

One Day Monthly

November 2009

Topics in this issue:

- ODA Exponents Robotics Team Going to Regionals
- Community Service Opportunities

Exponents in “High Octane” Competition



The ODA Exponents earned second place at the local Capitol BEST competition last month.
Photo courtesy of Chandra Lewis

After the One Day Academy Exponents robotics team earned second place at the Capitol BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology) competition last month, they now look forward to the regional competition where they will battle it out for their fifth consecutive year.

“Each year all the schools are given a kit of [materials such as] PVC, wood, screws, aluminum, wire hangers, bungee cords, rubber bands, paper clips, along with a few motors, servos and a brain. Each team has to design and build a robot using only those parts that can complete the task given for that year,” said team sponsor Chandra Lewis.

The theme of this year’s event was “High Octane”—the goal was to build a robot that gath-

ered various objects that represented chemical elements and create a “high octane fuel.”

Capitol BEST aims to inspire students to further their study in the fields of science and engineering. This non-profit organization provides actual engineers from local industries to act as mentors for the students. The top teams from the local contest, lasting about six weeks, advance to the competition at Texas A&M University in mid-November. Teams receive prizes throughout the contest, including Texas A&M engineering scholarships.

In addition to constructing a remote-controlled machine, said team coach Chuck Lewis, the team must also document their process in an engineering book, create a web page, make a short presentation of their

effort, participate in an interview session with the judges, and conduct tests for the design validation.

The team is in its eighth year; 12 of the original Exponents members are now joined with 14 new members, most of which are One Day Academy students.

For more information on the robotics team, go to: www.capitol-best.org.

-Sarah Gersbach
One Day Academy
Yearbook Staff



Exponents team member James Lewis works on the robot.
Photo courtesy of Chandra Lewis

Volume 2, Issue 3

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Coming in December:
ODA Serving Opportunities
Upcoming Academic Fair

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Not Your Usual Courtroom

The defendant placed his hand on the Bible, swore the oath, and took his seat. The prosecuting attorney looked at her notes and with the judge’s permission, began firing questions.

But this isn’t your usual courtroom. What makes this courtroom different is that all the participants are teens, the defendant has already pleaded guilty or been found guilty, and the jurors only decide on the sentencing.

In fact, the scene is typical of a Monday night at the Williamson County YMCA Teen Court. Judge Edna Staudt began Teen Court in 1996 with the help of the YMCA: “I

wanted to partner with the Y versus a government entity to ensure the ability to incorporate godly values.

“This particular teen court offers a variety of involvement,” Judge Staudt continued. “To participate, a student needs to attend regularly, learn the policies and procedures of Teen Court, and pursue [roles such as juror, bailiff, clerk, or attorney.]”

Over 1,000 students have participated in Teen Court, according to Judge Staudt. While teen volunteers staff all the positions at Teen Court, jurors are joined each session by a few defendants serving mandatory jury terms. Adult

volunteers teach students on the once-monthly training nights, then serve as supervisors during court sessions that come a week later on the following Monday nights.

ODA alumnus Matthew Peisker served as a Teen Court staff attorney throughout high school, both defending and prosecuting defendants. He said typical cases ranged from speeding, to disorderly conduct, to consumption of alcohol. Sometimes the jurors were lenient, and sometimes they were not.

“I would have to say the biggest and worst sentence I ever argued for as a prosecuting

(Continued on page 3)

Homeschool Handyman's Corner: Teaching Your Children Basic Homeowner Skills

This month: Toilet Maintenance and Repair



The flush handle can be replaced if it is broken or to improve appearance.

This month's topic may not be pleasant, but toilets are something we all use multiple times a day.

Because of their heavy use, toilets are prone to wear and a number of problems. The good news is that toilets are very simple and easily repaired with basic hand tools.

When you understand how toilets work and how to fix them, a lot of time and money can be saved. This is a good skill for every child to learn to be a future handy homeowner.

Begin by understanding the basics of the toilet. Look up details on the internet or in a book.

There are only two connections to the house: the drain pipe in the floor and the water supply valve on the wall. Parts of the toilet the student should identify: seat, bowl, tank, flush valve, flush handle, fill valve and standpipe.

Almost every part of a toilet can be repaired or

"None of these are difficult tasks if you have common hand tools around the house."

replaced. The seat can be replaced if it is worn, broken, or just plain ugly. The flush handle can be replaced if it is broken or to improve appearance.

The flush valve can be replaced when it wears out or leaks. The tank fill valve and associated parts can be replaced when they misbehave. The seal to the drain pipe can be replaced when water leaks down around the floor. The water seals from the tank can be replaced if they are leaking.

None of these are difficult tasks if you have

common hand tools around the house. Instructions are typically provided with replacement parts.

The bowl or tank may even be replaced if broken, although at that point it may be wise just to get a whole new toilet. Some toilets are single piece items, but most have a separate bowl and tank. If you are installing a new toilet, it is best to get all new parts with it.

The most common toilet problem is a clogged drain. Work with your child on how to use a

plunger properly. Other common problems involve the flusher (not flushing properly or leaky flush valve) and the tank fill valve.

Information on how toilets work, how to plunge properly and how to repair various parts can be found at a very helpful website:

www.toiletology.com

-Jim Peisker

jpeisker@yahoo.com

www.handyhomeowner.us

Jim is a homeschool dad who has worked 28 years as an electrical engineer; he has been fixing stuff all of his life.

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Not Your Usual Courtroom, from page 1



Judge Staudt says she wanted to partner with the YMCA versus a government entity to ensure the ability to incorporate godly values at Teen Court.

attorney was a triple sentence," Matthew said. "All of those sentences had maximums of about 50 community service hours except the disorderly conduct, which had 30 hours. Although the jury decides, I helped convince them and the teen got a total of 120 hours of community service, an alcohol awareness class, and a driving safety class, along with the requirement to serve as a prospective juror."

"Teen Court effectively reduces crime," said Judge Staudt. "The majority of defendants do not re-offend. Also, all participants [defendants and volunteers] learn the consequences of bad choices." One student who came to court as a defendant was so impressed by the teen staff's serious attitude, that he realized that his own behavior was foolish and childish, Judge Staudt recalled. He joined the Teen Court and succeeded as an attorney, as well as improving his grades and behavior. Later, he went on to attend the U.S. Mili-

tary Academy at West Point.

What brings Judge Staudt back to Teen Court year after year? "I continue with Teen Court because I'm inspired by the excitement and enthusiasm of the students and parents. It's rewarding to assist in developing the skills they need to lead."

For more information on court dates and training times, go to:

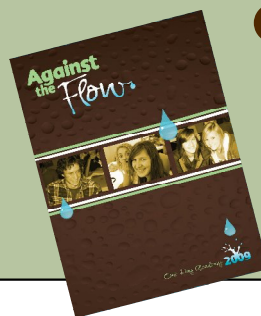
<http://www.ymcateencourt.com/>

-Monthly staffer Justin Movalli and Editor Susan Peisker collaborated on this article.

Announcements

- Seniors! Sign up now for the **2010 One Day Academy graduation** to be held in late May. Contact Patti Ashley at p.ashley@onedayacademy.com for more information.
- The **2010 Yearbook** is on sale. If you do not have an order form, you can pick one up at the campus sign-in desks, or contact Susan Peisker at shpeisker@yahoo.com. **The price of \$45 goes up Dec. 1.** Families may pay a deposit of \$25.
- **Academic Fair** is coming up in January. Look for an announcement soon, as well as an information article in the December *One Day Monthly*.
- **Psalm 91 Ministry** offers an opportunity to pray for the ODA staff. Open to ODA families, friends, relatives, etc. Contact: t.schoeneck@onedayacademy.com
- Two of our campuses now have **youth pastors** available for a few hours each week to spend time with the students: Dripping Springs and Georgetown. Please contact David Swarbrick at 736-8823 or the pastors at the campuses to learn more.
- **Math tutors** are now available:
Monday, SW Capstone: 11-2; Tuesday, Lakeline: 12-3
Wednesday, Georgetown: 10-12; Bastrop: 9:30-11:30
Thursday, RR Capstone: 11:30-1:30; Friday, South Austin: 10-12

Got Yearbook?



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\$45—Price goes up Dec. 1
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TeenPact Equips Leaders of Tomorrow

The trademark of a typical American teen is an iPod, a cell phone, and an apathetic attitude about the pressing issues of our world today. Many in our generation have overlooked the significance and importance of being aware of our government and its workings.

TeenPact is a national organization devoted to equipping and educating the world leaders of tomorrow: young people. TeenPact broadens Christian students' horizons by focusing on the often overlooked topic of our government—and God's role in it. Tim Echols, founder of TeenPact, said, "It is very important that our young people see that spiritual revival is the answer to America's problems—not politics. We teach students that every Christian must pray and vote according to Biblical principles."

TeenPact teaches the foundations of government during

their one-day (for younger students) or four-day interactive courses held each year at over 40 state capitols across the nation. Students not only get to shake the hands of a legislator, or even their governor, but they make connections that will last a lifetime.

During their study of their state's legislative branch, TeenPact challenges students to write their own bill. Some students even take the challenge to run for "governor"—they learn the ins and outs of campaigning, too.

TeenPact incorporates the Christian principles it was formed upon. Students begin each day with devotions. They pray together for our leaders, and learn about the bill-to law" legislative process, the principal of "higher authority," and speaking publicly.

Each year thousands of students step up to the challenge and make TeenPact's mission come to life as they transform

from students to statesmen. According to a statement on their website, TeenPact believes that "this is the important transformation that will help the next generation to change their world."

ODA student Emily Peisker, a two-year participant of TeenPact, said, "I would definitely recommend it, because it is very important for students to learn what is going on in the government and how the government works. As Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, 'Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who could protect the rights and privileges of free people.' So students should start learning about politics now, before they become adults."

TeenPact is already taking registrations for its 2010 classes:

www.teenpactleadershipschools.com/

*-Cassidy Woodall,
Monthly Staff*



Students and parents attend a TeenPact one-day conference at the Texas State Capitol.
Photo by Susan Peisker