

Easy as a slice of Raspberry Pi

by staff reporter
Isabella Solis

Creating duct tape art, blackout poetry and origami bookmarks students embraced the possibilities provided by the libraries new Makerspace program that started this year. But this month's Makerspace stood out from the craft-like projects. Giving students the possibility of web surfing, gaming and movie watching, the Raspberry Pi project served as an ultimate game changer.

"It fits in the palm of your hand," librarian, Anna Runyen said. "You can create anything. I mean you have so many different options."

The Raspberry Pi is a low cost, credit card sized computer, functioning in the many ways a computer does. It has features such as cameras and sensors. Raspberry Pi users have the ability to hook up a USB connection, an HDMI output for video and an Ethernet port for Internet. And the unit holds anything needed to be stored into memory on an SD card.

"So you have all that functionality of a computer, but it's on this tiny little thing," Runyen said. "It's the perfect way to see if you're wanting to take a step towards technology without sinking a bunch of money into it."

The raspberry Pi is compatible with a variety of keyboards, mice, computer monitors and televisions. It provides a high level of education for students and adults, while being able to hold the programs such as Scratch and Python.

"Raspberry Pi interests me because it allows people an inexpensive way to get started with programming as well as other computer related projects," Instructional Technology Specialist Ryan Sanchez said. "The possibilities are really endless. You can create an Mp3 player, a Pi

powered arcade cabinet, or even link several Pi's together to create a little supercomputer."

The raspberry Pi funding has come from library fundraisers that have been collected over the past years. This money was used to purchase five kits, plus the needed accessories.

"One of the groups that signed up is going to be doing a MP3 sound system," Runyen said. "The other team signed up to do with something that hooked up with a camera. We have several people that have not identified who's on their team yet, and what they're making. The two teams that have done that step, and told me what they're making, I've

Arcade game



Add your own games to a thumb drive and wire the buttons correctly.

MP3 Player



Upload your own music with help of programming and files.

Photo Booth



A camera with a USB connection makes this courageous idea come to life. Summon some friends to take silly photos.

already ordered the pieces that go with their project."

Freshman Brittany Payne is one of the students who picked a project and is ready to start. Apart from the others who have not picked, Payne and her partner decided on the MP3 Player Project.

"I haven't officially started yet," Payne said. "I mainly wanted to participate because me and my friend Leah just like to do stuff together, so we signed up just to have fun."

Freshman Leah Alberts and partner Brittany Payne say they have been very excited about the project and have researched the facts and details.

"I was fascinated as to how it works, because I honestly think it's really different. Instead of just using a computer, it's something that's just

like a phone. And we get to see how it's used in different ways," Alberts said.

Both Payne and Alberts find a strong pull to the credit card sized computer. Not only did friendship compel them to join, another quality forced them to join as well.

"Well we both really happen to enjoy music, which is cool. And using a really cool thing with music would make it even cooler," Alberts said.

"We get to play music and we get to kind of build it and be involved with the MP3 player. We're just really interested and focused in how it's actually made," Payne said.

The Raspberry Pi can offer students like Payne and Alberts a creative, new outlet.

"Getting involved with Raspberry Pi can spark your creativity and help hone critical thinking skills," Sanchez said. "It can be a springboard to get students involved in more complex computer programming in the future."

Beyond a fun Makerspace project, Raspberry Pi can affect students' futures. It can set them up for college majors, career options and a head start of skills.

"I have a hard time understanding technology," Alberts said. "With this experience I can be more open minded on what technology can actually do. Understanding technology could help me a lot."

STUDENTS CREATE LOW COST MULTI-PURPOSE FUNCTIONING COMPUTERS

Highlighting key knowledge and giving ideas on what a student might want to pursue once they're out of high school, the Raspberry Pi can offer job options such as a Software developer or a Database Administrator.

"I think the project will be considered a success if anyone discovers an interest in computers or programming that they didn't already know about or if it even enforces a person's interest in computers or programming," Sanchez said.

Even if students do not choose a career in the computer industry, students with technology skills will be in demand, no matter what position they are seeking. Many jobs deal with computers and technology. It's one of the main components of society's foundation.

"As we move into the future, programming is a skill that really everybody should have some kind of knowledge on because everything is digital now," Runyen said. "And this helps you understand that."

Payne doesn't plan on majoring in technology but she does see how Raspberry Pi teaches a still set including specialized techniques, dexterity and basic technology knowledge.

"I want to be a doctor when I grow up," Payne said, "but I think technology could help me understand about computers and how they're set up and everything. So I think that would really help me in the future."

While the Raspberry Pi is a Makerspace project, the opportunity to work with the device as a mini computer is a dream maker that is bringing students together to learn.

"And that's what it's about," Runyen said. "It's about people who can work together and bounce ideas off each other. It's about people who aren't afraid to think outside the box or try new things."

Lacrosse My Heart

by staff reporter
Christian Delgado

The lights shine on the field as a one sided game of lacrosse takes place.

Junior lacrosse player Alyssa Cornelius rushes down the field and doesn't let the ball out of her sight. She makes a path for her teammates as they score on the imposing team, Lake Travis. The clock dwindles down to its last second and the game ends with an unsparing victory against Lake Travis with a final score of 22-0.

"Our team is really good this year," Cornelius said. "We are undefeated in district and have only lost two games. We have a developed program and I feel like we are pretty up there right now."

Cornelius discovered lacrosse as a freshmen and is now currently in her third year

with the team.

"It was in my freshman year, and it was at Meet the Tigers and they had a little booth there," Cornelius said. "I've played a lot of sports before, but lacrosse was one of the only sports I hadn't tried. I had heard about lacrosse and it sounded cool, so I just did it."

Cornelius says she likes the act that lacrosse is a club sport.

"It's not a part of school and sometimes it's even out of school, so you really get these girls that show a lot of dedication to the team and that's the best part," Cornelius said. "Just playing with girls that love this sport and that want to be out there and want to commit the time."

For Cornelius and all of her other teammates lacrosse is not just all about winning, but also

GIRLS TEAM EARNS ANOTHER VICTORY, REMAINS UNDEFEATED IN DISTRICT PLAY

about making new friends and working together to have fun.

"It's hard to choose the best part about being in lacrosse," junior Jordan Baack said. "It would be the team because they're just all so fun to hang out with, and it never really feels like a chore to play with them."

During a game, the girls' get serious and put their work from practices to action.

"In my mind, during a game, I'm alert about things, not just with my teammates, but with the opposing team too," junior Zhane Sylvain said. "How they play, the person I'm going against, what's their skill like, what's their weakest point, what's my advantage over them and then as a whole what's my team advantage over theirs."

Even though lacrosse is not

the most popular sport, it'd be hard to argue that it doesn't take a special place within these girls' daily lives.

"Lacrosse is special to me because it is a sport I fell in love with it ever since I first since picked up a stick," Cornelius said.

Cornelius says that she knows if she has lacrosse or a game when she's having a bad day, her team will bring her to a better mood.

"We all have such a close bond," Cornelius said. "The bond we've had with the team has developed more over the season. I think a lot of it has to do the fact that we are an ever-more winning team. When we lose a game it brings us closer together. We win together, lose together and we play as a unit and not as individuals."



photos by Christian Delgado

1. Junior Alyssa Cornelius charges towards the ball after seeing it land on the ground.
2. Round Rock High Nicole Frear swoops in to take the ball.
3. Cedar Ridge High Grace Erney searches for open players to complete a pass.

Reaching For The Stars

by staff reporter **Justin Baham**

The energy in the room is positive as students walk through the door. Paint bottles and giant spheres sit on the tables. The students pick a place one by one and begin working on their celestial objects project.

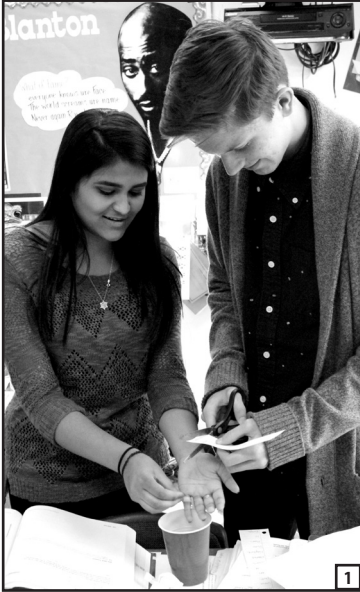
"Our school generally lacks aerospace classes," junior Syeda Gilani said. "This club was for people who were interested in that topic. It's already gotten some people who weren't interested at first, excited about space."

During the Middle of October, Gilani, senior Leonardo Aguilar, junior Ryland Rogers, and junior Kristina Mouton, made the NASA club official. Once English teacher Teresa Blanton agreed to sponsor it, the club attracted over 15 members across all grades. The club meets every Friday.

"Space science has been my passion since I was young and to have a club based around that with other people is really cool," Aguilar said. "Basically I'm in charge of planning out the funds and the activities, I check the money we need and put it into our different projects. We have a lot of big goals planned this year."

Current president of the club Gilani and vice president Aguilar have always shared a passion for the Aerospace field. Their dream is to work for NASA and be aspiring astronauts which makes them fit to plan, organize, and lead the club.

"Ever since I was little, I've be fascinated by space and everything beyond our planet," Gilani said. "At a very young age I decided that this was the career for me. I'll always



photos by Rebecca White

1. Juniors Syeda Gilani and Ryland Rogers work together to cut the names of celestial objects in a cup. "This project was an opportunity to learn more about space," Rogers said. "I thought it was very innovative because we were able to learn about celestial objects that are rarely heard of. We painted them in colors that they actually are, which is interesting to see the artistic natural variety between the planets."
2. Members of the NASA club sit together and paint models of rocketships and shuttles. "It was a creative project," junior Syeda Gilani said. "Everyone did different designs and models."
3. Senior Allison Edwards focuses on painting the rocket booster to her space shuttle model.
4. Junior Justin Baham and freshman Steven Sanchez team up to create one giant space shuttle with a rocket base.

hold onto that goal and I plan on achieving it."

The club started off with small educational activities about the solar system. The members designed rockets, and painted and presented celestial bodies such as, moons, planets, and stars.

"It's a great opportunity to learn and grow with new people," Rogers said. "Space and astronomy have

always fascinated me, and I think this club is the perfect chance to expand my knowledge even further. I'm excited for the new experiences."

Currently the club is fundraising by selling shirts and planning on bake sales. They plan on doing several major projects such as the Mars Rover, which they will be working on after winter break. Their end goal is to do a stratosphere

project using a weather balloon.

They also plan on taking trips to the UT observatory and the Lyndon B Johnson Space Center.

"We have a lot of fun projects planned," Rogers said. "We've already started fundraising and I think we'll be able to do a lot. It's been going great and I think our members have a lot to learn from NASA club."

Family Matters

HOSA Activities Provide Healthy Dose of Learning for Club Officer

by staff reporter
Johnny Nguyen

Sophomore Jennifer Serrano comes from a family that gets sick a lot. Her grandfather has diabetes. Her cousin is battling leukemia. And at around fifty-years-old, her uncle died from lung cancer.

Serrano, HOSA's Social Community Officer, says that despite all the sadness her family members' illnesses and deaths have caused her, she's continually inspired by them to pursue a medical career where she can make contributions to rid the world of the diseases that have affected her loved ones.

"I was 14, Serrano said. "I was still a freshman. My father told me the news [that my uncle passed away] on the phone while I was at school."

At age 50, almost thirty years less than the U.S. life expectancy of 79-years-old, her uncle suddenly passed away from lung cancer, a devastating event for her and her family.

"I just felt broken down, [like] a broken puzzle trying to find its pieces," she said. "I had a hard time working and multitasking at school and other things when I found out. I was very emotional."

Although her uncle's death caused grief and sadness for her entire family, Serrano says they helped her personally grow up as a person.

"I think these things tell me I have to be stronger," Serrano said.

Serrano remembers her uncle as a caring and confident man. A good role model, he showed her the value of self-confidence, dedication and positivity.

"For me, it [lung cancer] was very depressing," Serrano said. I looked up to him. He told me to believe myself. He taught me all of these positive things."

Serrano's uncle wasn't her only family member that had an impact on her. Her cousin, a survivor of leukemia, also helped her grow and become stronger and independent.

"I got a phone call," Serrano said. "My mom told me that my cousin was getting worse. I felt that I wasn't good enough. I felt that I would give up on myself."

Like her uncle, it became a sad time for her family, and especially Serrano.

"It was a hard time for me to stay strong. 'Why me?' I asked myself. I thought very negatively of myself."

All of her emotions and memories would come together when she entered high school where she discovered HOSA, a national student organization dedicated to the medical



photos courtesy of Laura Huynh

Through participating in HOSA sophomore Jennifer Serrano says she is building a foundation of health care knowledge to help meet her goal of working in the medical field.

field.

"I was a freshman," Serrano said. "I never heard of HOSA as a club. I'd never thought about it."

Serrano, motivated by her uncle's death and her cousin's battle, decided to pursue a career in health science, and she found that HOSA was the best place to start.

"At that time, I didn't know what I was," Serrano said. "I hadn't thought of anything. When I got into ninth grade, I was stronger."

Jennifer found her passion for medicine in HOSA, and her uncle and cousin stayed in her head, ready to motivate her anytime she needed it.

"While competing, I think of them, and it just makes me more valuable and very strong," Serrano said.

Eventually, Serrano earned her current role as HOSA Social Community Officer, a position she says let her express her ideas.

"I think I'm good for it," Serrano said. "I'm comfortable being the Social Community

Officer."

She also sees HOSA as a beginning to a great future for her in the medical field.

"I like to talk to a lot of people, so I think it [HOSA] will take me over to experiences and to a good place," Serrano said.

Serrano says her goals today as a HOSA officer include the simplicity of happiness and being able to support others.

"I want to be person who makes others happy," Serrano said. "I will support them [other members], and I will support myself."

Serrano says that her motivation and independence help her meet those goals.

"I just go for it," Serrano said.

However, she continues to shows reverence for her uncle and her cousin, both of whom will always play a role in Jennifer's consideration of her future.

"[They] inspired me to be someone. My duty is to help them," Serrano said. "I want to help other people, and support them."

MEN'S VARSITY SOCCER TEAM LEADS FOR DISTRICT, BREAKS RECORD

three years.

"I have always had a dream to become head coach at a 6A High School, and I was given that opportunity last year," Pool said. "I saw the potential of the players at Stony Point and was excited to have an opportunity to coach and mentor them."

When he met his team, Pool gave them three goals. First was to win a preseason tournament, which was accomplished by winning the Akins Copa Cup tournament. The second goal was to make the playoffs, which was accomplished by beating McNeil. The third goal is to advance in the playoffs.

"Our team is very young so I get to have a lot of my team back next year," Pool said. "My team works extremely hard every day at practice and challenges each individual to improve every day. We are a very fast, physical and technical team who strives on out possessing teams every game we play."

Pool set three phases in the program for

set a school record with 45 goals, during the game against Pflugerville for the least goals let in, the record was 12, and they had 11 during district.

"I was very excited about setting the record vs. Pflugerville," Pool said. "Our team set a goal to accomplish against Pflugerville that night and we did it. Pflugerville is a very good team, but to shut them out and beat them is a memory I will never forget."

The season ended with Martin winning the district's Golden boot. He scored 12 goals this season. Junior David Rojas was the man of the match. The team ended with 26 playoff points and a district record of 8-4-2.

"I think our season went really well," Martin said. "We focused on our goals and we got where we wanted to be. My teammates did really well and our chemistry was really good."

This year was Pool's first year teaching at Stony Point. He transferred from Pflugerville High school where he taught and coached for

by staff member **Syeda Iliani**

The crowd roars as junior Justin Martin runs with the ball. He dodges every player in the way as he heads straight for the goal. He kicks the ball, landing it in the net, scoring a point. The team and Coach Winston Pool cheer him on as they lead for district 2-1.

"Every day we can improve on the little things," Pool said. "I view myself as a perfectionist, so everything we do in school, practice and games we can always find something to improve on. We are a very

young team this year and encounter many ups and downs. One thing we are learning is how to be consistent day in and day out, and when we accomplish this I think our team will be able to take the next steps and do great things."

This year, the men's varsity soccer team, won district against Pflugerville High School and the Akins Copa Cup Tournament 2-1 against Hendrickson High school. They also

practices, a preseason in district play and an offseason. Both seasons he implemented weights and conditioning. During the season, the team practiced fundamentals every day and small sided games.

"He's a great coach," junior Jason Vargas said. "We put a lot of effort into the games.

Coach helped us bring our team up and brought together our chemistry on the field." The team has been setting new goals for the next year. They have been practicing harder and they are now learning new tactics and strategy to use on the field.

"We met our goals and accomplished many records in the process," Pool said. "That being said, I always set my expectations high and try to challenge my team to get better, I believe one day we can compete for the district title and state championship. Until we accomplish our ultimate goal we will always be hungry for more, but we had a great beginning of our new program, and take the next step."

Three Goals for the Future