

Partner News

Lego League

February, 2007

Kids, Robotics, Fun and Learning

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On December 9, 2006 hundreds of Northwest Ohio students descended upon the former DeVilbiss High School, home of Toledo Technology Academy, for the regional First LEGO League competition. Students in grades four through eight took part in the event.

"It has gone from 10 teams the first year to 26 this year.

The kids are learning about technology and realizing it's fun," according to Bill Niehaus, LEGO League competition organizer and Partners In Education Trustee emeritus.

Teams of up to a dozen students work together from mid-September until the early December competition, planning their strategies and building their robots. The groups usually meet weekly or semi-weekly after school or in the evenings, either at their school or another location.

The competition provides elementary and middle school/junior high students with a hands-on opportunities to learn about science and technology. It exposes many children for the first time to the field of engineering.

Partner organizations can get involved with First LEGO League by sponsoring team entrance fees and equipment purchases at their partner

school, providing volunteer coaches, or assisting with ancillary expenses like the purchase of team uniforms.

Teams that win locally can qualify for the state competition that takes place in January of each year.



Fierce competitors, the Leverette Lions, roared through the course at the 2006 First LEGO League competition in 2006.

Short-Term Partnership Activities That Make A Difference

- Do you have a "slow period" at your office each year?
- Is tutoring every week too much of a commitment for everyone in your workplace?
- Do you have an individual or group of people at work who have a special interest or skill they would like to share with students and teachers?
- Does your industry have a special school outreach program to take on the road?
- Do you have people with whom you work who would like to be involved with your partnership but who can only get away from the workplace once, twice or three times per year?

By now you've answered yes to one of these questions, so it's time to think about a short-term partnership activity that involves more of your co-workers in your school partnership while providing the students at the school with a valuable opportunity to learn something new.

Partners In Education has a variety of options for short term or one time only projects that your partnership can adopt as a part of your annual partnership activities. Whether it's a math facts marathon, a pumpkin run, a career day or any other activity, we're happy to help you make plans, create goals and measure outcomes. Contact our office for more information.

Mark your Calendar

- ✓ No school on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents Day
- ✓ Third Quarter Ends March 16
- ✓ TPS Board of Education meeting Tuesday, February 27 pm in the Thurgood Marshall Building

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Grateful Acknowledgement Partners in Education was founded in 1994 as a major community service project of The Rotary Club of Toledo. Partners In Education acknowledges with great gratitude the vital financial and volunteer support that Rotary and countless other organizations and individuals have provided over the years.



Principal For A Day/ Teacher For A Day March 27, 28 & 29, 2007

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 Toledo Public Schools Principal For A Day/Teacher For A Day program. Partnership liaisons and volunteers, community and business leaders, and others interested in learning what really happens in our local urban schools are urged to apply.

For the first time this year participants will be offered the choice of shadowing a school principal or a teacher for the day. The two opportunities offer different views of the typical day at school for those who want to gain an understanding of the behind-the-scenes action. Placements begin between 8 and 9 am and wrap up at around 1 pm.

Participants have a choice of days on which to experience the day in the life of a principal or a teacher: Tuesday, March 27; Wednesday, March 28; or Thursday, March 29, 2007. The week wraps up with a luncheon on Friday, March 30 hosted by TPS interim superintendent of schools, John Foley. At the luncheon, volunteers are encouraged to their observations and ideas.

If you would like to apply for the 2007 Principal For A Day/Teacher For A Day program, visit www.partnerstoledo.org to download an application, or contact our office at 419-242-2122.

Want a Partner? Update the New Partnership Assessment Form

In order to make the right contacts, seek the most appropriate partners and create the best matches, Partners In Education is asking schools seeking partners to submit an updated New Partnership Assessment Form for 2006-07. The form is available in the 2006-07

School-Community Partnership Guide. For more information, or if you would like a form emailed or faxed to you, please contact Partners In Education at 419-242-2122 or info@partnerstoledo.org.

Partnership Kits In Development

First kits to be available in April

With a grant from the Toledo Rotary Foundation, Partners In Education is developing five partnership activity kits, the first of which will be available to partners and schools beginning in April, 2007. The first three kits will focus on in-school volunteer tutoring, math activities and student incentive programs.

The kits will include how-to-manuals and support materials to assist in the development of new partnership activities. Each kit will provide tips for targeting resources, project evaluation and achieving measurable outcomes. Using the kit will help your partnership utilize "best practices" information and avoid pitfalls in creating start-up projects.

REMEMBER —

**It's not too early to register for the
Great Maumee River Dragon Boat Festival**



Saturday, July 28, 2006

Limited space available

**Contact Gretchen LeBoutillier at
419-242-2122 for more information**

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