

Westlake City Schools

News Release

Dec. 10, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS WINS TROPHY IN LEGO ROBOTICS REGIONAL COMPETITION

A team of 10 Lee Burneson Middle School students took first place in the research category of a LEGO robotics regional competition.

The Westlake Math Demons robotics team competed with 15 other teams at Hawken Lower School, bringing home the Research Quality Award trophy in the 2008 FIRST (For Inspiration and Research in Science and Technology) LEGO League (FLL) competition for their research into wind energy.

FLL is a multi-disciplinary program that combines engineering, computer programming, problem solving, researching, presenting and teamwork into an eight-week period. Teams of three to 10 students, ages 9 to 14, work to build and program a robot to complete nine tasks on a competition table in a 2.5-minute robot round. The program is known as a sporting event for the mind.

Teams also meet with technical judges, who evaluate their robot design, programming and problem-solving strategies; project judges, who look at their research project, solution and outreach; and teamwork judges, who evaluate how well the group functioned as a team.

This year's challenge was "Climate Connections." Teams explored varied research from multiple angles in a team-building environment, built and programmed a robot to turn ideas into results, and researched and presented their creative proposals around the complex questions on climate. The LBMS team is exploring wind energy.

The LBMS team will advance to the state competition on Feb. 14 and 15 at Wright State University in Dayton. Teams will be evaluated in three areas – robot design, research project presentation and teamwork – and participate in robot competitions.

Westlake City Schools

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Elementary School**
24365 Hilliard Blvd.
(440) 835-6343

**Holly Lane
Elementary School**
3057 Holly Lane
(440) 835-6332

**Lee Burneson
Middle School**
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Intermediate School**
24525 Hilliard Blvd.
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High School**
27830 Hilliard Blvd.
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Members of the LBMS team include eighth graders Ishaan Bakhle, Evan Kelemen, Sam Kelemen, Elizabeth Kobe, Ashwen Ravichandran, Askash Shah, Kevin Wang and Sam Yun; and seventh graders Pranouv Idnany and Adler Smith. Advisor is Judy McMasters.

Z-Space Technologies Inc. of Westlake paid student participation fees and provided materials and technical support for this competition. Z-Space is one of the Westlake City School Districts' STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) partners.

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