



Our students will lead and shape the future

News release

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Jefferson Elementary students show robots to airplane engineers

Students wow Boeing engineers for two hours as part of company's celebration of engineering

Four schools were invited to take part in *E-Week* in late February at The Boeing Company. Only one of those was an elementary school – Jefferson Elementary. Jefferson's four robotics students were invited, along with the robotics teams from Cascade High, Everett High and a high school from Edmonds. The students were invited to showcase their STEM activities and witness how STEM is practiced in a company such as Boeing.



Each school group set up its robots and obstacle courses and lego challenges with Boeing engineers anticipating what they were to see. Jefferson's assistant principal Daniel Natividad was just as excited as his students, "For about two hours, students demonstrated robots to the Boeing engineers. Students did an amazing job explaining what they did with the robots and how they use Mindstorm software to program the robots' directives. Students explained the December robotics competition and all they learned about working on a team. Each student left the experience seeing a future as an engineer!"

The students weren't the only ones impressed. "Many of the engineers walked away impressed with what the four elementary students knew and kept commenting upon how engaged these students are in science and technology." They were even more amazed by the Jefferson students when they learned this is the team's first year.

After the chance to show the engineers a thing or two, students were treated to a guided tour of the massive plant where the 777, 737, and several other planes are being built.

"The students were in awe," Natividad said, "at the size of the plant and how organized the different engineering groups had to be to build these planes. The tour guides did a wonderful job of showing the importance of hard work, being organized, being accountable within a team, the need for creativity, and the importance of collaboration as we toured the factory."

Besides being an exemplary first-year robotics team, the Jefferson Thunderbots have a champion within The Boeing Company. Neil Palachuk is Cascade High School's robotics mentor and a Boeing employee. Students who attend Jefferson Elementary will eventually attend Cascade High School. "There is a solid future for these and many other students with an interest in science," he noted. "I also know that having a good 'farm team' of elementary robotics students will only be a good thing for the legacy of Cascade High School's robotics."

For more information:

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Thunderbot December 2015 success

The first-year team was barely three months old in December 2015 when they competed in a First Lego League event against 40 other teams, including middle schools.

The result? Thunderbots took 31st place in the robotics event and absolutely ROCKED in the problem presentation competition. Their rap about candy wrappers blew the judge and the crowd away and earned them first place in the presentation category.

Candy wrappers? That's right. The December theme was *Trash Trek*. All teams were challenged to find environmentally friendly solutions to the world's escalating waste problems. Students were asked to research a problem and present a solution.

Thunderbots learned candy wrappers are harmful to some animals and are not biodegradable. They wrote letters to candy companies and asked companies to use biodegradable wrappers. Students also repurposed wrappers into new products – including jewelry.

Coach Palachuck was pleased with this novice team in December. "They were extremely confident in spite of being a brand new team. Now they've seen how things work, I expect them to be even more impressive and successful at each event they tackle."