

BH Robotics newsletter



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Contents

Conrad
 Ronald McDonald's Children's
 Charity
 'Guac' SMASH Fundraiser
 Vlog
 Member Spotlight!
 Useful Links and Articles
 Team 1515 appreciates all the
 support!

Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

Quick Links

BHHS robotics
 FIRST
 MorTorq TV
 The Muscular Dystrophy
 Association

Greetings!

Important Dates

January 8th--Kickoff
 February 26th--VEX Competition
 March 24th to the 26th-- LA Regional

Conrad

By: Priya Sumeron

This year, some of the Robotics kids are competing in a Conrad competition. There are three different areas of competition: clean energy, aerospace engineering, and cyberspace security. While we have one group competing in aerospace engineering, we also have two other groups competing in cyberspace security. Everyone has to work really hard since the deadline is approaching. The different groups must work on various parts to submit as a whole. All groups are required to hand in a business plan, a picture (or some other sort of presentation) to help describe their idea, and a technical report to explain their idea. The ideas that the groups venture upon can basically be anything as long as it pertains to any of the three previously mentioned categories. All three of our groups have been working very hard and they all have a great chance of winning! The "finals" will be held in Silicon Valley and only three groups from all over the country will be chosen to go. The group that wins has their idea created in a way that it could be used in real life! It's pretty exciting to see something you came up with incorporated into the real world. Good luck to everyone and I hope we all get to go to Silicon Valley!

Ronald McDonald's Children's Charity

By: Chloe Revery

FRC may be a robotics competition, but to Team 1515 it's not just about the robot. Community outreach, fundraising, and charity work are also fundamental parts of the Robotics learning environment. Often the team combines robotics and outreach, teaching young students the basics of building and planning. But sometimes it just feels good to do good. That's why, last week, with the spirit of community in mind, a group of BHHS Robotics students ventured to Los Angeles to cook dinner for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House. Despite well-grounded fears of burning not just the



night's food but the entire building, the group banded together to conjure plates of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, Caesar salad, and chocolate chip cookies fresh from the oven. Amidst a veritable Valhalla of delicious scents, the team split in two to both tend the food and do arts and crafts projects with the kids. While sophomore Eva Zheng played holiday tunes on the piano, team members drew pictures, made cards, and decorated paper crowns with the young princes and princesses of the house. After dinner, the students took the full-bellied children to the playroom for Guitar Hero and storytime. As the hour grew late and newly crowned heads nodded off to sleep, Team 1515 too

began to feel the effects of a long evening of work and play, and contentedly boarded the cars with warm words of farewell. A night of fun, food, and community was had by all!

'Guac' SMASH Fundraiser



By: Matia Saeedian

The "guac smash" was a very interesting event. What we did was (pretty much) smash avocados and make guacamole out of them. The guacamole was a very simple mixture of avocados, tomatoes, and a blend of spices and liquids that was provided by Sharky's. Not only did I have fun smashing the avocados and making the guacamole, but I also had fun socializing with the various employees and people that showed up to the event. All in all, it was fun for everyone - even for the establishment's employees.

Vlog

By: Eva (Rong) Zheng

TV show -people have decided to take a turn on their broadcasting ways by switching from occasional episodes to more frequent, short and sweet video blogs. They aim to get at least three vlogs uploaded on MorTorq TV per month during season to keep viewers updated on what MorTorq is up to. The new system runs by conjoining the actors' personalized script to piece together each v-log by using Google Docs, and then hold group-editing sessions before the final product. Of course, since this is a new movement, the way the system works is still tentative. Our recent MorTorq graduate, Kash Sobhe, who has had quite an amount of experience working on the TV show and video editing, came in frequently to lend a generous helping hand to guide the new vloggers and get them accustomed to how the TV group works. On the set of the first vlog, the newly introduced anchorwomen Eva Zheng and Leah Weissbuch were experiencing their first on-camera shoot. They started off on a rocky trial, but eventually warmed up to their new surroundings and naturally took on their individual roles and made the first episode a fine episode. Senior Ronit Kumar comments that "the two anchor-women were phenomenally pitted against each other in their opposing characters". Be sure to tune in to each new vlog. These vlogs are sure to be as entertaining as any other 90210's!

Member Spotlight!

By: Chloe Revery

Sophomore Dagan Lu is a high school anomaly: a student with a passion for engineering and the talent to match it. A native of China, Dagan moved to the US at the age of 5 and found his way to Beverly Hills a year later. After graduating from Horace Mann, Dagan wasted no time finding an outlet for his creative talent. As he maneuvers a robotic arm in front of an audience of admiring freshmen builders, Dagan tells his story: "After school I was with a member of Robotics. We were climbing a tree. He said he was in Robotics and I said, 'Oh, that's cool, what do you do?'



He told me, and I decided to join. I thought there was no way I was ever going to catch up but I did pretty well."

As I watch Daguan do something inexplicably technical with the robotic arm, it becomes clear he has done better than "pretty well". Says fellow builder Ed Lee, "I believe Daguan has very strong leadership qualities. When we have questions, Daguan always knows the answer." Yet despite his proficiency, Daguan aims higher still. "I play badminton and I run. I'm also studying physics and programming. I know Java, I've been working on C, and I know a little bit of Ruby. I hope to take a greater leadership role on the programming team." I prodded for more information on Daguan's interest in physics and soon learned that he's no abecedarian in the field. "I've been in a lot of programs that taught theoretical physics," he says in a tone so modest and unassuming that one might use it to discuss the weather. "I wanted some hands-on experience as opposed to just theoretical because I knew the foundations but hadn't had a lot of experience, like in a shop."

Daguan has certainly found the hands-on experience he was looking for in Team 1515. Only a year later, Daguan has a well-established place next to the builders, the programmers, and, indeed, everyone else. Says Daguan, "I love the fact that we're so much like a family. Everybody knows everybody." One thing's for sure: with his talent and work ethic, everybody who doesn't know Daguan soon will.

Useful Links and Articles

"Meet Dr. Robot"

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2032747_2033111_2033133,00.html
or [click here](#)

X-37 mini space-shuttle expected to land at Vandenberg

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/technology/2010/11/x-37-vandenberg-mini-space-shuttle.html>
or [click here](#)

Flying snakes and the science of jellyfish

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/nov/27/science/la-sci-bioinspiration-20101127>
or [click here](#)

GM's Hy-Wire "Car of the Future"

<http://www.flixxy.com/gm-hy-wire-concept-car.htm>
or [click here](#)

"The Geek Shall Inherit The Earth"

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1UvQtQJC20&feature=player_embedded
or [click here](#)

"The Future Of Robots"

http://www.sciencedaily.com/videos/2008/0707-the_future_of_robots.htm
or [click here](#)

"Robotic-Assisted Surgery"

http://www.sjo.org/Clinical_Services/Robotics_and_Minimally_Invasive_Program/Robotic_Assisted_Surgery.aspx
or [click here](#)

"2011: The Year of the Personal Robot?"

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=personal-robot-research>
or [click here](#)

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. Walt Disney Imagineering, The Beverly Hills ROP program, BHEF, and all of our family donors. All are vital to our program.

Special thanks go out to all the families that have supported our team by supplying food for our hungry students.

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
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