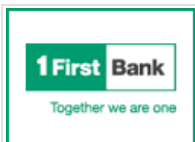


ST. JOHN SOURCE

Friday, June 4, 2010 Last Update 4:36pm

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Local news — St. John

LOG IN OR REGISTER TO COMMENT E-MAIL PRINT

One Laptop Per Child Comes to St. John

BY PAMELA REID — MAY 30, 2010



Daniela Joseph creates and animates her own graphics.

Sixty St. John elementary students have joined the worldwide One Laptop Per Child program and are getting free programming instruction from some very young educators.

Twelve high school students from the Columbus School for Girls are conducting a 10-day seminar for the St. John fourth, fifth and sixth graders as the culmination of a year-long project where they researched, developed and tested teaching methods.

The high school students launched the program Monday, and this weekend has an impressive audience. Their observers are none other than attendees of the first global conference for One Laptop Per Child's far-flung practitioners, representing Afghanistan, Austria, Uruguay, Paraguay, Madagascar, Peru, Sao Tome and Haiti.

Advertising ([skip](#))

CALENDARS

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SOURCE PICKS

Formal King Rules the Day in Memorial Day Feature

Formal King came to the U.S. Virgin Islands with high expectations, and many wondered after his lackluster debut whether he would ever deliver on his promise.

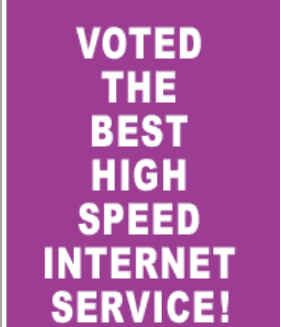
[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE](#)
2010-06-01 23:43:30

We Need Laws Requiring Parental Involvement in Schools

The following is an open letter written to President Obama by youth motivational speaker and author Reuben Dowling who argues that 'we need federal, state and local laws demanding parent/teacher associating.'

[READ ENTIRE ARTICLE](#)
2010-05-29 12:18:25

CURRENTLY: 85°F



AUDIO GALLERIES

Speak Your Peace Winning Audio Entry This year's Speak Your Peace contest challenged students throughout the territory to compose a poem with an anti-violence message. Listen to one of the winning poems, "End The Violence," written by 16-year old AnuMaat Davis-Kahina, from the Per Ankh Institute.

more

IMAGE GALLERIES

St. John Scenic Gallery II



Cruz bay dock office.

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Murder trial Fontaine

Sixpack and Selmo found guilty of all charges

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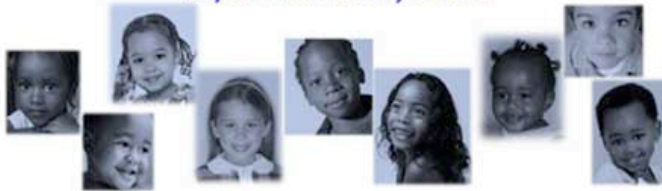
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2010 Virgin Islands Business Leaders Summits on Early Childhood Investment
Will you have the workforce you need in the future? Help us ensure that you will!



For Business Leaders and Policymakers ONLY!
St. Croix: Monday, June 14th Carambola Beach Hotel
St. Thomas: Tuesday, June 15th Frenchman's Reef
9:00- 1:30
Lunch Provided

"To ensure the ability of our children to compete in the global economy, I encourage you to attend this important summit."

John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor of the Virgin Islands

Attendees will hear from national and local business leaders and economic experts about early childhood education as a sound economic investment for the future of the Virgin Islands.

To R.S.V.P. and for more information contact: 774-6031 or general.info@cfvi.net

SPONSORS:



One Laptop Per Child provides \$200 wireless, child-scaled, ruggedized XO computers to students in developing nations and rural areas. The software, eToys, allows users to create pictures, stories and books, using sound and animation, and teaches the children programming skills, while they learn geometry, math, sequencing, storytelling and problem solving.

The St. John program and the first OPLC "Realness Summit" are the brainchildren of Tim Falconer, who with his foundation, Waveplace, helped to get the program on-island and off the ground on St. John as well as other Caribbean destinations.

Waveplace raises money to purchase laptops for Caribbean children and creates training materials to teach digital media skills.

A frequent visitor to St. John for many years, Falconer vacationed on the island three years ago when he met members of the Guy Benjamin Elementary School family at a Skinny Legs fundraiser. Another conversation that same trip with a local woman about hurricane devastation sparked Falconer's idea to bring the OPLC program to St. John.

The thought that the Caribbean cannot compete with many continentally based industries, due to size of the islands and the sometimes harsh and hurricane prone environment, was countered by what Falconer sees here in abundance - creativity. Falconer and his family would often marvel at the high level of artistic and cultural creativity they found in the Caribbean.

"I come from graphic design background," Falconer said during an interview Friday. "I was always blown away by what I saw down here. It puts to shame anything coming out of Bel Air or New York. "If we can teach people to put their creativity into computers, then they don't have to leave the island, their families and their community [to earn a living]," Falconer said. "My goal is to make the Caribbean the Hollywood of digital media."

At 3 p.m. Friday, just after classes let out at Julius E. Sprauve, when children saw the Columbus students get off the bus, an excited and joyous

Source Exclusive—Turning the Tide Against Domestic Violence
Domestic violence in 2010 has reached epic and deadly proportions in the territory. While this year's headlines paint a terrifying picture of domestic strife, there is an island of hope: a V.I. batterers intervention program that seems to be working.
READ ENTIRE ARTICLE
2010-05-27 20:13:56

Virgin Islands Department of Health STD/HIV/TB Program
St. Croix 840-773-1911 Ext. 3061
Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 3:30
Friday 8:00 to 1:00
SEABORNE seaplane

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THE COMMUNITY CAN PRESERVE PARADISE
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shout rang out, announcing “They’re comin’ they’re comin!”

Eleventh grader Mary Lutter and her companions were greeted by the classroom of children, eager to show their young teachers what they had made or discovered on their XO computers since the previous day.

The high school students prepared all year long for this trip, restoring broken laptops, creating lesson plans and honing their teaching skills as well as programming on the scaled-down computers.

Forty-seven of the 60 laptops come to the program through the efforts of Christine Murakami, who located older computers and brought them to her students to teach them how to make hardware repair and software updates.

The students from Columbus have been surprised by how quickly their pupils catch on to concepts as well as discovering some things that the high schoolers had not known about the computers.

Some of the students showed off what they had created on their XOs.

“I made a fish and I made a boat,” Sprauve fourth grader Daniela Joseph said. “And I made them move.”

Recording sounds and taking pictures also allows students to incorporate their surrounding into stories and books that they can circulate with children across the world. The St. John students are picking up a lot on their own.

“We expected to have to explain things more,” Lutter said. “They just explore at home on their own.”

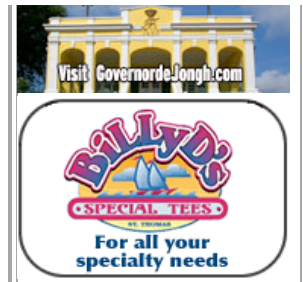
Lutter conceded that teaching younger children is a challenge, but classmate Megan Murray recognized the value in the enthusiasm.

“The biggest distraction is them teaching each other about what they learn and find,” Murray said. “It’s what we wanted. We think kids learn better when they teach each other.”

The

[OLPC Realness Summit](#)

continues through Monday.



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