

Dear Neev community,  
Congratulations on receiving a copy of our 7th Neev Times issue!  
Well, the Neev Times team sighs relief! To be honest, most of us in the team were highly doubtful about releasing this issue on time with most of us knee-deep in preparation for 'Wingless'. We were traumatized by the fact that all our voracious readers would have to read is an imaginary and non-existent newsletter. Well, lo and behold, our last minute hard work paid off!  
Going forward, we urge students of all grades to send us as many articles, snippets and creative pieces as possible. Pick up a pen and a paper and see where it takes you! Believe me, there is nothing as exhilarating as seeing your writing published in black and white.  
**Mehr Sohal, Editor, Neev Times Issue 7**

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## Founder's Note

Dear Neev community,  
As we look back to the year ending and plan for the next year, it's clear that Neev is at an interesting cross-road; we are shifting from a baby in diapers to the exuberance of adolescence (though far from the cruising speed of adulthood)!  
Strategy is a child of goals and the four questions we ask ourselves around goals are; should they be unrealistic or realistic (the biggest danger is aiming too high and missing or aiming too low and getting there)? Quantitative or qualitative (Measuring can improve equity by revealing hidden exclusions since lack of learning is often invisible but also some important things are hard to measure)? About where we are or where we can be (what do you compare progress to)? About long term or short (nothing truly great was built quickly)?  
Neev aims to reimagine education for a changing India. Our standards are higher than others and we aim to learn from global models but not photocopy them. We have reimaged sports, performing arts, learning journeys, reading, academic programmes and at the core of it all a search for identity as a knowing who we are as learners; and made our continuum from 18 months to 18 years, of building exploration-awareness-ability so that children can make choices. We strengthen choices through a renewed timetable next year.  
Sports is now about benchmarking fitness and building a sustainable sports community across schools. Our fitness assessments have thrown up data that we have a long way to go, but there are also unexpected strengths. The reading program will become the foundation for a substantially strengthened writing program even as the Neev list Fest moves from an event to being a year round programme of reading – for its own pleasure, for being well informed and for being good writers. Performing arts will build on the spotlight philosophy of student led grade level performances created by students from page to stage (again taking reading further). Our middle school initiated academic benchmarking with the ACER International benchmark tests which showed us areas of development but documented that we are stronger or at par with international, national and IB schools; again data that helps us strengthen some practices for all and support specific needs for some. Next year will be the first year that we will run all the trips for grades 4 to 11. Identity is at the core of who we are – our curriculum strands support this, language day and our India journeys explore this. Our student leadership programme initiated this year will now move to next steps towards forming stronger student governance creating greater inclusion and stronger relationships. The staybacks programme creating choices for students will expand now into middle of the day choices as well for children from grade 4 onwards. The spine of all schools is the timetable and the annual calendar – and ours will continue to morph significantly next year to support all of these developments. The Veracross ERP is now ready for internal use to support all our work, and will go live for parents in April 2018 Inshallah!  
The community is growing – Grade 1 at Neev QR, PYP classes at Neev Yemalur and first DP batch are pretty much full for the next year though we continue to assess/enrol others judiciously with continuing and increasing show of interest in DP@Neev and MYP@Neev. Onward and upward!  
Regards,

**Kavita Gupta Sabharwal, Head of School**

## Campus Buzz

### Language Day

Language day is a celebration of all the different languages India is home to. Languages shape our culture and also our identity. In this diverse drama of life where learning becomes obsolete in a matter of a few years, it is interesting to study the way discourses evolved, myths got created, communication became authentic and the brain finds its own language of processing data. The event was a huge success last year and we are hoping for the same this year too on the **20<sup>th</sup> of April**, the last day of school. Students are eagerly preparing. Are you?

### PYP Exhibition

For the first time ever, Neev is hosting the PYP exhibition. The main outcome of the exhibition is to see how the students have grown and evolved as learners in their PYP years. It is a celebration of their learning journey displaying all the elements of PYP, which are skills, attitudes, knowledge, concepts leading to action and most importantly making students lifelong learners. Watch out for the **14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018**.

### Switch to International Calendar

Many of you may not be aware but the school is intending to shift to the international holiday calendar from the coming session. One of the main reasons that Neev is making the change is so that new students from other schools can adapt easily and enjoy a smooth transition into the new environment. The new calendar will align our holidays and examinations with other international schools, lengthening the term till April 20th this year. But don't worry, we'll still have the same number of holidays!

### Eureka

The annual science fair, Eureka, is right around the corner. The event showcases experiments and case studies on various topics undertaken by students independently on their areas of interest. The science department is bracing for the **19<sup>th</sup> of April** to see if their experiments yield desired results. Students are filled with excitement and the labs with the clinking sound of test tubes.

### DP Admissions

The Diploma Program admissions have begun! Some of you may have seen the billboards around the city, advertising the IBDP continuum program. The admissions have been quite successful with a handsome number of applications for the new batch. The existing students are feeling enthused too, to have a senior batch to look up to. The entire cohort is ready to launch the program with grit, honor and grace.

Compiled by the editorial team

### Delhi-Rajasthan Field Trip

This year, the grade 8 and FB students went to Delhi and Rajasthan to experience how the government system works. The fact that India has a liberal democracy increased my sense of belonging to a country that chooses to let its citizens choose.



Another eye opening experience was a visit to Barefoot College, an NGO that has empowered women in a remarkable way. Uneducated women from rural areas are taught to harness and use solar power in creative and efficient ways. It was incredible how women going through such hardships talked confidently about their work.

An exciting part of the trip was the visit to the Ranthambore National Park. The combination of the royal orange coat and deadly power never fails to thrill the visitors. The Environmental Secretary of Rajasthan explained the disadvantages of making tigers the main focus of the National Park. In order to promote tourism, Rajasthan must highlight the tigers, yet, tigers need to be isolated from human interactions for better habitat and rise in tiger population. This self-contradictory issue gave us an insight into the complex problems a government has to address.

Besides the educational experiences, the trip never went down on the fun quotient. The invaluable two weeks have left an indelible impression upon us.

**Navya Sahay, Grade 8**

### Field Trip to Gujarat

On 25th January 2018, grade 6 of Neev academy came back to Bangalore from a very educational, yet enjoyable trip to Gujarat. As I reflect on the trip I see that we haven't only learnt about our unit topics like urbanization, cooperatives and traditional art-forms, but some of my own skills have also developed through the trip. I understood so many of my strengths and weaknesses while trying to work collaboratively with my friends and teachers. Walking out of the airport, I realised that I had emerged more powerful. Working for long hours in a place away from home made me realise the meaning of grit. I have developed many skills and hope that with such experiences as these, I will become more empowered to reach out to the society around me which needs our little contribution.

**Riya Mehta, 6B**



Besides that, it was great learning to look into the other side of a seemingly successful story. What appears to be a successful urban project can be brought under speculation if the common man's voice is heard. In a democracy, meeting deadlines and completing projects become exceedingly difficult. Also, as we looked at monuments and visited places of architectural interest, we realised how important is preservation of history as a point of awareness of our own identity. As human beings, it is important to develop attitudes of care, compassion and empathy to retain what we have and to create newer things for the coming generations.

**Grade 6**

# Wordsmiths

## Delhi - Agra Field trip



We were fortunate to be able to visit Delhi with its rich historical past and monuments. We visited many of Delhi's well preserved heritage sites such as Humayun's Tomb, Fatehpur Sikri, Alai Darwaza, Alai Minar, Qutub Minar, Jama Masjid

and the Agra Fort amongst others. The visit to the well known Taj Mahal was amazing!

We also learnt about the eight cities in Delhi and the five main dynasties that once ruled Delhi namely the Mamluks, Khiljis, Tughlaqs, Mughals and finally the British before the Indian independence.

In all, it was a totally enriching experience. We had lots of fun while learning about migration, government and the history of our nation. I feel that it is important for us to understand who we are, where we come from and what we stand for.

**Sachi Vats, 5A**

## The Leaning Tower of Pisa

During my vacation to Italy, I visited one of the seven wonders of the world, the astonishing 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'. It was built in 1372, a 55.86m high tower made of marble. It is a tall bell tower hosting seven bells representing musical notes. It has 296 steps spread over seven floors. Do you think you can climb it? Yes! Of course you can.

I was extremely excited to climb up this historical and fascinating tower which was never meant to be slanting. We needed tickets which specified a particular time to climb as there is a limit to the number of people it can house on the top at once. Thankfully we had pre-booked the tickets.

As I started to climb, I saw fearful faces, some were very happy and some clearly thanking their stars that the whole thing was over. The steps were spiral, steep and slippery. They have been so extensively used over the centuries that in many places the steps had absolutely no grip. It was narrow, allowing only one adult to climb comfortably. As the climb continued, we could sense the incline of the tower. I saw a few people who were feeling nauseous and some openly crying to go down. I was feeling a bit nervous but my parents gave me courage and confidence to continue the climb.

What an experience! It was an exhilarating moment to climb this wonder of the world and reach at the top of it. People from here looked like tiny ants and the whole city could be seen. We took amazing pictures near the bell and started to climb down. This was faster and more dangerous than going down a steep hill. Finally, we were down and I felt like kissing the ground. This is a moment of life I will never forget.

**Arin, 3A**

## Book Review:- The Taliban Cricket Club

Before I began reading the book, *The Taliban Cricket Club*, I read about the Taliban and was convinced that the book could be about anything but sports, let alone girls engaging in it. After reading the first chapter of the book, I realised that it was exactly what I had expected – that the Taliban rule is a reign of terror. However, as I continued, I realised that this book had a unique take on this group. It took the readers through a journey of a woman's struggle against the Taliban.



Timeri Murari, the author, has chosen Kabul as the backdrop of the story. The protagonist is a woman journalist, Rukshana, who is an orphan and the lone warrior against the vagaries of life. Her hand has been committed to the head terrorist in marriage, and she is not allowed to do what she loves most- to write. Rather than being discouraged by the situation, she decides to change her situation by running away. Therein lies the real twist; in order to escape she must play cricket. It is an inspiring book that showcases women empowerment through an engaging plot.

Rukshana is truly an inspiring figure as she portrays strength, composure and intelligence. She has left a deep impression on my mind through her inspirational journey.

The book is vivid in its setting and characterization. The way the author has portrayed the horror of the Taliban rule sometimes shook me up from within. But that is reality in its tooth and claw. The overall tension culminates into a decision that Rukshana makes in choosing between safety and standing up for her own identity. The author, Timeri Murari is an Indian novelist and has written 14 novels. His books also include best sellers such as the *Taj*. However, considering the subject matter and its handling, I would recommend this book for an age group of 14-17, as I feel that a younger audience may feel horrified. For the appropriate age group and even adults, this book offers an unusual take on a scorching issue.

**Noor Sabharwal, 7A**

## Field Trip to Devanahalli Fort

We had great fun learning about Tipu Sultan when we visited Devanahalli Fort. We saw the model of his birth place. We walked through his fort. The fort was nicely decorated and painted since Tipu Sultan loved art. People called him the 'Tiger of Mysore' because he was very brave and fearless. He was also fond of tigers.

We learned how the fort was used to protect the people and the kingdom against enemies. He was very caring and successful as a ruler. Tipu Sultan fought four major wars against the British people. He won the first and the second war. He lost the third war and finally died while fighting the fourth one.

**Mohar Chatterjee, 1B**

## Expert Visit- Chumbak



Chumbak is a highly sought after lifestyle store in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi. It is owned by Mr Vivek Prabhakar and Ms Shubhra Chadda who are parents at Neev.

Mr. Vivek Prabhakar visited our school to give us an overview on Chumbak. He spoke to the students about how the company, Chumbak, organises its activities by having different teams in charge of different tasks like retail, online sale, finance and human resources, planning, logis-

tics, marketing, product, design, and many more. We learnt how the different teams work towards production and distribution of goods.

Mr Prabhakar touched upon various related concepts like, demand, supply, import and export.

We could connect to the key concepts of 'change' and 'connection' when Mr Prabhakar spoke about designs being constantly updated, and how the Chumbak team makes constant efforts of connecting with customers to satisfy them. He also discussed and explained the lengthy design process.

We learnt that Chumbak predominantly sells accessories, apparels and home goods.

He also explained the two types of distribution channels that Chumbak uses- distribution through third parties like Amazon and Flipkart, and directly through their flagship stores and online website.

This expert visit has helped us make great connections with our unit on 'Economics'.

**Grade 4 Team**

## Loneliness

As the people around him make friendly chatter,  
He sits quiet, hoping to be noticed.  
As the people around him laugh and cry together,  
He remains there, sitting alone.  
He has become so lonely  
That he doesn't even want be with himself.  
And he thinks that it must be better  
To be alone, so nobody can hurt you anymore.  
They always say "destroy what destroys you"  
So he tries to destroy himself,  
And then he remembers that he is not alone:  
Loneliness remains with him...

**Rithwik Shivnani, 6B**

## Human

There is something about mankind  
that you'll never find  
in any other thing.  
For many can sing,  
Oh the sweet voice of the nightingale.  
And many can pull a stunt,  
Oh the fascinating lion's hunt.  
Many can hear,  
Oh, the wondrous dog's ear.  
Many can run ,  
Oh what fun  
to watch the agile cheetah.

But neither of these creatures,  
although they have great features,  
can do the one thing  
that makes human, human.  
May it be a man or a woman,  
each defines the indefinable  
each predicts the unpredictable  
each knows the unknowable  
and each attains the unattainable.

That is the power of the human race,  
the curious face,  
to go to the dangerous place,  
to work with incredible pace,  
the ability to lace  
together all the thought, all the feeling  
everything that at first was shaking,  
that is what the human is making:

The Future  
**Navya Sahay, 8**

## It is Our Time To Shine

In class, we watched Meghan Markle's speech that she made in the United Nations. As an 11 year old, she was upset about gender inequality portrayed in a dishwashing advertisement. This made her write letters of protest to the dishwashing company and many famous people. Her protests ultimately bore fruit and the advertisement was changed.

She says "Girls, small voices are not small at all." These words reminded me of a poem that my friends and I wrote:

Dream small they say  
Stay quiet they say  
Stops me each time  
From going my way  
Like a kite in the sky  
Flying freely yet tied  
I'm tired of being denied  
Now it's my time to shine  
Tell me that I can't  
And I'll show you that I can  
No mountain's too high  
No star is too far  
Words can't bring me down  
I'll stand firm on the ground  
I dare to fight hard  
My hope ain't in the dark

I would like to end by saying, "Equality is my birthright and I shall have it."

**Anya Shenoy 4B**

## Library Corner



Library is a place where everyone loves to sit and read a book of their choice. Books are considered as repository of knowledge. Here at Neev, the library is filled with a vast collection of books. Thanks to Neev for its burning desire to promote learning.

Recently, the MYP library has moved from the second floor to a bigger place on the third floor, attracting more footfalls. The library is divided into two zones - a Whispering Zone and a Deep Reading Zone. Students are free to lie down, or find their own nook in bean bags, sofas or beautiful carrels placed for readers of varying temperament.

To foster knowledge building, the library has initiated 'Author Talks' for students. In this programme, students choose to talk about a book they have read and recommend it to readers in an interactive session with peers and teachers. The speakers are also duly rated on their delivery.

Books are procured on a monthly basis and shelved under well defined categories every fortnight. The library team takes the initiative to share the new arrivals with both teachers and students. The collection is displayed in a very attractive manner. Separate islands and corners are created for different genre such as 'Award Winning Books', 'Super Readable Books' for reluctant readers and many more.

Along with conducting Reading Programme classes, the library celebrates the 'Author of the Month'. Commemorating the birthday of Sir Charles Dickens, we held reading sessions from his books with teachers and students and displayed, along with detailed drawn out timeline, the entire volume of his works. The library is rightfully the hub of learning at Neev.

We hold group discussions and interesting reading exercises to induce the joy of reading. Students now have access to Kindles, i-pads and various DVDs to suit their interests. Also, they learn about MLA citations and plagiarism to understand academic honesty. As a strategy, we display circulation statistics in front of the library every month showing names of students and the number of books they have issued. Students compete to see their names on the top of the list.

I hope that this pursuit of wisdom never dies!

Love to read, read to love!

Do visit : <https://neev.follettdestiny.com> (library catalogue) & [www.neevbooks.org](http://www.neevbooks.org)

**Premson H M, Librarian**

# Teacher's Corner

## Learning by Making- Makerspace

"We are at the ground floor of a new world full of imagination, creativity, innovation and digital wisdom. We are going to have to create the education of the future because it doesn't exist anywhere today."- Marc Prensky



Technology occupies an important place within students' lives. When they are not in school, just about everything that they do is connected in some way to technology. We recognise the enormous potential of modern technology and how it is impacting our lives. Our goal at Neev is to prepare our students to live, learn and work in an increasingly complex world of technology.

Being a technology teacher myself, I've always found a sense of peace in the creative process. When I enter the classroom, I want to give my students as many chances as possible to be creative. Over the years, I've seen amazing projects from students who dared to take creative chances. The idea of Makerspace took birth sometime back when I realised that it had the potential for enormous creative opportunities. Working towards the same, we recently opened a Makerspace in our campus. Makerspace at Neev is a place where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. A place which fosters creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, self-organisation, mindfulness, engagement and curiosity.

Our Makerspace includes all range of tools from building to prototyping to coding. Tools include 3D printer, Lego Wedo, Lego Mindstorms, Lego Mechanics, Arduino, Little Bits, Seawable technology, Makey Makey, Sphero balls and much more.

I take immense pride to announce that our grade 8 students Amshul Ninan and Ved Kaura bagged the third prize worth 5000/- in our very first participation - "Hackathon" conducted by Stonehill International school. Our students made a Exoskeleton arm for people with hand dysfunction or paralysis using Lego Mindstorms EV3 . In this process they explored various ideas, prototyped, invented and innovated the final product, a Lego-ly-sed hand which can do simple stuff like picking objects and move fingers.

I truly believe that in the coming months Makerspace at Neev will be the spot that encourages a whole new generation of creative minds to explore and solve the big problems. It will give students a chance to see what they can do when they aren't limited by four multiple choice answers. Creativity is a valuable resource -- and a makerspace is the perfect tool to enhance and harness it.

Shubha Jain, Technology Passionate (ICT Teacher)

# What's Trending?

## Trending Songs-

1. **Titanium (David Guetta and Sia)**- This ballad from 2011 talks about believing in strength within ourselves. Using a strong metaphor, comparing 'titanium' - a metal with high strength to the way we must be, impregnable even when the world throws its worse at us. Although the song's style of pop, techno music might draw a person away from the meaningful and symbolic words, it has a very strong moral, making everyone's fight anthem- "You shoot me down but I won't fall, I am titanium."

2. **Big Girls Cry (Sia)**- A song which is found to be emotionally moving- about a "tough girl in pain". The song initially talks about how people are being taught to harden and hesitate to show their emotions. However, the songwriter brings out the idea that even if she melts down in a party, her makeup starts to run and she doesn't look pretty, she is allowed to. The song brings out the idea that it is alright to show vulnerabilities and despair with the wonderfully put line- "Big girls cry when their hearts are aching".

3. **Scars To Your Beautiful (Alessia Cara)**- This girl, similar to most people, desires to be pretty and to fit into society's rigid beauty standards which have made her blind to the belle in her. The song brings out the idea that you're beautiful as you are, but it takes time to see that and accept yourself. The wonderful message from the song is that similarly to stars, everyone shines and is beautiful in their own way. While the world is obsessed with superficial beauty, they are overlooking inner beauty and the kind of a person she truly is. It's time for "the world to change its heart".

4. **Afreen Afreen (Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan)**- 'Afreen Afreen' which translates to 'praise the creator' is a ghazal written by Javed Akhtar and composed by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. This song was rendered during season 9, Episode 2 of Coke Studio Pakistan. A winsome line in this piece of music is "Afreen afreen, Tu bhi dekhe agar to kahe ham-nisheen," which translates to 'Praise to her Creator! Praise to her Creator! Whoever sees her must succumb to her spell.'

## Trending New Year Resolutions ...

- Not to be mean, but always make others happy and give inner happiness to myself- Shivika ,3B
- To write neatly and be more presentable - Dhruv Ramu ,5A
- To be more confident- Aditya Arun, 2A
- To learn the multiplication tables- Suhani Agarwal, 3A
- To start working on my non-academic goals such as song-writing and sports- Kriti Sarawgi, 8

Complied by Neev Times Team

# Neevotsav

Bob Dylan once rightly sang, "The times, they are a-changing".

Well, in regards to Neevotsav, the times have without a doubt changed. The reason behind Neevotsav 2018's spectacular success was simply the fact that it was so unique in nature compared to performances from the previous years.

Never before in the history of our school, has a range of students who possess various talents, united to rock the stage...literally! Some enthusiasts chose to strum the guitar and sing, whilst some chose to bring the stage to life with their acting and dance. Those who are creatively gifted chose to bring color to the play with the creation of props, costumes, posters, makeup and more. And so, the beauty of this year's Neevotsav was that each child's individual talent contributed to giving life to a, 'fairy tale gone wrong'; **Wingless**.

I have learnt from this year's performance how much we need each other. This play would, quite frankly, have been a disaster if we weren't there helping and supporting each other in acting, singing, writing or dancing. In simple terms, teamwork is truly the pathway to success.

As a student of Neev, I look forward to more opportunities in the following years for us to join hands with our peers from different grades and deliver performances that capture the essence of teamwork.

Mehr Sohal, 8



## Bloopers

**Navya Sahay (Assistant Director for Wingless):** "An evil fairy injured herself while strangling another. Well she was definitely in character!"

**Mehr Sohal (Costume Designer):** "Jamming (not jamming) to our fellow designer singing the entire Pitch Perfect 2 riff off while working...No words."

**Vedant Rao (Lighting Head):** "According to someone, our entire lighting was going to be in the shape of a dog's face! Well, thankfully you won't be seeing that!"

**Kriti Sarawgi (Singing in Choir):** "I don't know what I am doing, so I am just gonna wing it. Cause it's Wingless. Get it?"

**Onkar Kulkarni (Dad in Wingless):** "The humor in wingless needs to take flight!"

**Amshul Varikat (Head Director):** "We are thinking of not using wings in our production Wingless. Like stage wings. But we will still manage to fly!"

**Sanjana Ganesh (Singing in Choir):** "Ya some of us randomly dance while singing. It's no longer just about the voice but about the lights, camera, action and performance!"

**Bandana Bajaj (Movement Head):** "There is officially a battle between us dancers and actors. We had the chance to make them jealous whilst grooving to party rock anthem."

**Louis Bernard (Movement teacher):** "That awkward moment when everyone is asked to volunteer to play the mother or father and we have everyone just looking at each other."

Kriti Sarawgi, 8



# CAS Corner

## Bake Sale

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” ---Ralph Waldo Emerson

At Neev, students are taught to not let their learning be futile, but to create an impact on their community. As a part of this, MYP students participate in activities and projects with the aim to spread their learning. As a part of the CAS (Creativity Activity Service) initiative, we, the students of Grade 8, 9, and 10 have been visiting a local government school, aiming to teach the students and improve their learning environment. As an extension to this, we decided to raise money to provide the students of the community school with basic stationary. The experience of the bake sale was unique and full of learning. For the first time, we were able to work on a project which was completely our idea, and spearheaded it with minimal assistance. We did have people by our side when we needed help, and these were our teachers, parents and some fellow students. Doing this for the first time, we realised we didn't have many things in place and one of the things we learned was the importance of a detailed plan. The experience taught us many other things we might never learn in a classroom, like selling food to customers or the importance of effective teamwork in a real life situation. The outcome of this experience was very fulfilling. We earned a handsome amount of money and in the end it felt totally worth the pain and the lack of sleep!

Aarushi, Anushree, Bandana, and Gaia, FB



# Sarvajeet Divas

## Interview with Mr. Arvinder Paul Singh, Former National Champion, Squash (Junior)

A.P Singh with Kriti & Onkar, grade 8 and Brigadier Malik



### Question 1 - With a population so into cricket, why squash?

I would have to say Brigadier Malik was one of my biggest inspirations. When I was around 10 years old, I saw him playing squash in the Army and Defence Services Institute and I was amazed by his game. So of course, I did play cricket for fun, but squash; a sport which was so physically demanding, was the one that intrigued me.

### Question 2 - What life skills has squash taught you? Has your background in sports helped you achieve your current professional goals?

Everything. If it was not for squash, I would have wasted my childhood. I used to spend at least six to eight hours training, everyday. And in life I feel it is just not physical preparedness that is important; you also have to be mentally prepared. This is crucial in order to give your best shot when the final day arrives. Unfortunately, because of this I wasn't able to make many new friends in my childhood but it was the price to be paid. I still follow my fitness routine though not with the same rigour. Above all, the best thing squash has taught me is perseverance, the ability to sustain your energy through both good and bad times.

### Question 3 - What direction do you think India is taking when it comes to sports? Do you see new and different types of sports emerging? How is the coaching improving?

I think that the standard of coaching is phenomenal. One of my friends, Saurav Ghosal, is world's number 14 in squash. 23 years ago, when I was playing, I would have never dreamt that India would be that highly ranked. We have made huge progress, and intend to make more in the next two to three decades.

### Question 4 - We read that you have started helping upcoming squash players with corporate sponsorships. Has this brought change in the squash sector of India?

No! This is actually really unfortunate because of the fact that a very small sector of India's population know about squash, let alone follow it. I hate to say this but sports in a game run by the media. They can chose to make a sport shine or fade away. Unlike in cricket, the issue we face as squash players in India is the unpopularity of the sport. Thus even some of our best players are not able to make a living solely through the sport. I mean, when I won the junior championship I was rewarded Rs 2,000!

### Question 5 - Do you think it is important for individuals to train in sports from a young age?

I strongly believe that sports is important for character building. Once you become a sportsman, you need to learn to perform despite all odds. No matter what happens, you learn to give your best at any given moment, and this is a skill which drives me even in my current profession. Playing squash has also strengthened my friendship with my fellow players. Although we were fierce competitors while playing, we were by each other's side through the training, train rides, etc. In addition to this, being on the court did not only build me as a sports person but also as an individual.

## Sports @Neev

Change being the only constant in life, the PHE department and sports at Neev has seen a complete overhaul since September 2017. The revolution in sports started with a philosophical shift from sports being an extra curricular to a co-curricular activity that would complement the education that takes place in the classroom with that on the playing field through physical activity, recreation and healthy competition.

To support the above, a state of the art sports facility is being developed. All sport is now restructured in participative and excellence modules. The former is compulsory for all students enabling them to reap the larger benefits of sports like sportsmanship, respect for rules, discipline, good health, leadership and personality development, and the latter is the road to national/international standards with staybacks, leagues, tournaments etc. Facilities planned include a gym and fitness centre, four squash and tennis courts, two basketball and volleyball courts, football field, 200 mts synthetic track, golf driving range, badminton and cricket, outdoor gym, obstacle course and a hall of fame.

Moving to Sarvajeet Divas, the landmark decision to run the event for two days was taken in order to provide our younger children (Grade 1 to 3) with adequate space to excel and showcase their talents. In another significant development "House System" was started with the introduction of Ganges, Narmada, Kaveri and Brahmaputra houses, each with their own mascots. This resulted in greater bonding and highly increased levels of healthy competition amongst children.

The event was conducted with clockwork precision and the icing on the cake was provided with the military pipe and jazz bands. Personally for me the journey has just begun. The instant connect with the children in motivating them to dream, believe, achieve and make a better world is hugely rewarding and will end with them reaching the highest levels of the sport they pursue.

Brigadier Ravinder Malik, Director- Sports Department

## Sarvajeet Divas - This Time for Real!

Sarvajeet Divas took place on the 15th of December, 2017. Everyone was bubbling with excitement about the real big day. All of us assembled in our house enclosures - Ganges (dolphins), Narmada (lions), Brahmaputra (rhinos) and Kaveri (tuskers). Then we went to the field and stood ready in our march past lines. After the march past, the choir students got ready to sing their hearts out.

The choir sang three songs - 'Try Everything', 'Touch the Sky' and 'Waka Waka', after which the yoga students displayed their skills. The athletic events began after that. What a feeling it was to bag the gold medal for the 100-meter dash!

I hope I made my house proud as I was the only one from Kaveri competing in the 100-meter dash. After my race, my friend Sanvi won a bronze medal for the hurdle race. And lastly, Kaveri placed fourth in the relay!

Then, relay races for the parents started. My dad's team bagged the first place! Finally, there was a tug-of-war between teachers and parents. The teachers, like always, were victorious.

Sarvajeet Divas ended with the declaration of the house champions. And do you know who won? Kaveri did! I was so happy that I could have jumped for the rest of my life.

Tamara Serukur, 4A

The sports day at Neev was absolutely wonderful. I could see the rise of many innovative ideas during the course of the event. I was pleasantly greeted by a well disciplined staff and students. We, as the audience, were able to enjoy a well organized and coordinated event. I personally liked the race for us older people where we were made to face a brisk walking competition on the spot without any prior information. It gave me great pleasure to see such enthusiasm amongst the young students. There was no wastage of time as the event flow was smooth and well planned. This is the type of event I have seen in colleges and higher schools, and I hope to see students further organizing the event themselves in the future. I shall always remember my granddaughter, Ananya, for giving me the opportunity to feel young and like a winner again.

Jai Bhagwan Singla, Grandfather, Ananya Singla, 7A

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