

SMW Robotics Club cooks pancakes to fund FIRST game effort

The Robotics Club of Shawnee Mission West High School is hosting a pancake breakfast Saturday, January 3, 2009 in the cafeteria at Shawnee Mission West High School, 8800 West 85th Street, from 7:00 am – 10:00am to celebrate the kickoff of the F.I.R.S.T. Robotic season.

An international sponsor of over 4000 high school robotic teams, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) sponsors an innovative and challenging robotic competition world wide. Founded by Dean Kamen, noted inventor of the Segway personal transportation and numerous medical devices, FIRST will be announcing this year's game via live international satellite feed from Manchester, New Hampshire.

During the Pancake breakfast the rules and strategies of this year's game will be announced to the robotics students and others around the world. The Robotics Club will also be exhibiting their previous year's robots and other innovations they are working on. Attendees will have the opportunity to control the robots, practice their robotic skills, and even have the opportunity to shoot T-shirts and other projectiles from a modified robotic cannon.

"We're really excited about this upcoming season," says Mr. Robb Dudek, SM West Industrial Technology instructor and Viking Robotics Club head coach. "This day will kick off a long and very hectic building season as we build a new robot from scratch with the parts provided by FIRST. Each team gets the same parts, but the creativity of the students and their mentors produces each unique and creatively designed robot."

The Pancake Feed is a fund raiser and an opportunity to build community support for the Robotics Program at West. In addition to the robot exhibition, there will be the opportunity to bid on items in a silent auction, including merchandise and gift certificates.

Tickets are available in advance by contacting Mr. Robb Dudek at 816-589-2437 or Mrs. Vicki Davis, co-sponsor, at 913-530-3866. Tickets are \$5.00 for all the pancakes you can eat, including sausage and beverage. Tickets are also available from each member of the robotics team or can be purchased at the door. The robotics students are especially interested in showing their expertise to professional engineers in the vicinity who might be interested in knowing more about this program. Of course, tax-deductible monetary support is always appreciated.

For more information contact:
Robert Dudek – 816-589-2437
Vicki Davis - 913-530-3866
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Shawnee Mission West Robotics Team: Members of the 2008-2009 Robotics team pose with Robb Dudek, team sponsor and their robot at a recent competition.