

## Top tier for Warrenton robotics team

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Submitted Photo The F1shSt1ckz, Warrenton Grade School's Lego robotics team, won first place for their project at the FIRST Lego League state championship tournament Jan. 10 in Hillsboro.

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### Warrenton Grade School's Lego robotics team scored big at a recent state tournament.

WARRENTON — The F1shSt1ckz, Warrenton Grade School's Lego robotics team, won first place for their project at the FIRST Lego League state championship tournament Jan. 10.

The team won the Google Data Center Research Award, which recognizes a team that utilizes diverse resources to formulate an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the problem they have identified.

The first Lego League challenges students to tackle a different real-world problem each year, using both Lego robotics and teamwork. About 60 teams from around the state competed Jan. 10 at Liberty High School in Hillsboro.

F1shSt1ckz is comprised of students from the fourth through seventh grades, including Dwayne Wallace, Levi Cabalona-Qualin, Evan Lakey, Connor Moha, Evan Augustin, Nikia Farrow, Zander Moha, Annie Heyen and Marlie Annat.

This year's challenge, Trash Trek, tasked teams with how to reduce trash in the school cafeteria. In finding a solution, F1shSt1ckz members talked with school employees, Recology Western Oregon and local farmers, assessing the needs, costs, procedures and viability of the various solutions.

The next challenge was to share their solution. Anna wrote a play, The Adventures of Compost Man and Recycle Guy, that the team performed for first graders to explain recycling and composting food waste.

Along with their project, F1shSt1ckz was judged on the amount of preprogrammed tasks they were able to complete with their EV3 Lego Mindstorms robot, along with the team's core values.

"Our team learned about building techniques, like how the gears move in the sorter," Moha, a fourth-grader, said. "I learned how to connect major gear contraptions."

Annie Heyen, a member of last year's F1shSt1ckz that won the project portion last year with their "Germ Madness" play and presentation on how to improve the way kindergartners wash their hands, said the team balanced the three parts of the competition by teaching new team members how to program the robot.

The F1shSt1ckz team is supported by the Warrenton-Hammond School District, along with a \$500 donation last year from the Cannery Pier Hotel to buy a second Lego robot.

