

# ROBODOX

This month the Robodox came together and tried to further our impact in a multiplicity of ways. Through our new workshops, the Robodox have been able to inspire the local community's engineers. Through our own team social, we've been able to grow together and become closer for the upcoming year. As we prepare for our first VEX competition, we bring you the August/September 2012 Newsletter.

## Education and Robots: Workshops

by Sabir Muhammad

Over the past 6 weeks, the Robodox have been hosting workshops every two weeks to help and encourage teams that are new to the competitive robotics world, especially VEX, and the teams that seek to broaden their knowledge on specific topics. These sessions have included lessons on design, teamwork, programming, and building techniques for specific sub-systems, ranging from how to use a screwdriver to RobotC programming techniques. Over 40 people have attended each of the semi-monthly workshops; these students come from high schools and middle schools from all over the San Fernando Valley, including Palisades Charter, Cleveland, Holmes, VAAS, HTLA, and Joe Walker Middle School.

Aside from the lessons, the Robodox have gone out of their way to make sure that the robotics teams that attend have whatever resources they need provided for them. These resources include building materials, sensors, programming help, and field set-up, just a few things that we supply so that everyone is able to be productive, have hands on experience, and have a good time.



Chris explaining how the game works at the first workshop



Not only do the Robodox explain, in detail, the building process of their own robots, but also other attending teams have brought in their robots to display and ask for help to improve upon their designs.

During the workshops, the Robodox not only teach, but they also learn from the different teams that attend. These workshops are held not only to help existing robotics teams, but additionally to continue to inspire a new generation of engineers within our local community through education.



Jaz explains drive systems to a few attendees.

## A Day - A Park - and a Robotics Team

Written by Vivian Kim

Both the weather and the atmosphere were great on the day of Robodox team social on September 8th! The team members slowly showed up bringing their share of the potluck—cold drinks, warm meals, a variety of sides, and delicious deserts. The lovely parents and early team members helped to set up as the rest of the team flowed in. The excited team members, ecstatic to see each other outside of their usual environment of K2, chatted and shared many smiles as they casually socialized in preparation for the long day of fun-filled activities ahead of them.



Dr. K and team mom, Ms. Muhammad, discuss important matters.

When the rest of the Robodox arrived, the day kicked off with a fun challenge for all the members. Every person was given a single clothespin to place on their person. From that point on, anyone who used the ever-so-common word “like,” lost their pin to the person who heard them. In the end, the person with the most clothespins won a prize.

However, the day consisted of plenty of other bonding through fun games; a rough match of ultimate Frisbee, some elegant tosses in Frisbee golf, fancy footwork in soccer, and an intense set of



basketball games. In between these many bouts, the team members were able to gather together and enjoy a meal that everyone had contributed towards. The members ate together, talked, shared laughs, and couldn't wait to play

more games with one another. Later in the day, the Robodox team played a simulation programming game—organized by Gabby, the Fall events executive, and Jazmen, our Fall semester president—in which both the parents and kids got to



Team #1's robot, Sabir, doesn't like having its picture taken.

enjoy the robotics experience. In the game, the team was split into two parts and one "robot" and one "programmer" was chosen from each side. The goal of the programmer was to verbally direct the blindfolded "robot" to get as many balls, randomly scattered across the ground into the hula-hoop. The team members eagerly shouted and cheered to help advance their team in getting more points.



The dodgeball lineup shows how intense these games were.

members played many competitive games of dodgeball and the 'dox members started going home after a great day with their team. The social was a success in that it brought the new team together through a great day spent at Northridge Park. The Robodox grew closer and can now together face the challenges of the 2012-2013 season. Thanks to everyone who showed up, participated, and a special thanks to Gabby and Jaz for orchestrating the memorable experience.

In the end, the day wound down as the



The team waited to play the most physically intense measure of skill and dexterity ever: a three legged race.



# HELP WANTED

**Who:** Anyone willing to work, no matter their experience level, i.e. you!

**What:** A day of helping out a local robotics team host a competition

**Where:** GHCHS, in the gyms

**When:** Nov. 23rd; 7:30AM to 6PM

**How:** Contact Mr. Vanderway at his email, below, or by phone at (818)470-5457

**NO MATTER WHAT, YOU CAN HELP**

## Robodox Events:

*Viewpoint Competition-* Our first VEX competition of the Year (Oct. 20th)

*Workshops-* Afterschool opportunity to discuss VEX designs and strategy with other schools (Twice a month; Thursdays)

*GHCHS Homecoming Game-* Granada's Annual Parade and Football game

## For More Information, Contact:

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