

BH Robotics newsletter



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Contents

Disney Workshop
VEX
Building a New FIRST
Generation: LEGO
Community Service
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

December 22nd--Sharkeys Guac Smash Fundraiser
December 23rd--Ronald McDonald Happy Meal
January 8th--Kickoff

Disney Workshop

By: Anna Khananashvili

Early Saturday morning on the twentieth of November, the most dedicated members of Team 1515 got on the freeway to be at Hawthorne High School by 8 am. There, they met up with several other teams and split up into groups of 3-4 people (this allowed for everybody to get to know one another) and participated in the annual Popstick Stick Challenge; this year, the challenge was to build the longest bridge possible using 100 popsicle sticks, a hot glue gun, two rubber bands, and their ingenuity. The teams had approximately two hours to construct their bridges, and the completed bridges were judged based on their length and their ability to stand up without assistance from the builders.

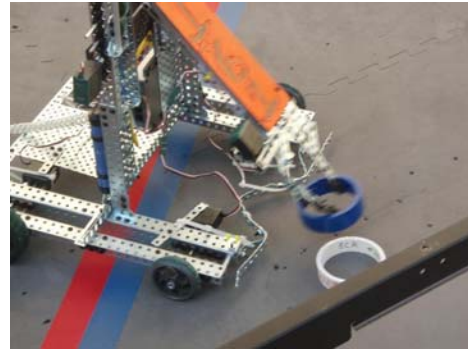
The experience was perfect for team-members to continue building relationships with other teams; everybody had to work together to succeed in the building of their bridge. Moreover, the Challenge provided an opportunity for students who are not builders to try their hand at an engineering exercise; many were surprised at how much they enjoyed it.

VEX

By: Drew Hirschinger

What is VEX? Two of our veteran members, Mathew Simon and Dagan Lu give us some insight. VEX is a design system for building a robot. There are different kits for sale that have all the materials needed to build a robot, even for people with little experience. There are also many VEX competitions, which include building robots and playing a game or completing a task. From Mathew we learn that VEX is not only a competition, but that it's also an introduction to robotics. It's a way for people who don't have extensive prior knowledge of robotics to learn how to put together a

robot. Daguán tells us that VEX helps bring together all of the aspects of robotics, whether they be building, programming, etc. VEX helps connect students of all ages, from middle school to high school. It's a fun, easy introduction to the science of robots.



Building a New FIRST Generation: LEGO



By: Emmanuelle Hodara

MorTorq is mentoring a Junior FIRST Lego League at Sinai Temple Preschool. Every Tuesdays and Saturdays, a team of volunteers headed by Udit Manocha leads a group composed of six talented five year-olds in basic engineering workshops. This year's FIRST Lego League challenge theme is biomedical engineering, and the kids are to build an innovative medical technology model. Through a democratic process, the six young engineers opted to construct an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) used to visualize detailed images of internal organs and other structures.

The six young engineers voted for MRI over the X-Ray and Da Vinci arm.

Comprehending such complex biological concepts and building models seem a bit of an impossible task for five year-olds; however, Udit has much enthusiasm and conviction that these exceptionally bright kids can accomplish a lot. He has even recognized among the team members two promising builders, Jonah and Michael; two gifted programmers, Sophie and Sarah; and two multi-talented individuals, Aiden and Doran. While these children are certainly intellectually mature beyond their years, they remain playful. They run around and make jokes, and really enjoy the program.

MorTorq members are having a lot of fun working with these kids. Udit Manocha even said, "They just make me smile when I watch them fiddle around, and when their faces lighten up as they overcome the difficulties of the FIRST challenge."

Community Service

By: Madi Kern

AIDS WALK

On October 17, MorTorq volunteered at the Los Angeles AIDS Walk. We joined other volunteers who were apart of APLA volunteers and were put in the "Totaling One" volunteer section. Our section helped people make last minute donations as well as writing receipts for those that had previously donated. From students to elders, the variety of people participating was amazing. Though it was raining on and off all day, and some decided against walking, preferring to just donate to this worthy cause, the AIDS Walk was still a huge success with a large outcome. Our volunteers had a blast, clapping for the star walkers, those who raised over 500 dollars. One of the volunteers, Eva Zheng (10) described the experience "as rewarding while still being extremely fun." It was an incredible event and Robotics could not have been prouder to have been a part of it.

By: Leah Stromberg

CAN FOOD DRIVE

Every year, around Thanksgiving and winter holidays, Beverly Hills High School (as well as other schools and many communities) holds a canned food drive. All 6 period classes collect a variety of foods -anything goes, as long as it comes in a can. It is not uncommon for the school to turn this fundraiser into a competition among classes. Classes compete by trying to collect the most cans. Although the class with the most cans usually receives some sort of prize, we all know that it's not the prize that matters.

"It's knowing that you're helping someone who needs help and that the food is going to a place that feeds people who don't have the means themselves. That's all that really matters."

This year, MorTorq participated in the can collection drive, winning first place with a total of 305 collected 306 cans! As a whole, the school collected 1,505 cans!

Member Spotlight!



By: Chloe Revery

Panchapol Chantaraseruekul. You may know him as Mac, or Panch, or as the awesome smiley guy who rocks at animation. But underneath the awesomeness is a whole lot of history. Panch moved to the United States from Thailand on Christmas, almost three years ago. Immediately upon arriving, Panch faced misconceptions about Thai culture. "I don't eat dog," he clarifies, "Or cat." What was the most challenging aspect of living in America? "Learning English," says Mac. "When I arrived in 2007 I couldn't order a burger at McDonald's." Mac arrived in the United States with only basic instruction in the English language. Today, he speaks English so well some assume he's been studying it since elementary school. "Most people don't realize I've only been here three years," he says. "[I learned through] the people around me." A natural-born artist, Panch joined the BHHS Robotics animation team in his sophomore year. "I like learning," he explains simply. Mac quickly rose through the ranks-this year, he's captain of Animation. Says Mac, "My

responsibility is to make sure that I can turn in a beyond-imagination animation film before the deadline." Mac is modest about his talents. "I recently took a college art class," he confesses. "Now, when I draw a person, it looks like the same species as me." Besides art, Panch is a member of the Madrigals and the Science Team. He also plays piano and is learning the guitar. Mac's future plans? "I used to want to be a pokemon trainer...[but now] I want to be an entrepreneur." Though his ambitions have changed, Panch's consistent enthusiasm and infectious work ethic continue to make him one of the most admired members of Team 1515.

Useful Links and Articles

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](#)

Visit our website for more information!

Team 1515 appreciates all the support!

1/19/2011

Gmail - BH Robotics newsletter

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

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