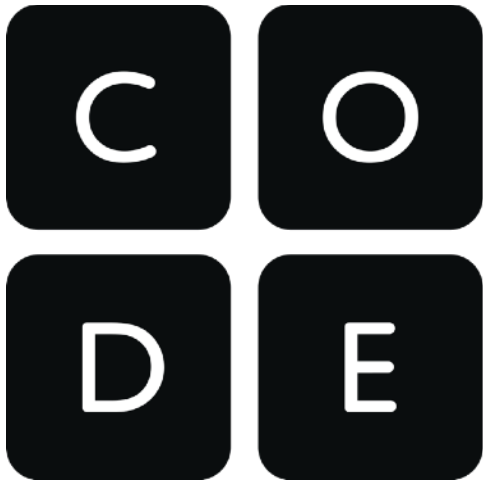




ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Hour of Code



This past week, Mount Carmel School elementary students joined tens of millions kids from over 180 countries around the world by participating in the global Hour of Code. Guided by students from the school's Advance Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP), the elementary students learned basic coding concepts in hands-on lessons using iPads provided as part of the school's 21st Century Technology initiative.

According to the organizers, Hour of Code and Computer Science Education Week Advisory and Review Committees, the Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

The school's director of information technology, Jonathan "JC" Clark, initiated the school's effort by chording with elementary teachers. With this year's launch, Clark was very happy with the time spent with students. "We want no student to fall behind the technology curve," said Clark. His perspective is informed by over 20 years of experience in application

development, network management, and computer programming and is a Linux Foundation Certified Engineer. Under JC's leadership, the school has steadily improved its IT system over the past two years.

In launching the Hour of Code at the school, Clark emphasized that the benefits extend beyond computer technology. As he put it, "Coding concepts such as prototyping and problem abstraction are used throughout all disciplines."

When asked about why the Hour of Code was focused on elementary students, Clark answered, "It is imperative that we begin computer literacy education early."

School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, agreed. "Coding is truly the language of the future, and all the brain research shows that languages are picked up much more easily the younger the students are."

The Hour of Code and the school's 21st Century Technology Initiative are also part of the school's Strategic Master Plan. In its commitment to the tech initiative, the school's Board of Directors approved the allocation of human and financial resources to ensure that students are getting the most technologically advanced education possible on island.

Advent Reflection

by Reflection by Fr. Lou DeFra, C.S.C. - Director of Pastoral Life for the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education



Our human story, as we well know, begins in Eden, where we enjoyed perfect relationship with God, with ourselves, with one another, with creation. But a snake and an apple later, and most everything had been lost. This rather inauspicious origin story of the human race ends with the dramatic final lines of Genesis, chapter 3:

"So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden.... And after God drove them out, God placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden, cherubim and a flaming sword swinging back and forth, to guard the way back to the Tree of Life."

It is that penultimate phrase - "to guard the way back" - that makes me wince. It is such a terrible, definitive separation - God not only casts Adam and Eve out from their home, but the way back is definitively closed.

So, what is our human condition, based on such a story? It is one of "separation," "homelessness," "alienation." A life of "wandering" and "seeking." Of longing for what we once had, of longing for our home - yearning for the right relationship with God, with ourselves, with one another, with Creation ... a recovery of what we lost, a return to home.

Continued on back

Announcements

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

As the school has done for many years now, our students will help the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa with its celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception TOMORROW, Friday, December 8, from 3:00 p. m. to 6:30 p. m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. For this event, please note the following:

- All students in grades 2 through 12 are required to attend.
- Students should report to their homeroom classrooms by 2:30 p. m.
- Students must wear their full school uniform (NO SHORTS).
- Candles for the celebration will be provided by the school.
- Since students will participate in a procession that runs from the Cathedral, down along Carmen Avenue, to the back side of the US Post Office, and back to the Cathedral along Beach Road, students should prepare by wearing comfortable shoes, eating ahead of time, and bringing a bottle of water with them.
- Parents must pick up their children no later than 7:00 p. m.

For more information about the celebration, please refer to page 84 of the school handbook.

MCS Ballet Program with Glushko's Academy

Beginning in January 2018, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will start offering ballet classes to qualified students as part of the school's regular curriculum/course schedule. There are slots for 9-11 year old girls and boys. Auditions will be held on Friday, December 15, and audition forms are due on Thursday, December 14. For more information, pick up an audition form and additional information in the main office with Ms. Leeani.

MCS Eco Club Flyer Contest

For all 3rd-6th graders who have an artistic side that they want to express this is the competition for you! Come design a flyer for the MCS Eco Club & you could have the chance to win \$25! For more information on the contest, see Theresa Zheng (12A).

MCS Eco Club Brochure Contest

For all 7th-12 graders who have an artistic side that they want to express this is the competition for you! Come design a brochure for the MCS Eco Club & you could have the chance to win \$25! For more information on the contest, see Theresa Zheng (12A).

MCS Eco Club Monthly Plastic Bottle Competition

Do you like delicious, creamy frozen treats? Well, you are just in luck! The MCS Eco Club is hosting monthly plastic bottle competitions to see which class can collect the most bottles. The winning class will receive an ice cream party. The competition for the month of December will end on the 22nd so get collecting! For more information on the competition, see Theresa Zheng (12A).

ESLR of the Week

#6. Develop continually as an independent lifelong learner.

Advent

continued from front



Welcome to Advent - the season of our longing. We are a people who longs to be whole, and home, and at one again, and because we are none of these things yet, we must have a time... to groan in longing.

If the Church has been accused from time to time of repressing our deepest desires, she certainly must be acquitted in regards to Advent. For, look, at the core of our existence is separation, alienation, homelessness - AND, importantly, the longing to overcome these things.

Surely this last piece - the longing - must be present, or God would not have had the need for that nasty cherubim with the flaming, swinging sword, preventing us from sneaking back in. Surely God knew, since He had made us in his own image and likeness, that we would spend our lives - sometimes tenaciously and heroically, sometimes lukewarmly and dejectedly - trying to get back.

This is all a way of saying what St. Augustine captured in 11 words (probably less in Latin):

"Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you."

It seems critical that we have this season of Advent, a season for a non-repressed recognition of our deepest longings. For if we do not recognize them from time to time - and see what it really is that we are hoping for - we run the risk of trying to fill our agitations with all kinds of things that will not do the job.

The season of Advent is a time to acknowledge, both that these longings exist, but also that these incomplete parts of our lives are precisely the places where God has promised to act, and to open up a way home. Happy Advent! Come, Lord Jesus!

Sports Calendar

U11 Interscholastic Soccer League

TODAY
MCS vs KagES @CKagES baseball field*

Tuesday, December 12
MCS v WSR @Hopwood*

Thursday, December 14
MCS v KES @Hopwood*

*Girls games start at 3:45; boys at 4:45 pm

CCOPSSA Varsity Basketball

TODAY
MCS Boys v ACS @Ada Gym at 3:30 pm
MCS Girls 1 v ACS @Ada Gym at 4:30 pm

In the Future

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

TOMORROW, Friday, December 8
Mount Carmel Cathedral

NJHS Junk Sale

Tuesday, December 12

Cheer Squad Mini-Carnival

Wednesday, December 13

STUCO Gingerbread House Competition

Thursday, December 14

8th Grade Candy Cane Gram

Junior Winter Bash
Friday, December 15

Senior Hot Lunch

Saturday, December 16

PTO Corner

Parent Subs Needed

Are you willing to serve as a substitute teacher for the school and get paid?
Then contact Luis Camacho at 287-9753.

Schedule of Meetings

December 13, 2017 • 5:30 pm • Faculty Lounge

All parents are encouraged and welcome to join us for these important meetings.

For more information, contact
PTO President, Luis Camacho, at 287-9753.