



SOCIAL 2015

On the weekend after school began, the annual Robodox Social was held at Northridge Park and lasted all day. This bonding event allowed everyone a chance to get to know new team members and catch up with others. Several past members attended the event including Jake, Jeffery, and Emma. The event was far from ordinary; former coaches Mr. Vanderway and Dr. Koroleva came to pay one last visit to the team. Of course, the Robodox’s new coaches--Mr. Cyr and Mr. Beal— also arrived to join in the fun.

At last, lunch came around and team members were happy to finally eat the food they contributed. Afterwards, the social’s best event began--the water balloon toss. Team members gathered in pairs and tossed water balloons between each other as they inched farther and farther. Once this game was done, there were still many balloons left. The only logical solution was to throw the balloons at this year’s student presidents--Chris and Hersh. (They welcomed the act!) Afterwards, team members grabbed plates of whipped cream, which they also slapped on the

presidents. Despite the torture, Chris and Hersh seemed to be having a great time. Soon after, the day became late and the event came to an end. Most team members enjoyed the opportunity to interact with others in a casual and non-academic setting. The positive vibes are sure to indicate successful friendships among the Robodox for the rest of the year.



Social · 1

Some Words With Outreach · 2

Back to School Night · 2

New Business · 3

Presidential Business · 3

Fall Classic 2015 · 4

Upcoming Events · 4

SOME WORDS WITH OUTREACH

What's it like to be a part of the Robodox outreach group? Student executive Amy Contreras gives us a look inside what Team 599 does to help their community.

Jas Which schools are a part of our outreach program?

Amy Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary and Balboa Magnet Elementary.

Jas What is a typical day like when you go to one of those schools?

Amy At Balboa Magnet, we attend the school each Friday in order to teach the students how to build and program their own robots. Currently, we have a class of 30 kids that is split into two groups: programming and building. Right now, the building team is learning the basic construction of the chassis in order to make their robot drive on four wheels. In the programming group we teach an object oriented programming language called Modkit that is specific to the vexIQ curriculum. The students are currently learning how a basic robot works, what each component does, and how to implement their knowledge into code.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

To commemorate the new school year, Granada Hills High School held its annual Back to School Night event on Thursday, September 10. There, parents interact with teachers to get a sense of what their children actually do at school. Of course, there's more to the event than that--student-run organizations get the chance to fundraise at booths near the lunch area. Sports and academic teams alike gather and sell food to parents and guilt their teachers into making purchases. The Robodox took this chance to raise funds for upcoming competitions by selling pizza from none other than Pizzasaurus Rex. Despite being placed in a booth in an

isolated corner and the September LA heat, Team 599 managed to sell all of their pizza. In fact, some of the team members had to retrieve additional boxes of pizza during the event due to its high demand. This success could be attributed to the high quality of the pizza and the amazing booth posters drawn by team member Juyeong Lee. The event concluded as the team members helped to clean their booth area and headed over to K-2, where parents and students gathered for the last portion of their classroom tours. Overall, the event was a success and the pizza was tasty.



The 'Dox pose with their empty pizza boxes after Back to School Night. From left to Right: Sarah B., Sam F., Inky A., Neha A., Alexis B., and Omeed S.

NEW BUSINESS

With every school year, many changes are brought upon the Robodox. Treasured members leave the team, and hopeful rookies join. The beginning of the 2015-2016 year, however, brought upon some of the biggest changes the team has seen in recent years. Mr. Vanderway and Dr. Koroleva had been Team 599's coaches for many years. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, both resigned from their positions. Even more shocking was the fact that Mr. Van's resignation came by surprise over the summer, unlike Dr. K, who personally announced that she would leave before last school year ended. The team was in a frenzy at this point, as the future of the Robodox was unclear. Would the Team still be a Team at this point? Just a week after this, Team 1717—D'Penguineers—had announced that they were disbanding. Could the robotics experience get any worse at this point? What was especially frustrating was the fact that as students, the team members did not have much power in what was to be done. Even the student executives had no say in what was to happen! Oh dear!

However (as you have probably guessed!), the Robodox survived. New coaches stepped up to mentor Team 599—GHCHS English teacher Mr. Cyr and former 'Dox member Mr. Beal. While the team members of the Robodox are largely independent in their activities, this year has proven how important it is that the team has guidance. The Robodox graciously appreciates that Mr. Beal and Mr. Cyr have taken the time to continue the legacy of Team 599. Go 'Dox!



Above: Mr. Cyr, a GHCHS teacher from the English Department, helped to resurrect Team 599.

Below: Mr. Beal, a former member of the Robodox. Really makes you wonder how old Mr. Van is!



PRESIDENTIAL BUSINESS!

Students are the basis of the Robodox, seen especially through their student executive system. Today we talk to 1/2 of the student president group, Chris Salgado.

Jas *How is it like being president and is it what you expected?*

Salgado I thought being president would be stressful but it's not that bad. It's pretty fun, being in control of everything and knowing that everyone reports to me. All the plans that we (Hersh and I) wanted to accomplish are working all better than we thought.

Jas *Was transitioning from the old system hard? (e.g., having new coaches and being without Van.)*

Salgado It wasn't as difficult to transition as we thought it would be because the executives this year have worked with each other much better than before.

FALL CLASSIC 2015

This past month, in the weekend of October 26, the Robodox attended their first competition of the 2015-2016 year. Fall Classic took place in Valencia High School in Placentia. As the inaugural event for both the new members and the new coaches, the competition was a great place to learn new skills, new experiences, and new friendships. The weeks preceding were dedicated to preparing our robot, the Hematologist, for it's first and last competition in the new school year.

At the competition, we found that our improvements were not going as planned, however, the learning experience was more than enough to call successful. The experienced members had the opportunity to refresh their skills and the new members saw how the team handled problems that arise during competitions.

In addition, the team decided to rotate our drive teams, meaning different members had the opportunity to experience driving the robot. Normally, the drive team is a set group. The system in play during Fall Classic provided the means to drive for team members who would usually never have the chance to manipulate the robot.

Our FIRST Aid station and our scouts also worked admirably. When other teams were in need of spare parts and extra material, our FIRST Aid was quick to provide service. Whenever they were needed, they didn't hesitate to serve. And our scouts continued to be diligent in their notes. They provided a great service when our drivers needed to know their competition.



Team 599's First Aid Station crew. From left to right: Tanvi K., Melita H., (former team member) Emma M., Jenna M., Carmina D., and Freddy T.

UPCOMING EVENTS Robot Ball (Oct. 8) · Reseda High School VEX Competition (Nov. 14) · Granada Hills Charter High School VEX Competition (Nov. 21)