



Will C. Wood

Sponsors Needed For Wood's Grad Nite Event

The Will C. Wood Grad Nite Committee is once again sponsoring our Safe and Sober Grad Nite event for our graduating seniors of the Class of 2009. The event is scheduled for June 12, 2009 from 10 pm to 5 am on June 13, 2009.

Due to budget cuts from past donors and sponsors, the Grad Nite Committee is requesting the support of area merchants and residents to partner with us in our effort to put on this grand event for the 2009 graduates.

The committee is in need of donations of food, cases of soda and water and raffle prizes. Our Wish List for raffle prizes is: digital cameras, portable DVD players, Playstations, X-Boxes, Wii's, computers, computer hardware (ie. speakers, wireless keyboard and mouse, etc.), portable hard drives, home stereos, TV's or gift certificates for local merchants. If you are able and would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Will C. Wood Grad Nite and mail to P.O. Box 1229, Vacaville, 95696. Committee volunteers are available for pick-up for all donations.

At Grad Nite, seniors are given and win raffle tickets for a chance to take home one of the prizes. For more information please contact Denise Cantrell at wcw-gradnite@sbcglobal.net, by phone at 447-6993 or by visiting the website at www.willcwoodgradnite.com

Wall-e = VUSD-e

Robotics Club is the key word and it is a work in progress at Vacaville High School, advised by Phillip Jenschke, Will C. Wood High School, advised by Nathan Collins and Guy Gray and in our Elementary levels the GATE (Gifted And Talented Education) program directed by Joanne Buskco.

The Robotics Club at Vaca High is in its third year and Jenschke states that they have worked hard to improve their skills and relationships within the community. Girls in the club have also participated in EAP (Engineering Awareness Program) put on by SWE (Society of Women Engineers) at Intel. They also held a book drive for UC Davis Children's Hospital in Sacramento.

Both teams helped jump start and officiate the first Lego Mindstorm Tournament with GATE which was held at WCW last December. All the teams have won awards and on the high school level, they qualified to compete at the VEX World Robotics Competition in Dallas, Texas on April 30, 2009.

The clubs are funded by the following sponsors; Special thanks to the Solano County Office of Education, Bio Rad, Rotary International, Martin's Machine Shop, Vacaville Unified School District, GATE, Treasure Island Importing, the Whitman Family, Energy Lock, Inc., McDonalds, Roseband Properties and Banks Integration. With their support the clubs were able to compete in several competitions and win!

The VUSD is especially proud of teammates that earned internships with local businesses over the summer and especially one former teammate that is now working for NASA. Contact the VUSD office if interested in being a part of these career building teams.

More Recently on March 27 and 28, the Vanden Robotics Team competed locally at UC Davis where they placed 8th amongst 44 teams and played in the Quarter-Finals. The team earned the coveted Judge's Award for their efforts from robot design, construction and programming to their team management and outreach in the community.

WCW received the following awards:

First Place at the Bellarmine Prep VEX Robotics Competition in January, 2009 and qualifies them to go to the VEX World Robotics Competition at Dallas, Texas on April 30, 2009. Second Place at Central San Joaquin Valley VEX Robotics Competition on December 6, 2008 and also received a Support Award –Wood Robotics' students helped other teams. Third Place—first time out—at the Vanden VEX Robotics Competition on November 8, 2008.

VHS received the following awards;

1st place at our first ever Vex Robot Competition on November 8, 2008. 4th place at the Solano County Office of Education "I Built a Bridge" Competition on May 10, 2008. 1st place at Solano County Fair for our Autodesk Inventor Robot Design. Visit their team website at www.vhsrobotics.com



Rotary Youth Exchange

For over 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. More than 80 countries and over 8,000 students each year participate in the program. Vacaville Rotary is excited to announce they will be sending two students abroad and receiving two other students to live here in Vacaville.



Two students will spend a year here in Vacaville. They will attend either Will C. Wood or Vacaville High School. Vacaville Rotary is looking for host families to open their homes and share in this wonderful exchange. Host families are asked to host one of the youth for three to six months. The youth will become one of your children as you try to show them what life is really like here in the United States.

The first youth that will be staying here is Ann Lu, a 16 year old girl from Taipei, Taiwan. She has studied English for three years and loves to read novels. When asked about her characteristics she replied, "The strongest character for me is being optimistic. I always wear a smile when I see people. Keeping me in a good mood is one of my daily routine. However, I am not good at refusing people when they ask me to do them a favor, and it brings me too much work sometimes. The unique character of me is my laughter. Not only me but also my friends feel that I have a really happy laughter. When my friends hear my laughter, they will also feel happy and laugh with me."

The second youth we are welcoming is Renato Silva Filho, an 18 year old boy from Bauru, Brazil. His native language is Portuguese but he speaks English very well and also knows some German and Spanish. When asked why he wanted to participate in the youth exchange program he replied, "The journey exchange represents much for me, because I am sure that it is an opportunity where you can experience different experiences in all sector such as culture, economy and preserve the environment, and so bring to my country, which is great, experiences technological development and economic. And the opportunity to have friends independent of nationality, simply friends."

If you are interested in hosting Ann or Renato in your home for any amount of time please contact Lisa-Ann Nouchi at 916-565-3800.

Cooper OTM 'Treks' to the WORLDS!

On Saturday, 4 April 2009, at the Odyssey of the Mind (a creative problem solving competition) California State Finals, Cooper Elementary School once again reigned supreme! The all-boy team of third graders including: Caleb Barnes, Zachary Kellis, Joel Lindsey, Justin Moore, Nick Smith and Paris Wickliff demonstrated their 'Smokebuster' vehicle to solve the Earth Trek Challenge presented by the Odyssey of the Mind Competition. The basics of the competition involve teams of up to seven students that select a problem synopsis and creatively solve and present a solution within eight minutes. The Cooper Team, known affectionately as the Smokebusters, incorporated changes in location, appearance and even the environment of the vehicle to place. Even though this was the team's first attempt at OTM, they placed first at the Regional Competition in their division in late February at Natomas High. The regional win was huge as there were over 70 teams from across California!

The win at Natomas led to the State Competition at Heritage High School on Saturday, April 4, 2009. This competition included over 200 teams from eight regions across California. The team's coach, Ms. Tamara Barnes, explained the day started out with the need for, "Spontaneous Adult problem-solving" as the vehicle with all their props broke down on the way to the competition. After some quick thinking by the team, the vehicle and all necessary presentation products arrived just in time. The families enjoyed the entire day in Brentwood and anxiously awaited the awards ceremony late on Saturday evening. As they were discussing what they had learned from the competition and strategy for next year, the teams that placed were announced in reverse order from sixth place to first. Considering that there were 19 teams in their division, the boys figured that after the second place team was named that their chances of placing first again were really unlikely. Unbelievably, the first place team was announced... "Cooper Elementary!"

The next Trek for boys is on to Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa to compete the 2009 World Finals. The competition truly raises the bar again for the team. The competition invites teams from across the world and runs from May 27-30!

We wish the team well as they continue their number one trek across the country.

Contact is JoAnn Bucsko 707-330-7160 jbucsko@vacavilleusd.org for details. ■