

**PCHacks 2019**

In May of 2018 I competed in PCHack day a hackathon hosted at Applewood school by PCHackers an organization at Port Credit Secondary School, it was a full day event in which each team was given a list of categories and we were challenged to develop some sort of technology or device to solve an issue in that field. On my team were 3 other students at Port Credit who all excelled in different fields, from business to marketing to brainstorming. My job was to develop the technology while it was their job to create the presentation for the judges and develop a perfect pitch. We decided for our application to develop a system to access the internet without using data rather using sms/texting. This had numerous application from those who are lost and need directions or those in third world countries who may lack the necessary infrastructure for data. I spent the 8 hours of the day developing the system, attempting to lower latency times and develop more applications for it and eventually we got a highly functional prototype, at the end of the day we presented the application to the judges. We won second place in the hackathon of a total 75 other people. After the hackathon we were approached by some of the judges who were impressed with our technology and they asked us to join their team to plan a hackathon for next year.

I joined PCHackers immediately after the hackathon as I was excited to plan and create a hackathon. Over the summer we planned out PCHackers as an organization, we decided that PCHackers is not only an organization for planning hackathons but also an educational one.

In the summer I taught programming courses to little children, including teaching them how to program in python and programming an Amazon Alexa to have custom commands. In the school year I hosted workshops teaching Port Credit students to program as well.

Our goal for the 2019 hackathon was to create Canada’s Largest High School student run hackathon. As an executive of this team I have been working on planning the hackathon mainly on the logistics side including scheduling, volunteers, sponsorships and guest speakers. Throughout the summer we decided our main priority was to find a venue as the hackathon experience is all dependent on the quality of the venue. We approached many companies and schools including Sheridan college and BMO HQ however in the end we decided to choose the University of Toronto Mississauga campus, due to its open campus, cost effective space and new architecture. We have spent since the beginning of June planning for this 24 hour hackathon which is happening on May 4th and 5th. We had to raise over $10,000 as we had to pay for the UTM venue for 24 hours, pay for prizes and provide food to over 250 people over a 24 hour period. Through a collection of sponsors we raised enough money to make this hackathon a reality. We are hosting Canada’s largest high school student run hackathon, we have people coming from Sri Lanka, Rochester, Los Angeles and more, I cannot wait to see our hard work come to fruitions.