



Agriscience Student Takes Tomato Plants to New Heights!

Senior, J. Alquiza, tests the EC levels of his Hydroponics Lab in the Pankow Center greenhouse. The Agriscience student doesn't know how Hydroponics first gained his attention, but the tomato and cucumber plants he is growing have definitely grown tall under his care. Hydroponics is the growing of plants, especially vegetables, in water containing essential mineral nutrients rather than in soil.

Alquiza stated that he used to check how much they had grown each day, but since they have touched the ceiling of the greenhouse he has now moved to trimming them and removing 'suckers' that will not produce any fruit and will help the plant grow stronger.

Mrs. Tautolo, the new Agriscience and Natural Resources teacher for the Pankow Center, has built on student interest in these different fields by purchasing other items for Hydroponics Labs using student minigrants offered through the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. A private donation of \$600.00 was also given to the program after a local business owner saw the great things happening in the greenhouse and classroom.

Detroit Auto Dealers Association and Snap-on™ Tools Hosts Tech Trek Challenge

Twelve students from the Automotive Technology program and two students from the Automotive Collision and Refinishing program, who qualify for the AYES program, were given an opportunity for a 'Sneak Peek' at the North American International Auto Show 2007. The Detroit Automotive Dealers Association (DADA) sponsors the yearly event with Snap-on™ tools to invite potential new technicians to attend 'Industry Day' at the Auto Show. The event, held on Thursday, January 11th, also had a 'Road Rally' type activity called the 'Tech Trek Challenge' that gave students three hours to answer 50 technical questions about various auto related topics. One of the Pankow Center teams was able to place third out of 60 teams who competed. The top 10 teams were awarded prizes that included tools from Snap-on™ and cash for the top five. The team from Pankow that took third consisted of A. Shoemake and J. Caron, both second year automotive students. Ms. Shoemake is currently employed as an *AYES Apprenticed Technician* with Bavarian BMW in Shelby Township. January 11th was 'Industry Preview Day' as well and two full days before the event opened to the public. Industry Preview Days are an exclusive opportunity for companies in the automotive industry to invite their key contacts, suppliers and employees to preview one of the top auto shows in the world. This is the perfect time for companies to share in the excitement of the auto show before the official opening to the public. The small crowds and other professional attendees from industry made the event even more impressive and exciting. Students enjoyed the event and the program plans to continue sending students next year.

For more information:

DADA ~ www.dada.org

AYES ~ www.ayes.org

Pankow Center ~ www.lc-ps.org/Schools/Pankow



Pankow Center FIRST Robotics Team Starts 2007 Design/Build Season

The FIRST Robotics season started on January 6th with kickoff events held across the country. Student members of the Pankow Center FIRST Robotics Team went to Novi High School to participate with other local teams to hear about this year's game and get a pep talk from FIRST Founder and inventor Dean Kamon. This year's game is called "Rake and Roll" and requires robots to not only place large plastic rings on a huge metal rack, but can score by lifting their own robots four or 12 inches off the ground. More information about this year's event can be found at www.usfirst.org.

The 2007 Pankow Center Robotics Team has been named the G.E.A.R.S., which stands for **G**aining **E**xperience **A**nd **R**ecognizing **S**kills. Paragon Technologies, Inc. will be sponsoring the team again this year with a large monetary donation and donated time to mentor students from their employees. Two new mentors have been added this year, one from FANUC Robotics and the other, a retired Macomb Community College instructor.

Parents have been very involved in the FIRST Robotics team this year so far and have added to the experience for the students.



Two students from this year's GEARS team assemble a gear box for a robot using an online tutorial.



MIND YOUR MANNERS!

Students in the Business, Management and Technology (BMT) program were able to apply what they have learned in the classroom about dining etiquette in the Creuse Connection Restaurant on January 11th. Mrs. Culver, the BMT teacher at the Pankow Center, thought the best way to test her students on the information she taught them about manners, conversation skills, use of utensils and eating techniques, was to observe them in a real life situation. Mr. McNamara's Culinary Arts class prepared a meal for them at the student-operated Creuse Connection Restaurant located inside the Pankow Center.

For more information:

Eating Your Way to a Job Offer
by Carole Martin

<http://interview.monster.com/articles/lunch/>

Learn and Earn Expo

Macomb Community College
Macomb Sports and Expo Center

12 Mile Road and Hayes Road
Wednesday, February 28th, 2007

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

and

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.