

Compiled by the Editor

A Tribute to Gandhi

It has been 73 years since India gained independence and 72 years since the death of Mahatma Gandhi. Time has not allowed us to forget Gandhi's importance but it has allowed us to overlook his relevance in today's world. We often study Gandhi's achievements and greatness in history classes, but that is where the thinking stops. Although we live in a divided world, we are often ignorant in our bliss, and the inequality that is still prevalent today gets buried in the fabric of our society. The case for Gandhi's relevance in today's world is made extremely well in Paro Anand's book, 'Being Gandhi'. Here we are confronted with the idea that we must look beyond Gandhi as a man and instead look deeper into his values. His preachings on faith and the respect deserved by every religion are more than distant words of wisdom, but ideas still relevant to us. With protests taking place globally, Gandhian philosophy can shine a light on different ways to bring about social change. To quote Gandhi himself, "in a gentle way, you can shake the world."

Compiled by the Books/ Opinions Editor

MOVEMENTS TO GET BEHIND

This decade has seen some powerful movements, endowed with energy, unity, and most importantly, strength. In recent times, we have witnessed great turmoil, but also exceptional change. In a world where there are endless instances of extreme divisions, movements such as these where people come together to take action, are a beacon of hope.

Black Lives Matter

"I can't breathe." Many of you must have seen this slogan recently plastered across social media, but its origins are from the last words of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man, who was killed in 2014. This is just one of the many instances of racially motivated violence against black people. 'Black Lives Matter' is a decentralized political and social movement advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest of racism against black individuals. The lack of legal action taken against the recent murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor reminds us that an attack against one is an attack against all. The fight is no longer black versus white; it's everyone against racists.

Me Too

Sexual violence can forever change an individual's life, and in 2017, the #metoo hashtag went viral and woke up the world to the magnitude of this problem. This movement works to disrupt the systems that allow sexual violence to proliferate in our world. There is an urgent need to devise a holistic response to sexual harassment where survivors can level charges without fearing a backlash. The movement serves as a constant reminder to society that each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women. We strive for a day when nobody ever has to say "me too" again.

Dalit Lives Matter

Consider the alleged rape, murder, and forced cremation of a 20-year-old Dalit woman. By Indian standards, the atrocity was hardly worth a raised eyebrow as the horrors of caste violence have become all too common, and often go unacknowledged. Ethnic and religious minorities are threatened and dispossessed, khap panchayats kill eloping couples, rumors suffice for mobs to kill supposed child-lifters or witches, and the list goes on. 'Dalit Lives Matter' aims to demolish the casteism that is so firmly rooted in India, and bring to the light the wretched treatment of the vulnerable.

LGBTQ Rights

Love who you want, and be who you are. On paper, this sounds quite simple, but in reality, discrimination against individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity still prevails. LGBTQ social movements aim to create a world where all people, regardless of their orientation, are provided equal rights and can live without oppression and fear. The rainbow flag, popularized as a symbol of the LGBTQ community, is often associated with diversity and encourages individuals to take pride in their true colors. After all, love has no limits, only people do.

Compiled by the Editor

NEEV CIRCLES

Inspired by TED Circles, Neev Circles is a community to engage in conversations about big ideas. It is an opportunity to share perspectives, and engage in thought-provoking discussions with your friends, teachers, and family.

Our team has specially curated a list of TED talks for you, pertaining to the theme of equality. We hope that the videos serve as stimulating provocations and you enjoy watching them!



Bryan Stevenson
We need to talk about an Injustice



Halla Tómasdóttir
Time for women to run for Office



Heather C. McGhee
Racism has a cost for Everyone



Founders of Black Lives Matter
Interview with the founders of BLM



Kimberlé Crenshaw
The urgency of Intersectionality



Samy Nour Younes
Trans people's fight for Equality



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Women lead us to social Change



Michael Kimmel
Gender equality - good for
Everyone



Tarana Burke
Me Too is a Movement

As always, Neev Times is dedicated towards improving, and staying connected with its readers and we would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on this edition. Please scan the QR code to access the google form. Feel free to reach out to us at neevtimes@neevschools.com



Editor: Kriti Sarawgi (G11)

Books/ Opinions Editor: Gauri Padmanabhan (G10)

Design/ Production Editor: Naviya Chakor Jain (G11)

Chief Reporter: Sarah Samad (G11)

Teacher Advisors: Karthika Gopalakrishnan, Shivali Bose, Ushita Banerjee