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Minirobots: Building blocks for ideas

Library hosts STEM activity for kids over spring break

Library hosts activity for kids



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By SAMANTHA VICENT World Staff Writer | 0 comments



Hayden Hutchins (left) and Ben Ewen help steer a robot at Nathan Hale Library on Wednesday during the "Amazing Cubelets: Mini Robots" event...

In a room at the Nathan Hale Library on Wednesday, 14-year-old Makayla Ewen took the lead on her team's efforts to make its miniature robot operational.

Makayla's group, which also included her siblings Autumn and Michael, received a set of Cubelets robot blocks and was told to build a bot that would roll, spin or otherwise travel across the table.

"Some of them light up. Some of them have some sort of sensor," Makayla said of the blocks. "And then they have magnets. And then they have (conductors), which is how they communicate with the other (cubes)."

The only "rules" the team had to follow were that one cube in its creation had to be

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Library events as spring break wraps up

Nathan Hale Library, 6038 E. 23rd St., 918-549-7617

3:30 p.m. Thursday: Use recycled computer/electronics parts to make art and jewelry (ages 9-18)

Librarium, 1110 S. Denver Ave., 918-549-7349

3:30 p.m. Thursday: 3-D printing workshop (all ages)

Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Road, 918-549-7590

2 p.m. Friday: STEM activity — make mini stomp rockets (ages 6-12)

Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., 918-549-7542

2 p.m. Saturday: Lego maze race (ages 10-18)

Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., 918-549-7550

2 p.m. Thursday: "Minions" movie watch party (all ages)

2 p.m. Saturday: "Goosebumps" movie watch party (all ages)

dark gray — the color assigned to the Cubelet that provides power — and the robot had to have at least one “sense” block and one “action” block.

“That one’s rocking. Look at that!” Cindy Lister, a children’s and teens’ library associate, said once the robot started moving. “That’s cool.”

Makayla and her siblings were among a little more than a dozen children at the library for its “Amazing Cubelets: Mini Robots” event, which is part of the library’s Teen Tech Month programming.

Lister said the activities planned for spring break are all related to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) lessons.

On Thursday, the library will show off its “retro tech museum” and hold an event in which children can make items, including jewelry, out of old computer parts.

“(The activities) keep them engaged so that when they go back to school their minds are connected with school,” Lister said. “A library is a great place for the community to gather. You can always have fun, engaging activities.”

Samantha Sanco, a member of the Oklahoma Serves AmeriCorps program, was also on hand Wednesday to help coordinate the activity. She said she was pleasantly surprised at the turnout during spring break week and glad the children are “engaged and excited” about STEM-related activities.

“Tinkering is just so fun,” she said. “It doesn’t matter what age you are. Science and math are a couple of those subjects that aren’t immediately enticing, and maybe it takes a little bit to be introduced to it and invited into it.”

Makayla said she already has decided that a STEM career — engineering — is in her

future and joked about math being an “unforgiving field” because there is usually a right or wrong answer.

“I like being able to solve problems,” she said. “I like the satisfaction of knowing that I did something right.”

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