

Pheonix News

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2011

Everything Team Pheonix Right Here!

JC Penney—A FIRST Partner



HELP...

With only three weeks left and funds running low, **Team Pheonix still needs financial support.** Please join our team!

Please contact:

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JC Penney has established itself as a major sponsor for FIRST Robotics teams nationwide. As a leading advocate for after school activities, the chain selected FIRST to support. They believe in the goals and ideals of FIRST Robotics and encourage schools to begin a team. Anita Szostek, Alma JC Penney's store manager, noted, "The FIRST Robotics program gives students exposure to science and technology in a different way than the classroom. There are not enough programs in general in public schools that give students a hands-on opportunity to work with all the different aspects of engineering that your team is currently experiencing." Due to their involvement, FIRST of Michigan notified schools that JC Penney would like to be a sponsor. Alma's answer was a definite yes, and the creation of a



robotics team opened up a lot of doors for Alma students interested in technology. Szostek added, "I am excited to see a small community like Alma have the opportunity to participate in the FIRST Robotics program. It is encouraging to see how members of the community have stepped in to support the program and its students." On Saturday, January 22, a few employees from the local JC Penney came to discover what Team Pheonix is all about. Staff-members viewed this year's game demonstration, the supplies and parts Team Pheonix was

given, and the beginnings of the robot. After taking a peek into the robotic world, staff members mingled with students to discover how beneficial this program is for Alma High School. "Your team has come together with a mix of ages, interests, genders, and individual strengths to achieve a single goal. All of you are working where your strengths are to support the team while learning a lot of new information. Those skills will support your success in many areas, not just this team."

JCPenney

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Thank you!

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We hope to see your
logo here soon!

Team Pheonix Mentors

Building a robot can be a pretty complex task, and members of Team Pheonix were unsure of where to start. But advisors, Gary Shimunek and Steve Kettler, had an idea to bring in mentors that are specialized in engineering and technology in order to guide the students in the best route possible for the building of their robot. Team Pheonix mentors are John Chouinard, Zach Dickerson, and Jake Hirschman. John and Zach

are both engineers working for Consumers Energy, and Jake is the head engineer of Precision Machine. Each bring a different aspect to Alma High School's FIRST Robotics Team, and are working hard to educate and challenge students to think outside the box! Team Pheonix really appreciates their guidance and time taken out of their daily lives to help students reach their goals and discover new ideas.



John Chouinard



Zach Dickerson



Mentor Jake Hirschman brainstorming with students Charlie Morey and Tom Anderson on mini-bot mobility ideas.



Mentor John Chouinard helping student Samantha Smith engineer the chassis for the mini-bot.

2011 Pheonix #3570 Members

Students

Tom Anderson	Jorge Benitez
Kaylee Bloom	Dillon Carr
Jay Green	Korey Hagan
Kristin Hammond	Nate Helman
Jenny Ho	Reid Lott
Charlie Morey	Elijah Rutkowski
Rachel Rutkowski	Samantha Smith

Mentors

John Chouinard and Zach Dickerson—Consumers Energy

Jake Hirschman—Precision Machine/C & S Steel

Teachers

Steve Kettler
Gary Shimunek



Mentor Zach Dickerson guiding student Jenny Ho in the process of programming.

<http://firstpheonix3570.weebly.com>
Our team website!