



December Update

Team Paragon



December

December for Team Paragon was the calm before the storm. With just a month before kick-off we wanted to make sure kids and mentors felt prepared for the upcoming season. Many students took this month to complete their fundraising as well as service hours. Spirits are high as we leap into not only a new year but a new robot and build season!



Meeting – December 7th

Once again Team Paragon split up into three sub-groups, build, programming and imagery. Once everyone organized themselves into their sub-group the group leaders got busy. Build had a discussion about game restrictions including height, weight and parts of robots. Although we do not know the specifications for this seasons robot we went over past restrictions and how we overcame them. For example we looked at all the different kinds of wheels we have used in the past in order to make sure our robot can function to the best of it's ability for that years play field. Programming started a lesson on learning basic code as well as solutions to problems they might encounter in the process. Imagery began with sketching possible design options for the trailer Team Paragon is purchasing for competition season. By the end of the meeting they had a finalized design including colors and spacing!



Toy Drive – December 12th & 13th

Team Paragon helped out Windsor EMS at the annual Project Santa collect toys for families who can not afford them this holiday season. We met outside the Windsor Police/Fire station and collected donations from passing cars. Thankfully, it was MUCH warmer this year (no blizzard at least). The community was very generous with their donations. There was a goal of \$3900 and as many toys as possible. The drive resulted in over \$5000 and a trailer full of toys.



Meeting – December 14th

This Monday was a very productive meeting for Team Paragon. Imagery used there group time to get a head start on cleaning the build site. With this being our last full team meeting of the year we wanted to make sure the build site was clean and tidy so we could start the year off right. While Imagery was cleaning away, build had a lesson on pneumatics from Zac, one of our seniors. We learned about what they do, why they're used, and even saw some examples on past robots of ours. Programming continued their lesson from the previous week



leaning basic code and how to troubleshoot any problems with the drive station. Once build and programming finished up their lessons it was all hands on deck for cleaning. Once everyone finished up their jobs books were signed everyone headed out.

Windsor High School Teacher Dress Down – November 18th

A few members of Team Paragon met before school began to distribute stickers allowing Windsor High's faculty and staff to dress casually for the day. Many teachers met us in the main office and expressed their support for the team, gladly donating a couple dollars in exchange for the dress down sticker. After half an hour we managed to raise \$137 for the team, as well as make an appearance in the school.



Meeting – December 21st



Although Christmas was right around the corner, Paragon used our this Monday night meeting time for its first ever All Girls Build session. All the girls on the team were invited for an evening of fun learning where we got to run the show. Although Team Paragon does a great job year around making girls feel included this night was a great way to help them get more involved if they felt nervous or to continue being involved and supportive. Included in the night's activities was a lesson on the key elements of wiring a robot, a lesson

on using chains, demonstrations cordless drills and the drill press. We even got the pleasure of a guest speaker, Shamiah McDonald, who is an engineer at OTIS. She spoke with us about how she became an engineer and allowed us to ask questions about her career as well as the options she had as an engineering student. All the girls seemed to learn a lot from the night but look forward to being back together with the whole team.



Christmas Tree Sales – Throughout December

Team Paragon once again teamed up with the Windsor Jaycees to sell Christmas trees. We had already helped them unload a large shipment of trees of various sizes, and team members signed up for shifts in which to sell trees. Tasks included sweeping up pine needles, assisting customers with selecting the perfect tree, offering a fresh cut to the tree's trunk, and securely strapping the purchased tree to the customer's car. In addition to being a great way for the team to be involved in the community, this was also an opportunity for team members to supplement their fundraising requirements. The Jaycees, as well as many Windsor residents, greatly appreciated our involvement.



Kick off: This year's game will be released on Jan 9th! Then the real fun will begin.

If you would like to learn more about the team, or come to visit us contact teamparagon571@aatt.net or check out the web site at team-paragon.org

-Addison & Sam

