

KIDS WHO CODE...Mrs. Krupa's fourth grade class at Coles Elementary School enjoy a fun lesson on computer coding given by Barclays employees in October.

Coles Students Problem Solve in Code Playground

SCOTCH PLAINS — Fourth graders at J.A. Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains participated in a computer coding activity, led by employees from Barclays Bank PLC on October 16.

Thirty employees from Barclays Bank volunteered their time and knowledge to teach the students to write and test their code as they developed a video game. Coding is an important skill as it teaches students problem solving and promotes creative new ways of thinking.

"Code Playground" was started by Barclays Bank PLC in 2016 as part of the annual "Take Your Child to Work Day" event. The program allows both students and adults to learn the basics of coding and help develop their digital skills.

Barclays has led a total of 27 events with more elementary school visits scheduled around the area and have taught over 1,500 kids. Coles parents, Marci Needle and Sonia Penoro, are Barclays employees who helped organize the event.

Holocaust/Genocide Course Offered to Westfield Teachers

WESTFIELD — A fall three-credit graduate course called Teaching the Holocaust along with a spring three-credit offering entitled Teaching Prejudice Reduction, are offered at Westfield Public School District.

"These are important topics for our young people to learn about and understand and, as educators and lifelong learners, we recognize there is always more for us to learn as well," Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Programs Paul Pineiro, said, and further explained it is the fourth year Westfield Public Schools was chosen to host these two courses.

The first semester runs from September 17 through December 3. The second semester begins in January and continues through early May 2019.

"These courses are intended to equip graduate students with information and teaching strategies to help them implement the state-mandated requirement for Holocaust/Genocide instruction for grades K-12 in New Jersey public schools," said the instructor, Karen Stark, an adjunct professor at Kean who taught at Westfield High School (WHS) for 35 years.

"In Westfield Public Schools, we approach Holocaust/Genocide Education through a multidisciplinary program that includes instruction in the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the K-12 curriculum," said Supervisor of K-12 Social Studies Andrea Brennan. "Instruction enables

students to identify aspects of human nature and behavior to understand genocide is a result of prejudice and discrimination. Students examine issues of moral dilemma to understand the importance and impact of being an upstander when they experience discrimination, bias or prejudice."

Ms. Brennan said the curriculum at the elementary level focuses on building capacity for empathy as students learn about prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination through fiction and non-fiction stories about children who are excluded and how it affects them.

Content specific lessons on genocide and Holocaust issues occur in 8th, 9th and 11th grade social studies classes.

At WHS, the Holocaust and genocides are explored in a variety of course offerings including Global Perspectives, Exploring Global Studies, Humanities, U.S. History II, American Studies, and AP U.S. History, while Comparative Religions, AP Psychology, Anthropology, and other electives explore many topics related to persecution, propaganda, and racial intolerance.

Assemblies at all grade levels also follow up these classroom experiences.

Teachers enrolled in Teaching Prejudice Reduction in the spring will examine topics such as race, ethnicity, discrimination, bullying, and preconception with an emphasis on approaches to reduce the role of prejudice in their students' lives and to prepare them for 21st century life and careers.

SPFHS to Induct Four New Members to Hall of Fame

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) will induct four new members into their alumni Hall of Fame on Tuesday, December 11.

The inductees are: David Blitzer '87, partial owner of the N.J. Devils and Philadelphia 76ers; Jamie Novak '90, author, TV personality, speaker, and organizing humorist (jamienovak.com); Amy Nutt '73, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, investigative and science reporter and author (amynutt.com), and Joe Scarpati '60, former NFL football player for the Philadelphia Eagles and New Orleans Saints.

So far, Ms. Novak, Ms. Nutt, and Mr. Scarpati have said they plan on

attending.

All are welcome to meet the inductees, hear their inspiring stories, and enjoy refreshments. The free program will begin at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the high school.

The public is invited to nominate SPFHS alumni they know of, for future consideration for induction. To nominate an alumni, and to view information on all 34 current members of the Hall of Fame, visit spf12.org/alumni.

The evening is sponsored by the SPFHS Alumni Association, which is in great need of an alumni to become their newsletter editor. Visit the above mentioned website for more information.

WHS Students Selected for Regional Honors Ensembles

WESTFIELD -- Three Westfield High School students are among more than 780 of the most musically talented high school students in the Eastern region of the United States selected to perform in the 2019 NAFME All-Eastern Honors Ensembles next April.

Selected to perform with the All-Eastern Honors Orchestra are senior Kevin Li (1st Violin Section) and junior Brooke Walden. Senior Matthew Siroty will sing with the

All-Eastern Honors Chorus.

Students will spend three days rehearsing with one of five conductors during the Eastern Division Conference of the National Association for Music Education (NAFME), to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in preparation for performances on April 7, 2019.



Pictured, left to right, Kevin Li, Brooke Walden and Matthew Siroty.

The All-Eastern Honors Ensembles consist of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed chorus, treble chorus, and jazz ensemble.

'Raiders Don't Risk It' Driving Simulation Held

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors gathered November 12 on Hoppel Court during their physical education class and saw a car crashed into a tree. Luckily, this was a simulation, part of the "Raiders Don't Risk It" program presented by SPFDCA, the District Student Assistance Coordinator, the Scotch Plains Police and Fire Departments, the Fanwood Police and Rescue Squads, Resolve Counseling Center and the Municipal Alliance.

The program is designed to show the aftermath of distracted and destructive driving. In the simulation, actors from the class of 2019, presented a scenario where the students had "just one drink." The scene played out where the driver was arrested and one of the occupants of the car did not survive the crash. The rescue squad and fire department simulated the life saving measures that are taken at the scene. In

addition to the students and emergency services, parents and teachers took on the roles of parents of the victims. This was done in order to reinforce the idea that many people are impacted by the decisions that one makes.

After the presentation, police officers explained the realities of distracted and destructive driving. According to the CDC, the leading cause of death amongst 15-19 year olds is car crash related injuries. Officers expressed how one simple poor decision can have life long consequences.

The program was presented to seniors during their physical education classes. This smaller setting allowed the students to be able to ask questions of the officers and emergency personnel. After the presentation, students were able to debrief with their physical education teachers.



YOUNG CODERS...Middle Schoolers Aryan Janardhana of Edison, Shourya Chhabra of Roselle Park, Brendan Xavier of Westfield and Yousef Sakr of Westfield work on their projects at The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison fall afterschool STEAM workshop.

W+H Middle Schoolers Taught Coding in Workshop

EDISON -- The Middle School at The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison held its fall afterschool STEAM workshop, which focused on programming, coding and design thinking, from Nov. 5-9. The students were taught how to use MIT's Scratch programming by a team of instructors that was led by Marc Spivak, Director of Technology, and included faculty members Andrea Barnett and Erin Maciorowski and Dr. Corinna Crafton, Middle School Head.

The program began with a "This is Me" project where everyone had to produce a story or game using Scratch to tell something about themselves. Once they were finished, they had to give the game over to someone else for critical commentary. The point of the exercise is to show how programmers need to be willing to give up a piece of themselves in their programs

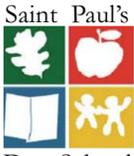
and hard work and allow others to comment to make it better.

The next project focused on learning how to write clear instructions. The students were asked to physically design a special handshake and others were asked to tie shoes blindfolded only listening to instructions. The goal of the lesson was to teach two things – the importance of being exact in your language and defining your terms for a computer to understand and for others to understand your work.

In the final project, the instructors broke the students into groups and had them make a "Choose Your Own Adventure" project. The team had to write careful notes for others to understand. The group was asked to hand over their work to another group to complete the project using the code and the notes.



FIRE SAFETY WEEK...Evergreen School Principal Colleen Haubert dressed in fire gear riding the basket to cheers from the young kindergarteners during the Scotch Plains Fire Department visit to the elementary schools as part of Fire Safety Week in October. The students learned about fire safety and fire prevention. Students had the opportunity to see a fireman in his full uniform, tour the fire truck and see the ladder truck in action. The firefighters explained the equipment they carry, the importance of doing fire drills in their schools. They also encouraged the children to ask their parents to do a fire drill at home.



Monday, December 10th

Time: 7:30 PM

Open House

Come to our Kindergarten & JK Open House Presentation on Dec. 10th at 7:30pm and learn about our fabulous Kindergarten & JK program.

The Pre-school will also be hosting an Open House in January 2019 to meet the teachers and see the rooms for next year's classes.



St. Paul's Day School
414 East Broad Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
908-233-5417
stpaulsday@stpaulsday.org
Visit us at www.stpaulsday.org or
Visit us on Facebook

The Leader/Times Website Provides Robust Features to Assist You!

Subscribe to Our Papers

Change Your Address

Submit a Paid Bulletin

Publish a Photo

Place a Classified Ad

Post Community News

List Your Organization

Place an Obituary Notice

Submit a Wedding Announcement

Search Past Editions

Place a Legal Notice

Search Our Video Library

The Westfield Leader
The Scotch Plains - Fanwood
TIMES
908-232-4407

