

# ROBOTICS NEWS

JANUARY 2026

## INTERVIEW

Hi everyone! 🤖

Today we introduce Team 21309, TekSense, a robotics team that loves designing, building, and coding robots. They work together to solve challenges, prepare for competitions, and help other learners discover how fun technology and engineering can be.

What they worked on this month:

- Building and improving their FTC robot design
- Testing movements and attachments
- Writing and fixing code when things didn't work (debugging!)
- Planning outreach activities like holiday workshops (on the next page). Let's support them!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know robots don't think by themselves?  
Robots only do what we program them to do!

- Sensors help robots see, feel, or measure things
- Code tells the robot which decisions to make
- Motors turn the code into movement

That means we are the brains behind the robot 🧠🤖

1. What can lift heavy things, but have no arms?

2. What can be cracked, made, told and played?

(answers somewhere in this newsletter)

## Diary Term 1

24 January - FTC regionals  
15 February - entries close for January Build-it-Challenge  
10 March - entries close for Pac-Man challenge



## BUILD-IT-CHALLENGE 🛠

We want YOU to try a robotics challenge!

### This month's challenge:

Build a simple catapult using LEGO or household materials.

### How to take part:

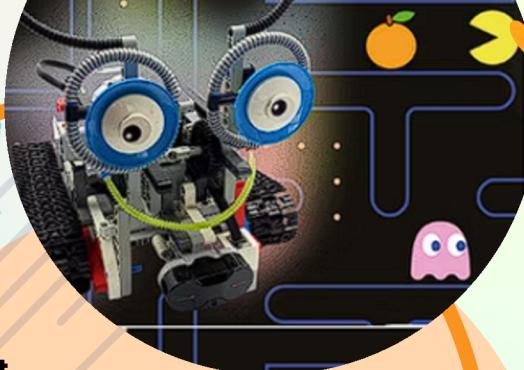
- Build your design
- Take a photo
- Upload it to our website

➡ Visit:

[www.teksense.co.za/challenges](http://www.teksense.co.za/challenges)

Some of your builds will be featured in our next newsletter!

## WORKSHOP SPOTLIGHT – FUNDRAISER EVENT



### LEGO ROBOT PAC-MAN CHALLENGE

Will you be the clever Pac-Man robot

moving through the maze to collect points, or will you take on the role of the devious villain robot, outsmarting your opponents?

Test your skills as you play Pac-Man against another robot in a thrilling showdown of strategy and agility!

It's a high-energy, action-packed event that combines technology and fun in an unforgettable way.

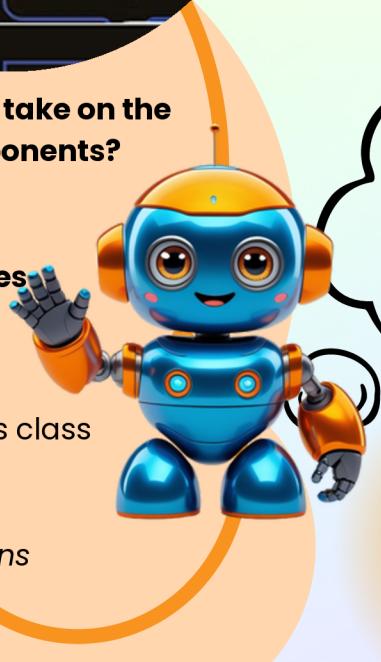
**Who can join:** Gr4-9

**Date:** 31/3/2026 **Venue:** Fundamental Faculty Robotics class

**Time:** 9:00-12:00

**Cost:** R300 per learner (works in teams of 2)

- All money raised helps our team attend competitions and outreach events.
- All equipment will be provided
- Enter here: <https://tek21309.wixsite.com/teksense/outreach>



What do robots eat for snack time?  
Microchips – but only the crunchy kind!

1. a crane
2. a joke

## FUTURE FOCUS – WHY WE LOVE ROBOTICS



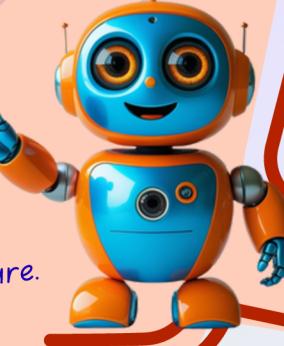
**Robotics has helped us learn:**

- How to solve problems
- How to work as a team
- How to be creative and think logically
- How technology is used in real life

**Robotics can lead to careers like:**

- Engineer
- Programmer
- Game designer
- Robotics technician
- AI specialist

We believe robotics prepare learners for the future.



Programming a robot is like giving it a plan; your imagination is the battery that makes it move.

## FREEBIE OF THE MONTH

We recommend:

<https://code.org/en-us/students>

You can:

- Learn basic coding
- Play coding games

**FOLLOW US**



Visit our website to see our projects, photos, and upcoming workshops.

This newsletter is part of Team 21309 TekSense's outreach program to inspire more learners to explore STEM and robotics, sponsored by Trophy Computers & Robotics.

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<https://tek21309.wixsite.com/teksense>