

Hello valued sponsors!

For the past few months we have been very active as a team, creating an environment for new members to learn and grow, and building connections within our school and community. We are so thankful for all of you and your company's support, and could not have these experiences without you.



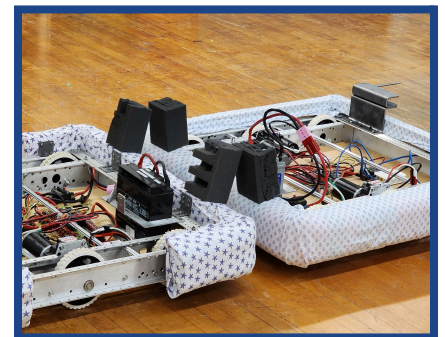
We started in September with general meetings. These meetings take place every Tuesday after school, where students are divided into their sub-groups. Our team's sub-groups consist of Media, Sponsorship, Build, and Programming. In their sub-groups, the captain of said group will educate students on the specific topic and prepare them for our busy upcoming season.

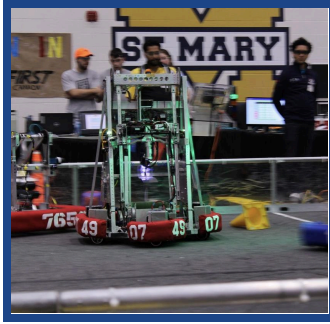
In sponsorship, our team has learned how to make phone calls and send emails to potential sponsors interested in donating to our team, and how to professionally communicate with businesses in all types of circumstances and conversions. In our build group, students have been educated on using simple tools such as a caliper, drill or hand saw, and will be moving on to more planning and designing for this year's robot. In media, students each take turns to learn the proper use of a camera, followed by the education of proper advertising and fabricating spirit wear for our team. In programming, our students are learning how to code basic Java, and will now be moving forward to prepare codes and ideas for our robot this season.



In late September, we found a way to make robotics more accessible for all students by starting build night. Build night happened every Tuesday from 17:30 until 19:30, and was hosted by our lovely mentors from *ETBO Tool & Die* at our school, *Parkside Collegiate Institute*. Since it is more of a hassle for some parents to send their kids out to *ETBO Tool & Die*, where we usually build and construct ideas for robots, our mentors thoughtfully traveled to us. During build nights, we would put together kit robots given to us by *FIRST Robotics* in previous years, we then used strategic thinking to “amp up” our robots to create a more unique

structure. We put together two kit bots, creating two separate teams who would battle once both robots had been built and programmed. Overall, our younger team members learned a lot and we hope we can continue to have build nights in the ongoing future.





In November, our team competed in an off-season event called STEAMly. This event is hosted by FRC teams 4039 and 5406 in Hamilton, Ontario. Our team set off with a brand new drive team who had spent all the time they could preparing for this event. This competition only lasted one day, meaning our team would play their qualification matches and choose their alliance for the playoffs within eight hours. We swept through our qualification matches with only two losses.



When it came to alliance selection, our team had been chosen for first pick by the current first-place team, team 7558, and with their second pick, team 7659. Our alliance performed quite well and we made it to the finals. Our alliance won the first final match, yet lost the second one. Thankfully we won our last match by one point and won first place overall.



In the month of December, our sponsorship team put together a holiday cookie fundraiser. Together they used their newfound advertising skills to make flyers, social media posts, and announcements to help bring awareness to our robotics team around the school. Our team mutually decided to sell robot-shaped cookies iced in our team's colors. On December 18, about ten members from our team met at *Saint Andrews United Church* who kindly offered up their kitchen for the night. After 5 long hours, our team



pridefully made three hundred cookies to give out the following day to any Parkside Student who had purchased one. We could not be more happy with the outcome.



At the beginning of January, our team hosted an event called “kickoff”. This event took place in our school cafeteria, where we gathered to watch the 2024 game reveal video from *FIRST Robotics*, and enjoy a potluck while we brainstormed ideas for this year’s robot. Each year *FIRST* releases a video describing the new challenges (the game) for this year, and around 12:00 it is broadcast to all other FRC teams around the world. Our 2024 game requires us to be able to shoot and place a foam ring, this brought out many ideas on how we are going to design and program our robot to complete this challenge.



As a brainstorming workshop, our mentors put together a practice field depicting the real one from this year's competition. We simulated a full run-through of the game with volunteering students and thought about different strategies that could work with the layout of the playing field. In the end, we left with some amazing ideas from students, teachers, and parents, and can not wait to see what our team will come up with for our 2024 FRC robot.