

World Wetlands Day celebrated at Pallikaranai Marshlands, Chennai, TN

Murray Rabindra Matriculation School, Pudupakkam students observed the day at Pallikaranai marshlands. Twenty two students from class VIII and IX took part. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran was the resource person. The students were divided in to 4 groups.

The resource person started the program with an introduction about the wetlands and its importance to the natural environment. She requested the students to record following observations at the marshland at different points. The first station they were asked to observe: are there any water bodies around; variety of plants; electrical poles erected inside; kinds of birds and building on the horizons.

The students observed that the water was deep in some places and shallow in other places, different types of plants had grown bother water plants and plants that grow on the land. The plants were all in different shades of green. Electrical power grids were seen running through these marshlands. The students observed the different types of birds nesting as families and looking for food. The colours of their feathers were different to each other and they observed the different sounds of the birds. They identified some of the birds, the duck, the seagulls, spoon bills. They observed that there were high rise buildings, 2 storied houses all around the water beds.

The resource person further explained that wetland should be saved and construction of



The students observing the quality of water.

building should not be permitted. Similarly she taught the students about migratory birds which come to our country for breeding and to avoid extreme cold.

The students were then taken to station two which is nearer to the deep part of the water body. Here the students observed different zones of the water body, watching variety of nesting birds on the trees, range of fishes and the reflection of the sky on the water.

The next activity was observing the water quality. Water was collected from the marshland poured in to the test tubes and then observed that it was turbid, yellowish in colour, contains solid particles, has fishing smell and no organisms were found for naked eye.

From these activities the students learnt wetlands are important for the environment, reduce impact of floods, provide habitat for the birds and plants and diverse living things are found in wetlands.

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