

SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

An Indian Trail Junior High student tests her 'Ozobot' on a trail she drew as part of an after-school workshop on Wednesday, Jan. 16.

Fun with Robots at Indian Trail fosters creative thinking

Staying after school isn't usually thought of as fun. However, on Wednesday, Jan. 16, students at Addison Dist. 4 Indian Trail Junior High School were eager to stay late. Why? One word: Robots!

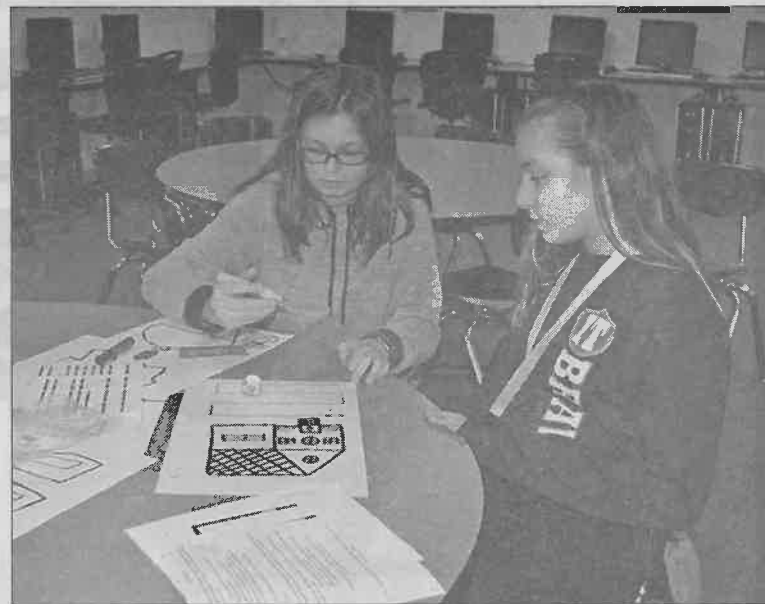
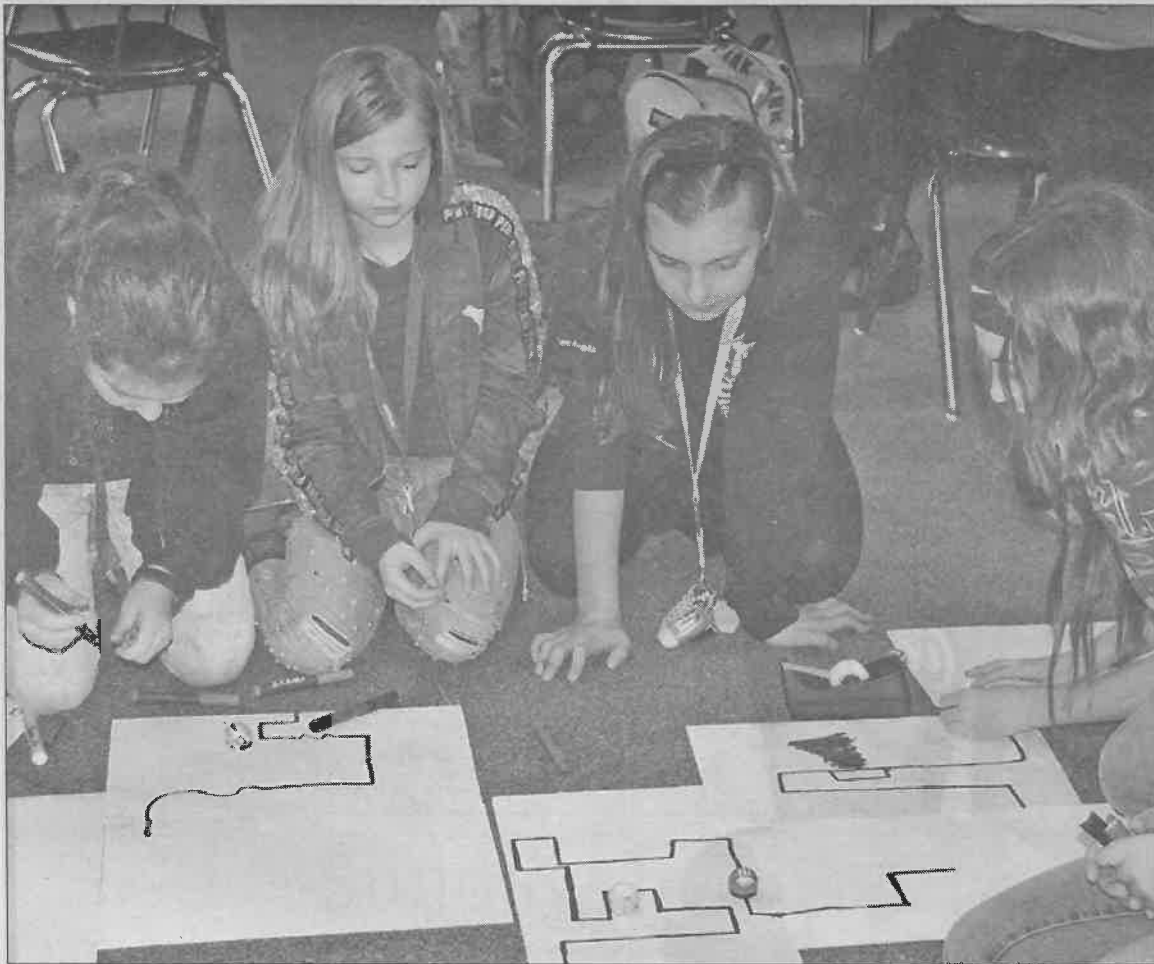
Representatives of the DuPage County Regional Office of Education visited the school to lead students in an after-school robot workshop.

The students used "Ozobots" which follow pathways drawn on paper. Participants learned the color code combinations that make the little robots perform different functions including turning, rotating

in place speeding up and slowing down and even changing colors.

The first exercise was setting up miniature bowling pins and learning how to draw pathways to make the Ozobot's knock down all the pins. The next project had students drawing individual pathways and connecting them into one giant maze on the classroom floor.

Problem solving and creative thinking were emphasized as students thought of ways to connect their mazes and have their robots chase each other.



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It all comes together

Above: Putting it all together: Students connect each individual pathway to form a large 'maze' for their Ozobots to follow.

Top right: After learning how to control the Ozobots, students moved on to more elaborate tasks for the robots to follow such as this pair's 'lawn mowing' path.

Right: These students collaborated in drawing a maze for their robot to follow.