

# the Southerner

GREAT NECK SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

341 LAKEVILLE ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY 11020

MARCH 2019

VOL. LIX, NO. IV

## Robotics team spreads mental health awareness

By Rachel Tair

Over the past few years, the Rebel Robotics Team 2638 has been extremely successful in competition. In addition to the team's outstanding success, it has also done extremely well with regards to safety as the team has won numerous awards for safety ethics at competitions. Recently, the team has developed an initiative to spread mental health awareness at South. "Previously, we've only really focused on physical safety, but mental 'safety' is just as important," said Miriam Shamash, the team's president.

The Rebel Robotics team first realized the growing anxiety problem at South just by looking at their own team members. As the team's build season progressed and time for preparation ran low, members noticed their team members' stress levels rise. "We started emphasizing people to take a day off because it wasn't worth getting so stressed," said Shamash. Consequently, the team's advisors, Mr. Motchkavitz and Mr. Corrigan, began to realize how pressured all students were at South.

The team's first step in spreading mental health awareness at South was to hang posters around school. The posters display a suicide hotline for students in need and positive words encouraging students to take a break when they need one. The phone number on the posters is the national suicide hotline; the robotics team wants struggling students to be aware that resources exist. The Rebels Robotics safety team wants the student body to realize the importance of their mental health.

"My safety crew and I agreed on starting small. We began putting posters around school to raise awareness and let people know that there are options when feeling overwhelmed," said Julia Motchkavitz, the team's safety captain.

The Rebel Robotics safety team is just starting to immerse themselves in mental health awareness at South. "We are figuring out some ideas now, but we would love to make it more inclusive and maybe a team-wise or school-wise activity," added Julia Motchkavitz.

### SUICIDE HOTLINE



CALL:  
1(800)-273-8255

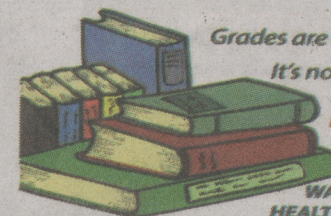
TEXT:  
"START" to 741-741

**REBEL ROBOTICS SAFETY TEAM  
...WANTS YOU TO BE OKAY!**

HAVE A LOT OF HOMEWORK?

ANY BIG TESTS COMING UP?

**TAKE THE DAY OFF FROM ROBOTICS !!**



Grades are more important!  
It's not worth the stress!

**REBEL ROBOTICS  
SAFETY TEAM**

**WANTS YOU TO PUT YOUR  
HEALTH FIRST!!**

Spreading mental health awareness—You can find the robotics team's eye-catching posters throughout South.

Photos by Rebel Robotics team

## Working out the logo-istics: GNPS' new design

a district—one of the finest public school districts in the country." Under the guidance of art teach-

Zhou's design was a tribute to the old GNPS logo, with the letters GNPS in orange and blue, overlaid