



# John Eliot School Bulletin

December 6, 2019

135 Wellesley Avenue, Needham, MA 02494  
Phone #781-455-0452 & FAX #781-455-0852

Principal, Karen Bourn  
Assistant Principal, Mona Maas  
<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us>  
Editor, Susan Rains

## Principal's News:

### THE HOUR OF CODE IS COMING!

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.

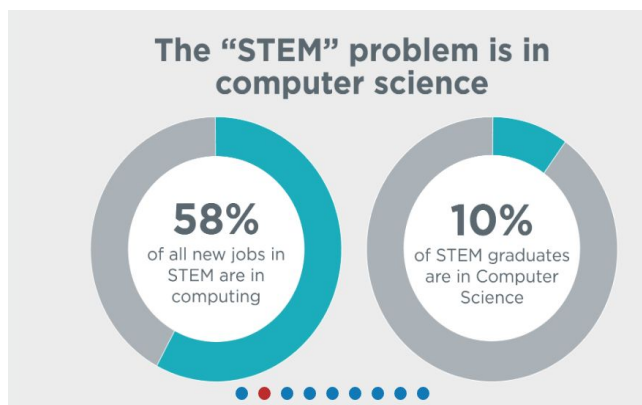
#### What is the Hour of Code at Eliot?

- 1** An introductory exploration activity for all students, kindergarten through 5th grade. Students will work on a variety of coding activities in the technology center with their classroom teacher and the instructional technology specialist.
- 2** An effort to demystify code, and change the conversation around computer science.

#### Why Computer Science?

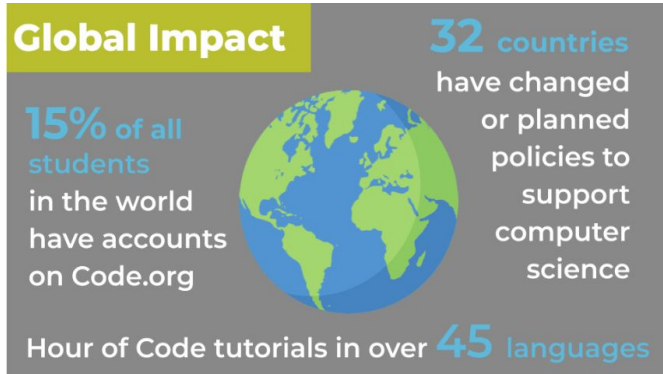
Computer programming jobs are growing faster than students entering the field.

Visit <http://hourofcode.com> to learn more.



## Every state has now adopted a K-12 computer science policy!

This month, we saw another major milestone with all [50 U.S. states passing at least 1 of the 9 recommended policies](#) that help facilitate making computer science available to all K-12 students. Not only is this a huge win for CS education nationally, but states who adopt more policies also see a higher percentage of girls taking K-12 CS courses. This momentum is thanks to the commitment and hard work of the 70 organizations that comprise the [Code.org Advocacy Coalition](#). The annual CSEdWeek celebrates the birthday of computing pioneer [Admiral Grace Murray Hopper](#) (December 9, 1906).



## LOOKING FOR HOST FAMILIES FOR STUDENTS FROM DAXING, CHINA

For the 10th consecutive year, Needham families will have an opportunity to host elementary and middle school age students from our sister schools in Daxing, China! This year, we are trying to find host families for **25 students** between the ages of **ten and twelve** years old.

We've learned much from our previous exchanges, and the process has become smoother and more rewarding each time! This year's visiting students will arrive in Boston in January and will stay at the homes of Needham host families from Monday afternoon on January 13 through Tuesday, January 21.

We are asking for families to participate in this program by opening their homes and welcoming these children. If room is available, some families in the past have found it helpful to take in two students. Some students are often more comfortable when they are paired with a friend.

**If you are able to host a child or two, could you please** go to the High Rock School main webpage <http://highrock.needham.k12.ma.us/> and complete the Google form "2020 Hosts for Daxing Exchange" to indicate you will host students by **Monday, December 16**. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Downey, Principal of High Rock School, at [jessica\\_downey@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:jessica_downey@needham.k12.ma.us).

An **informational meeting** for families that are committed to hosting students will be held on **Monday, January 6 at 6:30pm in the High Rock Media Center**. Ying Liu and Wendy Wu, representatives from the sponsoring agency, Boston Ivy, will be on hand to share information and answer questions. Former and repeating host families will be there, as well, to share their past experiences.

### *Some helpful information:*

- Chinese students have a varying degree of competence in English.
- We have set up communication tools to assist both host families and visiting children.
- Boston Ivy staff are available around the clock for any medical or emergency issue.
- There will be administrators and teachers from the children's school staying in a nearby hotel.
- All students have health insurance and will have money for purchasing souvenirs.

- Chinese students will ride the bus to and from school with the host family child if the host family uses the transportation service.
- The town provides lunch at school for the Chinese students and will receive a temporary PIN number for the cafeteria.
- There will be a database set up so multiple host families can connect in order to plan outings or social connections.
- It is not expected that you go out of your way to entertain these students. The main goals of their visit are to experience our culture and improve their English.

This program is one of a kind in Massachusetts (and probably the country) and it takes a village to keep it going! Please consider hosting a student or two. It will be a most enriching and memorable experience for your family and the student.

Again, I ask that you go complete the Google form “2020 Hosts for Daxing Exchange” located on the High Rock School webpage <http://highrock.needham.k12.ma.us/> to indicate you will host students by **Monday, December 16.**

On a personal note, my family and I hosted two Daxing students a few years ago and it was a wonderful experience for all of us. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions!

In Partnership,  
Karen Bourn

## DECEMBER ALL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Eliot students met in the performance center for the All School Assembly on Wednesday. Here are a few highlights: Student artists, Will Cunningham, Peter Moore-Ede and Michelle Shtifman were commended for their artwork. It is currently displayed outside the performance center. Greg Smith, Superintendent of the Needham Recycling and Transfer Station presented to students about our improved recycling program. (More information in future Bulletin). Third grader Ethel Nanteza performed a song and two 5th graders teamed up, with Arbell Fux playing the ukulele while Amelia Broderick sang. Congratulations to all of the contributors to this assembly! We are very proud of them!



# **Eliot Winter Concerts**

## **Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

### **Tuesday, 12/17/19 @ 8:45 AM - Instrumental concert for the school**

- All band students report to the cafeteria at 8:30 am
- Advanced strings report to the music room at 7:30 am

Remember to:

bring your instruments  
bring your music  
wear school clothes

### **Tuesday, 12/17/19 @ 1:30 PM - Chorus concert for the school**

### **Tuesday, 12/17/19 @ 6:30 PM - Winter concert for family & friends**

- All band students report to the gym at 6:15 pm
- Advanced strings report to the music room at 6:00 pm
- Chorus members who don't play in strings or band should report to the performance center to watch the concert until it's time to sing.

Remember to:

bring your instruments  
bring your music  
dress up nicely just like on picture day



### **FROM the PTC Spirit Wear Chairperson**

Great news! Spirit wear has arrived! Check your child's backpack today. Friendly reminder that there are no returns or exchanges. Email [brookemreilly@gmail.com](mailto:brookemreilly@gmail.com) with questions.

Thank you for your support!



## Two Eliot Collections

One for used soccer equipment and another for new toys for **The Jimmy Fund**. If you can donate, please see the donation boxes for both collections in the school lobby. For more info, see the following. Thank you!

Gently used soccer equipment needed.



Holiday Toy Drive - New Toys Only - For children at the **Jimmy Fund Clinic**.



## **FROM: Mrs. Mullin, Eliot School Librarian**

**The following books were donated to the John Eliot School Library during the month of November 2019.**

Minecraft: Guide to Redstone was donated by Mitchell Pollack.  
Grumpy Monkey was donated by Isabella Meador.  
The fresh New Face of Griselda was donated by Lindsey Goldfine.  
White Bird was donated by William J. Vettrano.  
The Season of Styx Malone was donated by Liam Velde.  
Lego: Amazing Vehicles was donated by David Xia.  
The Complete Baking Book for Young Chefs was donated by Mischa Loeb  
Why? Was donated by Julia Alpert.  
Pokemon Super Deluxe Essential Handbook was donated by Nicholas Nasson.  
Ninjago: Build Your Own Adventure was donated by Ari Sapra.  
Minecraft: Guide to Creative was donated by William S. Mercer.  
The Misadventures of Max Crumbly: Masters of Mischief was donated by Ranyah S. Ali.  
Minecraft Maps was donated by Myles Wilk.  
Geronimo Stilton: The Test of Time was donated by Phoebe Moran.  
Snowmen at Halloween was donated by Noah Moran.  
Never Too Young: 50 Unstoppable Kids Who Made A Difference was donated by Simona Patten.  
Soccer was donated by Bear Hawkey.  
Who is the Mystery Reader? Was donated by Eli Kahn.

## **FROM: Ms. Jodrie, Eliot Spanish Teacher**

**November: Hope you all had a restful break.**

**Here is what we worked on in Spanish class during November.**

Kindergarteners continued working on introducing themselves in Spanish and saying how they feel as well. They also are continuing with colors and numbers. We started talking about animals, so ask your kindergartener to tell you how to say the name of an animal they have learned in Spanish!

First graders continued working on their names in Spanish as well as how to say how they are feeling. They talked more about colors and numbers, and we have started to incorporate the calendar as well. Ask your first grader to tell you how old they are in Spanish!

Second graders have continued working on saying how they feel in Spanish, along with colors and numbers. We worked on fruits and vegetables during the month of November, so ask your second grader to tell you their favorite fruit or vegetable in Spanish!

Third graders learned about fruits and vegetables in the month of November, so ask them what their favorite is in Spanish. We also talked about what they might be grateful for this time of year, so ask them to tell you that in Spanish as well!

Fourth graders finished up learning about sports, so ask them what interested them about sports in the Spanish speaking countries. We connected to the insect fair in Spanish class, so they got to draw the insect they created and write some information about it in Spanish to share, so ask your fourth grader about that as well! We also started reviewing school materials and talking about classes in Spanish so they will be able to say what they need for each class.

Fifth graders started talking about time in Spanish and in Spanish speaking countries, so they will be able to talk about when they have classes at what time in school. Ask your fifth grader to tell you when they have Spanish class in Spanish!

<http://bespanish.weebly.com/>

# Holiday Giving Project



Dear Families,

We have mittens hung in the front lobby for Eliot's annual **Holiday Giving Project**. This project enables us to distribute gift cards to some Eliot families who could use assistance this holiday season. If your family would like to donate a gift card to the project, please stop by the **Holiday Giving Project** bulletin board located inside the front doors. On the back of the mittens are the names of local stores where a gift card can be purchased and brought back to school. There is a box on the counter of the main office to put the gift cards in.

We have all experienced challenging times at one point or another. If your family could use an "extra hand" this season, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. We are grateful to be a part of such a caring community at the Eliot School!

Our best,  
Jennifer Kiely-Sullivan and Monique Vullo  
Guidance Counselors

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	IMPORTANT DATES	
12/11/2019	Early Release Day	Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
12/17/2019	<i>Winter Chorus Assembly for students</i> <i>Chorus School Assembly @ 8:45</i> <i>Instrument School Assembly @1:30</i>	Performance Center.
12/17/2019	<i>Family Concert @ 6:30 p.m.</i>	Performance Center.
12/23 - 1/1	WINTER RECESS	
1/2/2020	School Resumes after winter recess	



See you next week!