Columbus School for Girls Coming Back To Teach Computers at JESS

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

For the fourth year in a row, a group from the Columbus School for Girls in Columbus, Ohio, will be spending a week teaching computer lessons at Julius E. Sprauve School, and they need the public’s help.

Working with the One Laptop Per Child organization, CSG teacher Christine Murakami will bring down six sophomores and juniors in her OLPC learning course. The students will distribute 40 XO laptops to JESS students and teach the students how to use them, Murakami explained.

“We’ll be distributing about 40 laptops to the younger kids and we’ll teach them EToys computer language,” she said. “The program is very creative; you make everything from scratch so the kids really will gain a lot.”

Older students at JESS will have the opportunity to learn computer repair by working on broken XO laptops, and that is where the public can help, Murakami explained.

“Last year a lot of kids mentioned that they had laptops at home that weren’t being used or weren’t working,” said the CSG teacher. “We’d love to have parents or kids or anyone with an old XO laptop that they aren’t using or that isn’t working to bring them to JESS so we can work on them.”

The CSG students will use the broken XO laptops to teach older students computer repair, Murakami added.

“The older students really enjoyed learning how to take a computer apart and put it back together again. We’re hoping to teach them a lot more this year with the additional computers people hopefully bring in. A lot of the kids were good with the tools and they really thought computer repair could be something they could do here.”

– Christine Murakami, CSG teacher

Friends of VINP Scholarship Available

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Friends of V.I. National Park’s annual Scholarship Program is again being offered to Virgin Islanders at the university level studying in fields related to marine biology or natural resource management and protection.

Eligible students must have Virgin Islands residence, have completed high school in the Virgin Islands (or are currently in their last semester of high school senior year), and have attained a B (3.0) average during their previous three semesters of high school or university.

In addition, Friends is offering a scholarship for children of VINP staff at the university level. Eligibility requirements are the same as those listed above. Priority will be given to students pursuing a degree related to cultural or natural sciences. Both scholarships will be in the amount of $1,000 per academic year.

Applications for Friends’ scholarships can be obtained from the organization’s office or from all high school guidance counselors. The deadline for applications is May 3.

Contact Karen Jarvis at Friends for more information at (340)779-4940 or kjarvis@friendsvinp.org.

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