

Times **School Scene**

Silver Oak Elementary holds Primary Programmers Olympiad 2014

On May 10, a computer programming contest designed for elementary students, Primary Programming Olympiad 2014, was held at Silver Oak Elementary. The *Evergreen Times* asked Dr. Attila Lengyel, Director of Technology at Parent Teacher Organization about Primary Programmers.

ET: What is Primary Programmers?

Lengyel: The mission of Primary Programmers is to teach computer programming to elementary students. We are offering classes to fourth- to sixth-grade students. This year was the first year for us to organize a computer programming contest. Although the classes are offered only to students of Silver Oak Elementary, the contest was opened to any students.

ET: Can you tell us more about Primary Programmers Olympiad 2014?

Lengyel: To be a participant of the contest an entry problem had to be solved. We received 11 successful applications. The contest had four test problems and participants were provided two hours to solve them. The judging committee interviewed all participants and scored them by five categories: clearness of understanding the problem, design of the solution, correctness of the solution, additions to the solution to enhance functions, and overall presentation and solution style. The second runner up, Isita N. T. won an 8" 16GB tablet. The first runner up, Samuel B. won an 8" 32GB tablet. And the winner, Ethan T. won a 14" notebook computer. Some might think it is hard to learn programming at early age, but our contestants have never learned computer programming before joining Primary Programmers and gave perfect solutions. If you look up the test on our web site, you will be convinced that an elementary student can learn computer programming.



Ethan Tang was happy to win his first prize. Photos by Jacob B.



Above: Michael Habib explains his work to the judging committee. Below: Justin Lam focuses on the solutions.



ET: How did you fund the event?

Lengyel: Primary Programmers is non-profit. No entry fees were collected. We were lucky enough to find great sponsors. Shelley Swireck, the owner of Silver Creek

Academy (<http://www.scaasanjose.com/>) to sponsor the winning prizes. She heard about Primary Programmers from her students and contacted us. The food and beverage for the event was sponsored by our PTO. The venue for

the event was provided by Silver Oak Elementary. Rosemary Gellman, the principal of Silver Oak Elementary, has been the greatest advocate of our program.

ET: Where can we read more about Primary Programmers?

Lengyel: Our web site is <http://www.primaryprogrammers.org>. We publish materials and news. For example, the test problems and their solutions can be found there.

—Photos by Jacob B.



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