

Workshop on
'Becoming Amateur Astronomers'
– A Night Sky Watching Session

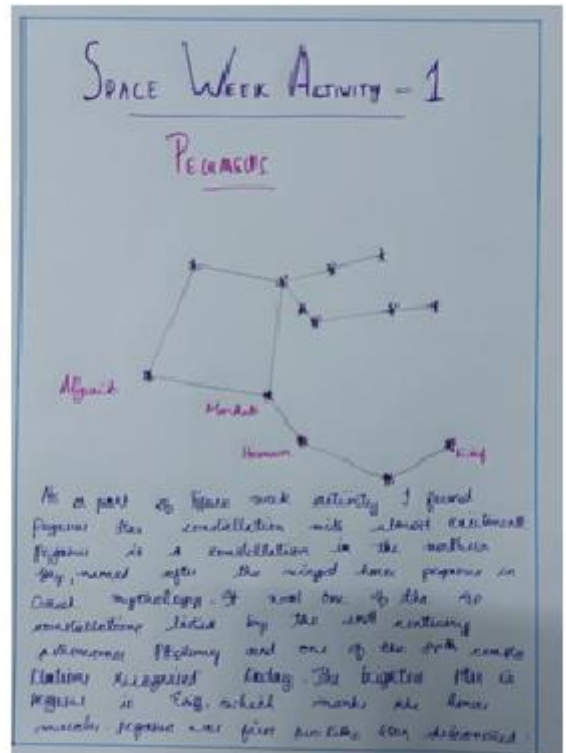
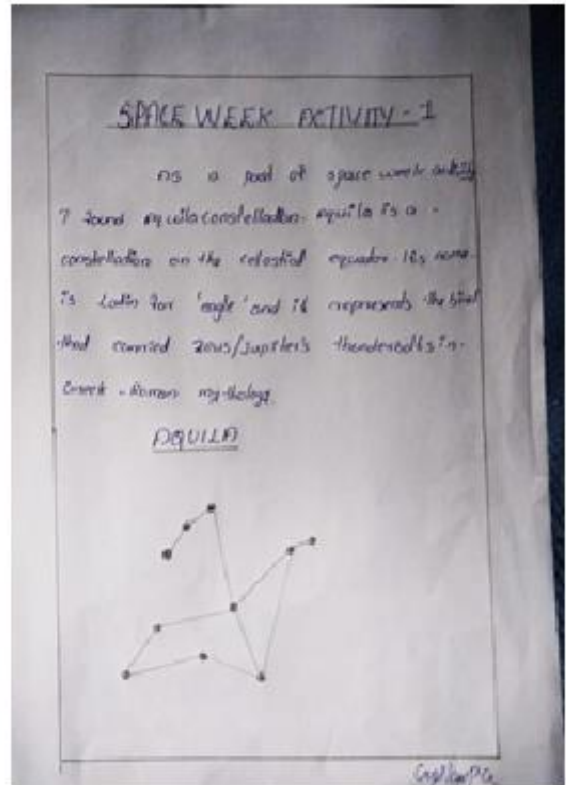
13-10-2020

As part of the International Space week Celebrations, the Department of Physics, St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda conducted a night-sky watching session in the evening at 8 pm on 13th October, 2020. The night sky is usually very clear during the months of October and November in the Northern hemisphere and it was an ideal time for the students to learn about the mysteries of the universe.

The Head of the Department welcomed the gathering and introduced the resource person of the day, **Dr. Nijo Varghese, Assistant Professor of Department of Physics, Sacred Heart College Chalakudy**. Dr. Nijo is an avid astronomer and has organized several Science popularization programmes for students. Dr Nijo delivered a wonderful audio note to the participants on how to learn about the sky in a general sense and what it takes for one to become an amateur astronomer.

The talk highlighted the identification of the different planets in the solar system, like Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. He also helped to identify the presence and observe several man-made satellites orbiting the Earth. The students were enticed when he helped to identify the Andromeda galaxy and several other stars and constellations. Dr Nijo also shared the images of the planetary conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn that he had captured using his telescope.

Around 55 participants - students and faculty members- from the college and various other colleges, participated in the workshop. Towards the end of the session, the participants were given different tasks. The first one was to identify one/more constellation/s in the night sky using naked eye. The second task was to identify possible number of constellations using different mobile applications and the third one was to locate a galaxy in the night sky. The session was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by third year undergraduate student Sharon Thomas Vithayathil. All the participants were provided with e-certificates.



Activities by the participants of the Workshop 'Becoming Amateur Astronomers'