



Newsletter Edition 2017-18, Volume 02

The summer vacation is over and our robotics family has been very busy with demonstrations, fundraisers, camps, and recruitment. We currently have 30+ new students who have joined Middleton Robotics this year, including some non-Middleton and Apprentice students. New students are currently participating in new student training and orientation.

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

- Corporate Sponsors
- Robotics Club Website
- Team Assignments
- Community Involvement Award
- Marfan Foundation
- FTC Kickoff Day
- ROBOTICON
- 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 at roboticscoach@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive email newsletters and updates from Middleton

Robotics, please use this [unsubscribe](#) link to opt out of this list. Thank you.

Corporate Sponsors

The easiest and quickest way to achieve your fundraising goal is to solicit a corporate sponsor. This money is credited directly toward student accounts. If you intend to solicit a company, please email Mr. Butt (coralreef1996@gmail.com) or Mr. Berglund (roboticscoach@gmail.com) first to de-conflict any ongoing efforts and to ensure someone else is not already contacting same business. Some companies we are working separate as corporate sponsors on a club-wide donation. Additional resources are available on google drive (tinyurl.com/middletonrobotics).

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

- Haas Foundation
- Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Engineers
- Mr. Hot Shine Car Wash
- Masonic Lodge #240
- Intelligent Software Solutions, Inc.



Robotics Club Website

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 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

Team Assignments

New students continue to undergo orientation and new student training. The training will continue through September. New students will then be assigned to teams. Please be advised that students may not receive their first choice due to slots available and students' interests.

Community Involvement Award



Because of all the great community outreach Middleton Robotics has performed, our club was honored by the Hillsborough County School District with the Department of Education Family and Community Involvement Exemplary Program Award. This is quite an honor and shows really what our club is all about. Congratulations to all!

Marfan Foundation

One of our families has been deeply involved with the Marfan Foundation which researches Marfan Syndrome which can cause aortic dissection. As part of this, the foundation is offering special tickets to the upcoming showing of the Broadway production of **Rent** at the Straz Center, Sept 19, 20, and 24. In order to receive the discount, use the promo code "**MARFAN.**" For more information, please contact Colleen Tennant at tampagroup@margan.org.



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 8:00 AM with presentations at 9:00 and game video reveal at 11:00 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 will develop agenda and organization. This will be at the Seminole Heights Library, (4711 N. Central Ave across from Hillsborough High School) from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We have reserved meeting rooms A & B (downstairs). **This is a mandatory training event for new students as part of orientation.** This is also mandatory for current FTC students, Club Leadership, and all new students. Current FRC and VEX students and all parents are welcome – the more minds the better!

ROBOTICON

The annual robotics celebration, ROBOTICON, will be at the Sun Dome, University of South Florida, on **Oct 7-8, 2017**. This will showcase all of the FIRST programs. **Saturday, Oct 7** will be FTC build and scrimmages and FRC practice. **Sunday, Oct 8** is a FRC off season tournament using the STEAMWORKS game.



On **Friday, Oct 6** (after school) and then after the FRC tournament on **Sunday, Oct 8**, we will help set up and tear down the arena. Students will receive outreach credit for these activities. No need to sign up just for setup or tear down.

If you would like more hours and get free T-shirt and food, volunteer at ROBOTICON. There are plenty of opportunities throughout the programs. Signup online <https://roboticon.net/volunteer/>

Fundraising

As 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:



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 **Saturday, Sept 30**, so there is opportunity for big fundraising. We need a Concessions Manager (adult) for Sept 30 – Managers receive extra credit. Signup to work at the FTC Kickoff or to donate concessions supplies is at: tinyurl.com/FTCkickoff2017

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 starting promptly 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 if 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 (tinyurl.com/BingoPrizes2017) For additional information, contact Rich Berglund, roboticscoach@gmail.com, or June Cook, davjun@verizon.net.



"Tune It Up Tampa" 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. Students receive profit share for working at the event, donating concessions supplies and/or providing a potluck lunch meal for volunteers.

Sign up online at:

- Workers and concessions donations: tinyurl.com/TNT2017volunteers
- Volunteer Potluck Lunch: tinyurl.com/TNT2017volLunch

Fort Desoto 15K Water Station. Sunday, October 1 we will be manning a water station for the runners in Ft. Desoto. Students receive profit share, outreach credit, T-shirt, and refreshments. Spaces fill up fast, so signup online at: <http://tinyurl.com/roadrace1001>



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.

Lightning Tickets Package Raffle: Again this year thanks to 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

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 opportunities 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 things with LEGOs! The build will be **Saturday, Sept 9** in the MHS cafeteria. We will begin at 8:00 AM. Students can help build LEGOs before the kickoff starts. There is no electronic sign-up. Students should download the assembly instructions and bring a laptop. A sorting box or tray would also be helpful. Instructions are available on the Google Drive.

Robot Demo at Temple Terrace Library. Saturday, Sept 23, at the Temple Terrace Library, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. If you would like to participate in this demo, contact the Club President, Erin.

Tune It Up Tampa FLL Workshop. On **Saturday, Sept 30** at MHS, we will be running the entire workshop. This will double as fundraiser as well. There are many positions available to work. See above for more info.

Fort Desoto 15K Water Station. **Sunday, Oct 1** we will be manning a water station for the runners. Students receive profit share, outreach credit, T-shirt, and refreshments. Signup online at: <http://tinyurl.com/roadrace1001>

ROBOTICON. **Friday, Oct 6, and Sunday, Oct 8.** Site setup and tear down. Also credit for volunteering at the event in numerous positions. See above for more info.

Electronic waste recycling. We are collecting electronics and other electrical devices for recycling. Students will receive outreach credit and some fundraising (depends on what we

collect). There are collection boxes in the robotics room. See flyer on the Google Drive (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. We also need 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 at: 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 signup, 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 the "resources" tab on <http://www.middletonrobotics.com>



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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