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ROBOTS CONQUER ATLANTA: JACKSON ELEMENTARY INTRODUCES NEW ROBOTICS TEAM

(Atlanta, GA) Warren T. Jackson Elementary School, a Georgia School of Excellence, is proud to announce Jackson's inaugural year of Jaguar Robotixx, a registered team with USFIRST, an international organization (founded by Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway), to integrate science and technology in a format that inspires children with out-of-the-box thinking and challenges within these two disciplines.

On **Monday, August 23**, Mike Johns of WABE public radio will be covering the sounds of Jackson's Jaguar Robotixx team building robots at the school's Main Campus. Johns is recording the session for the WABE's 30-second sound bite, "Atlanta Sounds."

The team must build a Lego robot and program the robot's microprocessor to perform certain tasks. In this year's competition, one task requires the robot be programmed to insert a Lego stint correctly into a Lego artery. The robots have sound, visual, and touch sensors which are used to navigate. The robot must maneuver around obstacles, find the "patient," and insert the stint. Jackson's team will be competing with Westminster's on October 30th at Jackson Elementary. Wilson Hobbs, a 5th grader at Jackson, has been the driving force behind creation of the team. He visited all fourth and fifth grade classes to drum up support, then created a PowerPoint presentation which he delivered to a standing-room only crowd of parents and children. As the captain, he ensures his teammates are on track with the design and programming of the robots. Not only do the children build and program the robots, but they must build a website, contact sponsors for donations, raise funds, and of course, work together. Coaches are parents who ensure safe working conditions, but are not allowed to help build and program the robots.

Last spring, the FIRST organization held its international competition at the Georgia Dome. Over 10,000 youngsters in teams spanning 50 countries competed. Jackson's team has its goal of reaching the finals of the international competition held in St. Louis in 2011. For more information, visit the Jaguar Robotixx website at jaguarrobotixx3104.weebly.com and USFIRST.org and firstlegoleague.org.

Warren T. Jackson Elementary School, a member of the Atlanta Public Schools System, has earned top-tier recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School, a Georgia School of Excellence, and an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. It is also the only Atlanta school to earn Platinum designation two years in a row for outstanding CRCT test scores.

Located in Buckhead, Jackson Elementary promotes a progressive balance of challenging academics together with advancing a child's character education. Through a variety of action-oriented programs and events (often philanthropic and ecological in nature), Jackson students are encouraged to go beyond the norm and become inquirers both in the classroom – and in the world at large. For more information, visit www.wtjackson.org.