

August 8, 2017

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The summer vacation is over and our robotics family have been very busy with demonstrations, fundraisers, camps, and recruitment. There has been an extreme amount of interest in robotics at Middleton and our reputation of being the place to be for robotics excellence continues to grow.

The following topics are covered in this issue of the newsletter:

- Robotics Club Website
- Registration Is Open
- Summer Camp Success
- New Robotics Room
- Corporate Sponsors
- Upcoming Meetings
- FTC Kickoff Day
- Upcoming Fundraisers
- Outreach
- Adult Committees
- Communication

We hope you enjoyed your summer. We're looking forward to a new year and another opportunity to really inspire our students to greater things as the new robotics seasons begin. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to volunteer and help out, please contact your team captain and/or coach, or you can contact Rich Berglund, roboticscoach@gmail.com

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Our website has had a major makeover this summer. Although it still has items to be completed it does contain a wealth of information. The website is your location to find out information about the club. The official Club calendar is located under the resources tab – it contains information about all events within the club. Please check the calendar before sending emails. Be sure to check it out: www.middletonrobotics.com

Registration Is Open

Club registration is now open to all students. You now have 2 options for registration: 1) download application from Google Drive and mail in your forms and payment. or 2) (New this year!), you can register online at <tinyurl.com/RoboticsRegistration2017> you will then have option to send in payment, or pay via PayPal (note if paying via PayPal, fee is \$105).



We are adding an additional registration document (Youth Protection Acknowledgement). You can find this form, and the others, on the Google Drive (tinyurl.com/middletonrobotics) in the Documents and Forms folder.

Also new this year is the ability to complete the Student & Parent survey online. The link for those is <tinyurl.com/Roboticsurvey2017> (Note you will need a Google account to use this option).

As a reminder, all registration paperwork and payment must be complete before a student will be assigned to a team. If you delay and all slots fill up, you will be assigned to an open slot on another team.

New forms are required each year. Deadline for submission is Aug 25. There are 6 items needed to complete registration which include:

1. Registration form complete (either in paper format or online)
2. Medical Release Form (not notarized) - original paper format only
3. Media Release Form - original paper format only
4. YPP Acknowledgement - original paper format only
5. Student Survey Form (either in paper format or online)
6. Parent Survey Form (either in paper format or online)

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ROBOTICS SUMMER CAMP

Our annual summer camp was a great success. Thanks to our corporate sponsor, Suncoast Federal Credit Union, we had 70 student campers from all over Hillsborough County attend the camp. They participated in 2 programs, LEGO and VEX.

Camp Director, Erin and her staff did a fantastic job of showing the kids a good time and getting them excited about robotics. Our Program Directors, Brianna (LEGO) and Riccelo (VEX) developed an interactive curriculum that emphasized the mechanical as well as team building aspects. We also had a great logistics staff that kept things going in the background and worked on the robotics room.

New Robotics Room

Our robotics room (# 317) received another overhaul and is ready to show off to our new students and their families. Students and adults have been busy getting the room ready for the robotics season. This new room will house all robotics teams' storage and will be the showcase for robotics recruitment for the high school. It is imperative that we keep the room presentable.



The robotics room and the workshop as well as build locations for VEX are designated robotics work rooms with the safety requirements we all know. That means closed toe shoes and safety glasses at all times. Additionally, NO food and/or drinks will be allowed in room 317. If we don't keep the rooms clean and presentable, we will not be able to use them and may lose them for good.

Corporate Sponsors



We welcome the following new & returning corporate sponsors to the Middleton Robotics family:

- Rockwell Collins
- Squire Patton Boggs LLP
- Team Applications LLC

Upcoming Meetings

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our season's off and running. Please mark your calendars for these important dates:



August 16 - Initial Students meeting. Our first student (new and returning) meeting is Wednesday, Aug 16 at **3:15 PM** in the MHS Cafeteria. We will explain the policies and procedures and the schedule for August/September.

August 18 - Robotics Student/Parents meeting. Our first mandatory students/parents meeting is scheduled for Friday, Aug 18 at **6:00-8:00 PM** in MHS Auditorium. As you know this will be a very popular event and many people will be in attendance. The goal for the meeting is to explain the program and teams, introduce leadership, and answer questions.

August 25 - Initial FRC Student/Parents meeting is scheduled for Aug 25, **6:00 PM** in the Media Center. This meeting is in addition to club meeting and will describe the specific details involved with the FRC program

FTC Kickoff Day



Saturday, September 9 will be big day in Middleton Robotics as we have several events happening that day. Events are being held at Middleton High School and Seminole Heights Library. Here's a rundown of what's happening:

FTC Kickoff. The official kickoff will again be hosted by us at MHS. Teams will begin arriving at 830am with presentations at 9:00 and video at 9:30 with Q&A to follow.

Concessions Fundraiser. We will be operating concessions for the Kickoff. Details are located in the Fundraising section of this newsletter

LEGO Build Outreach. We are also building LEGO missions sets for the new season. Details are in Outreach section of this newsletter

Brainstorming. We will be conducting a Club Brainstorming session on the new FTC game. Club leadership and FTC team captains will develop agenda and organization. This will be at the Seminole Height Library, (4711 N. Central Ave across from Hillsborough High School) from 1:00pm to 6:00pm – We have meetings room A & B (downstairs). This will also be a required training session for our new students in our orientation program. This mandatory for current FTC students, Club Leadership, and all new students. Current FRC

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Fundraising

As most of you already know, each student must meet certain fundraising goals to be eligible to travel with their robotics team. We hold more than 20 fundraisers each year and this year we are already busy setting up fundraising events for the Club. Flyers and additional information for fundraisers are available on the Google Drive (tinyurl.com/middletonrobotics).

Upcoming Fundraisers:



Garage Sale. We will hold a Garage Sale, **Friday & Saturday, Aug 25-26** in Bloomingdale subdivision, Valrico. These have been successful in the past. Students can receive credit for working the event and/or by donating items for sale. If you have items to donate, we will begin collecting in late August. Please email Rich Berglund directly to schedule a drop-off appointment. For more information or to help out, please contact Rich Berglund (roboticscoach@gmail.com)

Hamburger Mary's BINGO. We have been fortunate to secure a date to hold a BINGO fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's Bar and Grille in Ybor City www.hamburgermarys.com/tampa. The Bingo (10 games = \$10) will be **Sunday, Sept 17**. Seating and food service will begin at **4:30 PM** with Bingo at **5:30 PM**.



This is not your grandma's bingo and will be a rollicking great time. Parents will be responsible and students under the age of 18 will not be allowed to participate. The event will include a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction.

Even you cannot join us, you can participate in silent auction (via proxy). The restaurant holds 275 people and we would like to fill the house. Students who sell tickets will receive a major portion of ticket sales. You can also receive credit for providing a Winner's basket or a silent auction item. The flyer is available on the Google Drive for download. To reserve your seat(s), register online at tinyurl.com/RoboticsBingo2017 If you would like to donate a Bingo Prize or Silent auction, please signup online at

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FTC Kickoff (Concessions). Middleton is again hosting the FTC kickoff on **Saturday, Sept 9**. We will be operating concessions for the event. New this year is we will combine this fundraiser with concessions at the FLL Workshop on September 30, so there is opportunity for big fundraiser. We need a Concessions Manager (adult) for each event – Managers receive extra credit. Signup to work at the FTC Kickoff or to donate concessions supplies is at tinyurl.com/FTCkickoff2017

FLL Workshop (All aspects). We will be hosting our annual FIRST LEGO League Workshop, "Tune it up Tampa" on **Saturday, Sept 30**, at MHS. Local teams will come to Middleton to receive guidance and instruction and learn about the new season, Hydro Dynamics. We need many volunteers to make this event run!



If you have FLL experience or want to train to be a FLL Referee or Judge, this event is for you. Additionally, for those students who hope to compete for the Dean's List Award, working this event is mandatory.



LEGO Star Wars Raffle. Again this year we have been given a great donation that we are raffling. The raffle is for a new unopened LEGO Star Wars Millennium Falcon set. This is the new version with new figures. Students will receive a portion of every ticket sold.

Drawing is Saturday, Dec 2 at our FLL tournament. This fundraiser will be open to other organizations and Robotics will receive a percentage of their sales which will be distributed club wide to all sellers. To order tickets, visit tinyurl.com/LEGORaffle.

There are 3 ways to get your raffle tickets:

1. download from Google Drive the Flyer and order form and submit with payment to Mr. Berglund at any practice - you will receive ticket stubs for distribution, or
2. order online and send in payment separate, or
3. order online and pay via PayPal. Link to pay online will be provided during ordering process.

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our sponsor, Squire Patton Boggs LLP, we have been given a Tampa Bay Lightning ticket package to a game this season. We will hold a raffle for the package. The package includes 4 tickets (section 206) and 2 parking passes. The game is Tuesday, March 6, 2018 vs. the Florida Panthers.



Drawing is Saturday, Feb 17, at FRC practice and live online. Students will receive a portion of ticket sales. This fundraiser will be open to other clubs as well. Buyers can purchase via check/cash using the purchase flyer or online form. There is an online purchase option using PayPal, link is [<tinyurl.com/lightningraffle2018>](http://tinyurl.com/lightningraffle2018)

Outreach

One of the great things about our robotics program is it's really "more than just robots." Each student is required to participate in at least three outreach events to be on their respective Travel Team. Year-round, we develop and host dozens of Outreach events.

Several students have asked about qualifications for the Dean's List Award. The main consideration item, the judges look at is amount and type of outreach the student completes. Specifically, STEM outreach and even more important is FIRST "mentoring" outreach. So, if you have ambition to compete for the Dean's List Award, you must participate in outreach, specifically FIRST related outreach. Upcoming outreach opportunities:



Upcoming Outreach include:

FLL Field Kit Build. This is our popular annual event where we will be building the mission sets for the upcoming FIRST LEGO League season, Hydro Dynamics. Yes, you get to build stuff with LEGOs. The build will be **Saturday, Sept 9** in the MHS cafeteria. We will begin at **7:30 AM** and work until we are finished with the sets. Students can help build LEGOs before the kickoff starts.

FTC Kickoff Concessions. Also on **Saturday, September 9** at MHS. To receive credit, you must work the entire shift. Signup online at [<tinyurl.com/FTCkickoff2017>](http://tinyurl.com/FTCkickoff2017)

Electronic waste recycling. We are collecting electronics and other electrical devices for

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(tinyurl.com/middletonrobotics) for details and list of items to be collected.

Adult Committees



We are looking for parents to step up and help out with Club administration. These are not full time positions and your expertise is needed. We are currently seeking members for the Fundraising Committee and the Outreach Committee which will seek out community outreach opportunities that the club can undertake to give back to the community. I'm also looking for an adult Safety Mentor to work with the Robotics Club Safety Council. If you would like to help with one of these committees, please contact Rich Berglund, roboticscoach@gmail.com

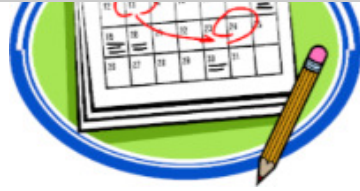
Communication

A major goal for the upcoming season is better communication up, down, and lateral. The first step is to communicate with your team leads (coach/mentor and team captain). If they send out a request – respond! If you have a question – ask! We are working on making the website more useful and we intend to make the newsletter more useful for everyone.



One of the tools we use in the club is "**Remind**" text messaging. This tool allows us to send out global texts (to include pictures) to the club for rapid communication. It proves to be effective as students tend to read text messages. It's also a quick way to distribute important critical changes. This is **mandatory** for students and optional for parents. To sign up, simply text the phrase **@mhsrobotcl** to the number **81010**.

Remember to check out our new club website and note that all robotics events are listed on our calendar under

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As always, if you have any questions, comments, or would like to volunteer and help out, please contact your team captain and/or coach or you can contact Rich Berglund directly at roboticscoach@gmail.com

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Middleton Robotics Club, 4801 N 22nd Street, Tampa, FL 33610

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