

TEAM 1718

KNOCKOUT NEWS

THE LATEST FROM THE FIGHTING PI



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Welcome back to the Knockout News!

Did You Know?

Colors on our Pi logo come from the 5 schools that students represented in our inaugural year, 2006.

Armada: Orange & Blue
Richmond: Blue & White
Romeo: Red & White
Capac: Blue & Gold
Memphis: Blue &
Yellow/Gold

Orange - Pi Guy
White - Background
Blue - Script/Lettering
Red - Gloves/Flames
Yellow - Flames
Gold - Flames

How to Download the Knockout News

Open the e-mail. Select the e-mail "print" icon (printer symbol) usually at the upper right. Select pages 2-3 on your printer setup page to eliminate the e-mail footer and header. Then only print out the newsletter pages. Select print and your printer should produce a hardcopy. Thanks for reading!

1st District Comp

Gibraltar District, March 1-3
at Oscar A. Carlson HS,
Gibraltar, MI

2nd District Comp

Marysville District, April 5-7
at Marysville HS,
Marysville MI

Opportunities FIRST Gives to Students

By Paige Drob

As a sophomore member of the team and a First Lego League youth mentor and alumni I have been able to witness the many opportunities FIRST gives to students. This amazing program teaches students 21st century skills such as collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and public speaking. I have also learned technical skills in both the mechanical, electrical and programming fields. These skills are extremely important for an aspiring engineer to acquire. In addition to giving students skill building opportunities daily, FIRST offers exciting experiences for its members. As a sophomore I have already participated in countless life changing experiences. This season I have enhanced my skills as an electrical team member by practicing wiring and coding. This summer I traveled with Dylan (senior), and Frank (alumni) to Washington D.C. for the National Advocacy Conference to advocate for FIRST at the National level. I even had a meeting at the White House! FIRST also gives students the opportunity to share their skills with the community. This year I was able to be a youth mentor for a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team at my local elementary school. I was also able to student lead our team's FLL competition/ FLL Jr. Expo alongside my teammates Kaylee (sophomore) and Mayra (sophomore). At the competition students helped teams get from place to place, acted as Referees and Reviewers to run a successful event. Our team also holds demonstrations at the Armada Fair, MDA camp, and pep rallies. We also volunteer at our local food pantry and clean up roads. These opportunities have changed my life and have taught me countless skills. It's really great to have something like this to be proud of.

Parent Information Night

By the Student Leadership

Come join Team 1718 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 21 when we will host a parent's information night. We have spent many hours in the past few weeks building a robot, writing essays for submissions and assembling a practice field. Come inspect our progress and see the tools and spaces we use. The first 15 minutes will allow students to independently escort parents through their various work areas followed by a student presentation and what to expect in upcoming weeks and at district competitions. We will be passing out mini sponsor packets, if you know of a business that can help support the team. Don't miss it as it is sure to be informative. Thank you to all the parents and sponsors for their wonderful support.

Learned Much in Four Years

By Victoria Fair

I have learned a lot being on The Fighting Pi these past four years. A lot of it has been what the team has a goal of teaching, but it also feels like a lot of what I have learned has been unintentional. I, of course, have learned a lot about the sub-section I've been on for four years, which is Computer Aided Design (CAD), and have learned a lot about the engineering world and how to solve complex and abnormal problems. The build process in general was a new idea to me when I joined the team, and I have learned the ebb and flow of this team, as well with how projects of varying subjects also interact and act on a general basis. Being on this team has taught me how to interact with people and how to present information to them. The team has given me an opportunity to interact with a lot of different people from different backgrounds, this team has been my family and has taught me how to be a part of something so much larger than just building a robot to compete with.

Being a part of this team has taught me about leadership and how to teach different types of people. Being a captain and giving seminars on CAD has definitely strengthened my ability to teach. Leading is a huge focus on the team, as is working on a team and working with different people. These properties above all is what I've learned most. Leading is not as simple as telling people what to do, it is interacting with them and sharing ideas as well as tasks. It's not a one person leads all kind of situation; it's more so that there are a bunch of people working together. My experiences had also led me to be taught about failure and what that can teach. Even if something results in an outcome that isn't ideal, there is still something that can be learned from it; there is still a bright side. This team has been the highlight of my highschool life; it has given me more experiences and taught me more than I ever could have wished.

For more team updates, follow us on Twitter @FRC1718, friend us on Facebook at FRC Team 1718: The Fighting Pi, checkout some posts on our Instagram @ Team 1718 or on our website: www.lightingpi.org !

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If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to Contact our head mentor or send an email to our team at team1718@gmail.com

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors...

