Week One Update

Do you want to build a snow man?   No! We want to build a ROBOT. That is exactly what we did. By the end of week one, we have a robot that is ready to run...in record time too. But, we built a snow man too.

Site Build activities:

On the day after kick-off, a group of mentors and students helped to assemble this year's new playfield. We now have a fully functioning playfield. Since this year the game will only be played on half of the playfield we have ours all set and ready to go. Also we finished our new tool

chest upgrades which include a battery charger holder for our cordless tools, new stand, and holders for drills. This will make things easier to access when we are in the pits at competitions.

Robot Build:

It has been a busy week for build. We have set a goal of having "something functioning" on the ground by the end of the second week into the build season. We not only met our goal, we beat it! This will allow for us to have something to practice with and still have time to develop "something awesome" for the next phase of the robot design. We have a practice robot chassis built.   It is coming to life with the new 2015 control system being wired up. Programming was out of their native element this week, as they helped develop a simple mechanism for an arm that will pick up and drag totes using a piston and some 80-20 bars of aluminum. During the initial phase of build, the focus is to pick up and drag totes. Testing on this was done Saturday, and it works well

Imagery:
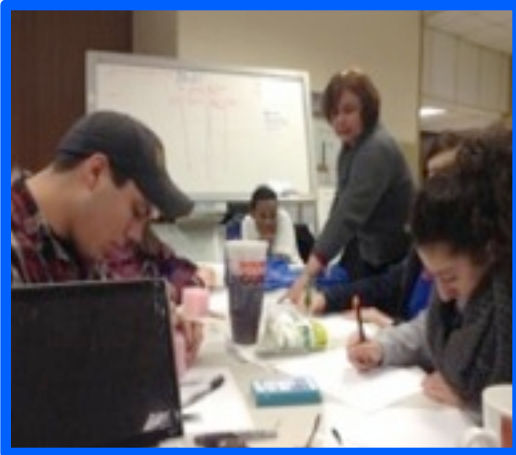
This week in imagery a lot was also accomplished. With the release of the game it is time to design the t-shirt. Imagery completed a preliminary desing for both the front and the back of the t-shirt. A working foam 3D model of the awards that we hand out was created this week too. This is preparation for using the new 3-D printer that we recieved through a FIRST grant.

Programming:

This week in programming it's been all about getting ready. We have installed all the necessary hardware to start programming the robot. And start we have! We have begun programming the new 2015 control systems, as well as the drive for our robot. This year was the first ever year that the robot was ready to begin being programmed by the end of day one. It is also the first year that we are using a new language, Java with the Eclipse IDE (Integrated Development Environment: "where we write the code"). Previously we had used C++ with the WinRiver IDE. It took many hours to load the programs, but now we are ready to roll!
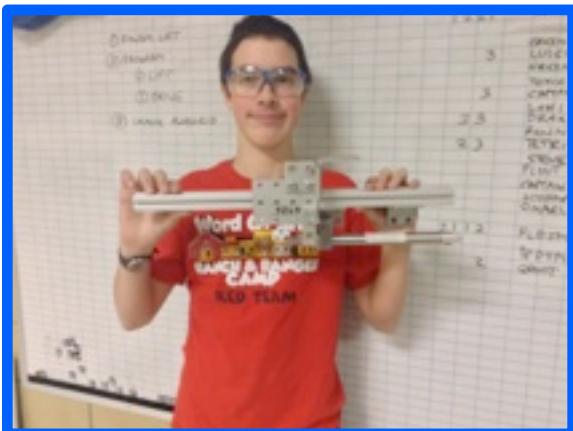
In web this week, we worked on updating our website with new student and mentor profiles, as well as updating the sponsor list and links. We are also working on updating our blog. Please remember to visit our website anytime.

We are very pleased with the progress which we made this week. Changing to more of a phased process has allowed a quicker leap from the drawing board to the construction phase. To have a functioning robot at the end of week one and to be in the position to initiate programing by the end of day one is an all-time record for Team Paragon.

Please remember to go online at WINPUT and vote for Team Paragon to continue to have a home at our current build site. If you have an opinion of what should happen to Roger Wolcott, the visit this page here: Survey

From the Captains: ~ Matt & James

You can follow Team Paragon at www.teamparagon571.org

Upcoming Events:

2/7/15 - FTC competition at Loomis Chafee

2/14/15 – Suffield Shakedown

2/17/15 Bag and tag day