

SPACE DAY 8TH OCTOBER 2010

At

Delhi Public School, Sonapat

SPACE celebrated 8th October 2010, Friday as SPACE DAY in Delhi Public School, Sonapat as part of World Space Week 2010.

The day started with Hydrorockerty Competition between students of classes IX and X. It was the concluding part of their ongoing 3 month project titled "HYDROROCKETRY".



The venue of the competition was lush and green Golf Course of the school. It was divided into 2 areas.

1. One-fourth of the golf course was set up as the target area for the rockets. It was divided into 4 target boundaries marked by different colored flags. The boundaries were made on the basis of distance from the launch area.

Furthermore, flexes of different sized planets were placed in each of the 4 boundaries. The nearest one from the launch area being Jupiter then Saturn, Mars and Moon. These flexes had bonus points if a rocket successfully lands on any of these planets.



2. The rest of the golf course was set up as launch area with 2 rocket launchers surrounded by spectator area for students and teachers.



3. The whole venue was decorated by beautiful World Space Week banners painted by teachers of the Arts Department of DPS, Sonapat and standee banners from SPACE.



By 11:15 am all the classes from Std. II to X started gathering at the competition venue. When all the students were settled and Mrs. Mann and VP madam graced us with their presence; we started with the competition by greeting everyone and explaining the significance of World Space Week and the SPACE DAY.

Students of class IX and X had already made their own ½ lt. bottle rockets a day before and were ready to compete in launching them. They were divided into 10 groups and each group got 2 trials. They were judged by how far they can send their rockets and how precisely they can target them.

The marks were awarded to each trial of a group depending on which target area the rocket landed and bonus points were given to the rockets landing directly on any of the planets which were kept there.

After the rules were explained to the participants, the competition started. JRP Sandeep and Kamal were there to assist the participants; Tanmay and JRP Sharib were near the target area to keep track of launched rockets and the marks each group got, Atish and JRP Satish were busy catching the event in the cameras. All the students watching the competition joined in as soon as the first countdown began and as soon as the very first rockets were launched every one was shouting with excitement and to encouraging the participants.





First 2 groups were able to send their rockets successfully beyond the farthest boundary in their 2 trials. Mrs. Mann was really thrilled to see this and was interested to know how exactly students were doing it. She went near the participants and asked them questions while they were getting their rockets ready for the launch.



It took almost one and half hours for all 10 groups to launch 20 rockets and the whole time the spectator crowd cheered and encouraged every participant and count downed for every rocket. At the end of the competition, it was time to get the results and announce the winning groups.

When the results were announced, everyone was amazed to find that there was 1 group as winner and 3 groups were in a tie for the runner up position. So total of 4 groups out of 10 were able to secure winner and runner up positions. After

announcement of winning teams, the competition was wrapped up by thanking Mrs. Mann, VP mam and everyone for being a lovely audience.

After the competition we retired for the day till the Star Party at 6:30 pm. The venue for the STAR PARTY was the football field of the school. From 6:00 pm we started setting up the venue with two Dobsonian and two Zoom 200 telescopes in a radius of 10 meter.



As soon as clock showed time as 6:30 pm, first batch of 65 girl boarders of DPS started pouring in. Rishabh was in charge of the STAR PARTY and he made all students settle in.

We started by welcoming the students to the venue and introducing them to the concept of star party and we quickly learned their interest in astronomy and peeking through a light bucket especially. This was done through a small rapid fire of interesting questions thrown at the students by the educator.



We then identified Jupiter in the sky and once that was done they all clustered around the four 8 inch reflector telescopes which were skillfully handed by our assistant resource persons Sandeep, Kamal, Satish and Sharib.

Rishabh was the first one person to look through the eye piece and exclaimed in amazement which excited the crowd even more and they were all the more ready to gaze at the sky through telescope, spot Jupiter and count its moons as they all appeared in a straight line. They were doing it for the first time and had an expression of contentment and joy on their faces and were curious on what was coming next. Their teachers were equally interested and excited.



During this whole time Tanmay was visiting each of the four clusters individually carrying a mini laptop and explained the view through telescope eye piece and they quickly understood that the image is upside down. Sneh and me were

hopping from one telescope to other explaining the view through the telescope and answering questions thrown at them by the students and teachers alike. I also tried my hand in capturing these moments in a camera. Atish and Staish were doing the same.

A group was then formed in the middle of the viewing area where discussion about Jupiter and its moons and the celestial. A multitude of queries surfaced as their young minds were exposed to previously unheard facts which had an immediate influence on them and they seemed very happy with all the answers and explanations.



Later they were shown a pair of double star Albireo and the students had a feeling of sheer amazement when they recognized that both the stars were of different colors. They were also introduced to various constellations and the Summer Triangle.

Similarly the next two batches of 100 boys were welcomed to the wonders of celestial world and were explained the night sky.





By 9:30 pm all the students and teachers were done peering through the telescopes and were not back to their hostels before thanking the whole SPACE team for a wonderful and amazing STAR PARTY.

We wound up the day feeling happy and contented at the success of the event and our participation. I will call it a wonderful event and will look forward to another exciting event to be planned for DPS, Sonapat.

PRIYANKA SRIVASTAVA