IT & CS NEWS

Top stories in this newsletter

Cybersecurity News

MCPS CS Expansion

Code as a Second Language Boot Camp Event 9/28 at Einstein

Wood MS Students visit the White House 9/25
Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead

Cybersecurity Month Events

We are now officially in Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which makes this a perfect time to plan your topics and events. Choose a date this fall/winter to participate in the *NSA Day of Cyber* online cyber career exploration experience in your classroom and connect your students to some of the most in-demand career opportunities in Cybersecurity. Students will participate in challenging real-life cyber scenarios while discovering the skills and tools used by Cyber professionals. They will also explore career options, and generate their "Cyber Resume." *Maryland NSA Day of Cyber School Challenge* kicks off on November 7 and ends on February 28, 2018. A separate flyer is attached for more information.

Another resource is **STOP.THINK.CONNECT** global online safety education and awareness campaign. This month-long program will educate consumers about the importance of Cybersecurity and protecting personal information (#CyberAware).

MCPS CS Expansion Plans

During the summer, MCPS leaders met with Code.org representatives and LEGO Education representatives to discuss Computer Science and STEM expansion plans into K12 education. Most of the planning and proposals are still being investigated, however, the *Amendment to the Computer Science Program of Study* was developed and submitted to MSDE for approval. Along with the program amendment request, curriculum was developed for a *new Cybersecurity Capstone course* for the Computer Science/Code.org Program of Study. This course will be offered starting in the 2018-2019 school year at Thomas Edison HS of Technology and will prepare students for the fundamentals in Cybersecurity, and the CompTIA Security+ exam.

In addition, plans are underway to increase robotics programs and after-school clubs in the county. A *new Code.org CS Discoveries* course is being added to the middle school course offerings.

Hispanic Heritage Foundations Hosts Code as Second Language Event

Students at Albert Einstein High School enjoyed a coding boot camp on September 28, 2017, thanks to partnerships with the Montgomery County Students Information Technology Foundation, the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) and Verizon Foundation. Superintendent Jack R. Smith and Councilmember Nancy Navarro kicked off this Hispanic Heritage month event. Besides learning the basics of coding, students were given access to the HHF's *LOFTnetwork* for career development.

$200 Million a year for STEM and Computer Science Education

Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead

On Monday, September 25, 2017, at the invitation of our partner Code.org, a small group of students from Earle B. Wood Middle School along with their teacher, Ms. Nancy Ale and Principal, Ms. Heidi Slatcoff, participated in a meeting at the White House where President Donald J. Trump signed a $200 million Memorandum to increase spending in STEM and Computer Science education. The students at Wood MS are learning coding through the new Code.org *CS Discoveries (CSD)* curriculum this year along with over 700 other MCPS students. Seven MCPS teachers are currently participating in Code.org's *CSD* regional professional development cohort.
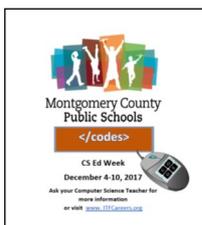
More stories in this newsletter

CyberPatriot and other Competition News

Mark calendars now for Cyber Forensics — March 13, 2018

Computer Science & Cyber Ed Week— Dec 4-9

Coding teachers enjoy PD Workshops #CS4MD

CyberPatriot and Cyber Forensics Competitions

Last year, over sixty MCPS students participated in the *CyberPatriot* National Youth Cyber Competition. Twenty-four Poolesville High School (PHS) students moved on to the Regional round and one team of six students placed 3rd in the National finals in Baltimore.

Students from all MCPS high schools and all levels will continue to build their Cyber competition skills at the fourth annual MCPS Cyber Forensics competition to be held on March 13 at Montgomery College, Germantown campus. Over 150 students competed last March in two levels, Silver and Gold.   Former PHS students helped with the design and implementation of the competition along with CyberPatriot coaches Mark Estep from PHS and Joe Roundy from MC.   More information and registration will be sent out in December.

Computer Science & Cybersecurity Education Week

Computer Science Education Week is coming December 4 -9 and MCPS is gearing up for another exciting year of *Hour of Code* activities. For more information to host an event, click here.   This year we are featuring some Cybersecurity activities for all ages. Most are unplugged activities. See this link for ideas shared at the summer's CSTA conference to incorporate into your lessons.

Finally, please share your CS Ed Week activities with the Foundations Office. We love to know what you are doing and how we can support you. Contact Betsey Bell, Elizabeth_F_Bell@mcpsmd.org.

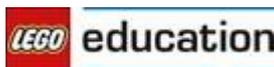## Computer Science Professional Development

Training continued this summer for *AP CS Principles* and the *Foundations of Computer Science* Code.org courses with the Regional Training partner, CEASOM. Besides learning great curriculum and sharing best practices, the teachers enjoyed some summer activities as well, including a paint night and tour of the Baltimore Orioles Park.

Teachers selected for Code.org 's CS Discoveries *TeacherCon* spent a week in Philadelphia together and bonded over throwing axes (*really!?!*) and touring the Lincoln Financial Field, home to the Philadelphia Eagles. Who says learning can't be fun?

Quarterly PD Workshops will continue throughout the year and all are invited if space permits. Please contact Betsey Bell for the dates and registration information.

Need help with LEGO EV3 Robotic Kits?

If you are looking for tips and resources in implementing your EV3 robotic kits in your computer science courses, please contact Betsey Bell for a handy resource document.

Qs? Please contact Betsey Bell, IT Instructional Specialist   *Elizabeth_F_Bell@mcpsmd.org*