

PROJECT PARIDHI event conducted on Autumnal Equinox day by SPACE Chennai City School students replicated 2300 yrs old experiment



In a rare opportunity in the current prevailing weather and monsoon season, the City students are lucky enough to participate and replicate a 2300 years old experiment of measuring the circumference of the earth done by Greek Astronomer Eratosthenes. The student of Sri Sankara Global Academy, Keelkattalai, Hindustan International School, Guindy, Sree Sankara Bala Vidyalyaya Golden Jubilee School, Pallikaranai, HLC International School, Sholinganallur, Vidhya Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Medavakkam and Astronomy Club students of St. John's Public School, Medavakkam gathered together with 70 participants for this open field science experiment at St. John's Public School, Medavakkam School ground.

The program started with a prayer song followed by the welcome address by Mrs. Shanthi Samuel Principal, St. John's Public School. In her welcome address she motivated the students of participating schools to get a hangover of Astronomy and the need for hands-on science in the present day education scenario, she also appreciated the SPACE organization for providing such a wonderful opportunity for all of us. The program was then presided by Mr. S. Venkata Narayanan, South Zonal

Manager, SPACE he spoke on the achievements of Space students by discovering asteroids, as on date we have 40 provisional discoveries made by our students in the last 6 years and we expect more this year too.

Explaining the conduction to the students Prabhakaran, Astronomy Educator from SPACE said, 'The Equinox is an astronomical event that happens twice, once in September and March, each year when the Sun crosses the celestial equator - the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator - from north to south. On the equinox, night and day are nearly exactly the same length - 12 hours - all over the world. Equinoxes occur on 22nd or 23rd September and 20th or 21st March each year. Seasons are opposite on either side of the equator, so the equinox in September is also known as the Autumnal (fall) equinox in the northern hemisphere. In the southern hemisphere, it's known as the Spring (vernal) equinox.

'The September equinox occurs on 22 September, 2016 at 19:51 IST. For us in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun is rising later now, and nightfall comes sooner. We're enjoying the cooler days of autumn. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere spring is about to begin,' he added.

Explaining the process, he said, 'The circumference of Earth can be calculated by a simple calculation. The angle subtended by a pillar's shadow with a known height is enough to compute the circumference of the Earth.'

The team from Sree Sankara Bala Vidyalyaya Golden Jubilee School Grade 7, HLC International Grade 7, St. John's Public School Grade 9, are adjudged the winners of the program, these students have recorded 98.3% accurate values of the circumference of Earth.

The winning students of St. John's Public School Grade 9 Benjamin, Varsha and Rishi, said 'It was Awesome! Finding the circumference was so interesting and enthusiastic, weather is very hot but a cool experiment!!!. Porchelvan Grade 6 student of St. John's said, 'I loved the way we measured the circumference of earth. This was one of the best classes ever!'

M. Karthi Physics Teacher from St. John's Public School quoted 'Very informative session, we learnt many things for calculating the circumference of the earth, practical sessions helped a lot for the students, totally a value added program. We enjoyed the day in Autumnal equinox celebrations'.

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