



January 6th, 2012 - Vol 5, Issue 3

Contents

The Real Happy Meal
 MorTorq's Big Feat: Sock Drive
 2011
 Alumni Day
 Disney Workshop
 Interview with the Photographer
 Team 1515 Appreciates All the
 Support!

Sign Up



Quick Links

BHHS robotics
 FIRST
 MorTorq TV
 The Muscular Dystrophy
 Association

Greetings!

Important Dates

January 7th, 2012 --Kick-Off
 February 21st, 2012 --Ship Date
 March 15th to 17th, 2012 --Los Angeles Regional

The Real Happy Meal

By: Madison Kern

On December 12, 2011, MorTorq traveled downtown to the Los Angeles Ronald McDonald Charity House, a charity house that supports the families of children with serious illnesses. By collecting empty



aluminum cans, the team raised enough money to cook a full Italian "Happy Meal" -complete with Spaghetti Bolognese, ceasar salad, garlic bread, and cookies- for the people who live at the Ronald McDonald House. MorTorqians also brought the team's small VEX robot for the children at the house to play with, as well as paper crowns and teddy bears for the children to decorate with crayons and colored pencils. A member of the team, Chloe Revery (12), described the experience as "extremely fun and fulfilling. Seeing the look on the kids' faces as they showed off their newly created crowns, and the squeals of delight as they played with the VEX bot simply warmed my heart."

This event was especially exciting for myself, as it was my third year cooking a Happy Meal with MorTorq. I look forward to the event each year because each year the event -while slightly different each time- is always extremely fun, I think, for everyone. The members have fun, whether they be back in the kitchen stirring a pot of pasta sauce while chatting with a member who is cutting up vegetables or out in the mess hall area bonding with the kids, and the kids have fun too, whether they have an illness or are the sibling of another child with an illness. "It was such a great experience and I'm so happy

I was able to participate," Leah Stromberg (12) laughs, "even if I was in the kitchen for most of the time. I never thought I could make anyone as happy as those families were by just cooking pasta." I, myself, am so grateful to be a part of an organization that participates in these types of events, and I am sad to think that next year will be my last year cooking Happy Meals with the team.

Overall, the event was a great success. Team members both bonded with their fellow team members as well as the kids that we were so fortunate to meet at the McDonald house. The team hopes to continue working with the Charity House in the future.

MorTorq's Big Feat: Sock Drive 2011



By: Chloe Revery

MorTorq's 2011 holiday sock drive ended on a high note this week with over 140 pairs of socks collected. The drive, which collected socks for both children and adults, will benefit the Salvation Army. Team members Eric Frasier and Eva Zheng contacted service learning coordinators at three district middle schools to organize the placement of donation boxes in each school's main office. The drive, which ran from December sixth to the fifteenth, was "a huge success," says Zheng. "We collaborated with teachers

at Horace Mann, Hawthorne, and Beverly Vista to mount a district-wide effort to collect socks for underprivileged families during this holiday season. We received a great response from parents and students." Robots may not have souls, but thanks to the 2011 sock drive, hundreds of needy children will at least have soles.

Alumni Day

By: Leah Stromberg

December 15, 2011 was Alumni Day and what a day it was! A panel of former students showed up to talk to us about what they did on the team and where they are now. It was beyond amazing seeing all the familiar faces joking with each other, and it became obvious to all of our new members that no matter how much time may pass, the MorTorq bond will always be stronger. Two guys, Matia and Jonathan (whom I've never really seen apart), made a



spectacular entrance on the back of a scooter. It was great. I also knew some of the other people that stopped by including Stephen Meng, the spirit captain who after the Los Angeles Regional lost his voice for weeks, and Justin Brezhnev, who put life into the MorTorq monkey by wearing the gorilla suit when he would break dance. "It was really great seeing all of them together again," Madi Kern comments. I have to say though, my favorite moment wasn't when we witnessed just how funny the alumni really are by the way they were strategically planning their group picture. It was actually when Shoshana Young - who had been on the build team - told the current girls of the team to "never let these guys push you around." She was definitely the embodiment of girl power, and I could see the confidence she had

sparked among MorTorq girls!

The day brought back great memories and reminded me (as well as everyone else) that once a MorTorqian, always a MorTorqian.

Disney Workshop



By: Priya Sumeran

On Saturday December 10th, 2011, MorTorq participated in a Disney workshop. We do this particular workshop every year, and each year the workshop is comprised of lectures so that students may gain knowledge to increase their building skills. How do they do this, you ask? A fun popsicle stick challenge that gives a very basic feeling of what the robotics season is actually like!

This time around, MorTorq mingled with the Milkenites, Noho Robo, Bishop, and Metal Crafters First -all of which are other First Robotics Competition (FRC) teams. The teams started off with a brief intro about how Disney Imagineering has helped different FRC teams over the years by both mentoring these teams as well as allowing students to come to their office for workshops. Next, all of the teams sat in an exciting lecture about weight and force

distribution, which would be used to help the teams during their challenge. After that entertaining lesson, we split into different teams so that each new team comprised of students from all the different schools.

During our lunch break, the students got to socialize and it was a great way to meet people and make new friends. After the delicious pizza was eaten, it was time to get down to business. There was no more Mr. Nice Guy for anyone when we got straight to competition. The different teams were required to make a lever that would balance on a triangle. Whichever lever could lift the most weight at the highest point wins! It was a grueling competition with 14 groups competing for the ultimate prize. At the end of the time period -the teams built for an hour and fifteen minutes straight- all of the teams' creations were put to test. Out of the 14 teams, Team Edward -which comprised of Hans from MorTorq, Jacob from the The Milkenites, Declan from NoHo Robo, as well as one other person- destroyed the competition. All four students received exclusive Disney keychains for their outstanding victory!

Interview with the Photographer

By: Chloe Revery

Name: Brittney Lee Bracht

Age: 16

Grade: Junior

I was born in San Diego, and I moved to Texas when I was 14. I moved back to California to be with family and decided that my passion was photography. My grandma is a photographer and an artist herself, and she started when she was really young, and she's helped me through it and been my number one supporter. I got really good at it, started selling my work, and now I'm trying to build a bigger portfolio. My goal is to get into a four-year college that has a good art program.



I'm a cinematographer on the side. I've worked on two short films with my friend Yoni. I'm a pretty good film editor, and I've mastered Photoshop. I consider myself a pretty artsy person-I played the violin in orchestra for four years.

My favorite movie is A Clockwork Orange, because of the cinematography and the innovative concepts behind the movie-it's a classic. My favorite photographer, though, is Annie Leibovitz.

My friend Eva referred me to Eileen, who said that the robotics team needed someone with a creative mind to be the team photographer. I told her I was up for the job as long as I was given the freedom to be creative. She agreed, and here I am.

Visit our website for more information!

Team 1515 Appreciates All the Support!

Team 1515 is grateful to be supported by so many wonderful people. Our program would not exist without the generosity of our community and our corporate sponsors -all are vital to our program.

We also wish thanks to the people that give us support financially. Thank you to our major donors who are listed on our website!

New sletter Edited by Leah Stromberg

Visit our website for more information!

BHHS robotics is funded solely by donations, corporate sponsorships and fundraising. All business aspects of the program are run by the Beverly Hills High School ROP Entrepreneurship classes taught by Eileen Kahn. If you are interested in supporting our team either as a mentor or as a financial contributor, please contact Eileen Kahn at eileenkahn@gmail.com.

Sincerely, TEAM 1515, BHHS ROBOTICS

Eileen Kahn
BH Robotics

email: eileenkahn@gmail.com

web: <http://bhrobotics.com>

Forward email



This email was sent to eileenkahn@gmail.com by eileenkahn@gmail.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

BHHS PTSA Robotics | 241 S. Moreno Drive | Beverly Hills | CA | 90212