

Bits and Bytes



December, 2014 Edition

December Focus:

CODING IN THE CLASSROOM

The Florida Department of Education [Digital Classrooms Plan](#) includes a goal for K-12 students to learn Computer Coding and Programming. Additionally, this plan along with other state legislation calls for Computer Science industry courses and certificates to be available for middle and high school students.

Computer Programming and Coding helps students develop creativity and problem solving skills, while also preparing them for future careers.

Our Instructional Technology Department is encouraging all St. Johns County schools to participate in the [Hour of Code](#) taking place from December 8th-14th. We have created a guide to help teachers prepare for this event. This guide also includes lists of coding resources that can be used throughout the year. [Click here](#) to access the Hour of Code Guide.

In addition to the Hour of Code, we have developed a Sign-Up Genius to pair SJCSD classes with Computer Science professionals for a 30 minute Skype chat. [Click here](#) if you would like to participate.

Our Monthly newsletter features interactive elements using Zappar.

To view the interactive content follow these quick and easy steps...

- Download the Zappar free app
- Scan the zapcodes located throughout this newsletter.



A ZAPCODE LOOKS LIKE THIS



GREENSCREEN
DO INK
(\$2.99)



iMOVIE



Step 1: Use an iPad to film your video in front of a green screen. Save a background video to your iPad.

Step 2: Open the Greenscreen Do Ink app. Click on the 1st plus sign and open your video. Open the second plus sign and open the background video. Adjust the color and sensitivity. Save to the camera roll.

Step 3: Open iMovie app, and add your video. Trim the extra background footage and add title slides/music.

APP SMASH OF THE MONTH





Ocean Palms Elementary students participating in the inaugural "Hour of Code" in December, 2013.

Would you like to be featured in our monthly newsletter?

Email Brock, Lindsay, or Kristin and let us now how you are using technology to engage students in your classroom.

CODING IN THE CLASSROOM AT OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY

Ocean Palms Elementary students will be participating in the Code.org [Hour of Code](#) for the second time this year. Last December every student at their school had the opportunity to learn about computer programming and coding through a fun and challenging curriculum that teaches students problem solving skills, math, and spatial awareness.

This initiative was led by Lauren Tate, who was the Ocean Palms Elementary Technology Coach last year. During one week in December, with the help of district Career Academies and Instructional Technology staff, Ms. Tate conducted coding lessons for every student at Ocean Palms Elementary. Lessons were differentiated by grade level and student ability, which increased student engagement and enthusiasm for this event. Coding lessons were accompanied by videos that taught students the importance of Computer Science careers. At the end of the lesson, students received a ribbon that displayed how many lines of code they created. Ms. Tate is currently a fourth grade teacher at Ocean Palms and continues to lead an after school Coding Club for interested students.

[Click here](#) to read more about this event at Ms. Tate's website.

DECEMBER SCOOP IT!

[Click here](#) to
access some
great EdTech
articles.



“Coders change the world. They build new, amazing things faster than ever before. Anyone with imagination can learn to write code.”

Jeff Wilke
SVP Consumer
Business,
Amazon.com

Distance Learning

Sick Connecticut Students Attend Class Via Telepresence Robot

By Joshua Bolkan | 11/10/14

Students too sick to attend class in person at Voluntown Elementary School will now be able to attend class virtually, thanks to a telepresence robot.

The school is using the Kubi, from Revolve Robotics, a \$399 stand that holds a tablet and allows users to pan and tilt the device via Web controls, allowing them to track the teacher or other students during class time. The 1.5 pound, 12-inch tall stand is set up on a table by Voluntown Technology Coordinator Jim Ward and

Students at Voluntown Elementary School in Connecticut are now able to attend school virtually while they are sick.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Hour of Code](#) December 8th-14th

[SJCSD Interactive Virtual Field Trip
for grades 3-4](#) December 15th-19th

Technology Task Challenges

Each month, our newsletter will feature a technology task challenge. Teachers who would like to participate, should join our Edmodo group and turn in the assignment. Teachers who successfully complete the challenge will be entered in a drawing for a gift card.

December Teacher Challenge

Materials Needed: Teacher Laptop

Description: You will create a timeline using [World Book Online](#). World Book Online is a website subscription purchased by the district for all SJCS D schools.

Assignment: Click below and complete the task. Join our Task Challenge Edmodo group (code: 4myeat). Post the link to your timeline, or a screenshot displaying a section of your timeline. [Click Here](#) for more details. [Click here](#) to view our archived Teacher Task Challenges.

Congratulations to **Mr. Sharpe** Winner of our November Teacher Task Challenge. Mr. Sharpe will receive a \$20.00 gift card to **The Hyppo**.

Contact Us

Call 904.547.3947 for more information about our services and resources

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Stay tuned for next month's edition of Bits and Bytes featuring...

- Celebrate Literacy Week Technology Resources
- Microsoft OneNote Teacher Task Challenge

