



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

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## Netzaberg Students Celebrate Pi Day with Creative Math Activities

Netzaberg Middle School Knights and Netzaberg Elementary School Dragons came together to celebrate Pi Day, an annual event dedicated to the beauty and significance of mathematics, on March 14. The theme of this year's celebration was "Mathematics, Arts and Creativity."

The day began with an interactive assembly led by middle school students from the MATHCOUNTS Club, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), and Junior Leadership Seminar (JLS). These students served as mentors to the younger children at Netzaberg Elementary School, specifically the kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students. Together, they explored the wonder of Pi (?) through fun and engaging activities designed to help students understand math in a hands-on, creative way.

The celebration kicked off with a reading of two Pi-themed stories: "Happy Pi Day to You! All About Measuring Circles" by Bonnie Worth, and "Sir Circumference and the Dragon of Pi" by Cindy Neuschwander. The books, drawn from the Dr. Seuss collection, captivated the young audience and set the stage for the day's activities.

Following the readings, students participated in a variety of Pi-related crafts and activities. They made and colored their own Pi crowns, created personalized Pi-information books, and completed a Pi activity card filled with a word search, puzzle, scavenger hunt, and art challenges. To wrap up the celebration, students enjoyed a Pi-song performance and were treated to Pi-themed cookies and round candies.

"It was so much fun! My favorite part was making and coloring my Pi crown, and the Pi cookies were delicious," said Cailyn J., a first grader at Netzaberg Elementary.

Zayne R., a second grader, added, "Can we do it again? I was a knight in the story, and I thought the boys were so funny. Pi is really long!"

The event was not only a fun experience for the students but also a valuable learning opportunity. The celebration introduced the young learners to new vocabulary, number sense, and number patterns. Teachers and

parents were impressed with how much the students learned while enjoying the festivities.

"My son came home talking about Pi Day," said Corey Bailey, a parent and teacher. "He said he had a lot of fun and really liked the story and the cookies. He even wore his Pi crown all day!"

Deborah Bollinger, a second grade teacher at Netwaberg Elementary, expressed gratitude for the partnership. "Thank you so much for this collaboration. It was great for the kids to interact with middle school students. They were so excited and really engaged with the stories, Pi puzzles, and scavenger hunt."

The Pi Day celebration was more than just a fun event - it served as a powerful example of how math is woven into everyday life. By fostering collaboration between school grade levels, the event gave middle school students the opportunity to take on leadership roles and demonstrate their responsibility as mentors. This partnership not only provided a hands-on math experience but also reinforced the importance of mathematics in shaping our world.

Pi Day reminded all involved that mathematics is everywhere and that learning can be a beautiful, creative adventure.

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