



CODING FUN...Westfield's Washington School third graders Eleanor Lucas (left) and Kai Vasquez enjoy coding and programming during Hour of the Code activities on December 5.

## Westfield Students Enjoy Coding Activities

WESTFIELD -- There was a low hum of excited voices in the Washington School library on December 5 as a group of third and fifth graders took part in Hour of Code activities during Computer Science Education Week.

"I made it," said one youngster as he did a little dance in his seat upon completing a programming level.

Computer code is the basic set of instructions or rules that a computer understands. Coding is taught as part of the computer science courses at Westfield High School. The Hour of Code project was started in 2013 by Code.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to boosting student interest in programming and other computer science-related topics.

Across Westfield Public Schools, media library specialists ran coding workshops that had students of all ages using the fundamentals of programming to design a game, build an application, create interactive stories, produce videos and more.

"I'm going to be a coder when I grow up," said an enthusiastic first grader at Franklin School. "I'm going to program a robot to program a robot to program a robot."

New Jersey Department of Education Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Greer visited Roosevelt Intermediate School on December 5, as eighth graders used coding building blocks to program an animated dance party. Elsewhere at Roosevelt, sixth graders used a coding application to send instructions to a small wireless micro:bit to create an LED coded design.

"The goal of Hour of Code is to get students and teachers excited about computer science," said Roosevelt librarian/media specialist Megan Lynn. "Students are not expected to become an expert in an hour or even a week; however, we want them to learn that computer science is fun and creative. Hopefully, the program helps students realize that anyone can learn to code."

## Municipal Alliance Minute A minute of parent information to help stop teen alcohol abuse

Since the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, federal and state legislatures have passed laws and spent billions trying to mitigate the negative outcomes associated with alcohol abuse. Despite raising the minimum drinking age to 21, alcohol remains the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States to this day. New Jersey's response to this challenge is to go local. The Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) funds over 400 Municipal Alliances, serving more than 530 municipalities across the state, including Cranford and Westfield. These volunteer community coalitions, guided and administered by county advisory committees, are charged with executing three core functions: policy and planning; public education; and prevention programming.

Municipal Alliances begin by gathering data. For example, research into the root causes of underage drinking in Cranford revealed a low perception of risk among both youth and adults, as well as low parental disapproval of teen drinking in general. Cranford's Alliance members also noted studies showing that children in New Jersey can start experimenting with alcohol as young as 10 or 11. This guided the decision to use their grant funding to support early intervention with a particular focus on families. Cranford Alliance Chair, William Ilaria, describes the coalition's mission: "To create a positive, loving environment that is intolerant of underage drinking by providing support to the families, schools, youth organizations, and local businesses that do not condone it. In short, Cranford has declared that as a community, we will not provide alcohol or drugs to our young people and we will not tolerate anyone else doing so either."

In order to cultivate such an environment, the Cranford Alliance seeks to partner with organizations that come into contact with local families and youth. Schools, of course, are the most reliable way to connect with students and parents. The Alliance donates money towards school

alcohol and drug prevention initiatives such as the Red Ribbon Week and Project Graduation events, as well as educational classroom programs like Project Alert, which is administered by Cranford Police Juvenile Bureau school resource officers. On a larger scale, the Alliance sponsors fun alcohol-free events, such as the Town-wide BBQ and National Night Out.

Cranford's residents also encourage alcohol prevention messaging in more casual ways, such as the "21 Means 21" signs posted all over town, or through talks at Back to School night, Scout meetings, or sports try-outs. The Alliance's Facebook page supports parents' efforts to keep their children drug and alcohol free, sharing ideas for dinner-time conversation starters and family friendly events.

Prevention works. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that over 900 lives a year have been saved since the drinking age was raised to 21 in the 1980's. However, according to the Supervisor of the Cranford Police Juvenile Bureau, Detective Sergeant Matthew Nazzaro, education and empowerment of juveniles will always trump enforcement. Sgt. Nazzaro continues, "Enforcement and 'arrests' are what occur when the substance use disorder problem has boiled over. Our goal in the Police Department Juvenile Bureau is to prevent arrests by helping our kids understand the 'why' behind laws prohibiting underage consumption of alcohol." Parental outreach is important as well. "We need to debunk this perception about underage consumption and experimentation being a 'rite of passage'. Drinking disorders don't happen overnight, and they don't discriminate. They begin with our youth in these critical years of social and physical growth." The "education and empowerment" called for in this mission is directly supported by the volunteer members of the Cranford and Westfield Municipal Alliances.

For more information or to join, please email: [CranfordMunicipalAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:CranfordMunicipalAlliance@gmail.com) or [WestfieldAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:WestfieldAlliance@gmail.com).



ROBU RUCKUS...In its first tournament of the season, the Westfield Robotics Team, That Hertz, competed against sixteen other New Jersey robotics teams at the FIRST Tech Challenge Robo-Ruckus on November 4 at Westfield High School.

# HONOR ROLL

Roosevelt Intermediate School - 1st Marking Period

## Distinguished Honor Roll 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Alexander Ainge, Mia Avni, Ryan Bertsch, Dexter Blake, Alexandra Bonn, Lauren Booher, Emma Brown, Kyle Brunt, Brooke Butler, Graydon Calder, Owen Callahan, Robert Campagna, Emma Ceraso, Sophia Cheripka, Alexandra Cicala, Scarlet Cozzini, Evan Crozier, Elise Curran, Cooper DelGaudio, Christian Dencker, Gavin Dokko, Bridget Dougherty, Alexander Duncan, Sutton Factor, Alexander Ferrara, Melissa Fiorentino, Jake Francis, Avry Giordano, Grace Glenn, Caitlyn Gottlieb, Zoe Grenzang, Nathaniel Gurland, Julian Hamilton, William Holland, Grace Kilbourn, Sarah Kim, Isabella Kofsky, Sophie Latessa, Sasha Learner, Emily Leary, Katherine Li, Anna Linenberg, Cameron Linenberg, Rachel Malkin, Alyssa Martinez, Sylvie Mauras, Naomi Maurer, Liam Maurillo, Olivia Mazzola, Lauren McDonough, Jack Melvin, Sonia Olson, Zachary Park, Tyler Partridge, Noah Perez, Samuel Perez, Harrison Petrovick, Avery Pierce, Ava Pranke, Kayleigh Quinn, Heidi Rosely, Krista Rumpeters, Taylor Saadeh, Grace Saltzman, Stacey Salz, Leah Shir, Sophia Simon, Alexander Tilyou, Paul Tilyou, Cole Turnof, Cara Van Allen, John Veres, Caitlin Williams, Sophie Williams, Ryan Williamson, Katherine Winters, Camille Zimmerman

## Honor Roll

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Brayden Abo, Nathaniel Ainge, Miriam Altershon, Zachary Ashare, Anabelle Bahadur, Ryan Baker, Brendan Basile, Micah Berger, Alex Bergman, Jason Billings, Camille Blaise, Michael Blake, Charles Blessing, Henry Bloom, Alexandra Blumstein, Vanessa Borg, Jonathan Boufarah, Nicholas Brindle, Trey Brown, Anthony Buosico, Ava Burke, Natalie Bushell, Madeline Butler, Kaitlyn Campagna, Leigh Canavan, Daniel Cano, Matthew Capone, Jacqueline Carey, Liam Carno, Taralynn Cassiba, Daniel Cortese, Maria Costa, Owen Dembiec, Christina DiGiorgio, Lily Dickerson, Maxwell Dolling, Alexis Dombalis, Alexandru Dragnea, Natalia Dragnea, Ciara Dusee, Ryan Dwan, Jasper Fitzgerald-Jones, Claire Flagg, Madeline Fleming, Christina Galdi, Marco Giannetta, Cameron Gilman, Brooke Giordano, Caitlin Giordano, Jared Goldman, Jake Goldstein, Jaylin Goncalves, Paige Gorczyca, Jonathan Gorski, Andrew Grushevskiy, Christian Haviland, Daniel Hazard, Demetria Heston, Chloe Howard, Lucas Hubner, Mark Jacobello, Maja Janas, Bella Jarecki, Audrey Jones, Abigail Kahn, Jordan Kahn, Eden Karp, Colin Kavanagh, Dan Kelner, Brayden Kesselman, Dylan Koch, Alexander Kolchinsky, Connor Kotiga, Jonathan Krug, Sarah LaMonica, Sofia Lanza, Justin Lipschutz, Grace Loder, Connor Loggie, Matteo Mancho, Kathryn Mangam, Mary Manzo, Mason Marino, Lillie Martel, Cristian Martins, Michael McAndrew, Jack McCormack, Jack McCue, John McDonald, Ronan McGurn, Eleanor McLane, Michael Mehler, Peter Meixner, Abigail Mitrow, Sophia Montero, Alexa Mora, Arden Moscowitz, Varun Nair, Jeremias Navarrete, Sophia Nicosia-Garcia, William Oakes, Owen Paul, Michael Pedersen, Catherine Petrie, Isabella Pinto, Dimitri Potamoules, Catherine Puckett, Grace Pugliese, Valeria Ramirez, Alexa Rappoport, Tyler Richter, Katherine Riordan, Jayne Ritter, Madison Robin, Shen Rosen, Annie Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Quincy Saadeh, Lucas Savin, Dylan Scanlon, Annika Schantz, Julia Schneider, Ian Schultz, Leo Schwartz, Kelly Shen, Spencer Shore, Andrew Singer, Michael Siroty, Taylor Spaide, Ethan Stack, Saylor Stillusen, Emerson Stoller, Jorge Suris-Zayas, Lucie Talmont, Christian Tedesco, Simon Thompson, Joseph Tortorella, Jenna Totten, Nikolis Tsavakou, Kaitlyn Tso,

Chase Turnof, Jeffrey Valentine, Honora Vedder, Renee Voza, Quinn Wojcik, Dylan Wragg, Nyah Wysokowski, Jake Zippler, Dylan Zwally

## Distinguished Honor Roll 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Jillian Almendral, Evan Alvarez, Jack Ancri, Belen Arbelaez, Danielle Arky, Ava Bandelli, Reed Bienstock, Kate Bloom, Madeline Caherly, Giada Cammarano, Jack Chavez, Brianna Ciotta, Allison Constantinou, Margaret Crooks, Gabriella Cunningham, Lorenzo Enright, Tatiana Fecowycz, Natalie Fitzgerald, Ty Flannery, Corbett Foster, Matthew Friedman, Lola Geoghan, Sofia Gesser, Isabella Giacobbe, Kate Giglio, Natalie Gonzalez, Jacqueline Greyenbuhl, Andrea Hanchuk, Catherine Hefflin, Nina Heim, Bridget Holland, Cole Hornbeck, Casey Isser, Alexander Kim, Samantha Kisztelinski, Maxwell Kocaj, Graham Korins, Christopher Laide, Samantha Lerner, Brady Longstreet, James Lynch, David Maimon, Adison Marshall, Peter Mignemi, Shriya Patel, Gabrielle Polito, Charlotte Puckett, Ziad Ragab, Georgia Richman, Riley Roth, John Ryan, Josh Sackett, Ellie Sacks, Kailey Sang, Gregory Simpson, Aviva Solovey, Vendela Surgent, Betheny Swartz, Andrew Temo, Caroline Terry, Kaitlin Walsh, Kate Watson, Dylan Zuckerman

## Honor Roll

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Domenica Allarde, Andrew Altobelli, Aidan Alvarez, Andrew Amman, Kolby Azzaretto, Jack Barbella, Hudson Berg, Ava Berman, Nicole Braterman, Benjamin Brennan, Beckett Calder, Gavin Callahan, Tristan Callow, Daniel Capone, Sienna Capuano, Gianna Castelli, Kieran Ciarletta, Colin Cimei, Emily Constable, Matthew Culhane, Grace D'Angelo, Julia Damashek, Margaret Danenhauer, Randal Davis, Gabriella Demeter, Kathryn Duncan, Catherine Durocher, Alexander Ebel, Samantha Falzone, Elizabeth Faragi, Katherine Ferris, Ava Flannery, Jacob Flynn, Lauren Fuccillo, Devan Gambello, Anna Garretson, Hannah Gerstel, Benjamin Goldman, Kevin Gorelick, Ava Gorski, Francesca Guggino, Christiane Habayeb, Jacob Hafer, James Hamilton, James Hanley, Brendan Healy, Addison Hoeft, Brooke Horowitz, Maura Hyland, Thomas Hyland, Sophia Hynes, Emma Jablonka, Emma Jacobs, Maya Jayroe, Luke Jordan, Leander Jurashek, Julianne Kamins, August Kinch, Charles Kinch, Tatum Kocaj, Sean Koenke, Maxwell Kurze, Luke Laczynski, Philip Langhart, Brady Lenner, Erin Malley, Kenneth Mangam, Michael Marshall, Cooper Martino, Eamon Mason, Daniel McGann, Emily McGovern, Rowan McMahill, Elyse McMeekan, Leresha Menardy, Patrick Miller, Lucy Mineo, Edward Mitchell, Juliana Molinelli, Jessica Moore, Mackenzie Moore, Angelina Mora, Addison Mulholland, Daniel Murphy, Isabella Murray, Lily Norton, Finn O'Keefe, Sophia Paone, Christopher Parsekian, Matthew Passante, Jaiden Patel, Madan Patel, Olivia Paulino, Aidan Phillips, Thomas Pitta, Ava Redman, Keira Redmond, Justin Ricci, Peter Riley, Diego Rojas-Cruz, Sara Rooney, Christopher Rossetti, Kaitlyn Rossitto, Leanna Rybner, Pierson Salvador, Anna Salvato, David Savransky, Maximilian Schreiner, Bradley Schuster, William Schwartz, Emily Shabinaw, Charles Sherman, Christopher Shinner, Rishi Shroff, Gabrielle Sigmund, Enoch Soh, Lucy Stemmler, Ashleigh Stewart, Caroline Sullivan, Juan Suris-Morales, Sienna Tan, Luke Tennant, Sean Toal, Murray Topilov, Alexander Valencia, Trent Valentine, Elizabeth Varano, Chloe Walpole, Dermot Walpole, Neil Weiss, Sarah Wiedman, Asher Wiesen, Josselyn Williams, Benjamin Wisniewski, Parker Wotanowski

## Westfield PTC is Sponsoring Talk On Understanding Special Education Law

WESTFIELD -- Westfield PTC - Special Education Committee is sponsoring "Understanding Your Child's Rights: Changes, Trends, and Updates in Special Education Law" presented by Beth C. Manes, Esq., & Jessica Weinberg, Esq. The speaking engagement will take place on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School, Library-2nd Floor, located at 800 Rahway Avenue, Westfield.

An overview of special education law and changes that impact children with an IEP and/or those seeking an IEP will be discussed. The speakers will facilitate an interactive Q&A and discussion. This is an opportunity for the audience to better understand the rights of students and how to effectively collaborate with the district for the success of the student.

The guest speakers will address: Transportation Issues Involving Students with Special Needs (Training of Staff, Medical Requirements);

Restraint and Seclusion (New Reporting Requirements); Twice Exceptional Students (Definition and Rights); Questions from the audience.

About the speakers: Beth C. Manes, Esq., and Jessica Weinberg, Esq., are New Jersey attorneys uniquely qualified in the special needs field. They have represented parents and school districts alike. Ms. Weinberg also served as a special education mediator with the New Jersey Department of Education for over 10 years. Together, they bring the unique experience of being involved in every aspect of special needs from IEP and Section 504 advocacy to estate planning/ special needs trusts to guardianship. Please visit their website at: <http://manesweinberg.com>.

CEU credits (1.5 credits) will be offered free of charge.

This program is free and all parents, teachers, and therapists are invited to attend.



HONORS...Chinese Honor Society Inductees stand above for a photo during the ceremony held November 14 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Below, the Italian Honor Society inductees are pictured.



## SPFHS World Language Honor Societies Inducts New Members

SCOTCH PLAINS -- At Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on November 14, a total of 59 students were inducted into their respective world language honor societies during a ceremony replete with pomp and circumstance. Flag-bearing officers led their inductees into the auditorium as cultural music played. Senior Sophia Iacona, who served as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the various guest speakers of the evening. Senior, Gianna Calligy, representing the Chinese program, talked about breaking through her language learning plateau by putting her language skills to use when ordering Chinese dinner for her family. She also shared that her Mandarin class is often the highlight of her stressful days in school and is thankful for the small, tight-knit learning community that her teacher, Mrs. Salewski, has provided. In her speech, Senior, Sophia Iacona addressed her personal journey with learning French over the year. She thanked her teachers and classmates for always providing meaningful classroom discussions, interesting cultural lessons and providing an environment of French immersion on a daily basis. She spoke with passion about how her experiences as a host family to a French exchange student and her own visit to France as a junior have transformed her language abilities and love for everything "French." She looks forward to hosting another exchange student this year and traveling to France once again. Rachella Carlino spoke about the joy she experienced when traveling to Italy after studying Italian for a few years. Because of her experiences in the classroom she was proudly able to communicate with the locals. She congratulated this year's Italian inductees and encouraged them all to continue their studies in Italian language and culture. The last speaker of the evening, Brent Mankin, is a current Senior in the Spanish program at SPFHS. Brent spoke about how a family trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina allowed him to apply his years of studying Spanish in the classroom to real world situations. In just a short amount of time he felt comfortable ordering food, following directions and asking questions while on their tour of Iguazu Falls. In his speech he encouraged this year's inductees to take advantage of every resource and guidance the World Language department has to offer. He urged students to take every opportunity in class to participate and to use language to communicate as best as possible. Brent ended his speech by saying, "We are living in a time where cultural division is sadly common-

place; yet, language has the ability to unify people across borders, and you represent the best of this district's Spanish speakers."

Representatives of each language program conducted the induction ceremonies for each language entirely in the target language. These representatives included: Robert Leonardo (Chinese), Isaac Wong (Chinese), Tierra Biusereth (French), Rachel Tang (French), Sara Barshap (Italian), Isabella Verga (Italian), Michael Dieu (Spanish), and Dominick Lamastra (Spanish).

Chinese Honor Society Inductees were Catherine Buren, Jake Hahn, Christopher Tsuchiya, William Robertson, Justin Verceles, Danielle Vuono, Chloe Yang, Keri Yang, Samantha Yip, and Julia Yu.

Inducted into the French Honor Society were Josephine Cerino, Carina DelCore, Michaela Genty, Vanessa Handy, Maria Schmidt, Meghan Taylor, and Juliet Trifiro.

Italian Honor Society Inductees included Antoinette Chang, Sarah Dill, Carly Dvorin, L. Gettler, Mason Glod, Christina Guernat, Kyle Isolda, Lauren Kieytyka, Nicholas LaFerrara, Valeria Macchini, Amy Magrino, Lindsey Porchetta, Carly Spelman.

Inducted into the Spanish Honor Society were Connor Alchus, Persis Baah, Alexa Chan, Katherine Chouinard, Jordan Clement, Nicole DeFrancesco, Sophie Drapkin, Jessica Eggert, Jennifer Fleck, Jessica Friebely, Jada Gomillion, Emelyne Johns, Nicole Kenny, Aleeah Madraswalla, Clara Masback, James McNichol, Athena Postlewait, Sophie Pritchett, Sarah Rata, Sarai Romero, Cheryl Schneider, Olivia Shih, Brandon Wilson, Jovi Williams, Morgan Wilson, Elena Wollman, Tara Wolman, Kelly Zimmerman, Rachel Zucker.

## Emily Tinnirella To Graduate from ESU

MOUNTAINSIDE -- A total of 472 students, including Emily Tinnirella from Mountainside will receive degrees from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania at the Winter Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 15, at 9:45 a.m. in Koehler Fieldhouse.

Ms. Tinnirella will graduate with a B.S. in Hotel Restaurant and Tourism Management.

There will be 422 bachelor's degrees, 46 master's degrees and four doctoral degree awarded.

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