SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO COMPUTER SCIENCE & PROGRAMMING WITH AN HOUR OF CODE

(Anchorage, AK) Yesterday, on Dec. 10, local school Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School (SEAS) joined in the mission to introduce coding and computer science to elementary-aged students. The event, which supports Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 9-14), saw more than 80 students in grades Pre-K through sixth sign-up to participate in an "Hour of Code".

"Even at a young age, it is important to encourage students' interest in computer science and technology," said SEAS parent and former NASA engineer Barbara Corso. "As society's reliance on technology continues to grow, every student deserves the chance to learn computer science to access opportunities in the future." Corso whose three children attend SEAS also serves as President of the SEAS Parent Volunteer Organization. She co-hosted the event with SEAS parent Kate Bazin.

The Hour Code is a global event that is organized and promoted by the nonprofit Code.org which shared, "Computers are everywhere, changing every industry on the planet, but fewer than half of all schools teach computer science." With the Hour of Code, over 100 partners have joined together to support this movement which has seen more than 100 million students worldwide participate.

The event included an introduction to basic coding terms and then followed with a step-by-step introductory coding course that helped them create a program to make cartoon animals dance to their music of choice. "Students learned to change variables in their code, such as animal type, size, and position. They also learned how to make the animals perform different dance moves and change those moves to the beat of the song," said Corso. In just one hour, 24 students wrote a combined 1,135 lines of code.

SEAS will host a second Hour of Code on Monday, Dec. 16 from 3:15-4:15 pm (AKST) in the SEAS Library.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School (SEAS) is a private elementary school in Anchorage, Alaska. Founded in 1980, SEAS provides quality education to an inter-faith community of Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade students and is committed to faith, family, and excellence in education. SEAS is an active ministry of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, the Archdiocese of Anchorage, and the Catholic Church.