



Week 5 Update

Team Paragon



The First Trial

Our first real test for the robot in nearing: Suffield Shakedown. Our practice bot ideas must be finalized and ready to go before this event. After which, we will have a better understanding of the impacts of our manufacturing and coding choices. Continue reading for information on what the team has done as we approach February 18th.

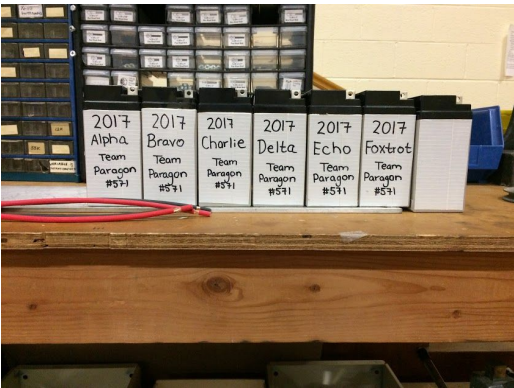
Build:

Despite our loss of our Thursday and Sunday build sessions due to weather, the build team is working harder than ever to prepare our final robot. Even though a few new interpretations of the bumper



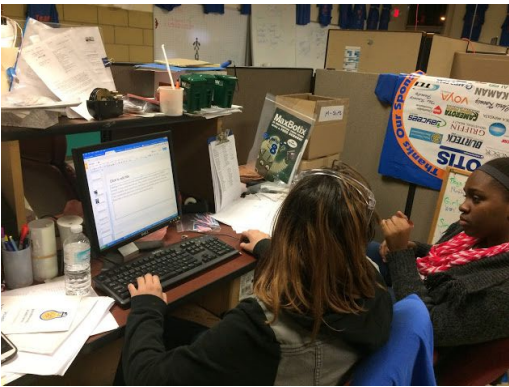
rules took us by surprise, the team is always ready to problem solve new challenges. We may have to adapt the ball intake mechanism to fold inside the bumpers to pass inspection, but more careful reading of the rule book will confirm. Our final chassis, after being assembled last week, has been taken apart and painted to fit the steampunk theme. Now that the team knows how to assemble the final chassis, everything is fitting into place faster than ever. A final gear-collector has been made out of lexand and riveted together, soon to be added to the support beams of

the final robot. The new batteries also arrived and have been taped and labeled (with quite lovely handwriting, by the way).



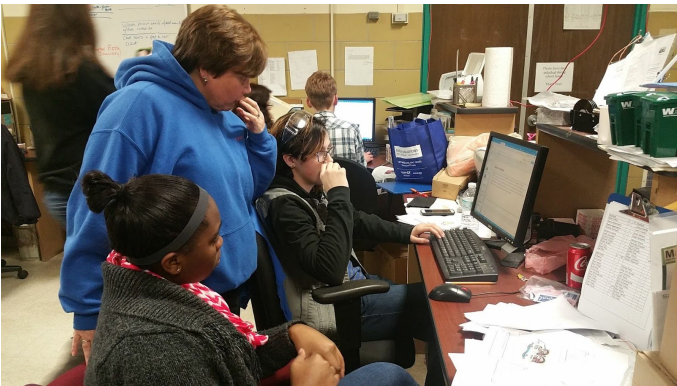
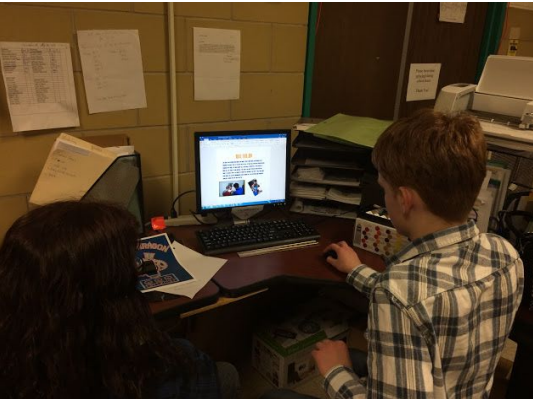
Imagery:

This week in imagery, it is all about dividing and conquering. Certain members are focusing on the pit book, by adding new



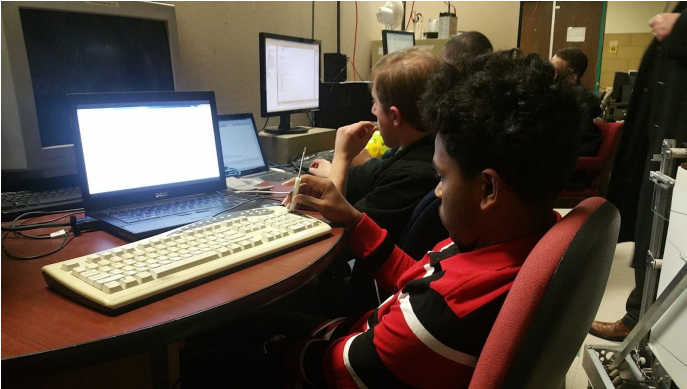
events we did this year and organizing pictures to include. Others are going back to edit the storybook, adding more key plot ideas to make the adventure more interesting. More pictures are also being taken to add to certain scenes of the book. The team is still coming up with robot names to choose from for our final

competition robot, and sponsor stickers have also begun to get cut out and organized to try and fit on the gear-collecting component of our robot.



Programming:

Programming continues to plan ahead. They have added an autonomous menu to their code so that drive team may select different pre-coded



autonomous modes depending on the situation. For instance, one may go around dumping bins while another may simply drive over the baseline for points.

In addition, Mr. Schwartz has decided to devote extra time to developing robot tactics that the team has not used recently or at all in the past. Even if these strategies are not used this year, it can prove effective to get an idea on how to operate them before coming years.

Currently, the focus is on visual code. There are surprisingly many aspects to consider when attempting to use such a process. The group will find the best theoretical path to take before testing it.



Web:

Web has continued to update multiple aspects of the site. They encountered a small setback (due to a faulty computer monitor), but were still able to update our page on the past robots. The appearance of the homepage was improved to be more aesthetically pleasing, and any nonfunctional links were removed.

Upcoming Events:

Suffield Shakedown - February 18th

This pre-season event is open to one and all! The doors open at 8am on Saturday Feb 18, with the games typically starting about 9am. Come cheer on your favorite team, or just see up close what this year's game might look like at an upcoming regional competition with 6 team on the field competing for gear-glory.

The event is located at 1060 Sheldon Street in Suffield CT, only about 20min from the center of Windsor.

Bag and Tag Day - February 21st

The clock is ticking, and by midnight on Feb 21, time will have run out. When the clock strikes midnight, robots must be sealed away and work stops and the team takes a quick rest before regional competitions

Waterbury Competition - March 3rd - March 5th

Once again Wilby High School (460 Bucks Hill Road) will be hosting a FIRST robotics regional competition. Come out and cheer for the Blue and Orange (or copper) of Team Paragon at our first regional event

Hartford Competition - March 31st - April 2nd

Our second regional event will be back at Hartford Public High School (55 Forest Street). This is our "local" regional competition, just down the street in Hartford, CT

-AMANDA AND JUSTIN 