Dear Parents,

Last month your student(s) should have brought home login information for our typing program, Typing Agent. If you did not receive this information, please contact me so I can send another copy home with your student. Please try to set aside some time during the week and/or on weekends for them to practice their typing skills at home. This is a critical skill that needs repetitive practice, and unfortunately, given the limited amount of time in computer class, cannot be mastered within computer class alone. As your student practices, make sure they are forming good habits by sitting up tall, feet flat on the floor (if possible), and hands in the proper positioning. If you have any questions regarding the typing program or anything being taught in class, please feel free to contact me at asloan@stvincents-school.org.

Sincerely,

Alicia Sloan
Computer Teacher

Kindergarten
This month students will learn about private information, and how it is important not to share that information with others online and offline. We will also talk about creating safe usernames for online sites. We will use ABCYA.com to practice math skills. We will continue with Typing Agent, practicing mouse movement and proper hand positioning. The month will conclude with a coding activity on code.org.

1st Grade
Students will continue to practice their coding skills on code.org. We will discuss what a loop is and how it is used in coding. The students will then create loops using Blocky code to solve a series of puzzles. The students will also continue to practice their typing skills, making sure to use proper hand positioning. We will also be exploring websites and evaluate the information on the site to determine if it is a good, informational website. We will also discuss what they like and don't like about the sites.

2nd Grade
This month we will discuss what cyberbullying means and what to do if a student encounters it online. Using code.org, the students will continue to develop their understanding of algorithms and debugging by completing various puzzles. The students will also practice getting to websites on their own. Students will end the month with Easter activities on ABCYA.com and practice typing on Typing Agent.

3rd Grade

The students will be discussing that while the Internet makes it very easy to copy work from other people, presenting it as their own is called plagiarism. We will look over examples of works that are original and plagiarized to help the students understand why something would be considered plagiarism. We will then do some more research on explorers and create PowerPoint presentations about the information the students find. We will end the month discussing what cyberbullying is and ways to prevent it.

4th Grade

Students will be selecting an Olympic Winter Sport to do research on and then create a PowerPoint presentation based on their research. Students will also learn about the importance of nested loops while coding. At the end of the month students will take the Digital Citizenship Pledge.

5th Grade

Students will be learning about how to properly cite a site while doing research and learn ways to quickly create references. The class will continue the code.org curriculum by finishing up the topic of variables and completing the Variables in Artist puzzles on code.org. Finally, students will work on a Civil War Webquest where they have to gather information to report back what life was like as a soldier in the Civil War.

6th Grade

With the conclusion of the Olympic Winter Games, students will be creating tables of various countries' medal counts and generating graphs based on that data. We will discuss copyright, fair use, and rights students have as creators of content. The class will also be working on a project in MS Word where students have to input tables, images, and watermarks into a document.

7th Grade

Students will be completing their Guide to an Area Google project this month by adding filters to their spreadsheet, adding images, and creating a custom map with the destinations chosen during the project. Students will also be learning about how to spot scams and schemes in emails and the Internet.

8th Grade

This month the students will continue building upon their Plan an Event Google project by adding events in Google Calendar and sharing information with collaborators. They will also create an event logo, generate a flyer advertising the event, and finally share the event digitally over different Google products. Students will also continue along with the Code.org curriculum and discuss the impact of digital footprints and how that information can be used on websites. At the end of the month we will have a discussion about talking safely online.