Child's Play

KinderLab robotics

Newsletter

Dear Reader,

Hello, and welcome to the July 2016 issue of Child's Play!

Summer is in full swing here in the Boston area. If your schedule follows the school year cycle, summer provides a welcome change of pace and tempo. It's a chance to step back, breathe, and think about things in new ways. It's also a chance to make plans for new things to try in the fall.

On that theme, we bring you a story from Yavneh Academy in Paramus, NJ, about ways to integrate KIBO into a range of classroom projects. And we have some links to learning and training opportunities to help expand your horizons before the next school year starts.

Enjoy your summer! As always, thank you for reading and don't forget to stay in touch on Twitter (@KinderLabRobot) and Facebook (Facebook.com/KinderLabRobotics).

Mitch Rosenberg
Co-founder and CEO, KinderLab Robotics

View from the Classroom: Yavneh Academy

Chani Lichtiger, the Director of Educational Technology at Yavneh Academy in Paramus, NJ, recently shared with us her experiences helping teachers there integrate KIBO into a range of classroom activities. KIBO's adaptability meant teachers at Yavneh were able to turn KIBO into animals to investigate habitats and migration, while other teachers used KIBO to explore a map of Jerusalem.

As Chani put it: "Yavneh's first graders used their KIBO robots to explore and enhance their units of study. For example, while learning about the Native Americans, KIBO visited model teepees, a Pilgrim home, and a garden. After some practice with the basics skills of programming and scanning, the class began to incorporate the light sensor into their thinking about animals. The students learned that birds migrate south in the winter. They created birds which they used to decorate their KIBOs. Then, they used the light sensors to help their robotic birds travel to warmer climates. Similarly, while studying nocturnal animals, the parameter "until light" was incorporated so that the "animals" would not come out of their homes until the light of the moon appeared."

"There is so much teamwork, planning, strategizing, and trial and error. The room is alive with children completely engaged in hands on learning. It is an incredible opportunity for our class," Laya Levine, a first grade teacher at Yavneh Academy, expressed.

You can read more of Chani Lichtiger's Yavneh Academy story at our KIBO Resources website.

KIBO Resources Website is Growing

We wanted to remind you that we have an entire website dedicated to sharing - and collecting! - advice, ideas, activities, and curriculum about KIBO. The site is open to all interested KIBO users and teachers at resources.kinderlabrobotics.com.

The site has been expanding quickly, thanks to contributions from inspired KIBO users. Recent additions include great new activity ideas, including a set of self-directed activity challenge cards and instructions for programming KIBO to draw!

At the KIBO Resources site, you'll find lots of great materials:
* tutorials for first-time users
* activity cards and guides for project ideas
* complete curricula for implementing KIBO in the classroom
* videos and stories about real-world use of KIBO

* links to published research supporting KIBO

Development of the KIBO Resources website was made possible by the ongoing support of the National Science Foundation.

Where's KIBO: Training and PD Opportunities

We have a few upcoming training and professional development opportunities to share, for those of you in (or planning to visit) the Boston or New York areas.

- Our co-founder Marina Bers has launched a new Early Childhood Technology (ECT) certificate program at Tufts University! Tufts will host an open house about this program tomorrow - Saturday, July 16, from 2:30 to 3:30. Sign up for the open house. The program is designed for educators and practitioners working with young children in pre-kindergarten through second grade in diverse educational settings such as schools, museums, libraries, and daycares. KIBO and ScratchJr are at the heart of this exciting new four-course graduate certification program. Three of the courses can be taken remotely, while the fourth is a one-week residential course (and includes a KIBO to take home)! More information, including admission information for Fall 2016, is at http://go.tufts.edu/ECT.

- In August, Tufts' DevTech group is hosting a two-day professional development opportunity for educators, covering both KIBO and ScratchJr. Registration is available for just one day or both. The KIBO day will be August 7. This workshop is perfect for educators, program coordinators, and specialists who work with young children ages 4 to 7. No prior tech experience required! Learn more about the summer workshop.

- Finally, at the end of the summer, on Monday, August 29, our friends at the New York Academy of Sciences will offer an afternoon KIBO training session entitled "Teaching Kids to Program with KIBO". Get inspired right before the new school year begins! Learn more at the NYAS website.