



THE DRAGON'S BREATH

The MLWGS Academic Boosters Club Newsletter

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January 2015

Walker Model Stages a Successful 4th Annual Event



On January 10, the Fourth Walker Model Congress was successfully staged on the grounds of MLWGS. One of the highlights of the event was the keynote address presented by Dr. Charles Sydnor, a nationally recognized expert on the Holocaust and executive director of the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the staging of this successful event!

Forensics Team Places Second in Sweepstakes

The forensics team had a terrific meet at Monacan immediately coming out of winter break. They achieved the following results:



Jenna Markee ('17) 3rd place Original Oratory, **Naomi Vickers** ('17, City of Richmond) 4th place Oral Interpretation, **Michael Benos** ('16, Chesterfield) 4th place Extemporaneous Speaking, **Elizabeth Ratliff** ('15, City of Richmond) 3rd place Dramatic Performance, **Elizabeth Benos** ('17, Chesterfield) State Qualifier Declamation, **Julia Ball** ('18, Henrico) 1st place, Declamation, **Ananya Saram** ('18, Henrico) 3rd place Declamation, and **Emily Ma** ('18, Henrico) State Qualifier Declamation.

Additionally the team placed second in the Team Sweepstakes!

Upcoming Events

Maggie Walker Chess Tournament
February 14

Night of the Dragon Auction
February 21

Life Smarts State Competition
February 27

TSA Regional Competition
March 7

FRC (Robotics) Virginia Regional
March 19-21

GSMUN XVII Model UN Conference
March 20-21

Life Smarts National Championship
April 17-20

TSA Technosphere
May 1-3

Night of the Dragon Auction Sets Up Facebook Page

Under the outstanding initiative of Kris Lyons, the Academic Boosters have created a Facebook page to highlight many of the outstanding items that will be up for bids at the Night of the Dragon Auction on February 21. To find the page, please go to Facebook and search for "MLWGS Night of the Dragon." Or, if you'd rather just jump there directly, you can follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/MLWGS-Night-of-the-Dragon/1531887017070615>.

Be sure to like the page so you can get constant updates about what is being offered -- new items will be highlighted every day or two!

TSA has a BUSY Schedule on Tap for the Spring



The Technology Student Association (TSA) is working hard to get ready for the upcoming regional and state competitive events and conferences, with students currently deciding on which of the **thirty-six** individual or team events they wish to compete in at the conferences.

Upcoming events include the regional conference on March 7 at Highland Springs High School and the state conference, also known as Technosphere, on May 1 – 3 at the Hampton Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia. The regional conference is exceptionally important to MLWG's TSA contingent because the top three teams and individuals in each event at regionals automatically advance to Technosphere. Last year, over 30 students participated in TSA events, while two students went on to compete nationally at the TSA National Conference held at the Gaylord Resort and Conference Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Have YOU Made Your Academic Boosters Donation?

As we begin the new year, our academic teams are gearing up to for their state, national, and international competitions. With several teams hoping to succeed, many students will travel afar to compete on behalf of the school. We need your support now more than ever! While the Boosters wholeheartedly thank all of those who have stepped up to donate, we are very hopeful that other folks will also step up and join the ranks of those that have donated. By making the recommended \$50 per child per team donation, you are helping to pay for many of the trips, supplies, and other expenses associated with the clubs that your children love and enjoy.

Please take a moment to visit the donation portal on the Maggie L. Walker Foundation website at www.governorsschoolfoundation.org/donate/ and make your donation. And don't forget to note either on the credit card submittal form or on your check that this donation is to help the Academic Boosters! Thank you so very much for your kindness and your consideration.



Mech Tech Dragons Get Their Assignment, "Recycling Rush"

Early in the morning of January 3, the MLWG's Mech Tech Dragons were given their assignment as part of the First Robotics Challenge. After months of anticipation and speculation regarding what the challenge would be, the team was confronted with the 2015 challenge..."Recycling Rush."

The challenge for the 2015 game will be to design a remotely controlled robot that can manipulate three objects: a plastic garbage can, a hard-sided crate, and - what many players expect to be the spoiler of this year's game - a swimming pool noodle. Extra points can be scored if the robot can place the noodle into the slotted lid of the garbage can - a little like inserting a straw into the top of a to-go cup. Points are deducted for litter left on the playing field at the end of play. Teams will also be able to partner to work their side of a field of "litter" as they race to get as much as possible stacked up in the time allowed.

Over the next few days, the various responsibilities for the competition were divided into three subsystem categories, with team leaders appointed for each group. These groups include: Drivetrain (headed by **Ryan Masak**), Stacking Mechanism (headed by **Nyle Rodgers**), and Auto Can Grabber (headed by **Stephen Holtz**).

Now begins the hard work, as the team must complete all of their robot building by the end of the day on February 17.



Got News?

We want it! We welcome news and photos for the newsletter from parents, students, and faculty alike.

Please send submissions to us and we will include them in the next Newsletter.

Many thanks!

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