



The Lion's Roar

Millennium Charter Academy Events Worth Roaring About

November 2012

Character Scholarship Community

MCA Robotics Team Wins Award

The Millennium Charter Academy Robotics Class recently received the "Innovative Solutions" award at the North Carolina First Lego League qualifying round held at Weaver Academy in Greensboro, NC. The team, under the direction of Mrs. Brittany Branch, received this award for their "Brite Bed" project. First Lego League is a program designed to help elementary, middle, and high school students learn real-world engineering solutions by programming Lego robots to complete various missions based on certain themes. The theme for this year's competition is "Senior Solutions," which is designed to help students think about the problems faced by older people, and how to develop solutions to make tasks easier for them. As part of the overall competition which includes the robotics missions, programming and design presentations, a project presentation, and a focus on gracious professionalism, the MCA team, named Team Mirus, developed a working prototype of a bed with floor level lighting. The prototype works such that when a person is lying in bed, the lights are off, but when the person gets up from the bed, floor level lighting is



Pictured with their Innovative Solutions trophy from the First Lego League are front row, left to right: **Laura Browne, Noah Willingham, and Malcolm Malone.** Back row, **Nick Blackburn, Elizabeth Campbell, and Kimberly Burford**

automatically turned on, helping an older person see better while they are up, hopefully preventing them from accidental falls. The team now proceeds to a regional tournament at Canon School, Concord, NC, in early December. For more information about the First Lego League, see <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll>

Kids Helping Kids

Students at MCA care about each other, as they recently proved with two students who are dealing with serious and life-threatening health problems. Third graders, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Spencer and Mrs. Jennifer Lovill, sold specially designed t-shirts for a third grade student facing a rare form of cancer. They made over \$3000 through their t-shirt sales which will be used to help with the student's medical expenses, and they are also working towards another opportunity for the sale of more t-shirts in the near future. Additionally, the MCA Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, under the direction of Mrs. Bethany Shepherd, put together a special gift basket for this same student. The NJHS also spent time earlier this fall creating and staffing a Pumpkin Patch event, where they sold pumpkins and home-made baked goods for another MCA student who had surgery for removal of a brain tumor. Hats off to our students and faculty for their service and dedication to helping others!



Lower elementary students pose wearing their t-shirts, which were sold in the bright colors of blue and pink.

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