

# GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# FOR YOUR ACTION

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## Robotic (Lego) Kits

Ontario schools and boards have recognized that connecting students with the stimulating possibilities presented through Lego robotics leads to opportunities that stimulate new and inventive, curriculum-linked learning opportunities in the areas of Science, Technology, and Mathematics, with a special focus on robotics, mathematics and coding.

I am pleased to inform you that our board has received funds from CODE, Council of Ontario Directors of Education to purchase robotic kits for use with elementary school students. In addition, we have decided to purchase more kits in order to serve all of our elementary schools.

Thank you for completing the electronic survey following our January SPM. Based on your responses all schools want the LEGO kits. Every elementary school in our system will receive:

- 1) One primary kit (LEGO Education WeDo Construction Set) geared towards K-3 students;
- 2) One junior/intermediate kit (Mindstorm EV3 core set).
- 3) A site license for the WeDo Construction software;
- 4) The software for both kits and activity pack (12 theme based activities for WeDo kit) have already been installed on the board's network for easy accessibility.

Schools with over 350 students in any of the divisions (Primary, Junior/Intermediate) will be receiving **two** kits for that particular division. For the current school year, the kits will arrive at your school in the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Here are the logistics to distribution and use:

- Each kit will include an inventory form in order to monitor the use of the kits to help us report back to CODE.
- **We ask you to arrange for these forms to be sent back to Fouada Hamzeh in Program during the first week of May. ( a friendly reminder will be sent to you mid April)**
- If parts are missing, contact Dwayne Teskey immediately to get replacements.
- The kits may remain at your school until the end of June until special message is sent.
- We have set up resources to provide extra support for educators and students on <http://www.mediacentre.ca/lego.html>.
- Additional inventory forms can be downloaded from the website listed above.

At the beginning of each school year, the kits will be sent to schools after reorganization day and returned to the Media Centre each spring for inventory. There are limited number of extra kits that can be booked for a period of six weeks. Contact Fouada Hamzeh in program if you wish to book additional kits.

It is expected that the kits will be used to support student instruction and teacher practice through classroom or extracurricular use. The program department will offer professional development sessions in the summer and fall to support our educators.

Our hope is that this generous funding will provide unique and exhilarating learning opportunities for your students.