



THE ROBOCAVS MACHINE ROLLS ON

Finding ways to make the most of co-curricular activities during COVID-19

WE ALL KNOW THE CURRENT SAFETY PROTOCOLS have presented numerous challenges to learning environments around the world. However, with the help of dedicated faculty, many of Collingwood's co-curricular activities are finding a way to continue providing students with inspiring educational experiences.

One example of this is our amazing robotics club, the RoboCavs. In order to continue to manage safety protocols, several changes were required to the program this year. Team structures were altered to keep students within their learning groups. Additional roles and responsibilities were placed on the students to ensure attendance logs, isolation between groups and proper cleaning of equipment. "While not a typical year, we've seen a lot of really

good things happen,” says STEM Teacher Shaina Gleicher. “The students have stepped up to take on a lot of extra roles and are developing a high level of leadership.”

VEX, the international organization that runs robotics competitions, pivoted this year to provide competitions in a remote format. This format includes a remote skills competition, where participants run an auto-code script for their robot for 60 seconds. A referee views the skills via camera and scores the demonstration for various criteria. While this different format has taken some time to debug, the team has found ways to overcome the challenges. For example, the RoboCavs successfully participated in an event hosted by Harvard Westlake in California that included teams from all around the world.

Best of all, despite the unusual format of this year’s events, the RoboCavs have now expanded to 13 active teams, comprised of over 60 students. In early spring, the RoboCavs will be hosting the Collingwood Invitational, which will include a more standard, in-person format that follows current safety protocols. Go RoboCavs! 🎮

