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Contents

Training Workshops with the Build Team
 First CPK Fundraiser of the school year!
 Canned Food Drive
 MorTorq needs MorSOCKS! Our upcoming Sock Drive
 6 Words or Less
 Team 1515 Appreciates All the Support!

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BHHS robotics
 FIRST
 MorTorq TV
 The Muscular Dystrophy Association

Greetings!

Important Dates

December 6th to 15th --Sock Drive
 December 10th, 2011 --Engineering Workshop at Walt Disney Imagineering
 December 12th, 2011 --Ronald McDonald House Dinner
 January 7th, 2012 --Kick-Off
 February 21st, 2012 --Ship Date
 March 15th to 17th, 2012 --Los Angeles Regional

Training Workshops with the Build Team



By:
 Mathew
 Simon

MorTorq's

mechanical team has been spending the offseason diligently working to prepare for the upcoming season. With the graduation of several integral team members and leaders, MorTorq veterans were tasked with a difficult, yet rewarding job - readying rookie members for the upcoming build season. Through the weekly workshops and training sessions -divided into two categories: "design days" and "build days"- we have targeted the key skills that will best enable the team's success.

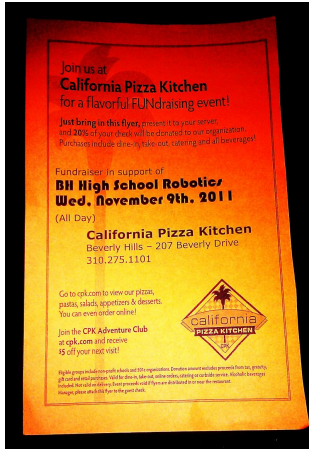
The build team is especially looking forward to the New Year! On January 7, students and mentors of robotics teams world-wide will sit, pinned in their chairs, watching the annual kickoff presentation. The kickoff presentation announces the task we will spend the following six weeks laboring to solve. This notoriously short period of time is the key element of FIRST Robotics: the Build Season. In preparing for season, build team leaders have organized several design sessions that simulate the first few days of the actual build season where we go from "blue sky ideas" to a solid, practical design.

Some of our other design sessions have involved part-sourcing and detailed drawings, skills that will frequently be called upon during build season. Our second style of workshop is the "build session"- which involves applying

design principles to working on robots. The team has also hosted Safety Training days so that when the time comes, members can use the tools required in the actual building of the robot.

Design days typically start with a presented challenge -we've brought back the games of some of the past competitions. We've even built "mini-bots" similar to last season and refurbished Striker T, our robot from 2010! With the build workshops preparing us for the season just over a month away, we hope to build the most efficient and strategic robot possible.

First CPK Fundraiser of the school year!



By: Nicole Chang

The first CPK fundraiser of the new year was another success! People who presented a flyer to the waiter were able to donate 20% of their bill to the BHHS robotics team. Not only was this a fundraiser but it was also a bonding time for the team. We had a great time; new members were able to interact with the veteran members and it really became a comfortable atmosphere. By dinner time, seats were beginning to be filled up and eventually there were no empty seats left in the restaurant. After stuffing ourselves with pizza, our team left full and content knowing that not only did we just have a great meal, but we also helped our team.

Canned Food Drive

By: Anna Khananashvili

The BHHS Robotics Team partnered up with Service Learning for the annual Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive. The team is well-known for collecting the largest amount of cans out of all the classes at Beverly (and also winning the canned food drive year after year). With that reputation to uphold, MorTorq really stepped it up this year by collecting an astounding total of 1,080 cans. "MorTorq definitely didn't disappoint!" Ben Nosrati of Service Learning exclaims.



All the cans were donated to a homeless shelter specifically targeting adolescent children close in age to the members of the Robotics team. "I brought in cans because small drives like our school's can really go a long way in providing a good meal for those who are less fortunate than us," said Junior Manas Malik, who contributed fifteen cans to the effort. Robotics won the drive -as usual- but the true focus wasn't placed on winning, but rather on helping those in need; the fact that the cans went to kids just made the issue closer to home.

MorTorq needs MorSOCKS! Our upcoming Sock Drive

By: Eric Frazer

It's that time of the year again: the time to give give give! From December 5th through December 16th the Beverly Hills Robotics team will be collecting brand new, unused socks for the Salvation Army. Many readers may already be familiar with the Salvation Army's modus operandi. The Salvation Army accepts donations of clothing, household items, and furniture and resells them at a low price at thrift stores, or donates them to the poor. Few people donate socks to the Salvation Army, resulting in a severe sock shortage. "That's where we hope to come in!" Leah Stromberg adds enthusiastically.



Team member Chloe Revery is extremely excited about the sock drive. "I love socks," she says. "I take great pleasure every morning in picking out a fun pair of socks that suits the day's weather- knee socks, ankle socks, thick socks, thin socks. It's sad that some people aren't able to enjoy such a variety of socks in their everyday dressing experience. I'm excited that the Robotics team is going to help provide people who ordinarily can't afford socks with the socks they need to protect their feet and lead happy, healthy lives. Go MorTorq!"

6 Words or Less

By: Chloe Revery

In the spirit of Hemingway, MorTorq presents today a new feature: 6 word interviews! The rules: keep all prompts and responses to 6 words or less. Our first player: Madi Kern!

Q: State your name, grade, and seniority.

A: Madi Kern, 11th grade, 3rd year.

Q: What's your job on the team?

A: Secretary and keeper of "The Book".

Q: "The Book"?

A: A binder containing every team activity.

Q: Why did you join the team?

A: It's in my blood.

Q: In six words, describe Robotics.

A: Sacrificing sleep for an awesome robot.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Reading, writing, watching TV, and Madrigals.



Q: Your favorite parts of Robotics?

A: The camaraderie during season and regionals.

Q: What's your least favorite food?

A: Anything spicy. Hot cheetos kill me.

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

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