

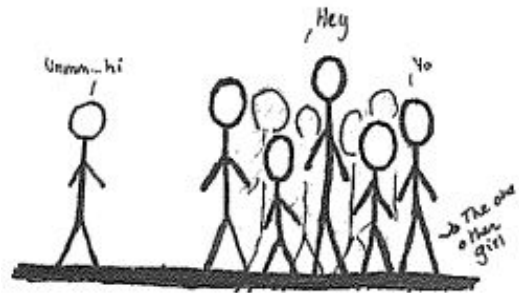
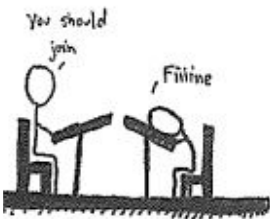
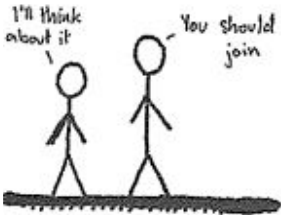
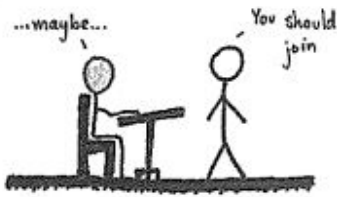
*Girl Powered*

**VS**

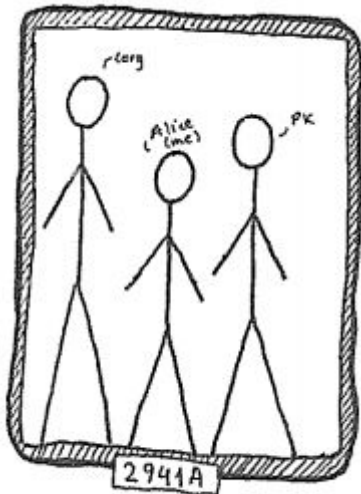
**OATS Robotics**

*My take on STEM and VRC through my  
experience with 2941A*

So... I found out about robotics through a friend. It took me several months to join but I got sick of refusing.



(It's kinda male dominated)

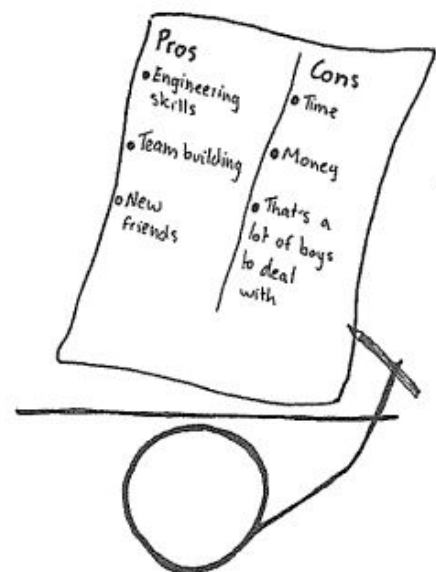


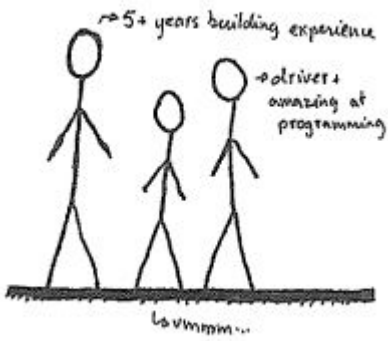
Team Portrait

I quickly joined a team, and immediately lowered the height average

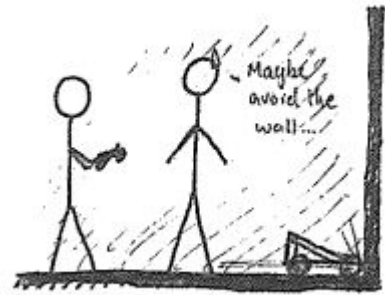


The pros outweighed the cons though

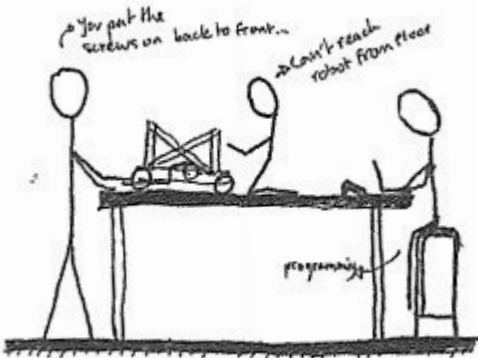




# Finding a role



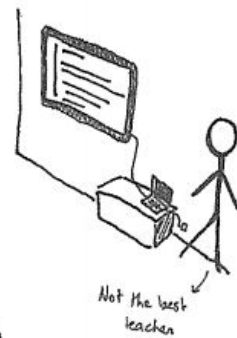
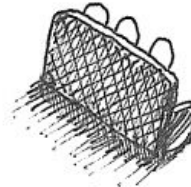
Helped a bit with building.



I gave driving a go with a friend from another team. Wasn't really my thing.



One of my teammates even hosted a programming tutorial, open to all teams at DAT's robotics. But since he's the best Programmer in any of the teams, we leave it to him.



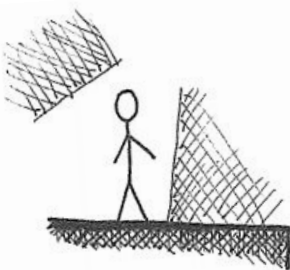
In the end, I decided I would be the most helpful doing the written part, which is where my strengths lie. Therefore, I work on online challenges and our design notebook.

At OAT's robotics and in team 2941A, our approach is creating a more inclusive environment through offering equal opportunities to all students interested in robotics, removing stigma and letting people choose the roles that best suit

## Our take on Girl Powered

them. We are here to get the job done and in that sense, our gender is irrelevant. An interest in STEM fields is crucial to enjoy robotics, and vice-versa: through enjoying robotics, you develop a greater interest in STEM fields. In light of this, 2941 tries to create a fun, interesting environment based off friendship and teamwork, which we hope encourages more students to look into STEM fields.

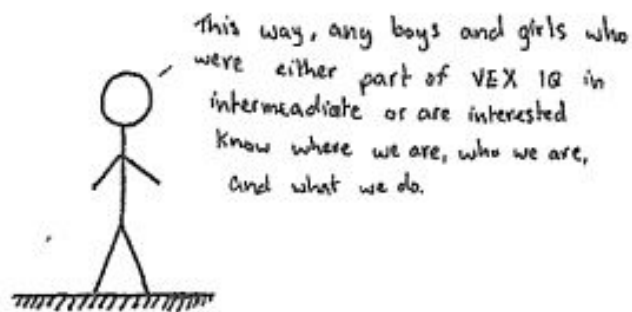
The diversity in our team provides new perspectives. Ideas are challenges and we have greater creative input and design innovation. I greatly admire both my teammates for their experience, skills who they are as people and their efforts to teach and include me in the different aspects of robotics and VRC, and hopefully i have created lifelong friendships out of this experience. Through the diversity in our team we have increased our chances of success as we have increased the mental and physical power focused on building the best robot we can. Through our success, we hope to inspire more girls to take on STEM roles and more people to accept and integrate diversity into their teams.



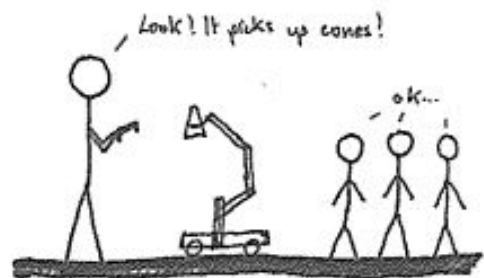
# Our Shot at Inclusion

This year, our school Otumoetai College implemented the STARS program, which aims to help integrate year 9's into their new school environment. In an effort to increase the diversity of students in our teams and

better advertise our club, 2941A enrolled ourselves in the program.



PK also took part in the year 8 orientation evening, which showed our robot and club to students planning on enrolling in the school





- Better team chemistry - a range of experience, attitudes, characteristics help us balance each other out and have a more fun and inclusive robotics experience.

# HOW DOES DIVERSITY AFFECT US?



- We get different skill sets.  
- Having a diverse group means we have a lot of different skills available.

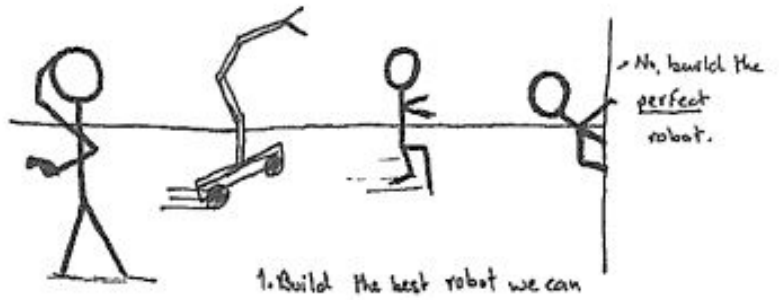


- Different perspectives. Ideas are challenged, we have more creative input, problems that might have been missed are addressed and new solutions are found.

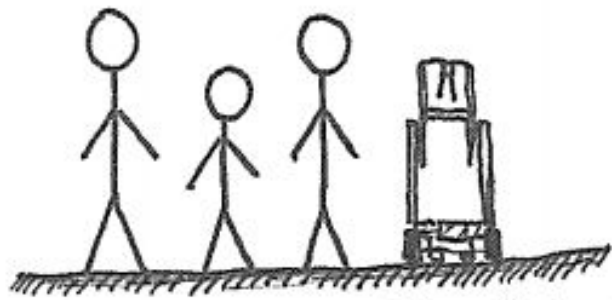


- We're helping change the world. By supporting diversity in school based STEM activities like VRC, we start changing what STEM fields are supposed to look like in the future when we choose our careers, and open new pathways for girls in the years to come.

# Our Goals



2. VEX excellence award



3. Have fun together!

# Our STEM Role Models

Our team has two main STEM role models: Margaret Hamilton and Elon Musk. We all have a deep interest in space programs, which both these figures were/are hugely involved in. We admire

Margaret Hamilton for her fundamental role in the Apollo space program developing in-flight software. Her remarkable achievements in a time when women were greatly excluded from STEM fields are a reminder that we can do whatever we aspire to if we put our minds to it. This message is also learnt from our second role model, Elon Musk, who founded SpaceX and is a huge advocate for renewable energy and solutions. For these reasons, we hold these two people to very high esteem and hope to one day achieve as greatly.



Margaret Hamilton (left) and Elon Musk (above)



*Lastly, our team:*



*From left to right: Cory, Alice, and PK*

*All drawings by Alice.*