

Congratulations we made it through another year.



It is hard to believe that yet another school year has come to a close. We have been busy since the end of official competition season. The Team continued to meet on a weekly basis until the end of the school year and addressed many things we were not able to do during competition season. We prepared the build site for the upcoming Elementary School Visit, more about that later. This included assembling of modular partition walls in the meeting/office area to give each section its own discrete location. We held a BittyBotBuild where the team assembled tiny cardboard robot toys to trial for future educational purposes. And at last we were able to get back to dismantling multiple components for recycling.



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Team Paragon is very grateful for all that the Windsor community has given us. We try hard to give back to the community that serves us, especially our sponsors who host events. Since April, it seems to have been community service season. In April, we had the opportunity to help out at OTIS, our main sponsor. On Take Your Child to Work Day several of our students entertained the kids with Dr Seuss, our robot from this year (?). Boy do kids love to drive robots, but we know that already. Each kid also got a copy of 'Would you like to build a bot?', our version of Dr Seuss's book Green Eggs and Ham.



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Once the weather warmed up, we were back at OTIS for the annual UTC/ United Way volleyball tournament. It was the largest turn out they have ever had. The team helped with setting up, and tearing down, in addition to cleaning up bottles and cans. This year we were able to bring around our “recycle collecting robot” which we remotely controlled, no tethers this time” It did look impressive driving through the parking lots on it’s own (ok with people walking 10 feet behind)





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This is the 7th year we Volunteered at the M.S. Bike-a-thon. As in previous years we were responsible for supervising the bounce house, handing out beverages and making cotton candy and pop corn. It appears that Team Paragon has as much fun making the cotton candy as the kids have eating it. Our help was very much appreciated. We have always been grateful to be able to help out with the bike-a-thon as the hosts are one of our sponsors, Griffin Land, and one of our mentors is suffering from M.S.





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In Windsor, Connecticut's oldest town, the JayCee's maintain yearly tradition called the Shad Derby Festival. Part of the festival is the Sheila Schmidt Family Fishing Derby where the JayCee's stock the pond at Washington Park with trout and invite the school children to come fish, eat a free picnic lunch with their family, and enjoy springtime in New England. For the past few years, Team Paragon has been assisting at the event, mostly by handing out worms, untangling lines and helping with clean up.



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This year Team Paragon and Blazing Paranormals joined forces to show off their robots in the Shad Derby Parade.





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What would the spring and summer be for Paragon without a couple of bottle and can drives. We are always amazed at the generosity of the town's residents. People save their returnable for us regularly, even throughout the year and bring them to us, rather than profit from the returns themselves. As always, the contributions of our bottle and Can Drives to towards our food fund. Keeping teenagers (and mentors) fed is not easy feat.

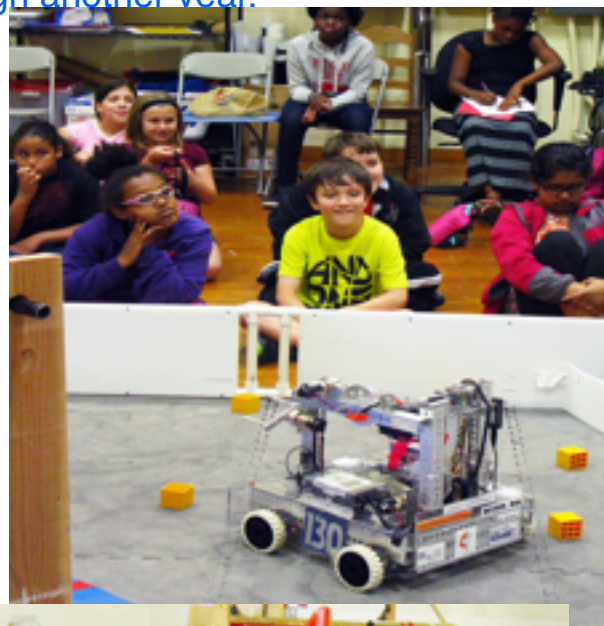


For the second year in a row, all the students from all the town elementary Lego Robotics program, run by students from Paragon, got together for an end of year event. This year the students got to go to Team Paragon's build site where they experienced different aspects of Paragon and Blazing Paranormal activity including programming and operative robots. These students had had experience with building Lego Robots during the school year. On this day, they learned how the bigger, FTC and FRC robots were constructed and controlled. Maybe someday, some of these students will find themselves on Team Paragon!





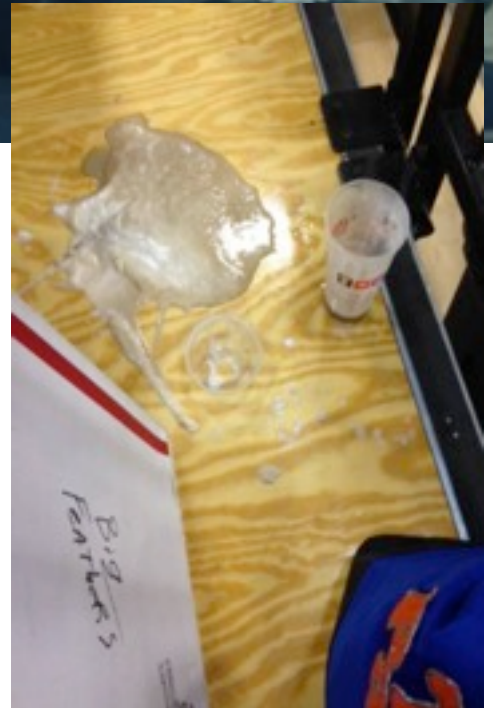
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Before School ended, we competed in an off season, Where's Wolcott. Even though the day started out with a spill, it was a fantastic competition that results in us coming in Third! We were in the alliance with team 195, The Cyber Knights, and team 230, The Gael Hawks. We were ranked last, and picked last, but due to that, we got to be on the number one alliance. Unfortunately, during Wolcott, our robot broke a chain, after not being able to find a master link, we thought we were done. We missed 2 matches and worked through the lunch break to try to figure out what to do. Burt and Mr. Reale eventually came to the decision to use the metal on a paperclip as a temporary fix, until we could sort things out. Our last match came, and the chain stayed on, and we ended up winning. Thankfully, Team 1071, the host Team MAX, was able to procure us a master link, backing, and clamp for our broken chain. Huge thanks to all the mentors and students who were able to come. Special thanks to the drive team: Sam, Justin, Analiese, James, and Shanna.





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At the end of year picnic the responsibility of leading the team was passed on to our two new co-captains: Mathew Craig and James Pinckney. Congratulations and Good Luck.

As with every school year that comes to a close, we have graduating seniors who will be leaving the team (at least as students, since no one ever completely leaves Paragon). We say good by to ShannaKay Sweeney, Mark Markiewicz, David Alexander, David Jardim, Dan Hammersmith and Michelle Munasinghe. Below represents where they will be going and their majors will be Business/Accounting, Mechanical Engineering, BioInformatics, Computer Science, Nursing/Paramedic and Aerospace Engineering.

