

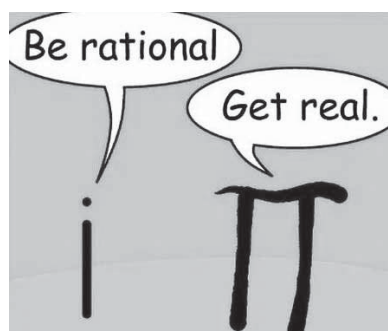
Pi Day is Ins π rational

Sadeka Harris

BEFORE YOU READ: Explain the play on words in the title of this article. Why do you think Pi Day is celebrated on March 14?

People all over the world celebrate Pi Day on March 14th. Pi (Greek letter “ π ”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter – which is approximately 3.14. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to participate in various activities involving mathematics. The Bronx Adult Learning Center joined the fun by holding a math tournament on Wednesday, March 14, 2018!

In the tournament at the Bronx Adult Learning Center, students solved math problems specific to TABE-level standards. Correct answers had different point values based on the level of difficulty. There were five students on each team. The teams were given 10 minutes to work on 25 math problems. Each math problem was printed on a separate sheet of paper. The team members could work independently or collaboratively. Judges stood by to check answers. If the answer was correct, the judge kept the question and tallied the

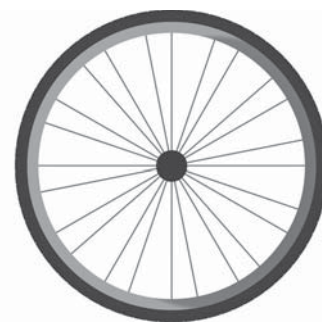


“An argument between i and π .” (In math, “ i ” is the symbol for imaginary numbers. And π is an irrational number. Not sure what an imaginary or an irrational number is? Ask your math teacher or look it up!)

points. If the solution was incorrect, the judge gave the question back to the team to try again. The team with the most points at the end of the competition was the winner.

Throughout the day, students also participated in other math games and hands-on math activities, such

as Math Jeopardy, Kahoot, Plickers, and Math Riddles. The students had so much fun – whether they triumphed or not. They learned valuable skills in working with others, working under pressure, and applying the math skills they had acquired in the classroom. The teachers and other staff also had an awesome time facilitating the event. We will definitely hold the second annual Pi Day at the Bronx Adult Learning Center on March 14, 2019!



AFTER YOU READ:

1. Pi is the circumference of a circle divided by its diameter. $\pi = c/d$. Try finding pi yourself. Measure the circumference of a wheel and divide it by the diameter. You should get a number that is close to 3.14. This should work for any circle. Try it on various circular objects!
2. Learn more about pi. Check out <piday.org> and find out why we say pi is *approximately* 3.14.
3. Are you interested in celebrating Pi Day? What would you need to do to get an annual event started at your school?
4. Read Ms. Harris’s Math Mantra (below). Work with classmates to develop a math mantra. Make a poster of it and put it up in your classroom.

Sadeka Harris is a teacher at the Bronx Adult Learning Center in New York, NY.

Ms. Harris’s Math Mantra

I HAVE THE ABILITY TO LEARN ANYTHING!
MY MIND IS COMPLEX AND BEAUTIFUL
LIKE MATH!
I WILL BE PATIENT WITH MYSELF!
EXCELLENCE TAKES TIME AND PRACTICE!
I WILL PERSEVERE!
I WILL SUCCEED!