



# Child's Play



Newsletter



Dear Reader,

Hello and welcome to the December 2015 issue of Child's Play!

We are in the midst of the holiday season, a busy time for an educational technology toy company! We are filling orders as fast as we can take them -- and there is still time to [order your KIBO](#) before the holidays end.

Amid the busy-ness, the holidays are also a time for reflection and gratitude. I am amazed when I think about how many people have shared in our journey -- from our initial Kickstarter backers to our most recent customers. I am so grateful for all of the support, feedback, and enthusiasm which KIBO users have shared with us. Thank you!

In this issue, we have tips on introducing KIBO in the classroom, advice on fundraising from a school which successfully funded a large KIBO purchase through private donations, and some highlights of recent and upcoming events.

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

## Fundraising for KIBO at Calgary French and

# International School

We are very excited that [Calgary French and International School](#) in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, has decided to bring KIBO into their younger grades. CFIS is a French-immersion school with a strong school-wide focus on global perspective and cultural peace. CFIS is also committed to integrating creative use of technology throughout all of the grades from K – 12.



As [Theresa Gerritsen](#), Director of Communications, Marketing and Advancement at CFIS, puts it: "By teaching students how to code, we are teaching students how to create." We couldn't agree more! (You can read more about [CFIS' plans for integrating KIBO into their STEAM offerings.](#))

CFIS funded the purchase of their KIBOs through private donations. Knowing that other schools might be interested in learning more about CFIS' fundraising process, we asked Gerritsen if she would share some advice. Here's what she had to say:

"Our school's first Fall appeal for donations was launched in October 2015. We decided to ask for specific items so that our parents, grandparents and staff could see their donations at work in the classrooms. Together, faculty, principals and leadership compiled what we called our Classroom Giving Catalogue. Essentially, the catalogue is a shopping list of priorities for the year that were not covered within the current year's budget. KIBO was one of those products and the most popular by far with our donors.

"If you are coordinating a fundraising effort like this, I recommend working with teachers and leadership early in the new year to set priorities before the curriculum and planning begins for the coming year.

"You can set yourself up for the years ahead by thanking your donors and showing them the specific ways they have changed learning within your classrooms. A product like KIBO is an easy-win for the school and for parents who want to see tangible ways their donation can make an immediate difference in their child's learning."

*Theresa Gerritsen is the Director of Communications, Marketing and Advancement at the Calgary French & International School*



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## View from the Classroom: Dan Riles on Introducing KIBO

Introducing a new technology to the classroom is an exciting opportunity, full of opportunities for open ended exploration. That said, the right guidance can help kids get a lot more out of their first contact with KIBO.

Dan Riles, Technology Integration Specialist and Computer Support Specialist at the Brookwood School in Manchester, MA, introduces KIBO to new classrooms through a participatory and collaborative process which has worked well for his students. He offered to share his process with us. You can read the entire rundown of [Riles' 30-45 minute lesson](#) at our KinderLab [blog](#), but here's an excerpt:



"I then pass the lid of the bin with the parts and body on it to the first student in the group. I ask her to start building KIBO. With no further directions, the student is able to figure out how to put a piece on and pass the tray. By the time it gets back to me, all I have to do is tell the students about the green dot on the wheels showing through the base, but that has even been figured out by some groups."

Riles' lesson makes great use of this model of passing a single KIBO set around with a small group, simultaneously creating an atmosphere of discussion and community while giving more kids hands-on time with a single KIBO set. [Read the full lesson plan here.](#)

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## Where is KIBO?

KIBO continues its world-wide travels as 2015 draws to a close and we look ahead

to 2016!

- Last month, KIBO was in Spain with our co-founder Dr. Marina Bers, working with students and teachers at the Collegi Monserrat in Barcelona.
- Closer to home, Marina was a visiting speaker at Lincoln School in Providence, RI. She presented KIBO and worked hands-on with the kids. [Read more about her visit](#) at Lincoln School's site.
- Looking ahead, this week KIBO will be in New York City! Marina will run a three-hour professional development session at the New York Academy of Sciences. If you'll be in New York on Wednesday Dec 16, you can still join in! [Register with code "Kibo15" for a discount.](#)



- And next month, KIBO will be at the Massachusetts School Library Association's [Digital Learning Day](#) at WGBH. Jason Innes, KinderLab's Program Manager, will present "Hands-On Robotics with KIBO: Programming, Sequencing, and Literacy". If you're a school librarian, we encourage you to attend this exciting day and visit with KIBO at our session!

DIGITAL LEARNING DAY  
@ WGBH JANUARY 8, 2016

## Did You Know?



If your KIBO has a sound sensor attached, the **Wait For Clap** block is a great way to start a program. You can push the green triangle button, but KIBO will wait patiently for your clap before moving. You can even coordinate a group of KIBOs this way. If they each begin their program with Wait For Clap, then they will all start moving together when they hear it!



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