GT Parent Newsletter

Congressional App Challenge
Middle/High School Contest

A unique opportunity for students to demonstrate programming skills and creativity is underway. The Congressional App Challenge is a contest for students aged

> "It doesn't matter if you are a woman or a man, the important thing is your determination." ~Mika Duno

13-18 to create their own application, promoting learning code and highlighting the value of computer science and STEM. Students of all skill levels are encouraged to apply to participate, either individually, or in a team. Apps are judged by the following criteria: Quality of the Idea (How creative is the app? How original is it? Does the app address a problem? If so, how creative is the solution?), Implementation of the Idea (Did the student consider the user experience? Did the student give thought to the app design?),

Demonstrated Excellence (Did the student display understanding of the tools they were using? Did the student demonstrate they had learned about how to code?). Entries for the contest are due for submission no later than midnight on January 15, 2016. The submitted apps will be judged by a panel of local judges who work within the academic, software, and entrepreneurial fields. The app of the winning student or team will be displayed in a US Capitol exhibit. Please encourage your child to participate if he or she is interested in programming or app coding.

Enrichment Opportunity
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If your child is between the ages of 7-17 and is interested in technologies and programming, then the UVA co-ed iD Tech Camp might be for you. Registered students learn code, game design, app development, web design, film, photography, and more. The camp offers personalized fun experience with a max of 8 students per instructor. Students will be given opportunities to use cutting edge technology from Adobe, Apple, Autodesk, Google, and Microsoft. There are options for attending every day for the week to two week long programs, or attending the overnight options. For more information: https://www.idtech.com/locations/virginia-summer-camps/charlottesville/id-tech-university-of-virginia/

Third Thursday Challenge
Hour of Code

This month's GT Challenge time was dedicated to the Hour of Code outlined in last week's issue. Students worked at their own skill level on online tutorials guiding them through the basics of coding. Students were able to demonstrate their learning by coding digital graphics and characters and sharing with their peers. Director of Technology, Robin Bolt, also stopped in to work with the kids and share her knowledge about coding and new technologies requiring a background in programming. Many students were able to complete the tutorials and submit for their "Hour of Code" certificate. Students were very excited about their accomplishments and surprised by their good results.

STEM Essay Contest
Junior and Senior Girls Only!

The Governor and the VA Council on Women has announced that they will again hold the STEM essay contest for female juniors and seniors who are interested in pursuing a STEM field. The Council will award five $5000 scholarships, one in each VA region. To be eligible, one must be a female who resides in VA, be a junior or senior in high school, and hold at least a 2.5 GPA. The essays will be judged by a panel of women who currently hold a degree in a STEM field. Entries must be submitted by February 8, 2016. For additional information and to access the application for the contest, please go to www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/council-on-women/ .

Important Events/Dates

*** Announcement: MVGS Applications now live. Please visit the RCPS Instruction Page for more info. ***

- Winter Break: December 21-January 4
- January 4: No school / Teacher Workday
- January 5th: Back to school / beginning of second semester
- January 18: No school – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 26: MVGS Student/Parent Info Mtg, 7:00 PM, Warrenton Campus, The Barn
- February 15: No School—Teacher Workday
- February 25: Parent Teacher Conferences

For more information about Student Projects, visit Lilo's Gifted Classroom Page here:

https://sites.google.com/a/rappahannockschools.us/classroom-news/student-projects

Want to see something featured or discussed? Questions? Send your feedback to:

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Director of Academic Services

Rappahannock County Schools