Child's Play

KinderLab robotics

Newsletter

Dear Reader,

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

Today we are very pleased to announce the availability of the **KIBO Expression Module**, the first new module to join the KIBO lineup since our founding. The Expression Module combines a flagpole and whiteboard to greatly expand the options for personalizing, customizing, and extending your KIBO, and it opens up exciting new curriculum opportunities in literacy, geography, and more. The Expression Module is available now at our web store for $20. Read more about it in this issue.

We also have a great article in Money Magazine to share with you, and our View From the Classroom this month brings you a story of KIBO as a cave rescue robot at New York City's PS 321 in Park Slope.

And we share a remembrance of Dr. Seymour Papert, a theorist, innovator, and teacher who passed away in July.

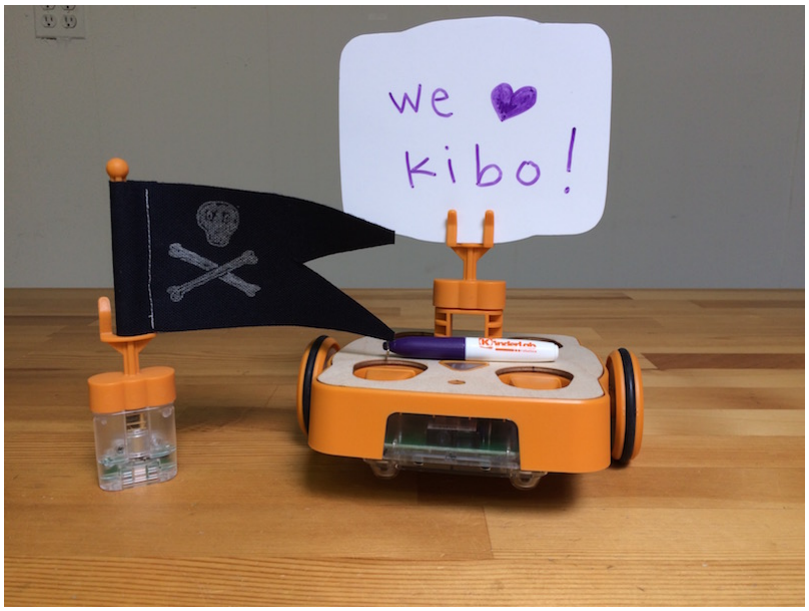
As always, thank you for reading and don't forget to stay in touch on Twitter (@KinderLabRobot) and Facebook (Facebook.com/KinderLabRobotics).

Mitch Rosenberg
Co-founder and CEO, KinderLab Robotics

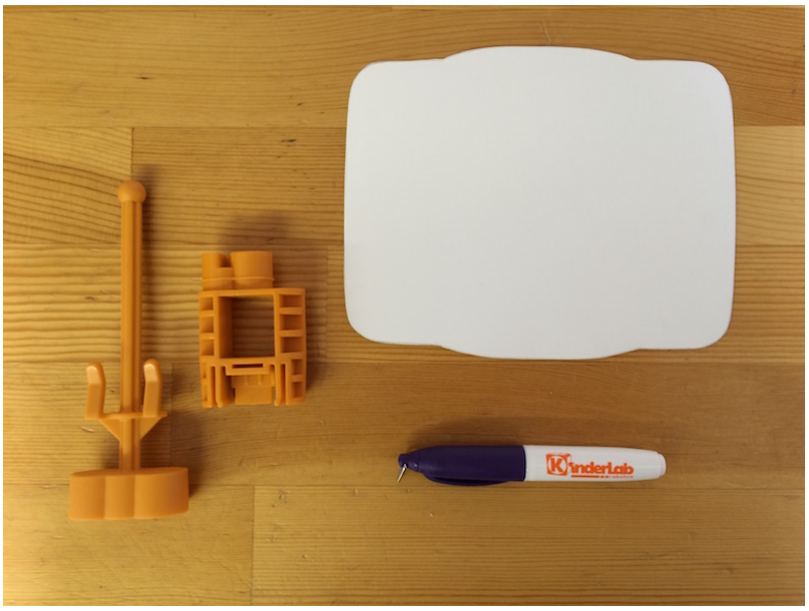
New Expression Module Expands KIBO Options!

We are very excited to share the news that the KIBO Expression Module is now available! This is the first entirely new KIBO module developed since KinderLab's

founding, and we can't wait to see what you will do with it.



KIBO is all about bringing creativity and self-expression to STEM and robotics education. The new Expression Module takes this part of KIBO's personality even further. The kit includes a flagpole which mounts in KIBO's center socket; the flagpole can fly kids' custom made cloth or paper flags. Or maybe it's a mast for a sailing KIBO...? In addition to the flagpole, the kit includes a KIBO-shaped whiteboard which clips onto the flagpole; a dry-erase whiteboard pen rounds out the kit so kids can start decorating right away.



The Expression Module provides the foundation for lots of new creative play and learning. We're very excited about the opportunities for literacy education with KIBO and the Expression Module. The whiteboard provides a writing surface which opens up many possibilities. The folks at Tufts DevTech lab have already created an Expression Module literacy curriculum available at our KIBO Resources site. We're excited to hear your ideas too; how will you use the Expression Module?

The Expression Module is available immediately at our web store, shop.kinderlabrobotics.com. The price is $20. The Expression Module can be used with any of our KIBO kits, KIBO-10, KIBO-14, or KIBO-18.

Tweet your reactions, ideas, and experiences with hashtag #KIBOExpression!

Money Magazine Profile of KinderLab

Recently, the folks at Money Magazine visited the factory and spoke with KinderLab co-founders Mitch and Marina about how they decided to start KinderLab. They took a tour of the factory to see how KIBOs go from tiny parts to finished 'bots; and they heard the story of the kids' birthday party where KinderLab Robotics was born.

You can read the entire article and watch the factory-tour video at Money Magazine's website: http://time.com/money/4397284/startup-kinderlab-robotics-bootstrap/ And we invite you to tweet it, share it, and send it to friends and colleagues. Thank you!

View from the Classroom: KIBO the Cave Explorer at PS321

We love that KIBO can help kids see the connections between their own robotics work and the roles of robots in the wider world. Robots assemble machines in factories, help surgeons in hospitals, rescue people in dangerous places, and even explore other planets. With a little creativity, KIBO can simulate these bigger siblings.

Dr. Brian Sulkow, a teacher and curriculum developer in the New York City public school system, shared with us an activity he coordinated at PS 321 in Park Slope, Brooklyn, where KIBO became an explorer and rescuer.

"Our KIBOs take on some important jobs. In one lesson, students program them to rescue baby bears that are lost in deep dark caves. (Our caves are constructed with old cardboard boxes, the imagination of the students dresses them up.) They love to train KIBO to navigate the twists and turns of

our caves. Most of all, they love programming with the light sensor and the light – if the cave gets dark and scary, then KIBO should turn on her flashlight!"

Keri Goldberg, a first grade teacher at PS 321, said "the students in my class couldn't wait to get their hands on the coding blocks that would make their KIBO robots go. The lessons had a true spirit of experimentation – there were no mistakes, just lots of trials, observations, and cheers to get back to work! I wouldn't be surprised if the future programmers and scientists among them remember this experience as one that sparked their interest in coding and creative problem solving."

Read more about this lesson at our KIBO Resources site.

Do you have advice, ideas, or experiences with KIBO that you'd like to share? Please visit our KIBO Resources website and click the ***Submit Yours*** *button to share!*

Where's KIBO?

- 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 http://www.nyas.org/Events/Detail.aspx?cid=39a7ce06-9ab0-47c5-afa3-033ce7d6cc48

In Memoriam: Dr. Seymour Papert

Dr. Seymour Papert, an MIT professor and pioneer in the theory and practice of hands-on educational technology, passed away on July 31. At MIT, Papert originated the learning theory known as constructionism, which asserts the importance of collaborative project-based learning and of students' creating meaningful, tangible products. Papert was instrumental in the creation of Logo, an early educational programming language, which laid the foundations for Scratch, Lego Mindstorms, and many of today's STEAM tools and projects, including KIBO.

Our co-founder Dr. Marina Bers studied with Professor Papert at the MIT Media Lab. She shared this remembrance.

"Seymour Papert was the world's pioneer in educational technology. Back in the

60's, when computers were big expensive machines, he had the vision to see how children could use them as tools for learning and thinking. This was inconceivable at the time. Seymour was the co-creator of the LOGO programming language, which I first learned as a child in Buenos Aires, Argentina, back in the 70's. I did not know then, that Seymour was going to become my mentor when pursuing grad school years later at the MIT Media Lab. I will never forget the first day I met Seymour. I was very nervous. I had read all of his work and I fell in love with his wonderful book "Mindstorms: Children, Computers, and Powerful Ideas". I arrived to his office at MIT having prepared a long and careful speech about why I wanted to work and learn with him. He opened the door, smiled and said, in a strong South African accent that I could barely understand since my English was very basic at the time "Nice to see you. I forgot to do the shopping for dinner tonight. Come with me, we will go together and talk on the way. You will help me choose the good fruits." And so we went to the local grocery store and between choosing tomatoes and peaches, we had a fantastic conversation about the things I would continue thinking until today, 22 years later. That was Seymour. Always unexpected, always brilliant. His ideas have influenced my own academic and intellectual career, and the trajectories of so many of us working with children, robotics and programming languages all over the world. Seymour never got to play with KIBO. While at a conference in Hanoi a decade ago, before KIBO was invented, he was struck by a motorbike and suffered serious brain injuries from which he never fully recovered. However, his thinking has tremendously impacted KIBO's design and approach. Seymour was a man of ideas. Powerful ideas. May his ideas continue to have an impact on the way we help children think in new ways through new tools."

All of us at KinderLab thank Seymour Papert for his work and inspiration.

Did You Know?

With a masking-tape lane and some plastic pins, KIBO can become a programmable bowling ball. Kids can plan a program that will send KIBO down the lane, measure the results, and tally the number of pins knocked down.

This idea came to us courtesy of Todd Burleson, Maker/Teacher/Librarian @ Hubbard Woods Elementary School in Winnetka, IL. Thank you, Todd!