

The MaST Tribune

by the students, for the students



Images courtesy of Photography Club

Robotics: Key to a Brighter Future

by James Abraham, Har Patel

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Robotics is, by definition, the branch of technology that deals with the design, construction, operation, and application of robots. In the 21st century, robotics is a necessity in the academic world, allowing adolescents to develop and master a variety of skills for a brighter future. Unfortunately, many institutions in our nation do not have the proper funding or resources to provide it as a course. Luckily, MaST, being the technology school it is, has the ability to expose students to such a salient course. Through careful research, we were able to understand the crucial role robotics plays in the life of a 21st century student.

What's New?



Hot Topic

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Robotics: Key to a Brighter Future

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From a very young age, students are able to gain a basic understanding of the field of robotics. This is primarily done through the middle school coursework, introducing the fundamental concepts and principles used within technology courses. Through an interview with Mrs. Iuliano, one of the robotics teachers within the middle school department, we were able to better understand the importance and benefits of robotics through the perspective of a teacher. For middle school, the course is implemented as a one-semester course. When asked about the benefits of robotics, Mrs. Iuliano was quick to say, "The course exposes the kids to an environment which requires them to work cooperatively and do extensive problem solving. Throughout the course, the students continue to work on these skill sets and refine them." Students become acquainted with skills such as critical thinking, cooperation, problem solving, and math skills. In addition, students gain a better understanding of programming. Having a robotics class is crucial for middle school students because it allows students to develop these skills. Exposure to these skills is vital as

students go into high school; students are better prepared to tackle high school whilst having a background in such concepts.

After these young students get a feel for what robotics is and learn the fundamentals in middle school, they are given the opportunity to explore the course even further in high school. Robotics is split into two separate courses in high school—Robotics I and Robotics II. Each course covers separate concepts, some of which students have covered in the past. To learn more about the high school experience, we used one of our own personal experiences to advance our knowledge. James' personal experience allowed us to compare the advantages of taking robotics at an early age. James described his experience as, "It helped me become a better thinker on-the-fly because you have to be mindful of potential errors when working with robots and the programming. In addition, I learned how to work with people on a daily basis as well as adapt to the MaST culture; given I was fairly new to MaST." Not only was James able to develop necessary skills to get a feel for robotics, which he didn't experience previously, but also assimilate into the environment. He was able to develop problem

WELCOME TO THE WHITE LAUGH APOCALYPSE

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WHERE THE BEAUTIFUL ACTION OF LAUGHING BECOMES AN ENEMY TO THE WORLD

Read the rest of the story on pages 5-6!

- ▶ *To Be Continued* is a running story in the newspaper. Each published part is written by a different writer. Anyone can join to create the next part!
- ▶ Publish your creative side! Email jniwinski@mastccs.org if you want to write the next part!

Robotics: Key to a Brighter Future

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solving skills by making separate machines, each of which have errors that require the ability to think one's way to a solution in the spur of the moment as there are deadlines to certain assignments.

From looking at both perspectives of middle school and high school, it's evident that robotics plays a very important role in preparing students. Middle school students are trained to use specific skills efficiently as they enter high school. Similarly, high school students are able to refine these skills, which will be crucial as they enter the real world.

By conducting a thorough study on robotics courses offered at MaST, we were able to see how much more it has to offer than just "robots." Robotics proves to be an essential course by having students work within real life scenarios. This is a course for which the question "How do we use this in real life?" is not applicable. Instead of teaching concepts out of a jejune textbook, robotics offers a hands-on experience and teaches students through a different medium altogether. Therefore, it is easy to see why students are able to develop skills at such a quick rate. Because of its effectiveness, robotics is a course that should not be regarded as frivolous.

Below: Kyle Wenclawiak



Image courtesy of David Broytman

Student Spotlight

by Jasmine Zhang

Now that it's baseball season, it was fitting for me to sit down and interview a baseball player. I spoke with **Kyle Wenclawiak**, an intelligent and studious junior, who is also the baseball team's pitcher. I interviewed Kyle about his passion for baseball, and here's what happened:

JZ: What motivated you to start playing baseball? Was there an athlete or an acquaintance who motivated you to play?

KW: I started playing baseball at a very young age because sports were a part of my family heritage and I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my older brother, who already played baseball.

JZ: How long have you been playing?

KW: I've been playing since I was 5, so for 12 years now.

JZ: Do you have any memorable experiences that made you feel proud and accomplished?

KW: My most memorable moment on the field [was] when I was 12 years old. I threw my first and only no-hitter along with 13 strikeouts. It's such a rare occasion for anyone—little league, high school, college or professional—to throw a no-hitter so it is one of my proudest accomplishments.

JZ: Were there any difficult moments when you played baseball that made you think that you wanted to stop playing?

KW: When I was 13, I took a season off from my travel team because I lost the motivation to play that year. It is my biggest regret because there is only a limited time to play baseball and I regret missing a whole season of it.

Student Spotlight

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JZ: Do you plan on continuing to be a baseball player when you go to college?

KW: I would like to play baseball in college, but I feel like getting an education at a better school is more important than playing baseball.

JZ: Is baseball something you would pursue after you graduate college or would it just become a recreational sport?

KW: Honestly, a future as a professional is very challenging so there is a slim chance I will pursue a career in it, but I will definitely play in adult leagues and have my kids play the sport.

JZ: Is there a lesson or two you learned when playing baseball?

KW: Baseball is the ultimate team sport and I think that is a lesson in itself because not one player can win the game for you. You need pitching, fielding, hitting, and baserunning and everyone on the team contributes to the game.

At the end of the interview, I asked him to boast about himself. He told me, "Last year, I led the bicentennial league with the lowest earned run

average (ERA) with a 0.98 ERA." Now that is definitely something to show off!

Best of luck to Kyle in his current and future baseball endeavors!



Not English Class

In "Not English Class," we pick a word or phrase in English and teach you the translation of it in a different language. The phonetics are above the word or phrase, so you'll be able to pronounce it. It's totally free and you can't fail the "class!"

Probably a favorite: **I AM HUNGRY**

w ō à l e

In Chinese Mandarin: 我饿了

â g o l o d e n

In Russian: **Я ГОЛОДЕН**

ONE OF THE TOP TRENDING TV SHOWS RIGHT NOW IS THE VAMPIRE DIARIES.

HERE'S WHY THE SHOW IS SUCH A SUCCESS, AND WHY I STRONGLY RECOMMEND IT:

- ▶ It is the perfect blend between reality and fantasy.
- ▶ Each season brings a new exciting concept, and so fans never know what is going to happen. The producers truly keep viewers on the edge of their seats.
- ▶ It has the element of high school drama, as well as supernatural adventures.



Image via IB Times

I have been a fan since the very beginning of its series debut. It is currently in the middle of season seven, and is better than ever. The show revolves around Elena Gilbert, a high school student with involvement in the supernatural world. She encounters vampires, werewolves, witches, vampire hunters, etc. The characters are very likable, the plot twists are unexpected, and the show tastefully combines humor with drama. I highly recommend it to anyone who interested in the supernatural, but still wants some sense of reality.

I rate this:



Review by Emily Prather

Baseball is Back!

by Joey Gardyasz

Following the April 1st loss to the Baltimore Orioles, the Philadelphia Phillies have concluded their spring training season. They had an impressive season and definitely fought hard. The Phillies ended with a 15-11 record this spring, which is good for a team that has had a rough couple of seasons.

Two key components that really brought the Phillies up on the ladder were their offense and their pitching, which has caused them issues in the past. The offense this season looked good under new manager Pete Mackanin, and I think the Phillies have proven that they are a force to be reckoned with. The offense was lead by Maikel Franco, who hit an astronomical nine home runs, and Odubel Herrera, who had an astounding .419 batting average. The Phillies starting pitchers had the worst run support in the league. That needed to change, and it appears as though it has. The staff held opponents to 4.14 earned run average this spring, which was good enough for fourth in baseball.

It is clear that the Phillies are pushing themselves in order to make these recent seasons count, and I think that if they continue to work hard and focus on their strong points and improve their weak spots, they will only get better.

Below: Pete Mackanin

Image via CBS Sports



To Be Continued

Part 2 is in the perspective of the second group. . .

by Amber Headrick

It had been a trying few months for Niamh.

Well, to say that was definitely an understatement. These past few months had definitely been hell.

What with the world ending and the apocalypse taking shape in the form of the hysterical living dead and her entire family save for herself and her old English sheepdog Nana being killed, and what had happened to Marigold, well she really hadn't had any time to sit down and process just how screwed this situation was.

And now that she had the time, well, she really didn't want to process this insanity.

"How much longer till we can go, Dean?" She asked as she stood from the spot by the window she had been perched at, scoping out the ruined city through her binoculars, and approached the tall, fair, young man.

He turned from his position at the back corner of the building and scowled at her approach. "We stay until we get the signal. You know that." He murmured.

She sighs. "Of course. Aye, aye Captain." She mutters as she trudges back to her position. Nana wags her tail as she approaches her, and she smiles warmly at her best friend. Nana has been her rock throughout all of this, and she

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doesn't know what she'd do without her. As she sets back down, alternating between petting Nana and doing quick sweeps of the area, she notices a strange glint from the outside to the far left. She squints in an attempt to see more clearly.

She witnesses the glint again, this time much more clearly than before. "Dean. Dean!" she whispers towards her companion, all the while keeping her eyes locked on the moving target.

"What?" He snaps at her, eyes flashing with anger.

"There's something out there."

Before the words are even out of her mouth, he is making his way towards her, pulling the gun from his back pocket. "What did you see?" He whispers urgently.

She points to the far left, where the target appears to be moving towards the building they are holed up in. "There! It's a glint of some sort. And it's moving, can't you tell?" As she speaks, she realizes she can now make out four silhouettes moving towards the building, and understands that these are the glints she had taken note of before.

"Yes. Now, we need to move. It appears we've more company than just one moron." He speaks quickly, eyes scanning the outside world even as he whispers instructions at her. "I'm gonna meet Jeremoth and the others upstairs to prepare for battle. Stay here with Nana and tell me exactly

where they'll be going on the Walkie." He turns to leave, and she opens her mouth, about to tell him just where he can shove it and she'll be damned if she follows his orders like some sort of kept woman, and-"You've got the best eyes, Niamh, don't argue." He states firmly, turning to look her in the eye. They stare at each other for a moment, both sets of eyes ablaze with emotion, until Niamh finally nods at him. His eyes soften and as he once again turns to leave, he whispers, "Be careful."

She's touched for a moment and caught off guard at the emotionally charged sentiment from the usually reserved and angry man she's come to know. It takes her several moments to compose herself before she quietly responds, "You too."

He's gone before she responds, never knowing that perhaps she cares about his safety as well.

She turns to the window and can only listen as the next scene unfolds.

—

"Don't shoot! We come in peace!" A slender young woman says, as she places her weapon at her feet and raises her arms above her head.

Dean should have realized this wouldn't go smoothly. After all, Jeremoth always was a cocky son of a gun.

"Well, well, well." Jeremoth clicked his tongue as he spoke the words. "And just what do we have here?" His licentious gaze sweeps the unknown group before him, halting when he notices the unmoving form of Marigold outside.

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His eyes turn vicious in the next moment.

"And just what have y'all done to Marigold?!" He demands. "Huh? Answer me!" His voice raises at their silence.

Dean approaches him slowly. "Jer, they can't know who she is. You gotta be patient."

"What did you do to her??" He screams at the shocked group.

Upstairs, Niamh jumps at the unexpected voice of Jeremoth.

"The girl?" A young man who appears to be the leader speaks up, staring directly at Jeremoth. "She was dead. I was putting her out of her misery."

"She wasn't dead, she was alive! She was just hurt is all!" Jeremoth screamed, hands running through his wild hair as he tried to make them understand.

"She was dead, and the way you had her tied up, that was heartless. You should have let her go. She was past the point of saving."

Silence.

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She grabbed her Walkie and called to Dean. "Dean. Dean! Are you there? What happened? Dean?!" She continued to call his name and yell questions to no avail. He failed to answer her.

Everyone in the room began screaming at each other, some from hysteria, some from anger. But each scream was hair raising.

"What did you do?!" Dean yelled at Jeremoth, his eyes frantic.

"He was at my throat!" Jeremoth snapped back. There was a wild look in his eye, the kind of look an animal has after it has begun to foam at the mouth and convulse.

"What did you do? What did you do?"

Jeremoth tuned out everything around him, save for the ringing in his ears and the four worded phrase that seemed to define the entirety of this moment. He closed his eyes.

"What did you do? What did you do?"

He felt cold. He felt safe.

"What did you do? What did you do?"

He was home.

"What did you do?"

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