



For immediate release

A Pi Contest to Celebrate International Pi Day (March 14th)

Oakland, California March 1st, 2018 - An ambitious group of Elementary, Middle and High School Students will participate and compete in the Digital One Room Schoolhouse's (DORS), Pi Day competition on Wednesday, March 14th, 2018, in celebration of International Pi Day. Students will participate in fun math related activities and recite their longest numeric representation of Pi, in an exhibition of memory and a passion for math.

The idea behind the event is to get kids involved in the nitty gritty of math in a fun and fearless way.

It started as an after school "math bee" competition to celebrate the calendar alignment of March 14th and the famous math calculation. Jim Hollis, DORS after school teacher and director of the Calculus Roundtable, noticed a number of his student's interest in a 26 numbered Pi T-shirt, he wore, on occasion to class. The small class discussion has slowly evolved into a week-long, region-wide series of math related events, culminating in a competition on March 14th, international Pi Day.

This year, Eastbay students from Pinole to Newark, in grades 3rd through 12th, have signed up for the contest. In the first weeks of March, teachers began to integrate fun facts and activities related to Pi into their lessons, leading up to the March 14th event. On Pi Day, students recite Pi before a panel of community mentors from STEM related fields and classroom teachers.

The Eastbay wide event, on Pi day (March 14th) brings community members who use math in their profession (retired nasa engineers, video game coders, biotech scientists college professors, etc) into schools on that Wednesday, to host and conduct various Pi related activities with students and school staff. Activities for students range from constructing pyramids from cardboard cutouts to dropping frozen hot dogs on a grid to verify the statistical probability of irrational numbers.

"The first time I saw this activity was at the San Francisco Exploratorium in 2005.", said Mr. Hollis. "It's amazing to see Pi Day celebrated in educational institutions around the world."

The Eastbay competition has prompted students from all learning levels and competencies to dedicate time and effort to developing a winning strategy. Student Deshawn Little said, "I plan on turning it into a little rap I can remember inside my own head". The participating students win prizes and build confidence in themselves and in discovering success in math.

The Pi Day competition is just one example of the Digital One Room Schoolhouse (DORS) program, working to promote math and science skills for students; particularly for students of color. The program was awarded a Special Congressional Recognition Award from Rep. Barbara Lee for, 'Promoting STEM in Eastbay Communities of Color'. The program serves hundreds of students who participate in STEM-based activities in class, online and in after school. The Digital One Room Schoolhouse (DORS) program can be found in schools, libraries and community centers throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information about the day's events, contact Jim at 510-316-6084 or contact Juan at juan@calcround.org