

Probe

NPS International School August - December



Page 2

SINGAPORE MUN



Page 10

PHOTO ESSAY

Editor's Note

Top (from left):

Ashwin Kumaar (Photographer),
Arjun Perumalla (Journalist),
Shail Modi (Journalist),
Aadhar Aggarwal (layout),
Namkhey Nathan (Journalist),
Venkatesh Rao (Journalist)

Bottom (from left):

Tanvi Gs. (Photographer),
Mehek Gupta (Layout),
Natasha Magendar (Layout)



Recently, I ran a race and it was the most painful five minutes of my life, but when it was over I felt good about it. Life, my fellow PROBERS, should be lived like that. Make it hard and challenging while it lasts and when it's over, look back at what you've achieved and smile.

Standing on a starting line, mentally psyching yourself to run a race is somewhat similar to the challenges that go into editing a newsletter. The same tension, the same stress about whether it is going to turn out as well as you hoped. But you know you have worked hard to be there and the truth is you want to be there, no matter how nervous you are.

I thank the school, Krishti ma'am and most importantly the team that I worked with for the support which has made Probe possible. So I end the note with the reminder to you to keep on running no matter how far you think you have left to run because in the end, it's not a matter of whether you win or not, but that you've finished and finished strong.

Shail Modi, 10IGCSE

[Shail Modi, 10 IGCSE]

A Step in the Right Direction

Namkhey Nathan, 10 IGCSE



NPSI diplomats, bursting with an irrepressible mixture of energy and awe at the task that lay ahead, assembled at the Alumni Hall of the prestigious National University of Singapore (NUS) on the early morning hours of June 5 2013. All wearing suits, skirts, ties and cautiously ironed trousers, each with a sturdy briefcase in hand, full of indispensable documents.

This attire and atmosphere exemplified every delegate's wish to make their mark here and be acknowledged for their abilities. The Singapore Model United Nations (SMUN) is the most distinguished conference of its kind in Singapore and was inaugurated by the former President, His Excellency, S.R. Nathan.

This monumental event was organized and run by the hardworking and tireless undergraduates of the political science division at NUS.

Model United Nations or MUN is an academic simulation aimed to educate participants about current affairs, topics in international relations and diplomacy. All meant to expose the veiled world of politics to today's youth.

Each delegate was assigned a country and was expected to debate about different topics of national significance within their various committees, in the hopes of reaching a compromise with other countries, while presenting a stance from their nation's foreign policy.

Over the next 4 days, the conference trained the diplomats on the formal procedures and various technicalities that were involved in

creating a resolution, which in theory, would solve world issues.

The moderated conferences not only helped the delegates in understanding diplomacy but also nurtured social skills as the students learnt to talk, convince, argue, persuade and present ideas in front of a large audience they had just met.

Gratefully, it was not the common case of all work and no play. Jokes were cracked, friendships were forged, talents were showcased throughout and in the Social Event, Delegates were entertained by live bands, skillful dancers and a melodic choir.

It was, for all who attended, an unforgettable experience where students were not only able to learn new skills and make friends but also walk away with a better understanding of how the world runs.



“

The SMUN was an incredible experience! We got the chance to meet new people and we participated in intensive debate. It was my first MUN but it definitely won't be my last!”

- Mehek Gupta, 10 IGCSE



Adithya Bhattacharya, IB Year 1

Diplomatic Mission

Seven students from IB Year 1 and 2 and Grade 11 CBSE had the privilege of participating in the third annual session of Harvard Model United Nations held in Hyderabad, India from 15th – 18th August 2013.

With 13 dynamic committees, over 1250 delegates drawn from 130 schools across 9 countries, 140 faculty advisors and eight eminent personalities, HMUN India 2013 provided an excellent learning opportunity for all.

The first day of the conference included on-

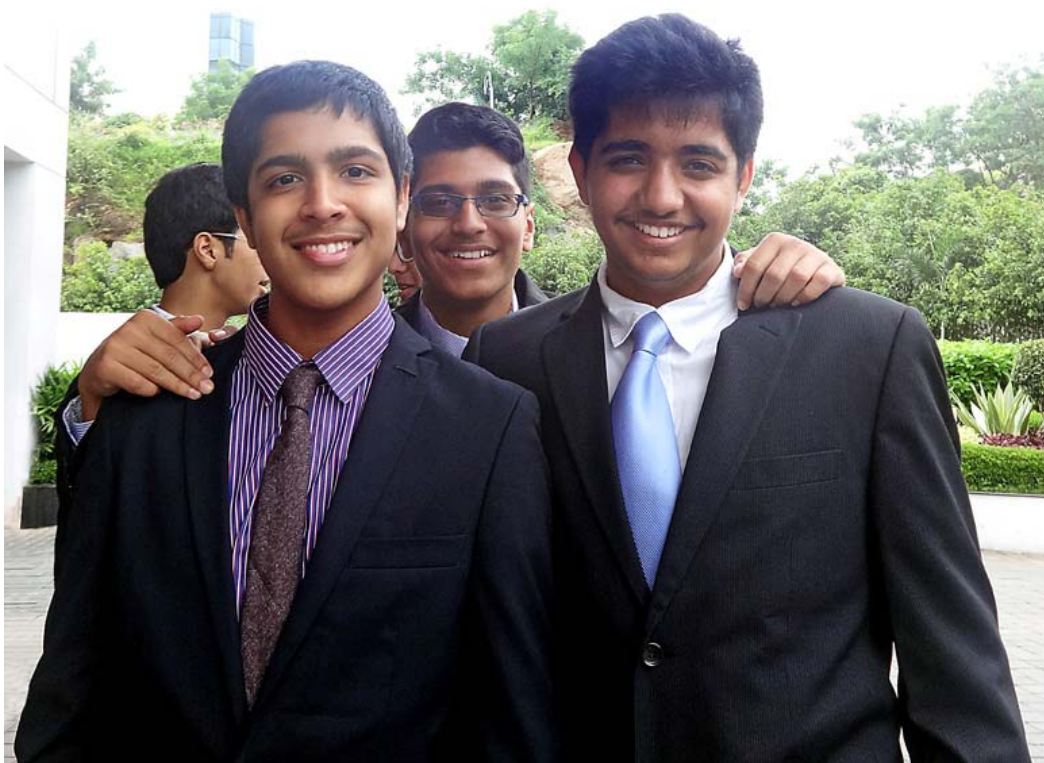
site registration and ice breaking and lobbying sessions. We had the opportunity to meet their counterparts from TISB, the sister school of NPS as well as students from various national and international schools such as Karachi Grammar School, Atichson College, Don Bosco University as well as Bishop’s Cotton College.

The delegates then got down to business as the council sessions began in full swing with the outcome of possibly passing a resolution for the given topic in mind. The NPSI delegates all represented the country of Nepal and were determined to make an impact. Even though the main objective was to pass the resolution,

deep down in their subconscious each hopeful delegate wished for the chance to win an award of excellence. The conference itself was an overwhelming experience as the size of the councils made sure that delegates had to earn their right to speak and exercise the universally recognized virtue of patience.

The undoubted star of the NPSI team was Pranav Kasinadhuni from CBSE Grade 11 who received an honorable mention for his commendable efforts during the conference.

With that, the HMUN India 2013 was over. The delegates would now have to wait..... until next year.



Delegates of Nepal	Committee
Pooja Zhaveri	SOCHUM
Aditya Bhattacharya	SOCHUM
Shravan Krishnan	SOCHUM
Pranav Kasinadhuni	WHO
Atishray Malhan	DISEC
Maazin Buhari	DISEC
Pranav Putcha	SPECPOL



proud to be indian



Megha Asthana, 11 CBSE



The 66th anniversary of India's Independence Day was celebrated at the Indian High Commission premises in Singapore on 15th August 2013. The High Commissioner, Mrs. Vijay Thakur Singh, unfurled the National Tricolor in the presence of around 700 Indian nationals, persons of Indian origin and friends of India followed by singing of the national anthem. The High Commissioner read excerpts from the President's message to the nation, given on the eve of Independence Day on 14/08/13.

That was followed by cultural programmes by students from our School. The Primary Years students sang a patriotic song, while the Secondary students displayed different

'mudras' and footwork, and danced to the beat of "Jai Ho". Seven other schools participated, namely, Yuvabharathi International School, Global Indian International School, Balestier, Queenstown and East Coast Campuses, DPS International School, Fernvale Primary School and CHIJ Primary School. The colorful cultural programme consisting of patriotic songs and dances lasted one and a half hours and was highly appreciated by the audience.

At our school campus as well, the Head of School, Dr Matthew Sullivan hoisted the Indian flag and we all sang the national anthem.

JAI HIND!

An Alumni

Opening Event



(There's no alternative to hard work and perseverance.)

Name: Alekhya Reddam
College: Georgia Tech,
USA
Course: Marine Science



On the 1st of August, some of the Alumni of NPS International School were invited to talk about their experience of College admissions. Whilst they all agreed that it was a daunting task, they were eager to give advice on handling this ever so daunting process.

After their talk, I spoke to one joyous and excited senior, Alekhya Reddam. Alekhya was overjoyed with her acceptance at the University of Miami. On receiving my congratulations about her acceptance, she smiled sweetly, thanking me, and shared her thoughts quite willingly.

She emphasized that there's no alternative to hard work and perseverance. "Even though the IB diploma involves a grueling amount of work, it all pays off when you get into

the college of your choice," she claimed.

On the subject of SAT exams, she said that early preparation is the key to success when it comes to standardized testing. "Practice from very early on, and go for a prep class if you think it'll help you," she advised.

"Be determined, even if you don't have an aim. Know that you need to reach great heights, no matter what field. Distractions are easy to come by, just remember your goal and push forward, with determination. You're bound to succeed."

I was stunned by her passion and drive. This made me realize that college is truly a turning point in all of our lives and making the correct choices now is the key to our future happiness.

Interviewed by Ananditha Raghunath, IB Year 1

Practice is Key

What extra is required over and above the school to get into your dream colleges?

There is an input required for extra-curricular activities apart from CAS as they count in your college applications.

How much input is required for SAT/UCAS?

SAT and UCAS need preparations over and above the IB course. And the preparations should start within the first IB year. Practise is key for these tests. Start preparing as early as possible.

Does the IB Diploma close the doors to Indian colleges?

To an extent, Yes. There are very few Indian colleges which accept the IB diploma, and the ones which do, do not consider the difficulty level and curriculum of the IB when comparing with CBSE.

For going to UK, US, SG universities, which is better, CBSE or IB?

IB, as the name suggests, is international and is internationally accepted. Having done an IB diploma course, you are always better off as you would be required to go through extra examination processes like TOEFL or IELTS if you have gone through the CBSE curriculum. But with IB, it's self-sufficient.

Interviewed by Dhruv Batra, IB Year 1

Name: Radhika
College: NUS, Singapore
Course: Economics





Delicious baked goods made by the IB Year 1 students finished within minutes!



Bake Sale!

Niti Athavle, IB Year 1

"The food was amazing! The students did a really great job!"
Lavanya Prakash, 8B

"The food rocked! My friends and I really loved the cookies"
Aalhad Pathare, 7A

On the 5th of August 2013, the IB Year 1 students' hard work and perseverance finally paid off. The bake sale organized by IB Year 1 was held during the snack break at the first floor corridor, and of course, it was a success! We sold out in 15 minutes flat! The motive of the bake sale was to raise funds for charity. There were muffins, cakes, cookies, brownies and garlic bread on sale.

The posters advertising the delicious treats of the bake sale were lovely! These posters were scattered around school and mesmerized by the mouth-watering pictures, students queued up for the delicious pastries.

Eating one pastry was not enough for the hungry students who were suddenly ravenous for more. By the end of the snack break all the goods had been completely sold out. The cookies clearly struck a chord with the buyers because they were sold out long before the other goods. Looking at the tempting assortment of dishes, I began salivating myself. Mmm.... I can still taste the tantalizing cookies on my tongue. Unfortunately, we were unable to satisfy all demand for the baked goodies and a few students were left disappointed.

A lot of teamwork was required, and this event could not have been pulled off successfully if not for the cooperation of both the teachers and the students.

Road to Elections

Namkhey Nathan, 10 IGCSE

What is a leader? As a leader, what are my duties and responsibilities? Somebody once said "that with great power comes great responsibility" : Well, am I responsible enough?

Those were some of the thoughts racing through the minds of the chosen few as they discovered that they were to contend with each other for positions in the Student Council.

These nominees for Senate were chosen by teachers and staff after a thorough screening which not only included their marks, abilities and responsibility but also their inherent ability to lead.

Over the course of a week, many promises were made and greeted with enthusiasm as the nominees tried to win over the voters with a display of achievements, warmth and charisma.

This was all mostly done in a single speech given to the entire secondary school and was their only opportunity to address the voters as a single body.

The candidates showed goodwill towards one another but not a single one could truly hide their passionate rivalry. It was a competitive learning experience and everyone walked away with a new trick in their arsenal.

Finally when the much awaited results were announced after the flag hoisting on Indian

Independence Day. Our new leaders were chosen. They were the elite among the elite, the people's champions.

The transition from the old senate to the new formally concluded when the last generation marched out with their flags and badges in solemn fashion and bequeathed their powers and responsibility to the new senate.

The Investiture ceremony finally began when the new senate and help squad were awarded their respective badges and sworn into administration by the Head of School, Dr. Matthew Sullivan. With the oath now taken, the students were now officially made the 2013-14 Senate.

President

Aarthi B. Thomas

Vice President

Avnika Manakatala

House Captains

Explorers: Shreya Agoramurthy

Discoverers: Aarsh Singh

Pioneers: Dhruv Batra

Voyagers: Nitin John

Vice Captains

Explorers: Kavitha Karthikeyan

Discoverers: Ishita Banerjee

Pioneers: Eshaan Bhosle

Voyagers: Venkatesh Rao



NPSI Speaks

Venkatesh Rao 10 IGCSE

Photography & Design as an ECA?

There used to be a time when cameras and design software did not exist. There was no Canon back then, neither was there Adobe Photoshop. But, we developed new technology, we improved on previous discoveries and now we live in a modernised 21st century world where cameras, computers, tablets and smartphones are no longer gadgets that would cost a fortune to purchase but are rather inexpensive, sleek and almost a necessity.

But to get to the main question, the main objective of this survey, should photography and graphic design be an ECA at NPSI? We asked, you answered, and now we analyse the results.

First, a look at the current state on this matter. Art is indeed given major importance at NPSI with regular art lessons held weekly for almost all the classes. Yet, art (specifically photographic and graphic art), has not found its way into the ECA lists of the school and hence the question should it be added? Would adding such an ECA provide a constructive result?

We asked a total of 55 students and staff members and nearly all replied with a resounding 'Yes'. A mere 5% of respondents stated certain concerns and said that they were unsure as to whether this was a good idea. However, none said 'No' to the suggestion and so why not just have it as an ECA?

Because, as I said, there are indeed a few concerns, the first of them based on whether there would be enough interest. Photography and design is a hobby for many but whether it is

subject matter is unclear. Simply liking a certain activity does not warrant the fact that one would like studying about it. There are concerns over the facilities and resources required to hold this ECA too which the school needs to invest in. Maybe, we would have enough demand initially, but would this sustain over the long run to justify the large one – time investment made by the school?

Now to look at the issue with a brighter perspective. The fact that all the students surveyed said that photography and design were perfect as an ECA probably does represent the trend that we all are interested in learning more about these activities. Both of these are indeed true art forms and are catalysts for creativity. They are also mediums of self-realisation as we learn about ourselves through art. Some respondents also pointed out that photography and graphic art were part of the IGCSE and IB curriculum which believed in holistic development of a student and thus adding them as ECAs would fulfill the IB Learner Profile as well.

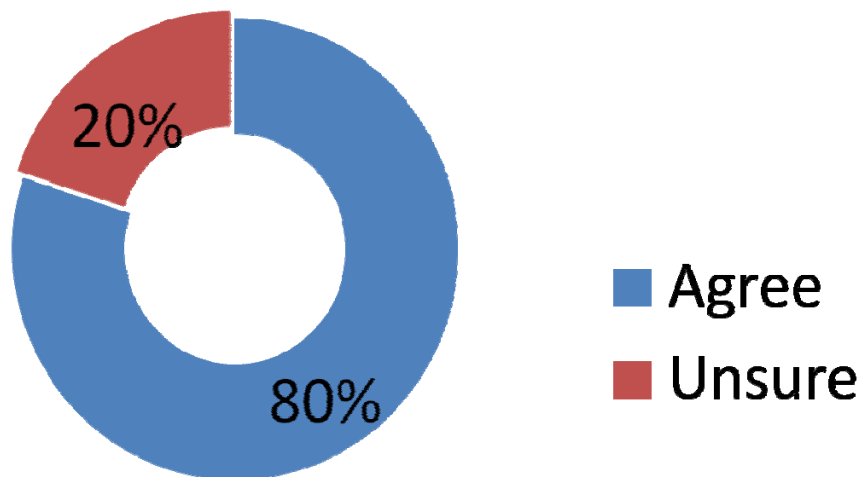
So, maybe it is time that we introduced photography and design as ECAs at our school and spend some time enjoying but learning too...?



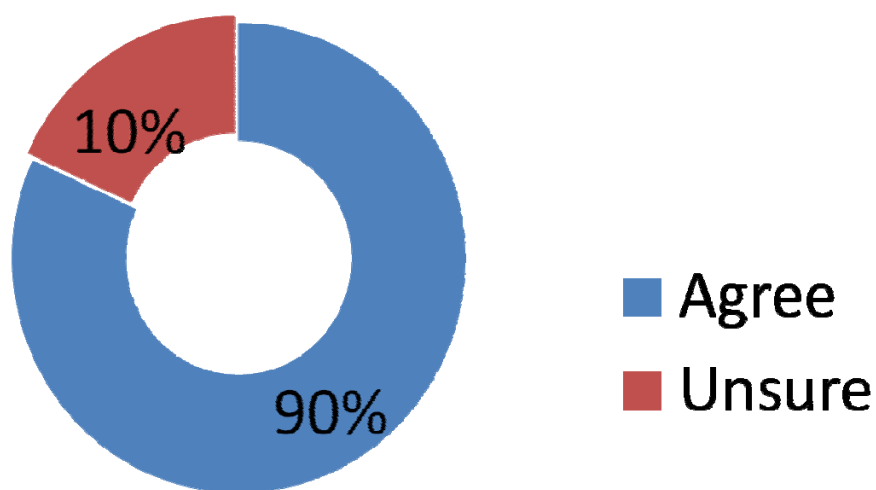
Left: Ashwin Kumar,
Budding Photographer at
NPSI

Should design and photography be an ECA at NPSI?

Students



Teachers



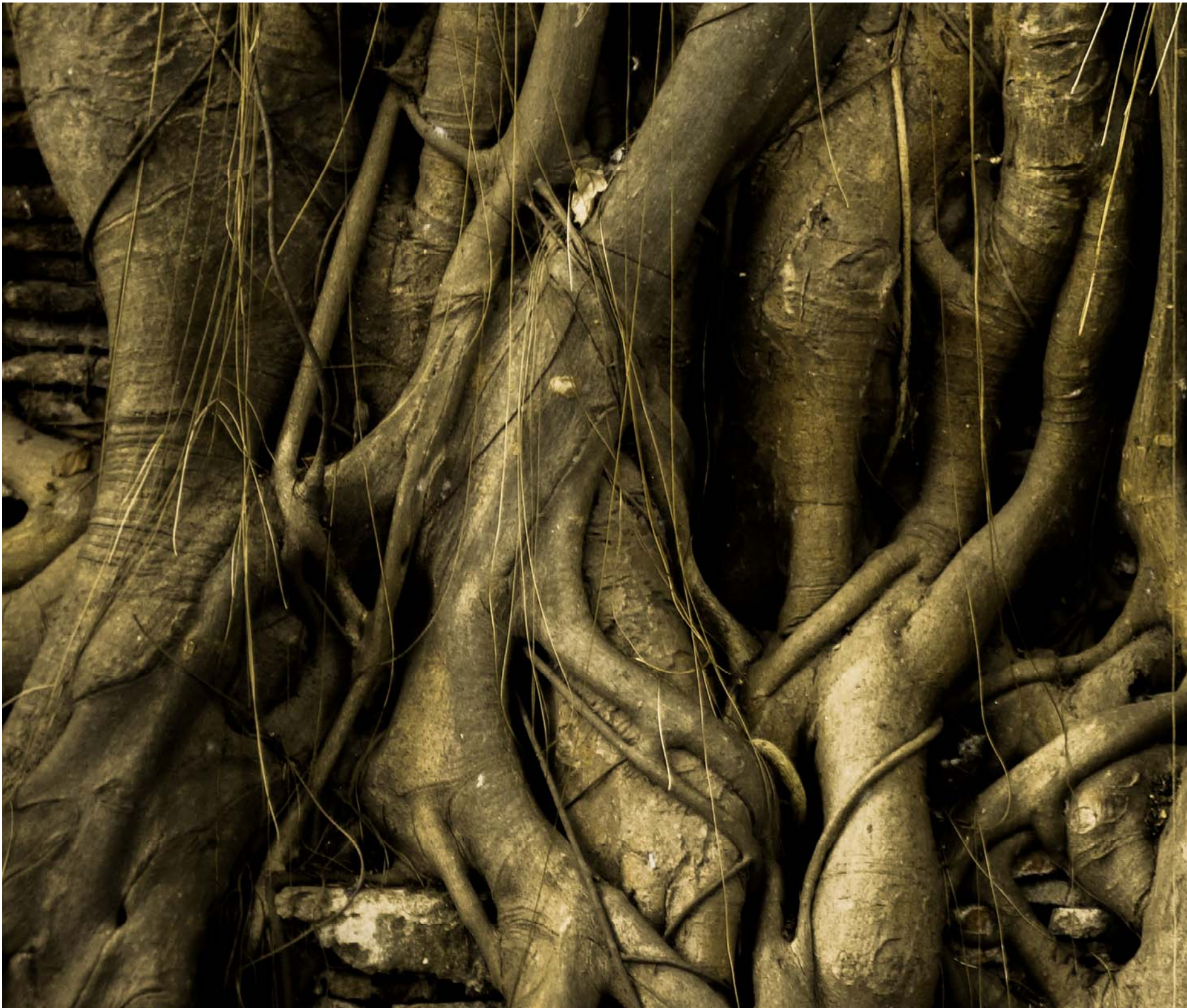
Simply liking a certain activity does not warrant the fact that one would like studying about it.



Photography and design should be an ECA because it gives students an opportunity to present their creativity on paper for other people to see and to share something original. As an art student I believe that everyone has an element of creativity which can be found through art. I was once told that art is like a microphone: speak in it and everyone hears; and if it's good it will be appreciated. Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. Honestly, I feel that creating art is one of my biggest accomplishments and it should be encouraged in NPSI.

- Shloka Dhillon, 10 IGCSE

CONNECTION [Connect]



Every man's past lies in his roots. The past is irreplaceable. That's connection.

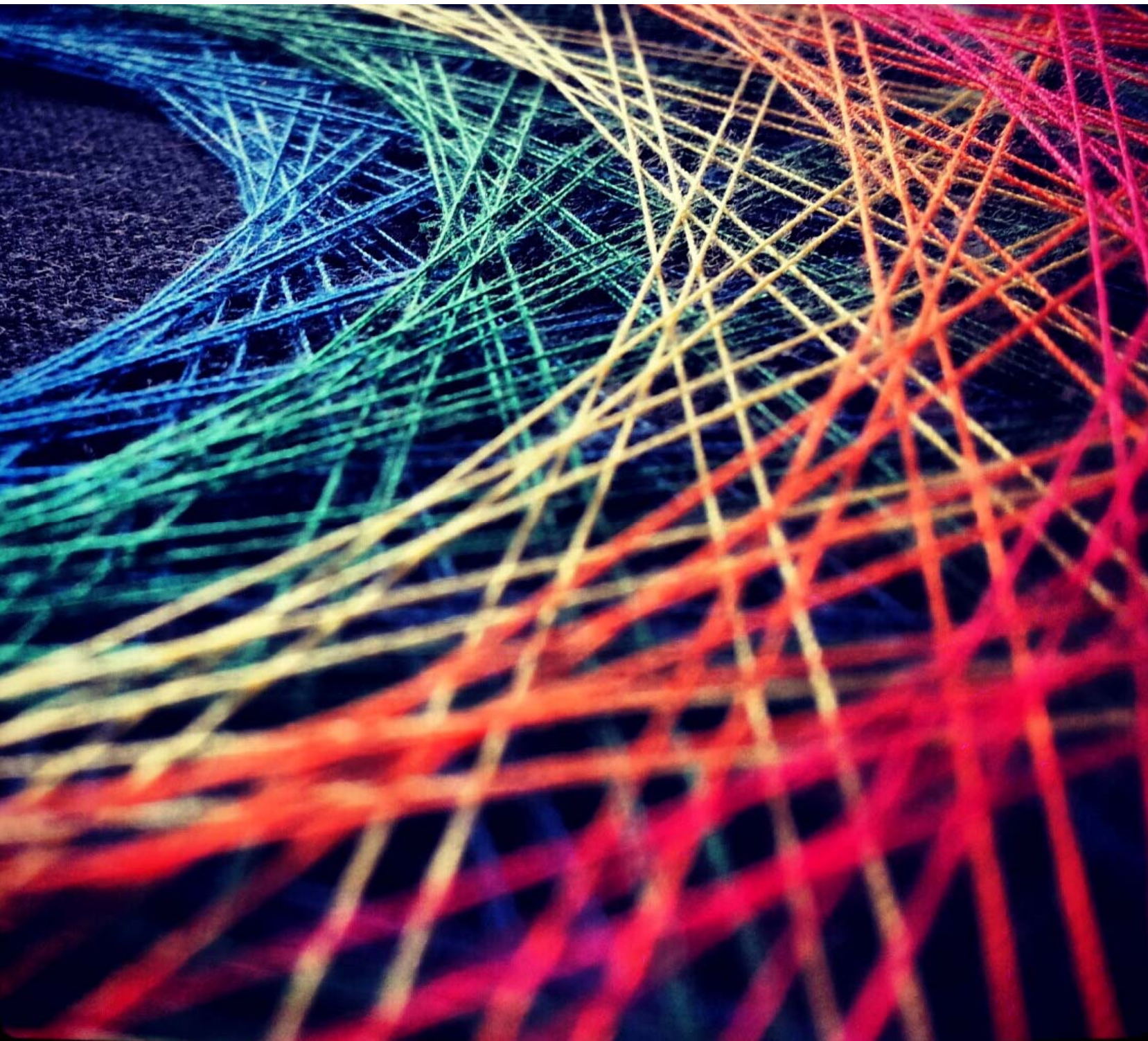


...and with that touch, they felt connected.



Without connections we would be like spiders without webs, flitting from one place to another without any sense of direction.

Earth: where man and nature connect.



Left: Unity in diversity: unity without uniformity, diversity without fragmentation

Below: Different crossroads, same destination. That's connection.

