

D.A.V PUBLIC SCHOOL, THANE
SESSION: 2025-26
READERS' AWARD CEREMONY REPORT
A Journey Through Pages, A Celebration of Minds

To celebrate the spirit of reading and honour students with an exceptional passion for books, DAV Public School, Thane, hosted the much-awaited Readers' Award Ceremony with great enthusiasm, grandeur, grace and literary fervour on 26 July 2025. The event aimed to cultivate a culture of reading, critical thinking, and literary appreciation among students across all grades.

The Chief Guest for the event was Mr. Neil D'silva- a renowned author, and the guests of honour were Mrs Hema Nair Madam-Principal DAV International School, Mulund, Mrs, Mukta Baurai Madam- Principal DAV Public School, Nerul and Mrs Simmi Juneja – ARO Western Zone C and Principal DAV Public School, Thane. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp symbolising the illumination of knowledge and wisdom by the principal, chief guests, and Section Heads. A soulful chanting of Gayatri Mantra followed by DAV Gaan, set the tone for an enriching literary gathering.

Adding charm to the occasion, the school choir presented a lively rendition enchanting the audience "A World Without Books." The performances left the audience deeply moved and more connected to the value of literature. As part of the school's eco-conscious practices, the guests were given a 'green welcome'—presented with potted plants instead of bouquets. This not only reflected our respect for nature but also symbolised how reading nurtures the mind just as plants nurture life.

The Principal, in her keynote address, spoke passionately about the relevance of reading in today's digital age. She highlighted how books have the power to open new worlds, spark creativity, and foster emotional intelligence. She encouraged students to make reading a daily habit and to explore diverse genres and authors to broaden their perspectives. Mrs. Simi Kalsi, a senior Faculty member addressed the gathering, explaining the relevance and vision behind the Readers' Award. She emphasised how reading not only enhances vocabulary and imagination but also shapes character and cultivates empathy among students.

One of the most anticipated moments was the unveiling of the school's student-written anthology, 'Kaleidoscope of Tales', which included short stories authored by students. The anthology was a testament to the literary talents blossoming within the school walls and was received with much excitement and applause.

The felicitation of Readers' Award winners was a proud and inspiring moment. Students were selected based on their reading logs, participation in library activities, book reviews, and involvement in literary discussions throughout the year. The top readers from each class were honoured with certificates of excellence, and curated hampers. A few students also shared their reading journeys and how books have positively impacted their lives.

An intellectually stimulating panel discussion was one of the key highlights of the Readers' Award Ceremony. The session was titled "Fear and Fiction- Why should We Love to be Scared" and featured a diverse panel comprising avid student readers, Principals, and the guest author Mr Neil D'Silva. The audience, especially the students, engaged with the panel through thoughtful questions and reflections. The discussion sparked meaningful dialogue around how reading is not just a hobby but a powerful tool for self-discovery, empathy, and social awareness.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Mrs. Banumathi Kowshik, who acknowledged the efforts of the English department, the library committee, student volunteers, and parents for encouraging children to read. Refreshments were served, and guests were invited to view the 'Reading Wall', an interactive display where students had shared their favourite book quotes and reflections.

The Readers' Award Ceremony was not just an event but a celebration of ideas, imagination, and inspiration. It rekindled the joy of reading and reminded everyone that between the pages of a book lies the journey of a lifetime.

