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THE HARROW NEWS

## St. Anthony Celebrates Speech Contest Winners

by Shelby Wye

The St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School hosted their annual speech competition on Monday, February 5. Many talented speakers competed in the three categories, divided by age. The top two of each division will be presenting their speeches at the Harrow Legion on February 21. From left to right, the intermediate division, Grade 7 to 8, first place winner Sienna Marques and second place winner Shelby Carvalho, the junior division, Grade 4 to Grade 6, first place winner Noah Heydon-Lachine and



second place winner Alyssa division, Grade 1 to Grade Ciotoli and second place Curtis, the 'storytellers' 3, first place winner Isabella winner Olivia Caixeiro.

# Hawkbots find success at Ontario West competition

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by *Sylene Argent*

The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School Robotics team, "The Hawkbots" experienced a successful showing at the FIRST LEGO Ontario West Provincial Championship, held at the University of Waterloo on Sunday.

"Our team did very well," Hawkbots Coach Michael Lamoureux said, explaining the young robotics team won the Research Award and the Global Innovation Award.

"Since we won the Innovation Award, the team has been invited to compete against 17 other teams from across Ontario at the 3rd Annual Ontario Innovation Celebration on February 25th at Seneca College in Markham, Ontario."

The competition will make for a great experience for the group of young entrepreneurs, who designed their hydrodynamics project to help mitigate the sometimes-devastating effect heavy rains can have in creating flooding or potentially contributing to the creation of Algal Blooms.

The around 10-person team helped create a portion of a Private Members Bill that would require new homes to be equipped with at least two 200-litre rain barrels that would be attached to a downspout. The idea is to prevent flooding and surface water runoff into bodies of water.

The team approached Essex MPP Taras Natyshak in hopes of drafting a provincial law. As part of the competition, the Hawkbots also propel a self-made robot through an array of obstacles.

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# WiredCats host Open House

by Shelby Wye

The St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School hosted their first-ever open house for their WiredCats Robotics Team.

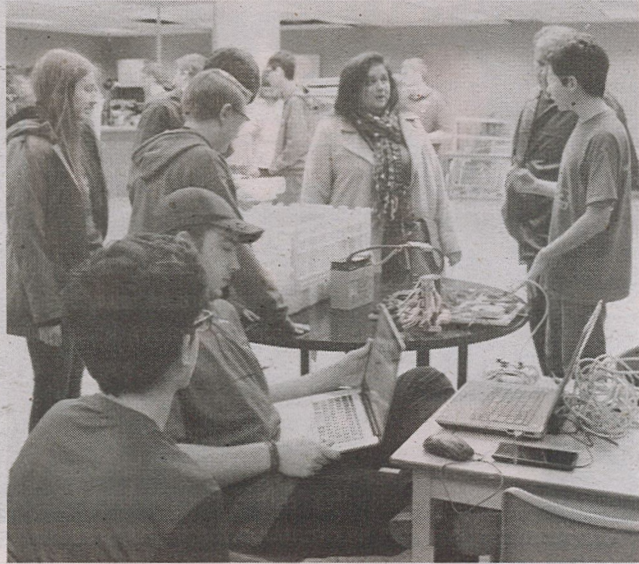
“The Open House was an opportunity for our sponsors, families, friends & the public to drop in to meet the kids on the team and see them at work during a typical build day,” said Stacey Greenwood the lead mentor for the team.

Greenwood said the day saw all of their teams hard at work. Their business team greeted the visitors and explained their role with the team. The mechanical, electrical, programming and design were able to share the details about their latest projects.

Pedro, which was their last year’s robot, was up and running. There was a multi-media display with the team’s video recap of the season which can be found on their website. Their first two seasons saw them compete FIRST Robotics Competition World Championships each time, an extremely impressive accomplishment for a new team.

“Last year, only our second season, we finished 10th on our field during the qualification matches at the FRC World Championships. We were awarded the Judges’ Award in the Curie-Darwin division at the FRC World Championships for the use of copper tubing to design our robot. We were also awarded the Imagery Award and Delphi’s Excellence in Engineering Award at District competitions,” said Greenwood.

They have recently been invited to be exhibitors at local technology and innovation tradeshows. They were the only high school robotics team to exhibit at the Windsor-Essex Economic Development’s Emerging Technologies in Automation Conference & Trade Show in October and at WE-Tech’s Artificial Intelligence Tech Show in November, as



The students of the Villanova WiredCats show off their latest work during their open house, which was held on Saturday, February 10.

part of the YQG Tech Week. In November, they also exhibited at the 5th Annual Build A Dream event which inspires young women to consider career paths in STEM, skilled trades and law enforcement.

They currently have 37 members, 35 per cent of which are female.

“We attribute this to strong female leadership, many of our mentors and sub team leaders are female, and to our community outreach at events like Build a Dream and our visits to local grade schools.” “One of our main goals is to break the stereotype that tech is for boys and to reinforce the idea that it is cool to be smart” said Greenwood.

Greenwood said their team would not exist without the support of their many sponsors. This is the most expensive extra-curricular activity at the high school level and their team is 100 per cent funded through sponsorship and fundraising.

“We are so very grateful that our sponsors see the value of investing in our kids through their passion for robotics; they truly are investing in the future.” “As I tell everyone, these kids are going to change our future” said Greenwood.

Their final day of building will be on February 20, after which they will be

ments in Windsor and London and then at the FIRST Ontario District Championships.

competing in two tourna-

# St. Anthony celebrates Winter Carnival

by Shelby Wye

The St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School had a very busy Shrove Tuesday, on February 13.

The school celebrated Shrove Tuesday in a traditional manner, with parent volunteers coming together to serve up hundreds upon hundreds of pancakes for the students. The school also hosted their first Winter Carnival, under the guidance of Mme. Congi Belcastro and her Grade 7 and 8 students.

Congi Belcastro said that her students have been researching all about the Quebec Winter Carnival, and about Bonhomme Carnaval, and all of the reasons why

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The whole school had the chance to participate in the first-ever Quebec Winter Carnival held at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School. Bonhomme Carnaval himself was there to celebrate with the students.

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