

G.I.R.L. TECH NEWSLETTER #8

Hello interns and parents, and welcome to newsletter #8, the last of our weekly updates to let you know what's going on in the G.I.R.L. Tech internship program. It's been great working and learning with you and we thank you for being a part of our program.

SEND YOUR GOOD WISHES TO MONIQUE!

Our YWCA coordinator, Monique McIntosh, was rushed to the hospital last week due to a sudden health emergency. She's been diagnosed with shingles but is out of the hospital now and doing ok. Please send good thoughts her way for a speedy recovery!

LAST WEEK IN RECAP

This past week we visited Mechanimal, a group that works on a variety of robotics projects for museums, toy companies, and more. We also toured the National Robotics Engineering Center where we saw enormous robots that are used in different environments.

THE FINAL WEEK OF G.I.R.L. TECH

This is the eighth and final week of the G.I.R.L. Tech internship program. We've really enjoyed getting to know you guys and having you be a part of our project. Now we have a couple of events coming up to wrap up the program and celebrate everything we've accomplished together this semester.

We will not be meeting on Monday, May 4th—our project team will be busy watching other ETC groups give their final presentations. This Wednesday, May 6th, is the last day of our program and two special events in one. We will meet you at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh for our Soft Opening of the robotic painter exhibit, when we'll make exhibit publically available at the museum for the very first time. We'll also have a completion ceremony and ice cream social to celebrate the conclusion of your internships. We'll show off the tic-tac-toe game that you created, hand out certificates of completion, and eat ice cream. Parents, please join us to see what our interns have been working on over these past weeks!



EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING

The official grand opening of our exhibit, Lynxie's Art Studio, takes place on Saturday, May 9th, at 1pm. You are welcome to join us, and we encourage you to spread the word—we'd love to have lots of kids there to try out the exhibit on its opening day!

THE FUTURE OF G.I.R.L. TECH

We hope that you've enjoyed our program this semester. You've helped us to create the Children's Museum exhibit and also completed some really cool projects of your own—especially the tic-tac-toe game, which we hope to put on display and make available to visitors at the ETC after this semester is over. You've also visited with groups in the Pittsburgh area who use robotics to encourage kids' play, to help with psychology research and social development, to create lifelike animation, to entertain and communicate ideas, and to aid in tasks that are dangerous or difficult for humans to do. With any luck these experiences have gotten you thinking about programming, mechanical engineering, and robotics in a new way. There are a ton of different applications for robotics out there, and now you know a little more about the behind-the-scenes skills that go into so many of the technologies that surround you in your daily life.

The ETC is currently in discussion about the possibility of having more projects based around girls and robotics in future semesters. If you would like to see additional programs like this one, or if you have recommendations for future programs, please email me at lantz@cmu.edu and let me know your thoughts so I can pass them on to the people making this decision. Thanks again for your participation—we couldn't have done it without you!