

GT Parent Newsletter

Rappahannock County Schools

12/4/2015

Edition 12

Computer Science Education Week Hour of Code

Next week marks the annual campaign for tens of millions of students to try an “hour of code.” In celebration of Computer Science Education Week, December 7-13,

Disney’s Frozen, Legos, Minecraft, or even Star Wars to program adventures of the characters and work through the basics of game programming. Students in

“In fifteen years we’ll be teaching programming just like reading and writing... and wondering why we didn’t do it sooner.” – Mark Zuckerberg

students are encouraged to finish a tutorial that introduces the world of programming to kids. Computer science helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity, and is a large part of STEM career fields. Hour of Code activities are self-guided, and options are available for every age and experience level, from kindergarten and up.

Hour of Code is organized by Code.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to offering computer science to more schools around the country. Students are able to choose an area of interest, like

grades 6 and 7 will experience the Hour of Code next week, and the Third Thursday GT Challenge on December 17th will also be dedicated to the Hour of Code. For more information about the tutorials and the Hour of Code, you can access their webpage at csedweek.org.



Enrichment Opportunity



Imagination Camp at VA Tech is a hands-on summer day camp for rising 7th and 8th graders that focuses on science and engineering.

The camp is part of a partnership between VA Tech and Roanoke City Schools, however students from surrounding counties are able to attend. We have had RCPS students attend who highly recommend this experience. The program is a day camp, so arrangements do have to be made to stay nearby in order to provide transportation. More details will be made available

approaching registration time, but the cost is relatively inexpensive for the experience. For more information, visit

<https://www.eng.vt.edu/imagination>

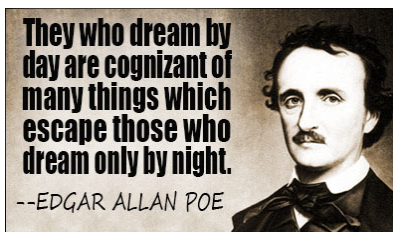
(Special thanks to Linda Petty for sharing)

Sixth Graders Experience Literature Middle school lit on stage

On Thursday, December 3, sixth grade students traveled to the Martin Luther King Performing Arts Center in Charlottesville to see a collection of plays. These included famous dramatic representations of Edgar Allen Poe favorites, *The Raven* and *The Tell Tale Heart*, along with other classic middle school literature, like *The Monkey's Paw* and *The Necklace*. In the weeks before the trip. Students discussed each of the short stories and analyzed each for key elements such as audience and purpose, plot

development, conflict, imagery, and theme.

Students will be writing summaries of their experience and participate in whole-group discussions during class in the coming weeks. The trip enriched several sixth grade language arts SOLs and brought these stories to life for students.



SCA Supporting the Troops

A special community service project at RCES

The RCES SCA, in coordination with Mrs. Shankle's third graders, have been working together to send care packages to soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Students raised awareness about the conditions of soldiers away from their families during the holidays and collected items to donate to the troops. This is just one example of how students, even very young students, are given opportunities to develop an attitude of gratitude and a spirit of giving, not only for the holiday season, but throughout the year by taking care of others in need. Way to go!

Important Events/Dates

(Please also check the RCPS Website and Calendar for more!!!)

- Dec. 7: PTO Meeting 6:30 RCES
- Dec. 9: middle school band and chorus program 7 PM
- Dec. 10: RCHS Band Christmas Program
- Dec. 17-18 RCHS exams
- Dec. 18 PRIDE Variety Show
- Dec. 18 Early Release 12:30
- Winter Break: December 21-January 4, second semester begins January 5
- Jan. 26: MVGS Student/Parent Info Mtg, 7:00 PM, Warrenton Campus, The Barn

For more information about Student Projects, visit Lilo's Gifted Classroom Page here: <https://sites.google.com/a/rappahannockschoools.us/classroom-news/student-projects>

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

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