Pi Day Activities

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Listed below are two Pi Day activities that I have done with students. They really did enjoy the lessons. Have fun facilitating the activities with your students as they enjoy learning.

Younger Students Grades 1-3

Students in the primary grades like to form a circle where they are standing shoulder to shoulder. Once they have formed a circle, the teacher takes string to find the center and the diameter of the circle. Next, while the students are standing shoulder to shoulder in the circle, the teacher facilitates as students use the string measure of the diameter to find out how many of this measure it would take to go around the circumference of the circle. Asking the students to estimate how many of the diameter it would take before the measurement begins would be great depending on student’s ability to understand large numbers. The answer to the question is three and a little bit more. Do this activity with a circle smaller than the first one so that students will experience the same result, three and a little bit more. Thus, students can draw the conclusion that three and a little bit more times the diameter will equal the circumference.

Students Grades 4-5

Students in the intermediate grades can begin with the activity for younger students grades 1-3. The teacher can ask students to bring in circular lids for a mathematics experiment. Each student will measure the diameter and find out how many of the diameter measure is equal to measure of the circumference in inches or in centimeters to two or three decimal places. Students will find out that all answers will be three plus some decimal part. If the students find the mean of all of the class investigations to two or three decimal places, they will find out that the result will be close to the value of Pi to two decimal places, 3.14.