

**P.A.C.E. Meeting Minutes from 02/13/2012 – “Pizza with PACE” - 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

We will started off with a presentation about one of the academic options offered to Columbus City Schools students: a Robotics Program coordinated by Liz Johnson, one of our middle school Gifted Specialists.

The student team gave a demonstration of their recent project work.

The First Lego League Robotics team from Dominion M.S. is made up entirely of identified students. This team have been selected as a FLL Ambassador Team and attended the state level tournament on February 4-5.

Interesting facts:

- Dominion Middle School has offered the Lego robotics program for several years.
- Ms. Johnson stressed that, as opposed to most other middle school options, students in this exercise not only one, but combine multiple skills, such as research, team work, logical thinking, giving presentations, and more.
- The cost is \$400 or \$500 for the first year, but there are grants available.
- Typically, the team meets about 3 times per week. A non-competitive group is expected to work for about 6 hours per week. Groups that go to the competition will need to make a greater commitment and work/meet much more.
- The First Lego League Robotics is for ages 9-14 (students in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade).
- There are about four middle schools in CCS that offer Lego robotics.
- In high school, students have to option to participate in an advanced program: The **FIRST Robotics Competition** is an international high school robotics competition organized by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).