

DAILY NEWS

PARTLY SUNNY, HIGH 20°C

KIDS ENGINEER A GREAT SUMMER

BY CATHY FRACCARO
STAFF REPORTER

Nine-year-old Navin Wanasundara likes wearing the T-shirt he got at SCI-FI Summer Science Camp this past summer. It reminds him of the fantastic time he had at the camp.

SCI-FI Summer Science Camps at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon



Navin Wanasundara

offer several choices for young scientists. For two summers, Navin went to the science camps. Then he tried the Newton Technology Camp for kids in Grades 5 and 6.

"I had just finished Grade 4. I was one of the youngest in my camp," explains Navin.

The camp director says, "Our tech camps focus on projects using computers, robotics, electronics, and the Internet. Most of the staff are university engineering students. Campers work on the LEGO Mindstorms Robotic Invention System. This comes with motors, gears, sensors, and a programmable unit or 'brain'."

"I have lots of LEGO at home," says Navin. "At camp

we spent two days working on our LEGO projects. I made a robot that was remote controlled. You had to create a program to make your robot or truck move through a maze. It was great." Navin reports that the campers also had a chance to work with an animation program on the computers.

"The best part was our party on the last day of camp," he continues. "We had a barbecue. Later, there was a water fight." Then Navin points to his T-shirt. "This was the very best part. We each got a shirt like this."

His mother says that Navin and his brother will go to tech camp again. Navin adds, "This was my best camp ever. For sure I'll go back."



A young scientist works on an experiment at the Newton tech camp.



Two campers add the finishing touches to their robot.