

OCTOBER 2013

ROBODOX

This month was filled with a wide variety of events ranging from a trip to California Adventures to our very first VEX competition. In addition, the team held workshops for students from Balboa Magnet and the team had a workshop at Nobel Middle School.

Bonding: Physics at Disneyland

Written by Sam Dobry

Edited by Jeffrey Lee

On Tuesday, October 8th, the Robodox went on a field trip to California Adventure to learn about mechanical physics through an interactive experience that Disney offered. Team members were given a three hour behind-the-scenes tour of the rollercoasters at the park. They learned how the coasters worked and the application of physics into their inner workings.

At the end of the talk regarding the physics involved with roller coasters, team members had the chance to explore the park with all of its wonders.



Justin Wall (middle) learning physics...
(Disney approved).



Cathy Banh (above) enjoying the local delicacies.

They also participated in smaller, but with just as much fun, activities such as building, twisting, and testing small-scale roller coasters that they built out of Legos.

After the tour was over, the team had the rest of the day to get first-hand experience with what they had just learned about physics and roller coasters in a cooperative group environment (by eating lunch, hanging out with friends, and riding the rides).

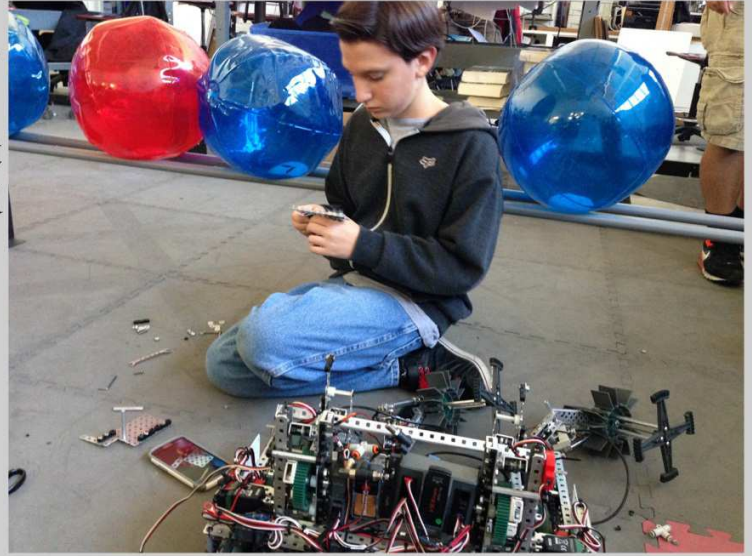
Big shout out to Cathy Banh, Alyssa Chiang, and Doctor Koroleva for organizing and planning the trip!

The VEX Clash in the Canyon Tournament

Written by Glory Thai

Edited by Jeffrey Lee

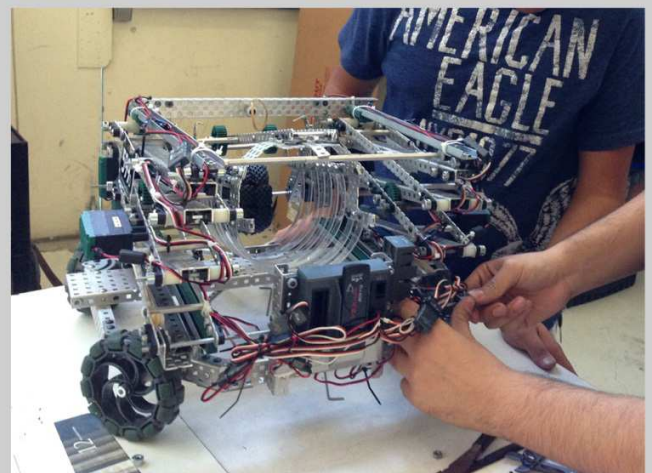
The Viewpoint VEX competition on Saturday, October 19th marked as the first competition of the year for the Robodox. At around 6:30 in the morning, the bleary-eyed team members assembled in K2, anticipating the hard work and spirit required of them for their first competition. Rookies and veterans alike carpoled together to the event with the gracious aid of 'Dox parents. Bringing scouting laptops, an excess of water, and spare parts, the team prepared for their VEX teams ahead of time as everyone was ready to both enjoy themselves and contribute.



Dylan Leighton making a few adjustments to 599B.

Upon arrival, Dr. Koroleva led the team through registration and into Viewpoint's gym, where robotics teams from around the country, and even teams from the UK and Taiwan, were preparing their robots. After depositing their things, team members were able to relax a bit in Viewpoint's quad, where coffee and hot chocolate awaited them. The competition would begin shortly, so everyone returned to the gym to prepare for the busy day that awaited them. Leaders among the veterans helped rookies prepare for scouting, which meant that diligent 'Dox members were busy at work throughout all of the matches. Lunch was served during the afternoon, but the hard work continued even during the lunch break (and afterwards).

Overall, the Viewpoint "Clash in the Canyon" VEX Toss Up Tournament was a rewarding experience for rookies and veterans alike. Rookies learned the perfected system of scouting, and attended their very first competition. VEX team 599A made it to quarterfinals, and team 599B made it to semifinals. During the awards ceremony, 599A received the Sportsmanship Award. All of this was a great success thanks to the excellent work ethic of our gifted robotics team members and, ultimately, the willingness of every volunteer, parent, and student to sacrifice in order to make this first VEX competition an amazing experience.



All hands on deck for 599D!

Workshops: Balboa and Nobel Edition

Written by Michael Lee

Edited by Jeffrey Lee

A few weeks ago, the Robodox invited a class of 4th and 5th graders from Balboa Magnet Elementary School to show them what robotics was all about.

Although stemming away from the team's traditional Balboa Workshop for 2nd graders, the team hosted a fun and educational event for the 4th and 5th graders. The group that came was huge and composed of two different grades. After separating the children into two groups, according to their age, the instructions began.

Each group was given a different task: one worked with the protobots (small robots designed uniformly), while the other group worked with the larger robot (built with more complexity and designed for a specific game).

The first task was to build the tallest structure from paper. Split into even smaller groups, the students creatively designed and constructed the towers. This was given to reinforce one idea: teamwork. In the second task, because two people controlled different parts of the same robot and each person was integral to accomplish the goal (picking up a ball and moving it to a goal zone), communication was vital to success. By exposing them to the larger robots and how every part, although built by different people, came together perfectly, the students learned the strength of teamwork.

Shoutout to Lauren Yang and Emma Martirosyan for organizing and running the event. And in robotics, teamwork is without a doubt the most important aspect. Winning, albeit satisfying, is rarely possible without collaboration, as the Balboa students learned.



Kimberly Lai and Vincent Tran drive coaching the Balboa students.

Nobel students building and testing their own Lego robots



Jake Mattinson (right) teaching at the Nobel workshop



HELP WANTED

Who: Anyone willing to work (no prior experience necessary), i.e. you!

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

Where: GHCHS, in the gyms

When: November 23rd, 7am to 6pm

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Robodox Events

Torrance VEX Competition- A VEX competition at El Camino College in Torrance (Saturday, November 2nd).

Granada VEX Competition- The team's home competition, hosted at Granada Hills Charter High School (Saturday, November 23rd).

For More Information, Contact:

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