



FROM THE CROW'S NEST

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TEAM NEWS

The team recently attended two school events, the first being the Freshman Kick-off. The iPirates had several shipmates at the event, where they used the electronics class robot to fire T-shirts into the crowd.

On September 16th, the Monroe High Student Council put together a carnival where various clubs were asked to volunteer at food and game booths. The iPirates brought along their 2009 robot for the event.



Cameron Neal (far left) and Emily Kern (right) show off this year's robot to a parent.

OFF-SEASON EVENT NOTICE

The iPirates regret to inform our fans that due to some unforeseen challenges, they were unable to travel to the WMRI or to the Deer Park competition. The team did, however, send newsletter reporter Jake Raymond as an ambassador and scout to the WMRI in Zeeland, Michigan.

PRESENTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Co-Captains Garrett Gautz and Tim Kennedy along with Jake Raymond had the privilege of presenting the iPirates to the Monroe Exchange Club and the Kiwanis Club to promote community awareness of the team. Bill Ferrara, the Career and Technical Education Director from Monroe High School assisted the students. Several shipmates worked behind the scenes preparing the presentation and materials that were distributed at the lunches.

The Monroe Exchange Club meeting was held on September 24th at St. George Cultural Center. The team would like to thank Joanne Van Aken for giving us the opportunity to present the iPirates.

The Kiwanis Club meeting was held on September 30th at their downtown location. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club for allowing the team to present!



Jake Raymond and Garrett Gautz present at the local Kiwanis Club.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parents Meeting
November 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Lego League Competition
November 21, 2009

SHIPMATE OF THE MONTH



Tim Kennedy

Tim Kennedy is entering his senior year at Monroe High School. Tim is very active both inside and outside of the team.

Tim is currently serving as one of the co-captains helping to lead the team and conducting our weekly team meetings. Tim also organizes many team fundraising events, works on the handbook committee, and helps set team direction. His greatest iPirates moments center on the Atlanta National tournament, which the team attended in the 2008 season.

Outside of the iPirates, Tim is active in the Patriot's Club, only one of the clubs available to Monroe High students. He has started his working career with a part time job at Meijer. Tim is a utility worker, assisting customers and staff.

After high school, Tim plans on attending two years at Monroe County Community College, followed by enrolling at the University of Toledo. With the completion of school, a career as a technical engineer awaits Tim.

The team is confident that he will be successful in all his endeavors and appreciate his service.

ROBOTIC SURGERY

Perhaps one of the most innovative uses of robotic technology is in the field of medicine. Robots are now performing surgeries of increasing complexity and are less invasive. This trend began in 1985 when the PUMA 560 placed a needle to perform a brain biopsy. Since then the use of robotic surgery as continued to grow. The University of Southern California is now home to the Robotic Surgery Institute founded by Dr. Vaughn A. Starnes, M.D. Along with his colleagues, he was the first to perform heart surgery using the DaVinci Surgical System. This system decreases the invasive nature of open heart surgery. Traditional mitral heart valve repair requires long incisions and the splitting of the breast bone to reach the heart. This new system allows for inserting the robotic arms through the ribs of the patient. The arms are small enough to fit between bones. This advance improves and shortens recovery time. These pioneering advances give the iPirates something to aspire towards.

PARTNER ON DECK

This month the iPirates wish to extend their gratitude to **Monroe Public Schools**. The school system supports the team logistically, making them their biggest supporter. MPS allows the iPirates to hold team meetings on campus, as well as providing tools to work with and allowing mentors and parents to aid the team. Their tireless support allows us to have a set base of operations with which to plan and build robots. They also graciously allow us to hold the MARC event in the gym. The school district also supports the FIRST Lego League and will host a tournament on November 21. Among all of the team's supporters within this school district, the iPirates could not function without two people in particular. Mr. Bill Ferrara is the Career and Technical Education director at Monroe High School. Mr. Ferrara has a long history of supporting FIRST teams extending beyond Monroe. Mr. Steve Ketron, another essential faculty member, is an electronics and home repair teacher at MHS. He not only runs the iPirates, but he also manages a second team, Ketronix Trojan Robotics. In addition to these two, there are a multitude of community members that support team 1528.

MARKETPLACE

The iPirates wouldn't be around without the support from our wonderful partners. We thank them for all that they do

