**Photos Diane Claytor** 

day parties and set up a scholarship

program for underserved kids. "I

hope to be a really productive and

kids. Pemble said a variety of classes

The MakerSpace isn't just for

useful resource," he noted.

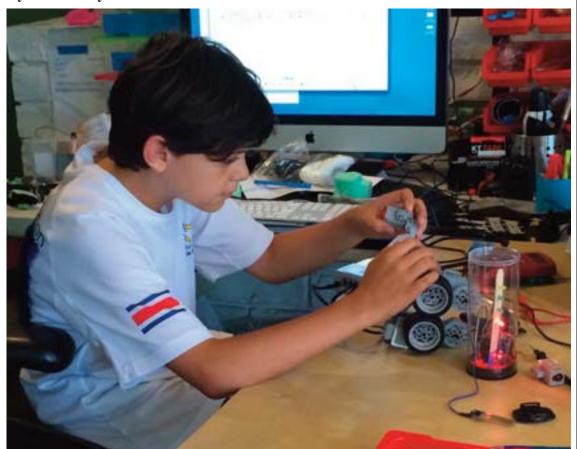
fect their existing ones.

where."

## Orinda CoasterDad Plans to Open MakerSpace Site

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Goal to bring physics, family and fun to kids everywhere **By Diane Claytor** 



Lyle Pemble works on his latest projectile-shooting robotic.

coasters to the Maker Faire in San Mateo last month, he had thousands of kids and their parents clamoring for more information. How and where did he build it? How could they learn to build one? Could he teach them to build their own? All these questions gave Pemble an idea: "I could set something up," he said. "I should create an environment where more than just my kids and their friends can experience the excitement of creating and learning." And that is exactly what Pemble is planning – the CoasterDad MakerSpace, a facility "that will be just like my house only bigger and more organized."

Pemble is not a man who focuses on the negative, rarely uttering the motion sensor that hooks to the comword no. "If you say no to an idea, you get an instant result. Nothing Ellie's room, sends her a text. Pemchanges. Nothing is learned. Nothing positive happens," Pemble said. Last boundless, explained, "All I wanted year, when his sixth-grade son, Lyle, to do was teach her how to make said, "Wouldn't it be cool to have a something to solve her problem. And roller coaster in our yard?" Pemble this was a 13-year-old girl's solution indeed, be cool. "I flashed through the  $\;\;$  level or another, we are a family of mechanics of it and figured it makers." wouldn't be so hard to do, and that's why we built it," he said. "For me, it the neighborhood kids, and the Makwas a very natural response to a very reasonable question."

Walking into Pemble's Orinda house, the first reaction is that this is definitely a kid-centric place. Besides the roller coaster, which takes up most of the backyard, the living room walls are covered with framed pictures drawn by Lyle and his sister, Ellie. The "work" area/lab, complete with computers, 3-D printer, robotic materials and lots of small pieces most visitors wouldn't be able to identify, fills about one-fifth of the living room, an yourself space where people can area Pemble admits will likely take over the whole space in due time. All opens the mind and allows for infinite of this is done with the support of Pemble's wife, Liz, whom he de-ble's website. The plan is to have



The Brother Buster was developed and built by Will Pemble and his daughter, Ellie, to keep her brother from entering her room when she's not there.

Then Will Pemble took one of scribes as the "sane one." According to." Pemble also hopes to host birthhis three homemade roller to Pemble, Liz enjoys and participates in all his "crazy" endeavors.

> "Most of what I do," Pemble said, "comes from my passion for wanting to educate my kids and make sure they have every opportunity to learn. That's what my house is for; that's what the MakerSpace will be - a place where kids can think stuff up and make it come true. Kids' minds are entirely agile. They're typically so much more open-minded."

Last year Ellie was convinced that Lyle was entering her room when she wasn't there, and she wanted to bust him. Pemble asked how she could accomplish that. The two of them put their heads together and came up with the Brother Buster, a puter and, when someone enters ble, whose energy and creativity seem immediately admitted that it would, to a 13-year-old girl's issue. At one

> Pemble's house already attracts erSpace will only expand on that. "Kids show up here and don't want to leave," Pemble noted. "When they're here, it's not just to play. They learn, they ask questions. They answer questions. They don't just get to ride the roller coaster, they learn how and why it works."

> > He hopes to take all this to the

next level in the fall with the opening of the CoasterDad MakerSpace, a 4,500-square-foot facility in Concord. "A MakerSpace is a creative, do it gather to create, invent and learn. It ... connections," according to Pemrobot building, electronics, cooking, videography and YouTube produc-

classes in 3-D printing, drone and tion, as well as the opportunity to "invent kooky new things with science-y tools." Pemble, a self-described tinkerer, proclaims that it's always been his mission to "let kids know that the coolest stuff ever - rockets, airplanes, things that go boom and things that go fast - all come from math and science."

Pemble's goal is to let the kids "drive the curriculum, teach them things they're interested in, offer all sorts of interesting, stimulating opportunities and then step back and let them try and learn and fail and retry," he said. His son, Lyle, will teach a robotics class. After all, Pemble said, "What's better than having someone who understands both robotics and the other kids actually teach the class. He's someone other kids can relate









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