U-Knighting to build robots, friendships, and the future…

The Paladin Post
November 1, 2015

Hello and welcome to the Paladins!

For those of you who I have yet to meet – I am Val, the alternate coach to the High School FRC robotics team – the Paladins. Mr. Ochs is the main coach. I will be sending the Paladin Post out to parents and mentors to help keep everyone up to date with what is happening with all the teams we have working this year and to impart news of interest.

- To learn more about the FRC FIRST program, visit their website at: usfirst.org.
- All students should be registered on STIMS for the team. If you haven't completed the registration process yet, please do so now. If you have questions, please give me a call. Problems with this site are normal – there are issues every year. Please call so I can help you through it.
- I've attached the Paladin Student Handbook for you to review. If you have any questions about cost, attendances, or any other items, contact me.
- A group of G3 and Paladins presented to the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council in regards to our grant.
- Another group of G3 and Paladins presented to the Petoskey Noon Rotary group about our program. Rotary presented us with a $3,000 sponsorship and are providing a liaison to help with needs that come up throughout the year.
- Pay to play and team dues: the first $100 in team fees are due November 13 and the final $75 is due January 5. There are fund raising opportunities to help cover the cost of the team fees. See Mr. Ochs for information. Pay to play fee is due to the school and should be on your school account at this time.

News from Team Leaders:

CAD Practice: Teaching parts and assemblies, just getting them proficient

Electronics: Weekly meetings teaching basic skills, have taught theory, batteries, power, digital, and sensor wiring so far

Web team has chosen a new platform and mapped the new website. We also have chosen a theme and plan on starting to move this week.

Mechanical has not done anything recently, but will be having tool safety demonstrations coming up that they will be required to go to. There will be four days after school for them and they will be discussed next meeting.

Graphic Design: is working on a new logo.

Social Media: is working on a social media plan for the year; creating a YouTube channel.

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Scouting: Doing some pre-planning work. They plan to be using an "alpha" version of our system at our off-season event for testing. We hope to have a smoother "beta" for further and more complete testing come the FTC Qualifier.

Marketing Team: is working on thank you notes to the sponsors and sent a press release.

Programming Team: has begun teaching some basic programming principles.

Important Dates:

Off Season Event– November 6/7, 2015: 16 teams from throughout northern Michigan come together for an informal competition with last year's robot. Paladins are needed for volunteering for set-up, clean-up, and during competition jobs. Please contact Mr. Ochs if you are able to help. Event info: http://www.petoskeyschools.org/ochs.tf.t/robotics/offseason.htm

FTC Qualifier – November 20/21, 2015: 20 middle school teams will be here for a state qualifier competition. Paladins are needed to assist with set-up, clean-up, and during competition jobs.

Robot a Thon – December 12, 2015 – December 13, 2015: Mandatory. During the day on Saturday the team attends conference sessions, many of which are presented by students, with teams from all over. After dinner and throughout the night, the team attends more sessions and participates in team building activities.

Kick Off – January 9, 2016: Mandatory: hosted at the Boyne City High School in the morning and then the team comes back to PHS; plan for Paladins to be busy all day; new game presented and then spend the afternoon strategizing back at PHS; Game play decision is made on January 10th – plan for another all-day session.

Build Season – January 9, 2016 – February 23, 2016.

Quick Build – January 16: Paladins host a quick build session for rookie teams to come get assistance putting together a chassis.

Standish-Sterling District Competition – March 3-5, 2016: Mandatory: Drive/Pit Team goes down Thursday, for two nights and the majority of the team goes down on Friday morning for one night. Arrive home late Saturday evening.

Midland District Competition – March 17-19, 2016: Mandatory: Drive/Pit Team goes down on Thursday for two nights and the majority of the team goes down on Friday morning for one night. Arrive home late Saturday evening.

State Championship – April 13-16, 2016: Mandatory: Drive/Pit Team goes down on the 3rd for two nights and the majority of the team goes down on Friday morning for one night. Arrive home late Saturday evening.

Bag and Tag – February 23, 2016: Robot must be bagged and tagged and can only be brought out with special permission.

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