

Title of Session: FIRST Robotics

Moderator: Patricia Chen

Title of File: 20061114robotics

Date: November 14, 2006

Room: Robotics Group (K-12)

MelissaSm: school is... school, lol. its going well, especially robotics. We're all pumped for the 1st weekend in January, lol

PatriciaCh: I am sure....every one is pumped for January

AdrienneHP joined the room.

BjB: Hi, Adrienne!

PatriciaCh: Hello..

PatriciaCh: Let's introduce ourselves...

MelissaSm: Melissa Smith, team 1251

PatriciaCh: I am Pat, a teacher in Florida

PatriciaCh: I am involved with robotics ..Team 180

BjB: I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania

MelissaSm: I'm a student, senior this year :(

PatriciaCh: Melissahave you checked out the internship posted on Yahoo?

JeffC: I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk, interested in helping new users here set up shop at Tapped In if they're interested.

BjB waves hi to Mikelyn

PatriciaCh: Hello...we are introducing ourselves...

AdrienneHP: HI I'm Adrienne. I teach in Louisiana

MikelynD: Hi! My name is Mikelyn- have I joined in on the meeting finally?

MelissaSm: no I haven't checked out the internship... I thought it said it was for students currently working on an undergraduate education...

PatriciaCh: Welcome Mikelyn and Adrienne

AdrienneHP: Hey Jeff! I could use some help

MikelynD: Hi how are you?

AdrienneHP: Are we officially in the meeting?

MikelynD: Mikeyn waves back to Bj

PatriciaCh: Yes...

BjB: Adrienne, Pat leads a very informal discussion

AdrienneHP: How long will the meeting last?

PatriciaCh: Yes... I do

MikelynD: What do we do?

BjB: usually, people ask about the robotics program...

BjB: and Pat tells you what it involves

MikelynD: I am sorry this is my first Tapped in meeting!

PatriciaCh: Well.....the purpose is to introduce the robotics program to people

PatriciaCh: the site is www.usfirst.org

AdrienneHP: I am a graduate student at McNeese State University. I am participating for a class assignment

PatriciaCh: what is your assignment about?

MikelynD: I am in the same class with Adrienne- we are trying to figure this out together!

AdrienneHP: We just have to attend a meeting to see what it is like

BjB: are you both teachers?

AdrienneHP: It is an educational technology class. We are just learning about some things available to us to use

PatriciaCh: robotics is a competition program...it started on the high school level...and has now filtered to elementary

NancyJK joined the room.

BjB: welcome, Nancy

MikelynD: yes we are both teachers. I teach 8th grade English and Adrienne is an elementary resource teacher

NancyJK: hello

AdrienneHP: Ironically, we are sisters-in-law

MikelynD: Hey Nancy

PatriciaCh: what do you want to know about robotics?

NancyJK: Sorry I am late. VEX night here and LEGO tournament this Saturday.

SusanR joined the room.

PatriciaCh: Yes....so is ours

BjB: hi, Sue

PatriciaCh: Hello...please introduce yourself

SusanR: Hi Bj

AdrienneHP: I do not know what Robotics is

MelissaSm: ours is in like 3 weeks

MikelynD: I have to apologize I am not sure what robotics is.

PatriciaCh: robotics....high school student builds an autonomous robot that will compete in a competition

MelissaSm: robotics is life

MikelynD: ok

AdrienneHP: We do not have that here

PatriciaCh: elementary and middle school kids use LEGOs to build a robot to do the same

NancyJK: Our Vex competition I believe is going to be December 9th. The state LEGO competition is Dec. 2nd (that is in NH)

AdrienneHP: Well I do have legos in my classroom

PatriciaCh: check out the web site for usfirst....it is very interesting...really hands on

AdrienneHP: Should we do that before continuing with the meeting?

MikelynD: I will check the web site.

NancyJK: Good point Pat, with LEGOS through 8th or 9th grade; then students can go on to Vex (used to be erector set) and then the bigggggggg robots!

BjB: <http://www.usfirst.org/>

NancyJK: I would definitely suggest you check out the USFIRST website before you have meeting.

SusanR listens and checks out the link

PatriciaCh: It is fun for both the students and adults.....it shows how math and science comes together....as well as other curriculum

BjB: Adrienne and Mikelyn, to help you read the chat, go to Actions in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BjB: and when you click on a url, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard to override any pop up blockers

AdrienneHP: Yes, Thank you. We have done that

NancyJK: I just helped out at a LEGO competition at UNH in Durham, NH and the observers were thrilled with what they saw the "little" kids doing with LEGOS.

BjB: did you both get the FIRST webpage?

AdrienneHP: yes

PatriciaCh: VEX is an alternative to the "big robot" mainly due to cost..

MikelynD: yes, I got the web page!

AdrienneHP: The site looks interesting. So what do you guys discuss?

MikelynD: Where are ya'll located?

AdrienneHP: Is this only done up north?

NancyJK: But I don't think FIRST wants you to say that, Pat. But from a teacher standpoint, it is true.

MelissaSm: it also helps kids learn if they really want to become, say, an engineer or computer person, tech, as you learn a lot more than just that particular year's games...

PatriciaCh: No....it is all over the country....I teach in Florida

AdrienneHP: ok. We have just never heard of it here

PatriciaCh: Nancy - I know...but it is a reality check for some of us....I mean I rather play with the big toys versus

PatriciaCh: Where are you located?

AdrienneHP: Southern Louisiana

MikelynD: We are in Lake Charles, Louisiana

PatriciaCh: ok

AdrienneHP: We were hit by Hurricane Rita last year

NancyJK: Actually, I think we can say it is all over the world. I judged LEGO teams from Sweden, Norway, Canada, Japan, etc. last April. I know the big robots are in Canada, Israel, Mexico and Japan.

MikelynD: That's great! I can't wait to learn more!

NancyJK: A big OUCH for Adrienne, how is the reconstruction going?

AdrienneHP: The hurricane that nobody talks about but did more damage than Katrina did. We just not as big as New Orleans

MikelynD: It is very slow

AdrienneHP: Still lots of "Blue Roofs"

MikelynD: Cameron Parish is still not functioning

NancyJK: I know the "tiny" bit of damage that happened in NH last fall and this spring is still a mess here. I can't imagine what it must be down there.

PatriciaCh: New Orleans, LA USA

PatriciaCh: 1472

PatriciaCh: 1818

PatriciaCh: 1858

PatriciaCh: 1859

PatriciaCh: 1912

PatriciaCh: 1920

PatriciaCh: 2078

PatriciaCh: 2080

PatriciaCh: 2091

PatriciaCh: 2182

PatriciaCh: 2183

BjB: later on Adrienne and Mikelyn might want to visit the Hurricane Central group room and look at the resources the Tapped In community has gathered for displaced teachers and students

BjB wonders if Pat is doing her history homework?

AdrienneHP: What are all the numbers from Patricia?

PatriciaCh: These are the team numbers from Louisiana....It was supposed to include the city

AdrienneHP: What are team numbers

PatriciaCh: the number of the team from a particular area...

BjB: are any of those teams still active, Pat?

PatriciaCh: Is Shreveport close to Lake Charles

MikelynD: 5 hours away

NancyJK: Our team number is 131.

AdrienneHP: no 4 hours away

PatriciaCh: Yes....these are all active teams

PatriciaCh: how about Hammond

AdrienneHP: no three hours

PatriciaCh: Slidell or Covington?

MikelynD: Mikelyn lives closer to the City of Lake Charles - Adrienne lives further north

PatriciaCh: Boutte

NancyJK: Wow, and I thought Manchester, NH had a lot of teams with four!

AdrienneHP: Slidell and Covington are 4 to 5 hours away

PatriciaCh: If you want to check out the teams...it is easier to chat with teams that are participating...

AdrienneHP: I am 10 miles north of Mikelyn who is about 15 miles north of Lake Charles

NancyJK: The lower the team number, the chances are the older the team. The larger the number, the newer the team.

BjB: sounds like Adrienne and Mikelyn might want to collaborate with some teachers in their area to start a team

PatriciaCh: How far are you from Houston?

AdrienneHP: Three and a half hours

NancyJK: I believe you can find some good information from us, I think.

AdrienneHP: So how does this work? Do we just chat?

PatriciaCh: I am trying to find a team you can talk to....but as Nancy says...ask questions

PatriciaCh: Both of us have been team mentors for a long time

NancyJK: I would suggest you check out the FIRST site (as mentioned), find students that would be interested and then go from there.

NancyJK: Short memory here, are you middle school teachers?

MikelynD: What is the transcript like that will be emailed to us about this meeting?

AdrienneHP: Only Mikelyn is

PatriciaCh: I believe....it will be all of our conversations

JeffC: My kids' elementary school just started a Robotics group... I passed my info along to the teacher, but haven't heard from them. I was going to mention this group and the website.

PatriciaCh: what grade level do you teach

BjB: Mikelyn, you'll find the script very interesting...it will include all the text chat from when you logged in to when you log out

NancyJK: It is a great way to be able to look back and read about what we discussed all night.

AdrienneHP: Sounds like a great way to get something started

PatriciaCh: yes it is....this group meets twice a month...

AdrienneHP: Is the "text" just what we talk about?

MikelynD: I will look into this for the school that I teach at. It sounds very interesting and enjoyable for the students!

PatriciaCh: the kids really enjoy the robotics program

MelissaSm: yes we do

PatriciaCh: as teacher and mom....I highly recommend this....it is a program that reaches out to all types of students

NancyJK: The growth that you will see in the students can be amazing. The shy little boy that ends up speaking to a crowd of over 300 adults!!!!

AdrienneHP: I teach lower elementary special education students. This would be a little hard for them.

PatriciaCh: not really.....you can do things on their level....

AdrienneHP: Not so sure I could get parents to travel around.

PatriciaCh: you may not want to work with big machinery....but LEGOS or VEX can be adapted to them

NancyJK: It might depend on their eye hand coordination or their fine motor control but still their accomplishment will be huge!

AdrienneHP: One child might eat the legos

PatriciaCh: even if you don't go to a competition...the kids learn to cooperate and work together...thinking...problem solving skills

AdrienneHP: I have one with special needs

AdrienneHP: I do agree with that. It can be very resourceful

NancyJK: My high school robotics group puts on a LEGO tournament so the teams do not have to travel far (longest trip might be 30 minutes).

AdrienneHP: Maybe Mikelyn's own daughters would be interested in this!

MikelynD: My students need to learn to work together and mainly to think. It is a big task just to get them to use their heads.

NancyJK: Well, eating the LEGOS.....that might be a problem. Not sure how to help you there.

PatriciaCh: It is a task to get any middle schoolers to work and think....I teach middle school

MikelynD: Yes, as Adrienne and my brother say I have a softball team!!!

AdrienneHP: No just your brother says that!

PatriciaCh: then you have the right number of kids for a LEGO team...

MikelynD: Yes, it sounds as though I do! My husband would be thrilled!!!!

NancyJK: At the tournament this last weekend, there was a team with three members; one with five.

AdrienneHP: how long does this last? We are on a tight schedule. Little kids at home

NancyJK: LEGOS runs from September to December? Does that sound right Pat?

AdrienneHP: We have definitely been introduced to something new and interesting

PatriciaCh: This chat ends at 9.....people just comes and goes

SusanR quietly excuses herself to prepare for her K to 3 session

PatriciaCh: Yes...Legos ...our state tournament is in Jan

SusanR left the room.

AdrienneHP: Ok. It was great to meet you all. I will have to try integrating this into my lessons. Thanks for your input and help. Nice chatting with you. How is the weather up north?

NancyJK: Vex hasn't really established a "season" yet. This year it started in September also and the competitions are varied.

MikelynD: I enjoyed meeting all of ya'll! I can't wait to look into the site to learn more. Have a nice night.

PatriciaCh: If there are any other questions ..please email

PatriciaCh: good night

MikelynD: Bye! Bye!

AdrienneHP: Ok Thanks so much. Have a good evening!

NancyJK: Night.

MelissaSm: bye

MikelynD: One more thing How do I excuse myself from this meeting?

PatriciaCh: log out

NancyJK: NH weather changes all the time. Today was in the 50s and rainy.

AdrienneHP left the room (signed off).

PatriciaCh: I hate to tell you...Melissa and I had terrific weather in Florida

MikelynD: I found it!

MikelynD left the room (signed off).

NancyJK: We are expecting rainy weather up to the weekend.

PatriciaCh: UGH!

PatriciaCh: Melissa...what schools did you apply to?

NancyJK: So the loaded mini van with SIX LEGO tables will have quite the ride.

Bcc01St joined the room.

NancyJK: In the rain.

PatriciaCh: Sounds like fun....

NancyJK: And what kind of people are you looking for?

MelissaSm: UF, UCF, USF, GATech, MIT, Rensselaer, Carnegie Mellon

PatriciaCh: Terrific....do you have preference?

NancyJK: Gee, how about WPI, UNH, RIT?

MelissaSm: Johnson & Wales, and Illinois Tech

MelissaSm: Carnegie's my 1st choice

MelissaSm: and I realllly want to go there

NancyJK: What area do you hope to study?

PatriciaCh: I wish I knew someone there....

NancyJK: One of our "great" programmers for FRC is at Carnegie Mellon.

MelissaSm: engineering, though not sure which field yet. something that has robotics, lol. possibly aerospace, or electrical and computer eng

PatriciaCh: or mechanical...

MelissaSm: yeah

PatriciaCh: building robot arms? maybe a robot that does house cleaning?????

NancyJK: Pat, sorry for the "cut to the chase" but time is extremely valuable this week. Anything I should be here for?

NancyJK: Wait, a robot for house cleaning????

PatriciaCh: no....just chatting with teachers....I know you are busy with the Tournaments...

MelissaSm: lol, robot arms for NASA is my goal

PatriciaCh: why do you think I mentor the kids for????? I want a ROSIE.

MelissaSm: lol

PatriciaCh: Tiffany worked on something like that this summer

NancyJK: I thought Marie would be here tonight. She did answer my email. She is going to be a judge for us this weekend.

NancyJK: What is a ROSIE?

PatriciaCh: I thought so too...she is so busy as well

PatriciaCh: Rosie..the maid on the Jetsons cartoon...I know I am showing my age

NancyJK: OHHHHHHH! Gee, how did I not think of "her"?

PatriciaCh: Well...you are more flex than I am.....

PatriciaCh: I thought Robyn would be here too

NancyJK: I haven't "talked" to her since she was here to pick up her son and get him back to RIT.

PatriciaCh: I haven't as well.....it has been hectic fall for many people

NancyJK: Well, I am needed to finish off the trophies for Saturday. Sorry, I do like to chat.

PatriciaCh: Go finish your trophies...our next chat is 11-28...may be you will have more time

NancyJK: Good luck Melissa. The school that feels right is the right one for you. Have fun.

MelissaSm: thank you!

NancyJK: Pat, we will be in touch. Take care.

PatriciaCh: yes...take care..have fun this weekend

NancyJK left the room (signed off).

PatriciaCh: Melissa...did you go for early admission or early action?

MelissaSm: early action for MIT and Gatech

MelissaSm: regular everywhere else

MelissaSm: wait, early action RPI and IIT

MelissaSm: regular everywhere else, lol

PatriciaCh: Well...my niece is at MIT....you will love Boston...my son is in Boston but at NU...it is a coop school

MelissaSm: oh, cool

PatriciaCh: Michael chose NU over Ga Tech because of the coop program....but we liked that campus as well...it is closer to home

MelissaSm: yeah

PatriciaCh: so I do have family....so if you need...you can always call on either my son, Lauren or her brother who is in BU

PatriciaCh: If you go to Boston...book your flight early for Christmas or spring break...

PatriciaCh: Jet Blue has good fares

PatriciaCh: Carnegie Mellon....that is a great school as well

MelissaSm: ok

MelissaSm: yes it is, I spent 6 weeks there over the summer doing a summer program

PatriciaCh: well...you will know which school is right for you.....for sure I thought Michael would go to Ga Tech....but at the last minute...he opted for NU....and loves it in Boston

MelissaSm: that's good

PatriciaCh: how are your classes now?

MelissaSm: they are good. ap calc and ap physics are hard, but for the most part everything is going well

PatriciaCh: you know about the prep books for the AP classes right?

BrookeM joined the room.

MelissaSm: yep. the Princeton review ones are the ones I like the best

PatriciaCh: also...there are the Schaum review books...a bit more on the collegian level.....but it is good...good outlines

PatriciaCh: hello Brooke

BrookeM: hi

PatriciaCh: are you a teacher

BrookeM: yes

Bcc01St joined the room.

PatriciaCh: what do you teach? I teach 7th grade math

PatriciaCh: Hello

Bcc01St: hey

PatriciaCh: please introduce yourself

BrookeM: Patricia this is one of my students

Bcc01St: my bad

PatriciaCh: okay

BrookeM: we are learning about TI a bit tonight

Bcc01St: I'm Alex

PatriciaCh: welcome

Bcc01St: thanks

BrookeM: I teach an IB class called Information technology in a global society

PatriciaCh: I am a mentor for a robotics team located in Florida...

Bcc01St: wow that's actually pretty cool

Bcc01St: what math do you teach

PatriciaCh: the site that you check out is www.usfirst.org

BrookeM: we do robotics in my lower level class

BrookeM: and touch upon it in IB

PatriciaCh: I teach from on grade level to algebra.....so it is 6, 7, 8, 9

Bcc01St: that's cool

PatriciaCh: what do you mean by robotics?

Bcc01St: hey sorry but I have to ask

Bcc01St: who is Bj?

PatriciaCh: well...robotics means different things to people....

PatriciaCh: BJ is one of the moderators too

Bcc01St: o

BjB waves hi to Alex

Bcc01St: yah I always see announcements

BrookeM: Alex has really taken onto TI

Bcc01St: from BJ

BrookeM: so I thought I would show him around tonight before our class meets

Bcc01St: which is soon

Bcc01St: in fact

PatriciaCh: your class is informational global technology?

Bcc01St: it's a part

BrookeM: yes

PatriciaCh: okay...what is this class about?

Bcc01St: it's more the social and ethical issues around IT in general

BrookeM: we analyze the social and ethical issues of Information Technology

BrookeM: and look how they impact the world

BrookeM: aka The World is Flat

Bcc01St: yah

PatriciaCh: or the world is not that big....it is really small one...

BrookeM: and only getting smaller

BrookeM: we actually will look at robots as they relate to health later on in the year

Bcc01St: cool

BjB wonders if Alex has read the Tom Friedman book on the flat world

Bcc01St: yes BJ I have

Bcc01St: it was my summer reading

BjB: what did you think?

PatriciaCh: ah.....robots has been use in medical fields

Bcc01St: it was an excellent book but incredibly dense

Bcc01St: it took me three weeks

Bcc01St: and I generally read books in a matter of days

BjB nods solemnly. I loved it but it took some time to digest all the information

Bcc01St: definitely

BrookeM: don't worry Alex everytime I read it I get something new out of it

Bcc01St: alright Miss Molnar I think its time to teleport

MelissaSm: Sorry to interrupt, but I have some homework to get finished... nice talking to everbody

Bcc01St: good bye all

Bcc01St left the room.

BjB: thanks for visiting, Alex

BjB . o O (short attention span?)

BrookeM: yes

BjB smiles

MelissaSm: bye everyone!

BjB: bye, Melissa

BrookeM: well thank you ladies. I have to head back to my room

BjB: thanks, Brooke

BrookeM left the room.

PatriciaCh: so ...just you and me again

BjB nods. That was nice

PatriciaCh: yes it was....

BjB: Brooke is looking for guest speakers for her student group...

BjB: maybe she'd be interested in someone discussing robotics

PatriciaCh: oh...

PatriciaCh: maybe...I am not sure if I would be good at it

PatriciaCh: I think I am going to call it a night and start grading papers

PatriciaCh: good night

BjB hugs goodnight. Take care

PatriciaCh: you too....stay warm

BjB: nice seeing you.

BjB . o O (and dry!)

BjB: have a good Thanksgiving

PatriciaCh: yes...dry....if there is a Rosie...I will put you on the list for one.

BjB smiles. Thanks!

PatriciaCh: we need one

PatriciaCh: good night