



# The Morning Ferro



T H E N E W S L E T T E R O F T H E G O N G O L I E R S !

## T H E H O U R I S U P O N U S

*T*hough Kickoff is about a month away, Team 5112 has been finding plenty of ways to keep busy. December kicked off with one of our biggest outreach events, The Hour of Code. The Hour of Code began at PHS on December 8<sup>th</sup>, as we extended advisory and gave the entire school the opportunity to choose from a variety of coding sessions; whether you're a beginner or Kyle Corry, our Director of Programming, it didn't matter. The sessions took place all over the school, in places such as the library, cafeteria, and even our engineering lab, as they were facilitated primarily by members of Team 5112. Joe Tamaro, our Co-Spirit Captain, and Kyle Corry even took the stage in the auditorium to lead a discussion about basic concepts of computer science, such as variable, logic and functions in front of 300 students. The Hour of Code wasn't just limited to PHS though. We reached out to Ponaganset Middle School and Paine Elementary School and sent members, such as Kyle, there to introduce coding to younger generations through Star Wars and Minecraft games. All Hour of Code events featured various other members of Team 5112 doing their part to document and record this massive event and even learn a thing or two about coding themselves. The Team has no doubt this event was a success, as it made school wide communities more aware of how technology works and inspired dozens of kids who will go on to advance their coding knowledge via STEM classes.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- At over 600 cans and items, we were able to raise the most cans for the food bank.
- One more month, then begins the long build season.
- Next month also brings a new format of the Newsletter!

## T H E D R I V E T O H E L P O T H E R S

*T*he beginning of December marked the end to the Annual Food Drive collection at PHS. Non-perishable items were encouraged to be brought in by the whole school throughout the course of November for the communities of Foster and Gloucester. The drive provided the perfect opportunity for Team 5112 to assist the less fortunate in our area, as everyone was encouraged to help reach our Team goal of 300 cans. When the high number of the goal was announced there no doubt were people wondering 'can we do it?' However, by the end of the collection it was clear, yes we can. Team 5112 practically doubled its goal, as we collected roughly 600 cans out of nearly 1,000 school wide. This not only put us on top for the number of items collected but it gave us another opportunity to help those in our local communities through a difficult time, as Thanksgiving is often a difficult time for some families.



**A SNAPSHOT FROM THIS YEAR'S HOUR OF CODE IN ONE OF THE SETUP AREAS.**

## **ONE MONTH AWAY!**

With Kickoff now less than a month away, there is so much happening within Team 5112. Our new, redesigned t-shirts have been ordered and we're eagerly awaiting to hear back from other potential sponsors that we've contacted. Community service continues to play a large role, as we already have over 700 hours total for the team, about halfway to our goal of 1,500 hours by the end of the season. More and more members of the team are running tutoring sessions, contributing to both community service and the academic success of our classmates. The website is now up and running thanks to Nate Henderson but most of the team's attention is on our upcoming second annual event, the Women in STEM Conference. The Women in STEM Conference was our greatest example of success last year in terms of outreach and it is scheduled to take place this month. The entire team is working to help however we can, whether it be through setup, multimedia coverage, or even discussions on programming and last year's robot. We are expecting a large turnout of people at the event, including another school from Massachusetts. Freshmen and sophomore female members of PHS will have the opportunity to attend the Conference in the hopes that we will inspire more students to get involved in STEM programs and to expose more females to FRC. With all this going on, the soon to be answered question still lingers: what will this year's game be?



**Co-Spirit Captain, Joe Tamarro, and Director of Programming, Kyle Corry, presenting during the Hour of Code**