

Neener Now or Neener Never...

Girls can do anything and will do everything



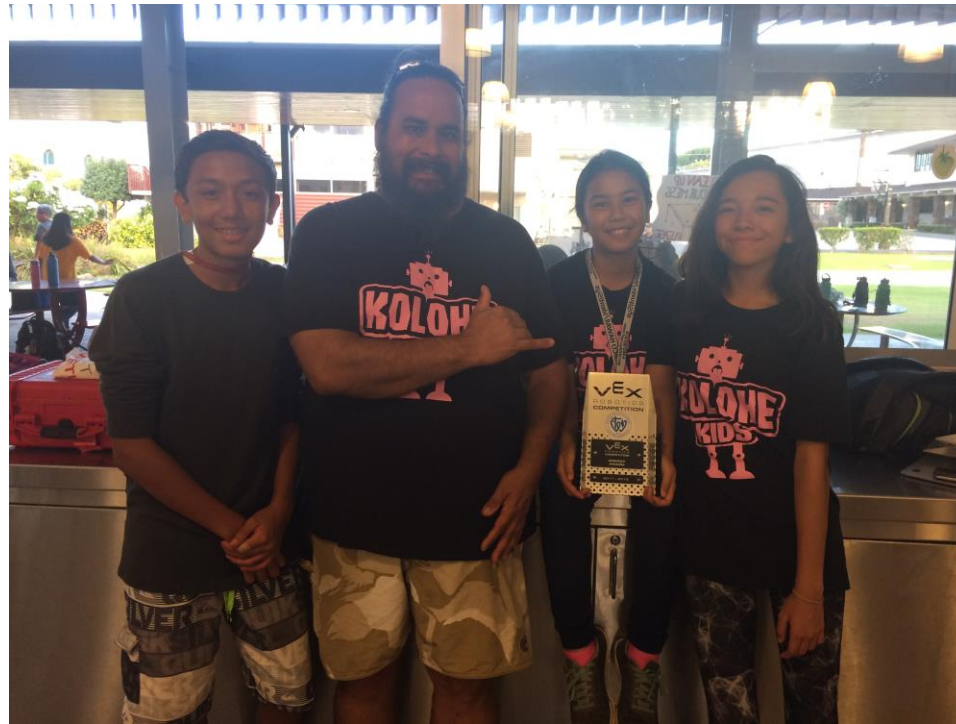
Girl power to me is the idea that woman and girls can be brave and confident, make decisions, and fulfill things on their own. Girl power can be put into everything like in a fairytale, it's the princess who kills the dragon and

saves the prince. It could also be in car racing, it should be the girls winning the race. What I'm trying to say is, why should it always mostly be the boys winning, being the hero or even the one who makes the difference. Why can't it be the girls making the difference? I hope soon that it will be that girls are making most of the changes.

On the first day of school, I had been considering of joining an after-school club. I had seen flyers around the school for a robotics after-school club. After school that day I went to the robotics room. When I walked in I seen many people and what I noticed is that there were more girls than boys. I was actually really happy that there were more girls. After being in the robotics club I realized that there was one girl that stood out from the rest. Her name is Kimara Alger.

Kimara was really shy but, she was also determined, and a hard worker. She actually has motivated me to be more inclusive in my team and to also try harder no matter what. What I realized in robotics is that Kimara has been one of the best people I have worked with. As the year went by Kimara began to break out of her shell. She began to talk to more people, she also started to say things in full sentences and say what is on her mind. She was fierce and strong, she was also full of fire. She couldn't even hold herself back because her passion for everything she did was burning higher than her fears.

We have a really diverse group. It is a great thing though because the experience of what each of the group members seen will give ideas on the robot idea. For example, if I saw something that would work perfectly for the game then I would explain what I saw and try to make it like a VEX robot. We also seem more connected because we have many stories and other things to share that makes us all somehow feel closer. The diversity helps us succeed because we all push each other in our own ways.



After a year we barely had people coming into robotics but it's okay. Currently, we have twenty girls and twelve boys. This year I have gone to the Sacred Hearts Tournament, Pan Pacific and other tournaments with Kimara. While being at those tournaments as an all-girls group, I realized that boys think that they are better than girls in robotics. I also came to the realization that at tournaments when we talk strategy about driving, boys try to make it more simpler and they underestimate us girls when it comes to driving. Also, when all the girls present the STEM project, some of the male judges would look at us like we aren't going to know our facts or that we just aren't going to do good but then when we talk they looked surprised.



Although we have been through tough times with everything, we would still push through it because we know that we worked so hard to complete tasks just to prove that we are nothing that the people who don't believe in girl power think we are. When we felt like giving up on proving to everyone that we are powerful, we thought about why we started and we continued because we didn't want to let anyone think that girls can't be powerful enough to do many things. I mean just girls go to robotics almost every day of the week and we even sometimes come to robotics on break. We work the double amount of time to prove that we can be the best and that we are hard workers. We also do things that prove we love and are dedicated to what we do and people still don't understand why we still do all of this. Girls are not weak emotional basket cases. We are strong, powerful, confident, driven creatures. Who will crawl our way out of terrible storms to get where we belong.

Our family too judges us on doing robotics. They want us to do actual physical sports or pageants. I mean at pageants they want us to look pretty but, us girls in robotics want to be pretty kind, pretty smart, pretty strong, pretty funny, and pretty powerful. I mean it's better to be strong than to be pretty and useless. I just don't like that family doesn't understand that this is something that we love to do. Being in robotics makes us girls feel good that we can lead and prove that we can do as much as a male can do.



I mean it isn't actually that bad working with boys in a team. They can actually be fun and delightful to be around. Some boys actually can deal with us girls and are okay with us. I find that to make me glad because I feel that boys always judge girls so I like the feeling of knowing that boys aren't against you for once. I just don't like the

feeling of knowing that boys are on your team but just don't have faith in what you're doing. I'm happy to have people on the team that all support each other.



We recently had a Girl Powered scrimmage at our school. We had used our robots that we have made and then drove the robots as a group of girls. Kimara was an announcer. She had so much fun and she was actually, really helpful. She told everyone how the game was played, she played fair and she made us all laugh.



There was also a day when families came and tried out the robots that we made. For both VEX and VEX IQ. Kimara took charge and told them how the game goes, what the objective of the game is and how the controls work. We also had a time when we went to our public library and taught kids how to build robots, and drive them. Kimara was there to help. Everyone enjoyed being there spending time with kids and teaching them what we love to do.



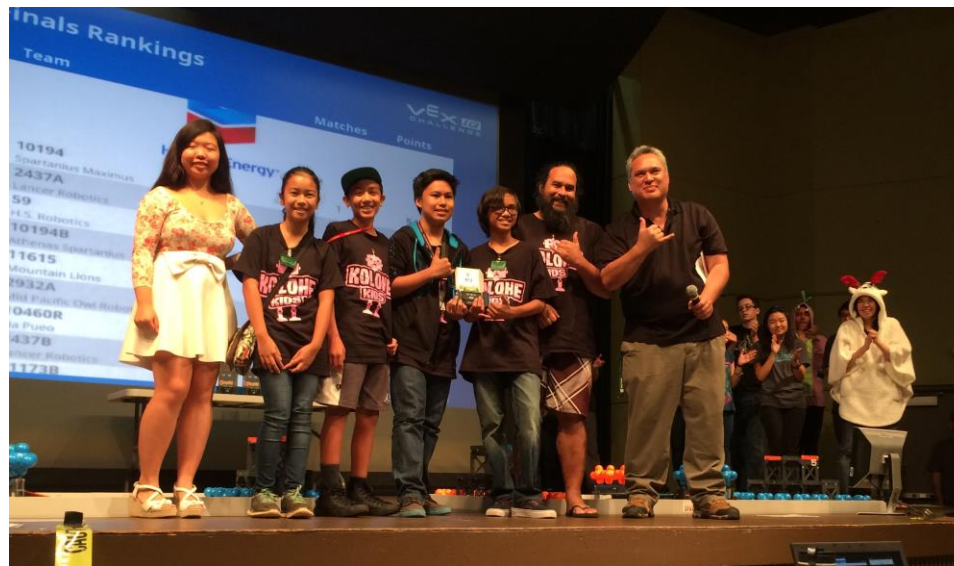


Kimara has inspired her younger sister to join robotics in her school. Other girls, as well as I, know that Kimara will leave a name in robotics. We as girls honestly want to leave robotics knowing that we have started a generation of girls who are as dedicated and devoted as Kimara. Well actually, we don't think that anyone will be like Kimara because everyone is their own selves and no is exactly like each other. We just hope that the next generation of girls in robotics will work at their hardest.

Kimara has a purpose-driven warrior type of vibe. She isn't really the person to be afraid of her choices. She taught me not to be afraid of what people are going to say, or think because I can't make everyone happy. I honestly felt like falling apart when people from our team left. I felt that I wasn't going to be as good as I used to be without those people. I felt like giving up and I'd look around the room and realize that everyone has the

people they need to continue until I seen Kimara, she was still doing all that she can do, that's not the problem but the problem is that she was one of the only people from her team coming to robotics. I thought that I should keep on going because of Kimara can keep strong without anybody from her team than I can do it too. Kimara has really made me understand that I am strong, confident, important, and loved. Also, to love myself, stand up for myself, know that I don't need to be perfect and that I can reach my dreams.

Overall Kimara has been such a big help, motivation, hard worker, fun person, and she is enjoyable to be around. She is a great captain, she tries to understand where everyone is coming from and she is also, a good listener. I just hope that she will carry on to be the same loving, caring, hardworking, devoted person that she is now, maybe even a bit better. I remember when she was just a shy person, but that's nothing like who she is now.



Neener Now or Neener Never....

Girls can do anything and will do everything

Credits:

Made by – Brandi Yabes-Damasco

STEM Role Model – Kimara Alger

Team Number – 5777A

#buckets, Lokelani Inter. School