

Bay Area News in Brief

05/02/2007

Leslie Griffy, Mercury News PALO ALTO

High school, middle school place first in robot contest

"The Screeching Beagles" - a team of alumni **of Keys School in Palo Alto** - and the "Mars Bars" of Castilleja School in Palo Alto built the best robots to grab first place in the 20th annual Tech Challenge sponsored by San Jose's Tech Museum of Innovation.

The St. Francis team topped the high school division, followed by teams from Los Altos High School and Monta Vista High in Cupertino.

Castilleja took top honors in the middle school division, followed by teams from St. John Vianney in San Jose and Terman Middle in Palo Alto.

The teams built robots that could accomplish two basic tasks facing a Mars rover. The robots had to survive being dropped 12 feet, as if from a spacecraft, then scale the steep, 6-foot-tall sides of a crater-like space.

Seven hundred students on 191 teams from Northern California entered the challenge.

The six winning teams will demonstrate their robots at the Tech booth at the Maker Faire, May 19 and 20 at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds. The fair features arts, crafts and engineering projects.

At the Tech Challenge, robots were judged on their innovation, engineering, performance, documentation and creativity.



Keys School alumni with "The Screeching Beagles" robot in Palo Alto
