

Turtle walk - “A Wonder of Nature”

Few nature enthusiastic students of PSBB T.Nagar accompanied by their Science teachers joined the Turtle walk on the night of 5th April 2019 organized by TREE Foundation (Trust for Environment Education) in Neelankarai. TREE Foundation has been rescuing and rehabilitating the Olive Ridley Turtles for few years now, and where possible they release the rehabilitated turtles back into the ocean. First, students saw a video on the different species of sea turtles, their contribution to the marine life and why the Olive Ridley Turtles are endangered. The video showed the plight of these turtles getting caught in the trailer boats and nets of fishermen and the many ways they get hurt! TREE Foundation has designed a new device called TED (Turtle Exclusion Device) that can be installed in the net for fishermen to release the turtle when they get caught in the nets, and how they convinced the fishermen to use the device in their nets. Then they explained the way they rescue the turtles, the eggs, baby turtles and how they do it at night as predators would eat them.

After the presentation and interactive discussion, the group headed to the beach to see the newly hatched baby turtles kept in protective hatcheries. The hatchlings were carried in baskets near the sea shore and were guided with flashlights to take their baby steps into the vast ocean. This walk is an essential drill which will help these baby turtles to come back to the same shore when they are adults to lay their eggs. It was really sad to know that only one in 1000 baby turtles survive to reach adulthood. With such odds the help of the volunteers make a lot of difference.

The take away from this memorable experience was that nature is one big cycle and every creature has a part to play in it (even humans) but we cannot unbalance the cycle as it would spell disaster.



Turtle Hatchlings



Baby turtles walking to the ocean.



Volunteers explaining about injured Turtles



Nature enthusiasts

**IVY SCRIBES – Media Club
PSBB T.Nagar**