Academy Update

It has been wonderful to see many of our students in person now that our campus has reopened. Seeing students solving problems, learning, and creating projects in-person has been a joy.

Last month, students heard from SBHS alum Zach Parent, who now works at Google. See below for a student's perspective on his talk. This month, students will have the opportunity to hear from another alum, Evan Heffernan, who is an app developer and Olympic hopeful athlete.

We are working on plans for our annual end-of-year celebration event during which we celebrate our students’ accomplishments and our graduating seniors. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Events

4/7 12:00-12:30 pm Lunch Speaker: Alum, Evan Heffernan from Fitdigits
4/28 12:00 - 12:30pm “May” Lunch Speaker: Vito Dinovi, Invoca, “Intro to Web Security”

Late May (date TBD) Banquet (virtual via Zoom)
6/7-6/11 9:30-11 am Creative Computing Camp/ Art & Design for 6-8th graders (virtual)
6/14-6/18 - 9 am-12 pm Creative Computing Camp/ Art & Design for 6-8th graders (in person)

Club Meetings

Wednesdays 12:30-2:00 pm - Zoom and in person (CS Academy Maker's Space)! Maker’s Club Wednesdays 1:30-2:00 pm Game Development Club

Student Work
Students in Exploring Computer Science (ECS) used the Ink programming language to create “choose-your-own-adventure” style stories, many of which focus on building empathy for people who experience microaggressions. Read some of their stories below.*

Mason Mikeska and his partner wrote [this story](#).

Axel Rayos and his partner wrote [this story](#).

Meghan Selbie wrote [this story](#).

Charlie Payne and Peter Moschitto wrote [this story](#).

*The students named above have chosen how they would like their names listed here.

Recent Events

**Lunch speaker**

My peers and I had the pleasure to meet Zachary Parent, an alumni of Santa Barbara High School. While showcasing his growth from a beginner coder to a computer scientist at Google, he tackled many important topics such as getting through indecisiveness in college, finding suitable jobs, and what working in the computer science industry is really like.

One of the most important takeaways I had from him is that the Computer Science Academy is one of the greatest ways to get into computer science because it gives such an early start in the field, an advantage that Parent stated he did not have. He also discussed how competitive the industry is (especially in Silicon Valley), and advises students to get internships early, attend summer coding camps, and most importantly be confident in their own abilities.

--Noah Wang

Extracurricular Activities
The opportunity below was shared with students via NEO this month.

**Virtual Internship: Explore the World of Video Game Development**

You read that right! We are diving into the world of video games on Wednesday, April 7 at 9:30 am PT. If you can't attend live due to classes, you can register to receive a recording of the webinar.

Special guests:

- Paul Silverman and Ryan Woodland from Bethesda, the gaming company behind legendary franchises like "Doom," "Fallout," "Skyrim" and "The Elder Scrolls."

The webinar is perfect for students with an interest in computers, animation, creative design, math, science, engineering and, of course video games (which covers just about everyone else).

Register [here](https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/7104140?key=ceWyM1RHeJCGVT2-WmBWGw&token=0rzUidBNulFJoAp2cYrHkA). For more information on the webinar series this is a part of, click [here](https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/7104140?key=ceWyM1RHeJCGVT2-WmBWGw&token=0rzUidBNulFJoAp2cYrHkA).