**4659 Warrior Robotix**

In Grade 10 I joined PCSS’s Vex robotics team 4659 Warriors. In this club there were 5 teams split into each grade with two grade 9 teams. Every week from the beginning of September until February we would spend 3 days a week for 3 hours at a time working to make a robot for competitions. My grade 10 team did not make it to the provincial championships in our year however the grade 12 team of that year progressed through the provincial championships and qualified for the world championships. I was invited to join the Grade 12 team when they went to the world championships in Kentucky for my unique ability to combine mechanical skill and programming skill. The world championships were a fantastic experience competing with teams from all over the world, from Ethiopia to China to Mexico. After the world championships the former alumni chose me to become the president of the club despite me only having one year of experience on the team. In my grade 11 year I was in charge of managing the entire club now with 6 teams and 100 members. I was in charge of managing the $15,000 budget, ordering parts and making sure that each team was ready to compete for all the competitions. The 6 teams were now no longer split up along grades as this provided a better opportunity for members to learn from the more experienced members of their teams. Our teams did very well getting two teams in provincials however we were not able to qualify for the world championships.

My experience in 4659 was a fantastic one, that truly changed my high school experience. Never before in my educational career was, I given the ability to apply what I had learned in the classroom and learn new principles through experience. Robotics has provided me with such a wide range of skills from business and financial management to university level computer science and engineering principles.

