

From the Crow's Nest

Free

www.ipirates1528.com

December 2009

Team News

Eighteen teams of elementary- and middle school-aged students attended the 5th annual FIRST LEGO League event, *Mission Possible* at Monroe High School on November 21st.

The event was hosted by the iPirates, who, though the competitors only came for one day, worked diligently for two full days with both setup and in overseeing the event. The younger students arrived on Saturday to find a large projection screen and a multitude of game and presentation tables set up in the gymnasium and cafeteria. Three additional rooms were prepared for judging in teamwork, a select research project, and robot design.



Saqib Peracha sets up a tournament playing field on Friday night.

On Saturday, the iPirates served as greeters, scorekeepers, referees, concession assistants, and custodians. Because the event was held only one week prior to final exams, the iPirates showed their commitment in donating their study time to help put on such an event.



Austin Washington explains rules to members of team 9901, *Need 4 Speed Crew*.

The event was held from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., but the iPirates were working from 6:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. The team also displayed their FRC entries for the younger participants to observe.

Dick McKinley, the iPirates lead mentor, also served as the overall coordinator for the event. He has served in this position now for several years. He spends countless hours preparing the event, recruiting help, and encouraging the teams. The iPirates would like to extend their gratitude for all the work he does.



Dick McKinley hands out awards at the conclusion of *Mission Possible*.

The full listing of scores for *Mission Possible* is now on our website, along with an expanded downloadable spreadsheet with more detailed scoring information.

Visit ipirates1528.com and click FLL 2009 in the Resources menu to view the scores. 📄

Shipmate of the Month



Aaron Bolster

Aaron enjoys the thrill of robot competitions, having attended both district competitions as well as the MARC event over the past year. Aaron's main goal while on the team is to attend an international FIRST event, a dream that may not be far off. Just before Aaron joined the iPirates, the team competed at the FIRST World Championship in Atlanta, Georgia. The sophomore knows that there is plenty of work to do, and he helps by working on both the animation entry and the Chairman's Award entry for this year.

Aaron's current education track has him set to dual enroll next year, taking classes at nearby Monroe County Community College. With this head start, Aaron aims to complete a two-year degree. Later, the plan is to attend a university, majoring in chemistry or computers. Aaron is hopeful that a dual major is on the horizon. The team is happy to have such an energetic shipmate helping them to be better iPirates. 📄

Upcoming Events

Christmas Break at MHS
December 22 - January 3

Season Kickoff
January 9, 2009

Kickoff



The team has begun its planning for one of the major events on our calendar. It is almost the time to once again put our hands and backs to work. On January 9th, FIRST will release the details of the new challenge game in the form of a live broadcast on the NASA channel. In 2006, we "Aimed High" playing robotic basketball, soccer, and king-of-the-hill at the same time. The six weeks of build season has been called the toughest six weeks that you will ever love. We are eager and better prepared for build season this year. Many of us, being freshmen last year, were completely clueless about the workings of the team and FIRST, but this year, our skills are sharper, our desire stronger, our will to compete immense. The 2009 challenge, "Lunacy," was in honor of man landing on the moon 40 years ago. Neil Armstrong uttered a phrase that still rings in our heads today: "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." We admire NASA and the men and women of space, but this year will be "One small step for a student, one giant leap for a team." Let the build begin! 📌

Partner on Deck



The iPirates wish to thank all those that make us successful. It is the support that is offered to us that allows us to compete, move forward and prepare for tomorrow. Normally this space is reserved for one of our financial partners. This month, however, we would like to thank those who contribute their time to our success. Each year the team is supported at all our events by a group of caring parents, adults and supportive FRC representatives. These adults show up and work from sun up to sun down at both the FLL tournament and the MARC event. We have adults who help us with fund-raising, an ever increasing challenge today. They do everything from providing food and snacks during the build season to simply driving us to our events. Some come in on days off from work to help us build. The volunteers that come to all our events and help us are our most ardent supporters. They give of both time and money in ways that we do not always realize. We thank you. 📌

Marketplace



The iPirates would cease to exist without the support from their wonderful partners. The team offers their gratitude for all that these businesses do for them.

 DTE Energy		<i>Iceberg's One Hour Heating and Cooling</i>
 DTE Energy Foundation	 MONROE HIGH SCHOOL	