

Robotics Rewarded at FMS



Submitted photo

The Feinstein robotics team, the Feinstein Einsteins, and their mentors and one coach, Scot Tennent, get together for a photo at Ricci Middle School recently after winning a trophy for implementing core values. Members of the team include Olivia Terra, James Bennett, Liam Cohen, Alexander Tsang, Aidan Tomasso, Benjamin Pires, Connor McKaig, Brianna Knight, Charles Leonard and Nathaniel Card. Team coaches are Linda Middleton (not pictured) and Scot Tennent with mentors Victoria Kaplun and Alex Lansbury.

Feinstein MS robotics team recognized at tournament

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COVENTRY — The Feinstein Einsteins robotics team from Coventry's Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School recently qualified for the state championship while they were at a tournament competing in North Providence and brought back a trophy for implementing core values.

The competition, which is Lego-based, con-

sisted of two parts: robot competition and what is learned from working as a team to build core values.

Each year, there is a different theme for the competition. This year, it was "trash track."

Members of the team include Olivia Terra, James Bennett, Liam Cohen, Alexander Tsang, Aidan Tomasso, Benjamin Pires, Connor McKaig, Brianna Knight, Charles Leonard and Nathaniel Card.

Team coaches are Linda Middleton and Scot

Tennent with mentors Victoria Kaplun and Alex Lansbury.

"This year, the theme required us to think of something that people normally throw away and theoretically, follow the 'life' of the item and figure out a way to keep it out of the landfill," Tomasso explained. "We chose a BAL-ACO battery, which has a deposit program, so it will get sent back to the headquarters and the

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Robotics team recognized for core values

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parts will get recycled. It also has a harder shell, so it will not leak the hazardous materials into the environment.”

He said most batteries have harmful ingredients in them, but while the Alkaline battery has no acid, it can still leak harmful things.

“They are judged on their presentation and how they show their robot,” said Tennent of his team. “They go head to head with another robot from another school then they go before the judges who review the robot and ask about its moving parts and the concept.”

The robot, affectionately named Vulcan, has two motors and a ball-bearing in the back. The students attached an ultrasonic sensor to the side and a color sensor on the bottom. There is another motor at the front, where attachments can be added.

Tomasso enjoyed working on the project because he said, even though it was just a project for theory, it is something that can still be accomplished and it's something that can help the environment.

“It makes you feel good to know the potential is there and that makes you feel good,” he said. “I learned that we are a team and as a team we must be there for each other and we have to help each other when we are in a time of trouble, instead of turning against each other.”

“The all-day event really was a great opportunity for them to show their creativity and show their knowledge of robotics,” Tennent said. “It's great to have that core value —teamwork.”

According to Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi, the award is given to the team who believe and act on working as a team, working to find solutions with guidance from coaches and mentors, knowing their coaches and mentors don't have all the answers but everyone can work together to find them; honoring the spirit of friendly competition and what is learned is more important than what is won, sharing experiences with others and displaying gracious professionalism in what they do.

“It is wonderful that the beliefs we share at ASFMS are so represented in our robotics team,” Lisi said. “Congratulations to the entire team and its advisors, Mr. Tennent and Mrs. Middleton.”