



Středoškolská technika 2017

Setkání a prezentace prací středoškolských studentů na ČVUT

PÍCKA NA TAVENÍ HLINÍKU Z NÁPOJOVÝCH PLECHOVEK

Small furnace for melting drink cans to make Aluminium

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Ekologická stránka projektu:

Nápoje v plechovkách se ve škole používají stále častěji a plechovky jsou vyhazovány do směsného odpadu. Jestliže se ve škole vytvoří zajímavý způsob, jak plechovky využít, bude ve škole dobrá motivace ke třídění tohoto ušlechtilého materiálu.

Ecological side of this project:

Canned drinks are used in our school more and more often. Empty cans are thrown in the miscellaneous waste. If there is an interesting way how to make use of the cans, there will be a good motivation for separation of the cans not only for students but for teachers as well.

Technologická stránka projektu:

Pro snadné roztavení plechovek je potřeba dosáhnout teploty asi 850 °C. To je možné vytvořit běžným grilovacím dřevěným uhlím. Samotná pícka je vyrobena z běžného, plechového kýble (10l), tepelné izolace ze šamotu a tavicího kelímku buď vyrobeného z hasícího přístroje, nebo zakoupeného, grafitového kelímku.

Technological side of the project:

A temperature of about 850°C is necessary for Aluminium to be easily melt. Ordinary charcoal is a good source of energy. The furnace itself is made from an ordinary steel bucket (10l), the heat insulation is chamotte and the melting crucible is either made from a car fire extinguisher or a professional graphite crucible

Inspirace projektu:

Na počátku byli studenti PBS (15 a 16 let) byli inspirováni videem na You Tube

<https://youtu.be/hHD10DjxM1g>

Mnoho zajímavých činností je možno vidět na You Tube, ale většinou jsou mnohem komplikovanější, než se zdá na krátkém videu.

Ani tavení hliníku nebylo tak snadné, jak se zdálo a tak studenti velmi museli řešit mnoho technologických problémů, aby dosáhli výsledku.

A jejich zajímavá práce stále pokračuje.

Inspiration of the project:

At the beginning the students of PBS were inspired by You Tube video at

<https://youtu.be/hHD10DjxM1g>

Many interesting videos can be seen on You Tube, but mostly they are much more complicated than it seems. Aluminium melting was not that easy and the students had to solve lots of technological problems to reach the result.

And their interesting work still goes on.

This is how they experienced the process:

METAL MELTING FURNACE

BY THE PBS ENGINEERING CLUB

ENGINEERING CLUB

BY: ARTURO NAVARRO, JESSE DE JONG,
ROHAN LAMBERT

EXPLANATION

THIS IS THE METAL-MELTING FURNACE OR FOUNDRY. IT WORKS BY HEATING UP CHARCOAL OR COAL TO TEMPERATURES OF UP TO 900 DEGREES!

A POWERFUL HAIRDRYER BLOWS IN LOTS OF AIR INTO THE COALS.

THE HEAT HEATS UP A CONTAINER WHICH THEN MELTS METALS. WE HAVE WORKED ON THIS FOR THE LAST MONTHS, AND MEANWHILE COLLECTED ALUMINUM CANS TO TEST OUR CREATION.

AS YOU CAN SEE IN THE PICTURE, IT IS A SIMPLE DESIGN: A STEEL BUCKET LINED ON THE INSIDE WITH CEMENT, AND ON THE TOP A LID WHICH MAKES SURE THE HOT TEMPERATURES OF THE FURNACE STAY INSIDE, MAKING THE FURNACE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT.

THE LINING HAS BEEN CAREFULLY MEASURED OUT SO THAT THE COALS TIGHTLY SURROUND THE CONTAINER.

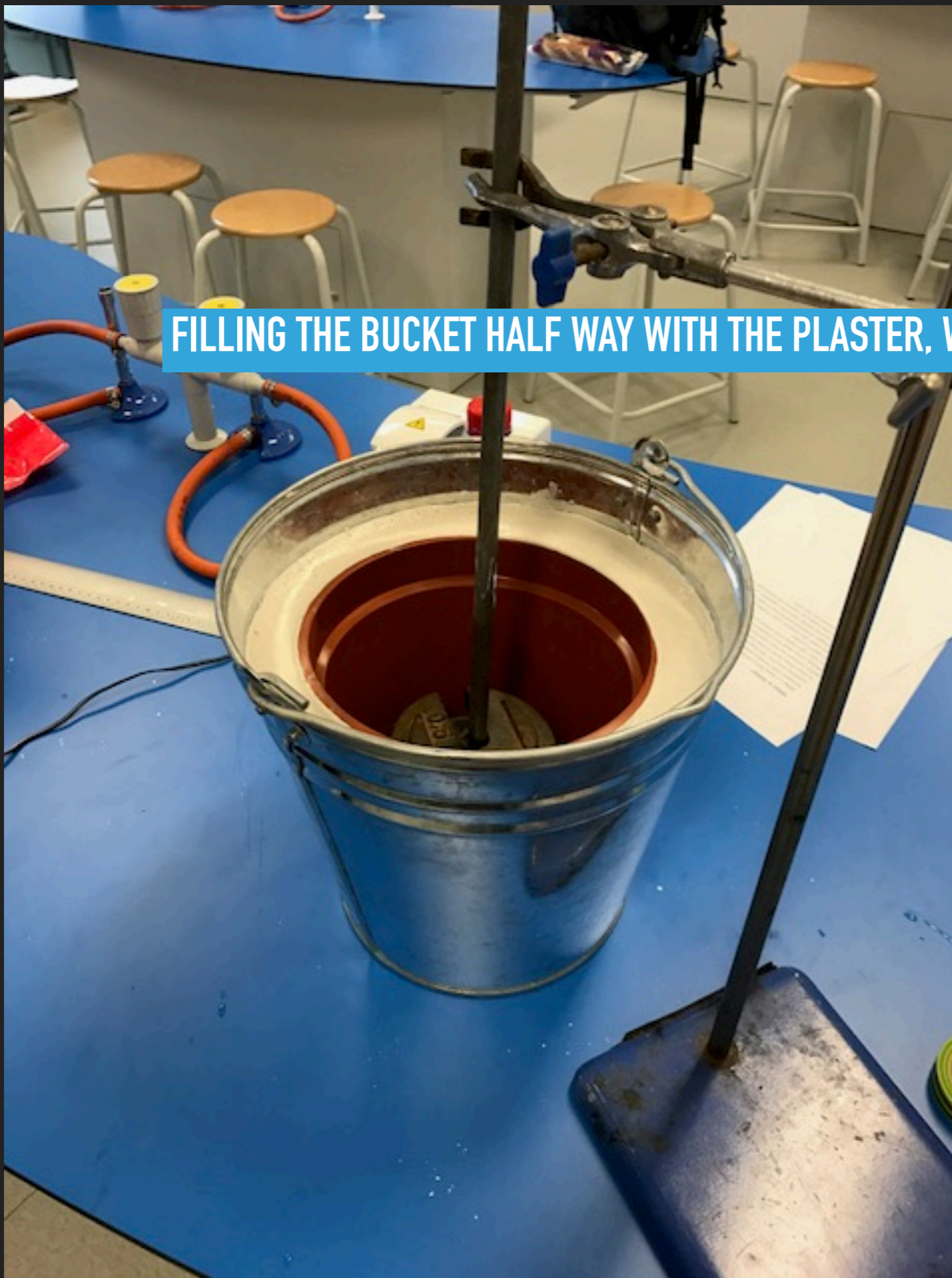
THE HOLE INSIDE OF THE LID IS JUST TO MAKE OUR LIVES EASIER AND SAFER WHEN PUTTING THE ALUMINUM CANS IN THE CONTAINER.

IT GETS HOT ENOUGH TO MELT ALUMINUM!





WE STARTED BY MIXING PLASTER FOR THE LINING OF THE FURNACE



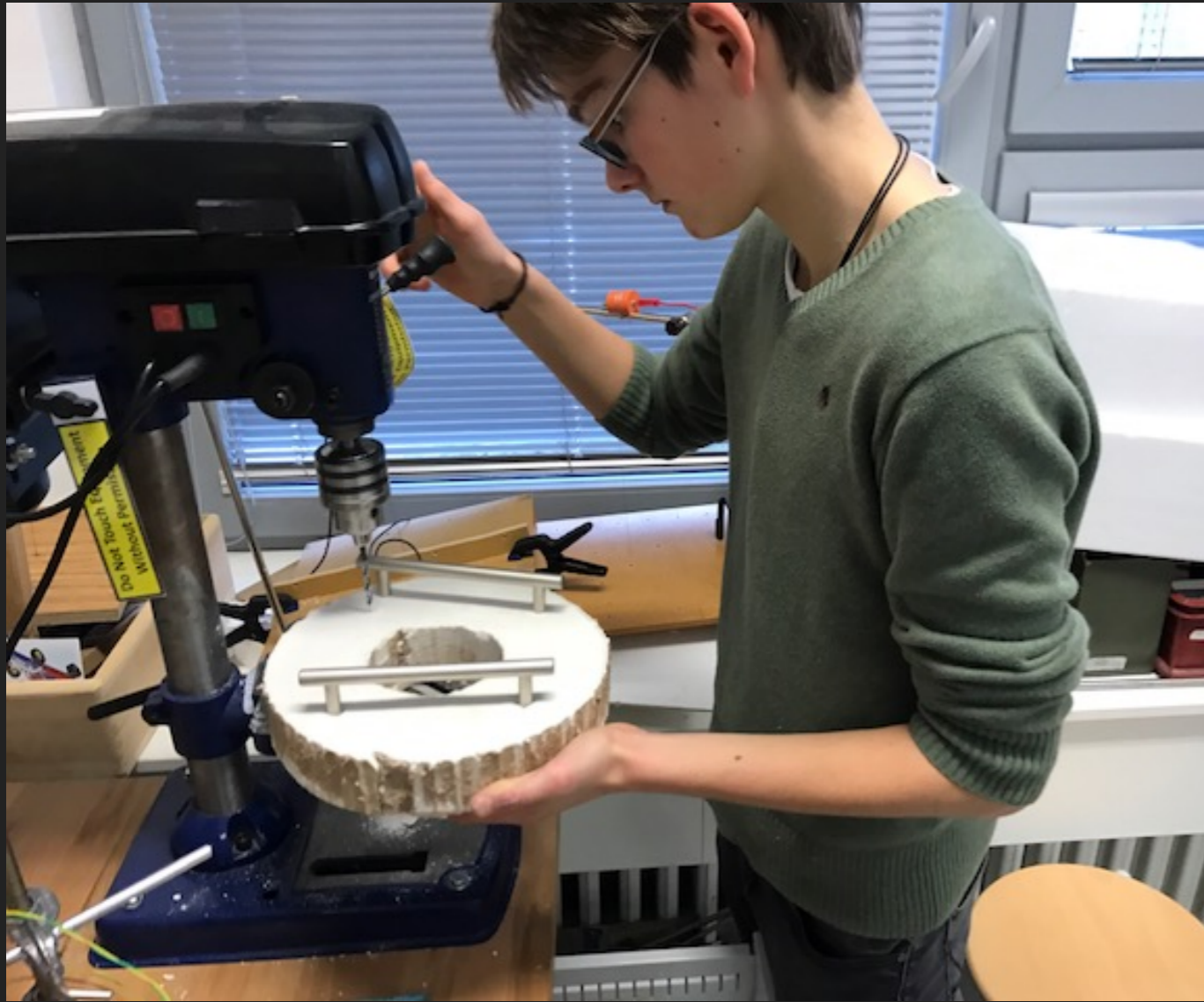
FILLING THE BUCKET HALF WAY WITH THE PLASTER, WE PUSHED IN A PLASTIC FLOWER P

AFTER A FEW DAYS THE PLASTER HAD HARDENED SO WE TOOK THE FLOWER POT OUT





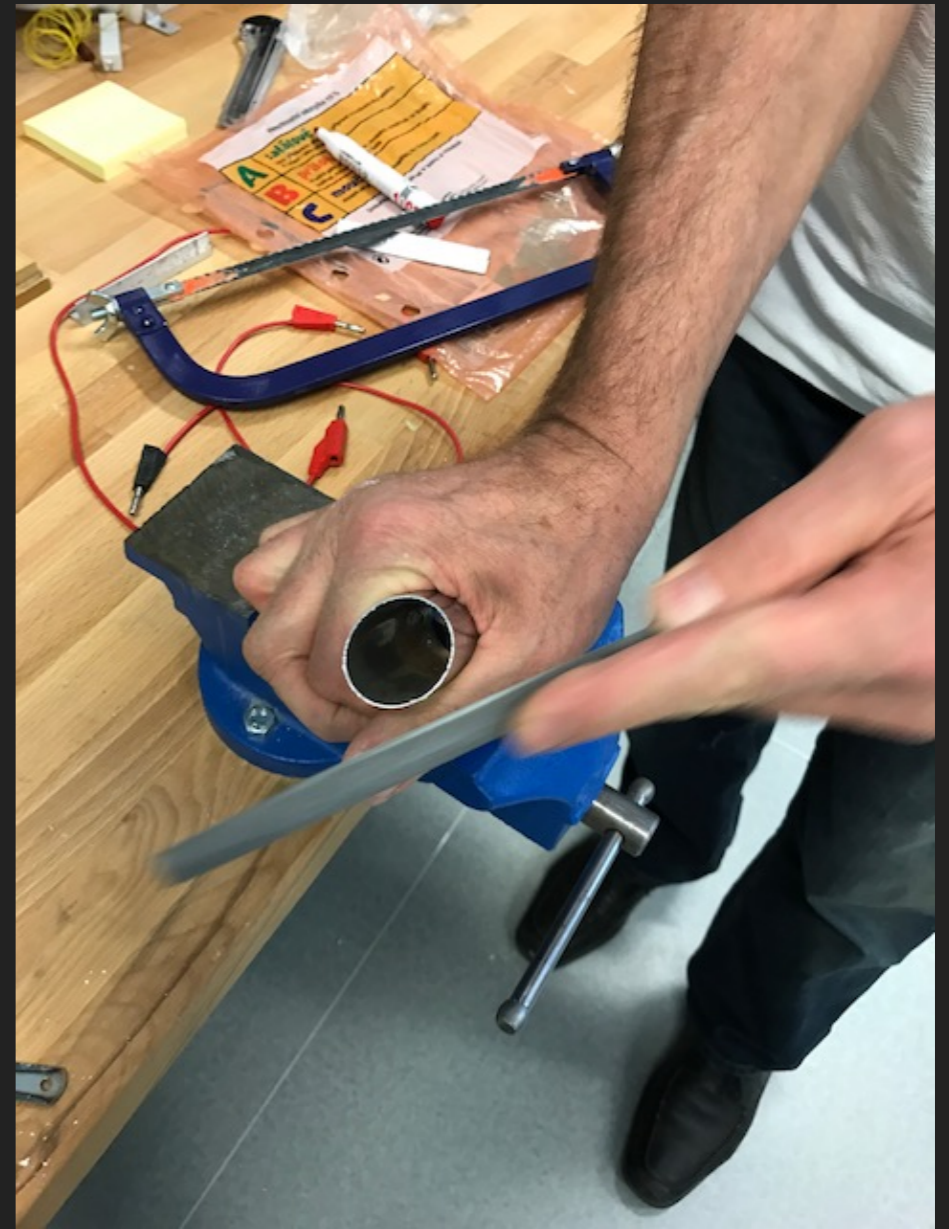
WE THEN USED CARDBOARD TO ALIGN THE BOTTOM AND REST OF THE SIDES OF THE BUCKET AND POURED IN MORE PLASTER TO FORM THE LID



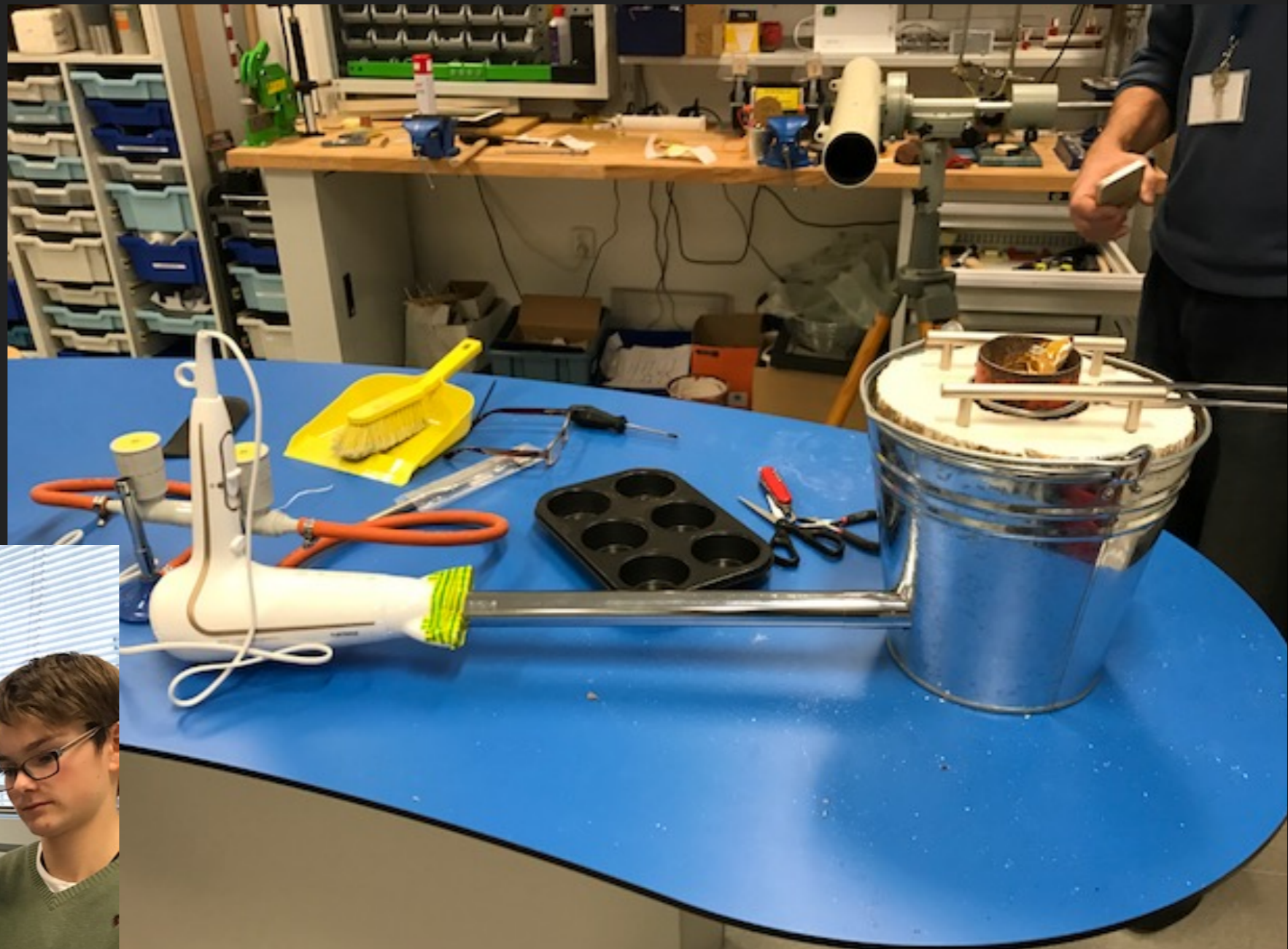
AFTER THE LID HAD DRIED, WE ATTACHED HANDLES TO IT, SO WE WOULD BE ABLE TO LIFT IT DURING OPERATING

WE MADE A HOLE IN THE SIDE OF THE FURNACE AT A TANGENT DIRECTED ANGLE,





AND SAWED OFF AN OLD VACUUM CLEANER PIPE TO FORM AN AIR TUBE FOR THE HAIRDRYER



JIRÍ HAD FOUND AN OLD STEEL CAR FIRE EXTINGUISHER, CUT IT IN HALF, AND WE PUT OUR FURNACE TOGETHER. WE ALSO ATTACHED THE HAIRDRYER TO THE TUBE, FINISHING OUR DESIGN



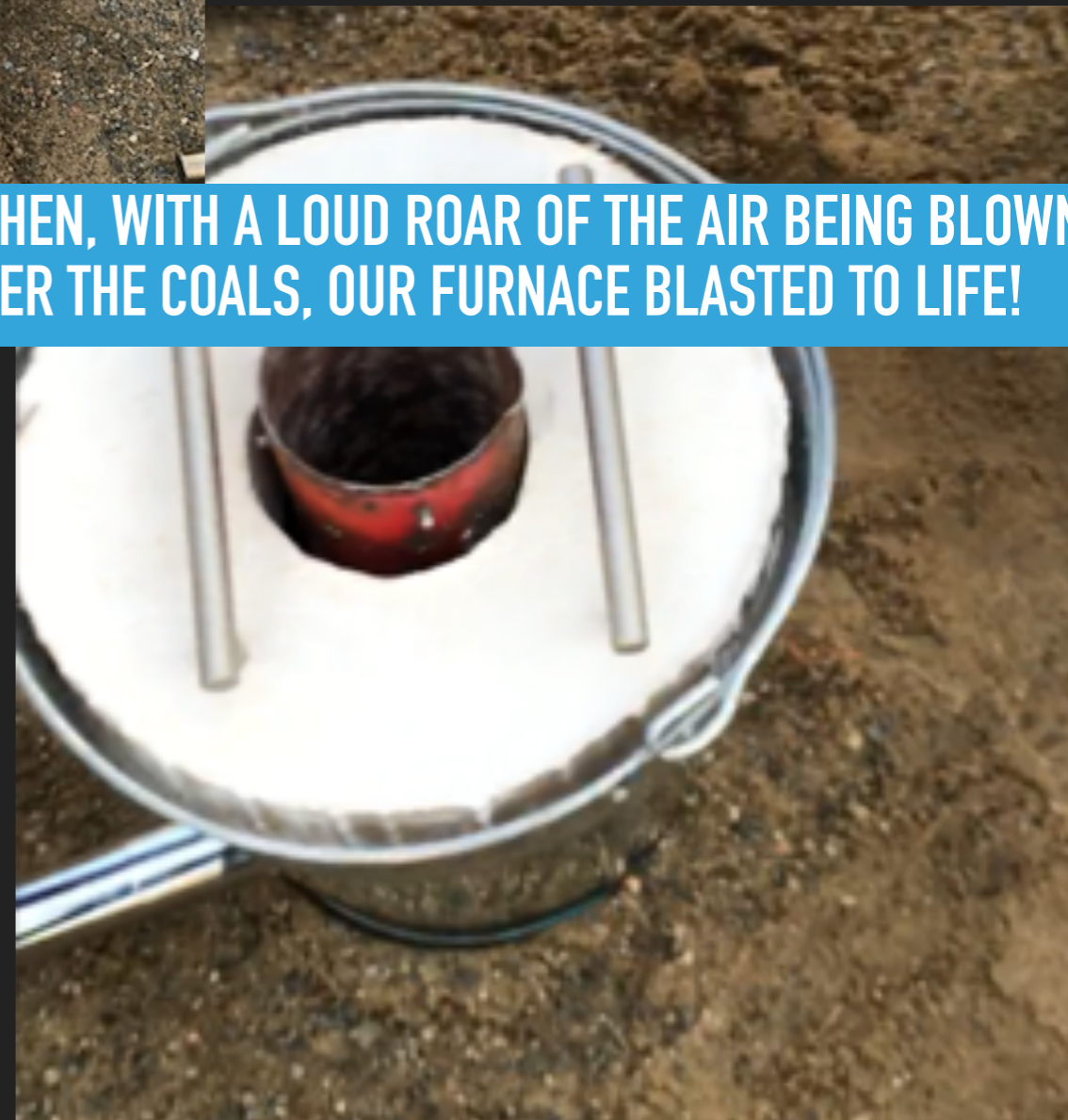
A FEW WEEKS LATER WE WERE ABLE TO SET UP THE FURNACE DURING LUNCHTIME. YOU CAN SEE IN THE FIRST PICTURE HOW THE COALS NEATLY FIT AROUND THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER



WE HADN'T THOUGHT OF STARTING UP THE FURNACE YET, AND THIS PROVED TO BE SLIGHTLY MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE THOUGHT... WE ENDED UP USING ALCOHOL AND A PROPANE TORCH TO IGNITE THE COALS



BUT THEN, WITH A LOUD ROAR OF THE AIR BEING BLOWN OVER THE COALS, OUR FURNACE BLASTED TO LIFE!



**AFTER A FEW MINUTES WE WERE EVEN ABLE TO MELT
A SOLID BLOCK OF ALUMINUM!!**



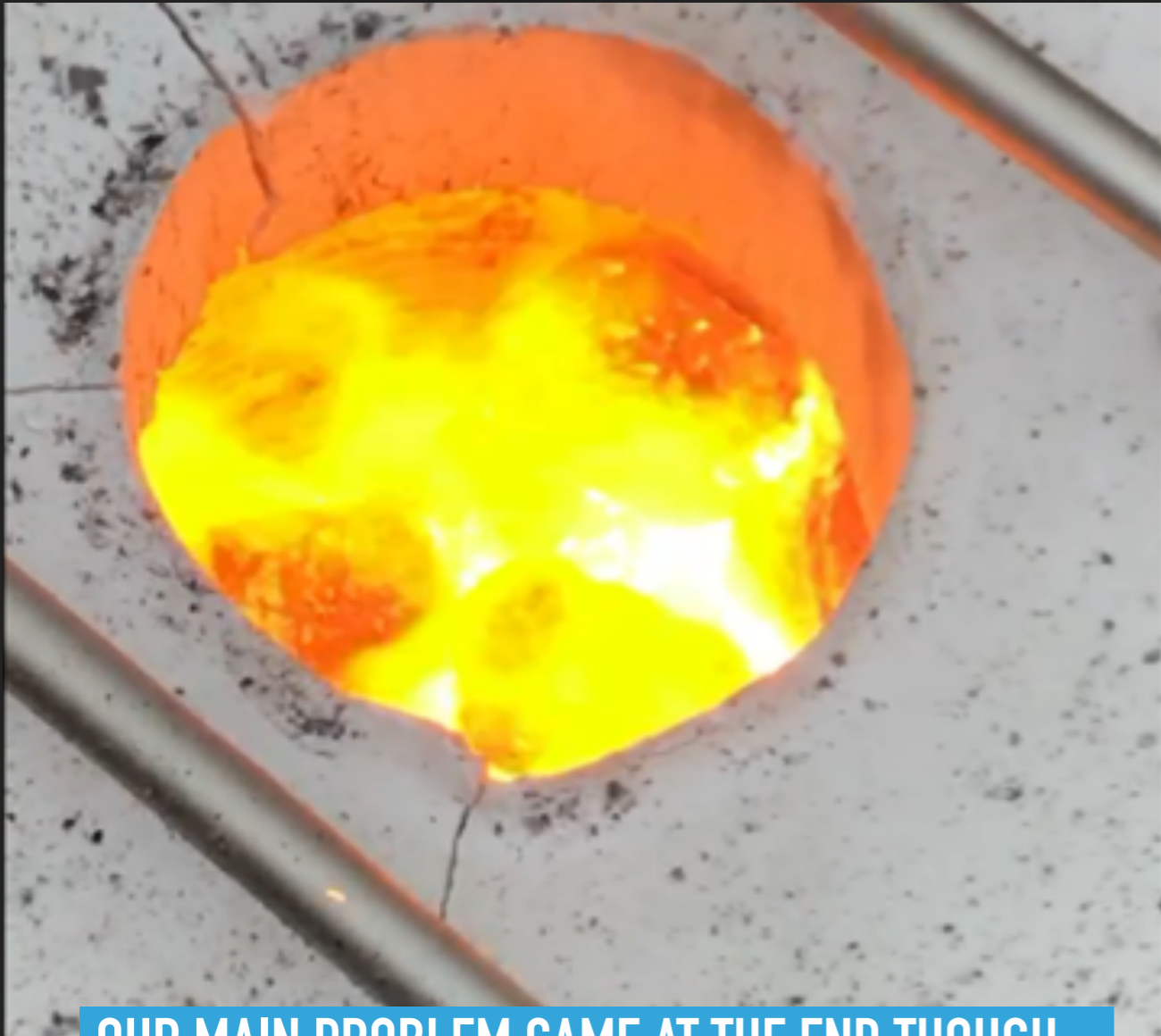


THEN THE MOST EXCITING PART OF THE MELTING CAME: POURING THE MOLTEN ALUMINUM INTO OUR STEEL CUPCAKE TRAY



WE ENDED UP WITH LOTS OF SLAG, AND TWO AWESOME LOOKING, PURE ALUMINUM MUFFINS!

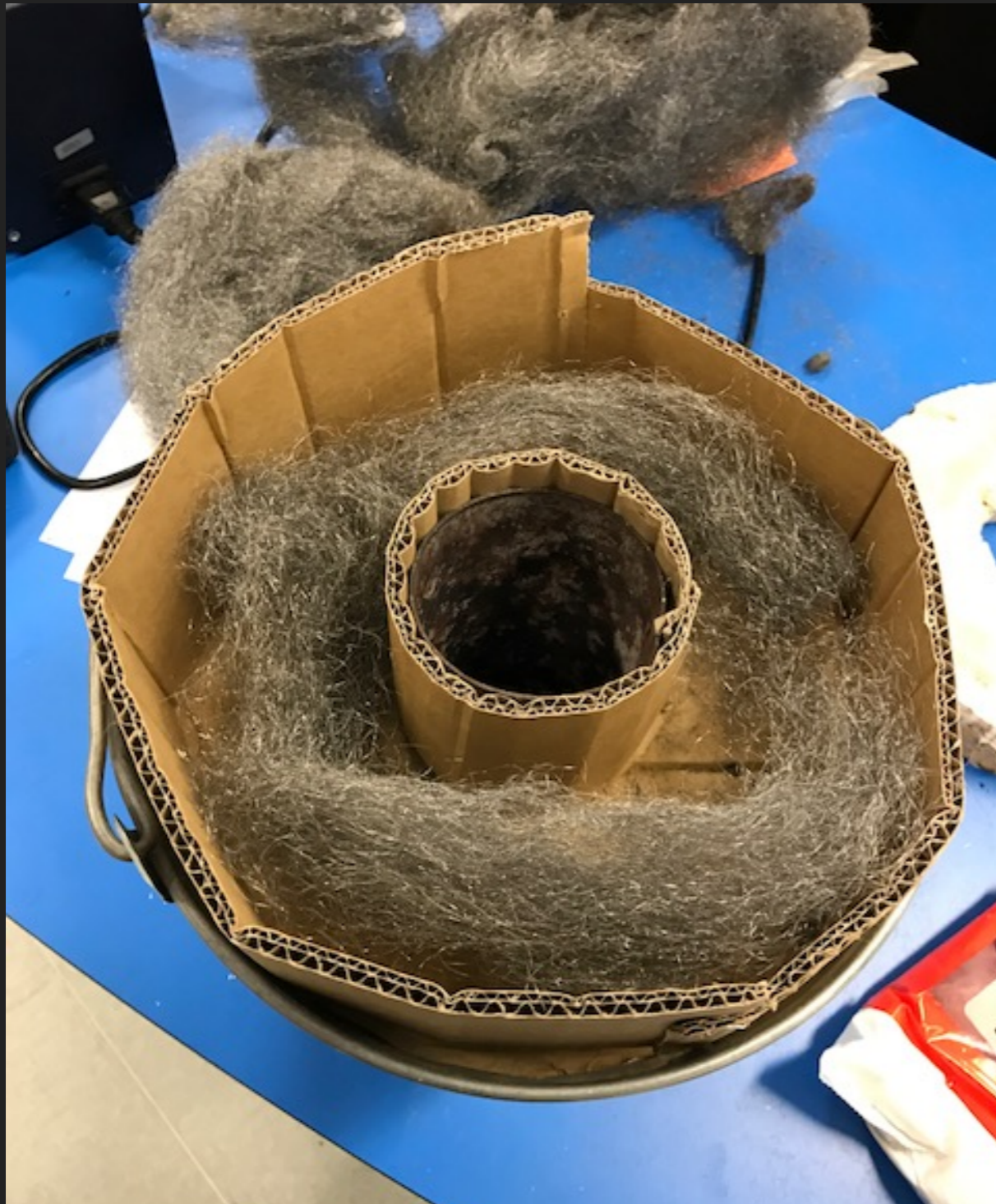




**OUR MAIN PROBLEM CAME AT THE END THOUGH...
THE LID HAD CRACKED, AND AFTER LIFTING IT UP,
SHATTERED INTO MANY PIECES!**



SO WE MADE A NEW ONE!



BUT THIS TIME REINFORCED WITH STEEL WOOL!



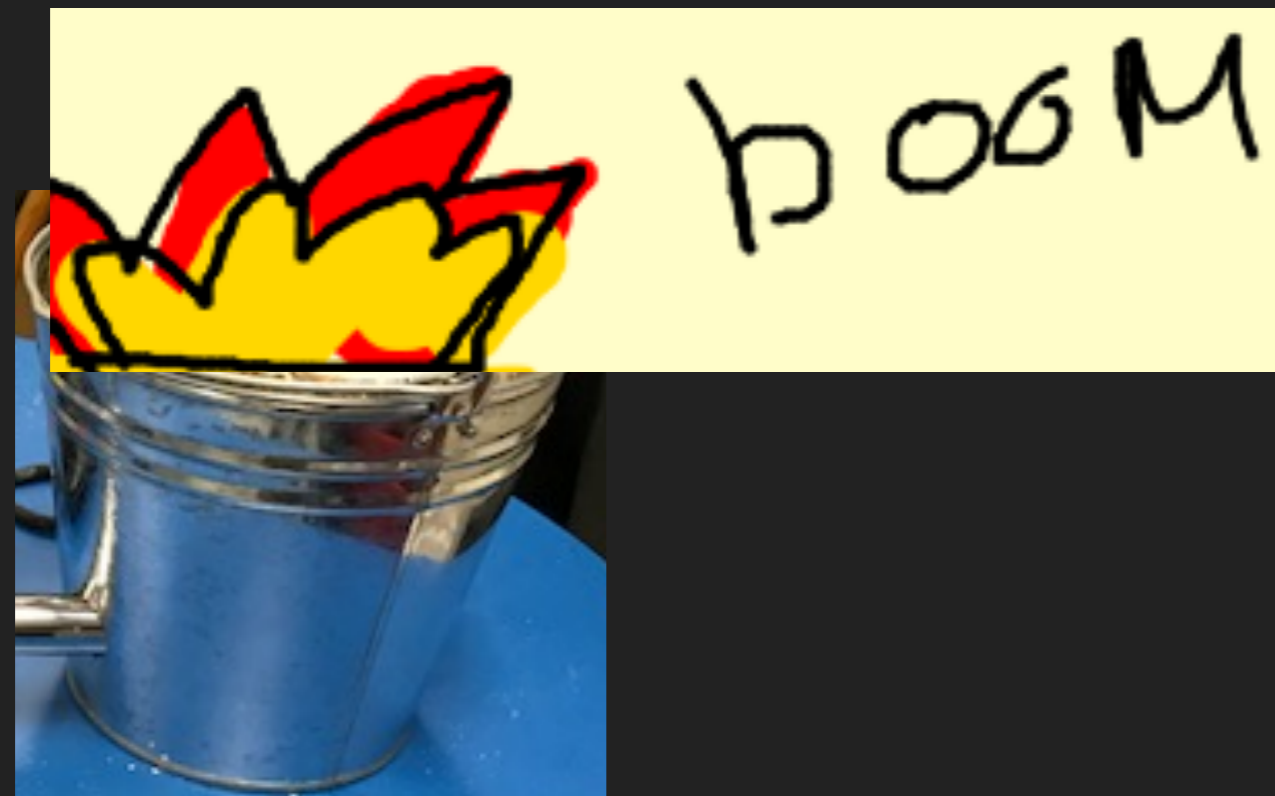
AGAIN, A FEW WEEKS LATER WE TRIED IT OUT!



AND AGAIN, THE LID HAD BROKEN. BUT WE NOW HAD AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM! THE INTERIOR WALLS OF THE FURNACE STARTED TO CRUMBLE WHICH MEANT WE SOON HAD TO REPLACE THIS TOO...



WE HAD A SMALL ACCIDENT LATER ON... WE USED AN EXPERIMENTAL LID MADE OF HEAT-PROOF MATS, BUT IT TURNED OUT THEY WEREN'T 900-DEGREES PROOF. SO OUR LID HAD EVAPORATED, BUT THAT WASN'T THE BIGGEST PROBLEM... AFTER MANY USES, THE CRUCIBLE HAD OXIDIZED FORMING IRON-OXIDE. WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO POUR OUT THE ALUMINUM, IT REACTED WITH THE IRON-OXIDE STARTING A THERMITE REACTION WHICH USED THE CRUCIBLE AS FUEL!! AFTER A FEW MINUTES (AND THE HELP OF A FIRE-EXTINGUISHER) THE REACTION HAD STOPPED. NOBODY GOT HURT BUT HALF OF OUR FURNACE HAD BEEN DESTROYED. WE DON'T HAVE ANY PICTURES OF THIS EVENT, BUT WE ASKED ARTURO TO DRAW IT:





AFTERWARDS WE REDID THE WHOLE FURNACE AND JIRÍ (OUR HERO) HAD BOUGHT A CARBON CRUCIBLE! THESE ARE USED WORLDWIDE IN MELTING METALS AND ARE VERY DURABLE! AS CARBON CRUCIBLES CANT OXIDIZE, WE WONT BE ABLE TO CREATE ANY SORT OF THERMITE REACTION



WE USED MUCH HIGHER QUALITY CEMENT THIS TIME AS WE HAD GOTTEN A FUND FROM MR. BARDSLEY HIMSELF!!



AFTER DRYING, WE THEN FINISHED OFF THE LID MADE OF CHAMOTTE





AGAIN WE STARTED UP THE FURNACE!



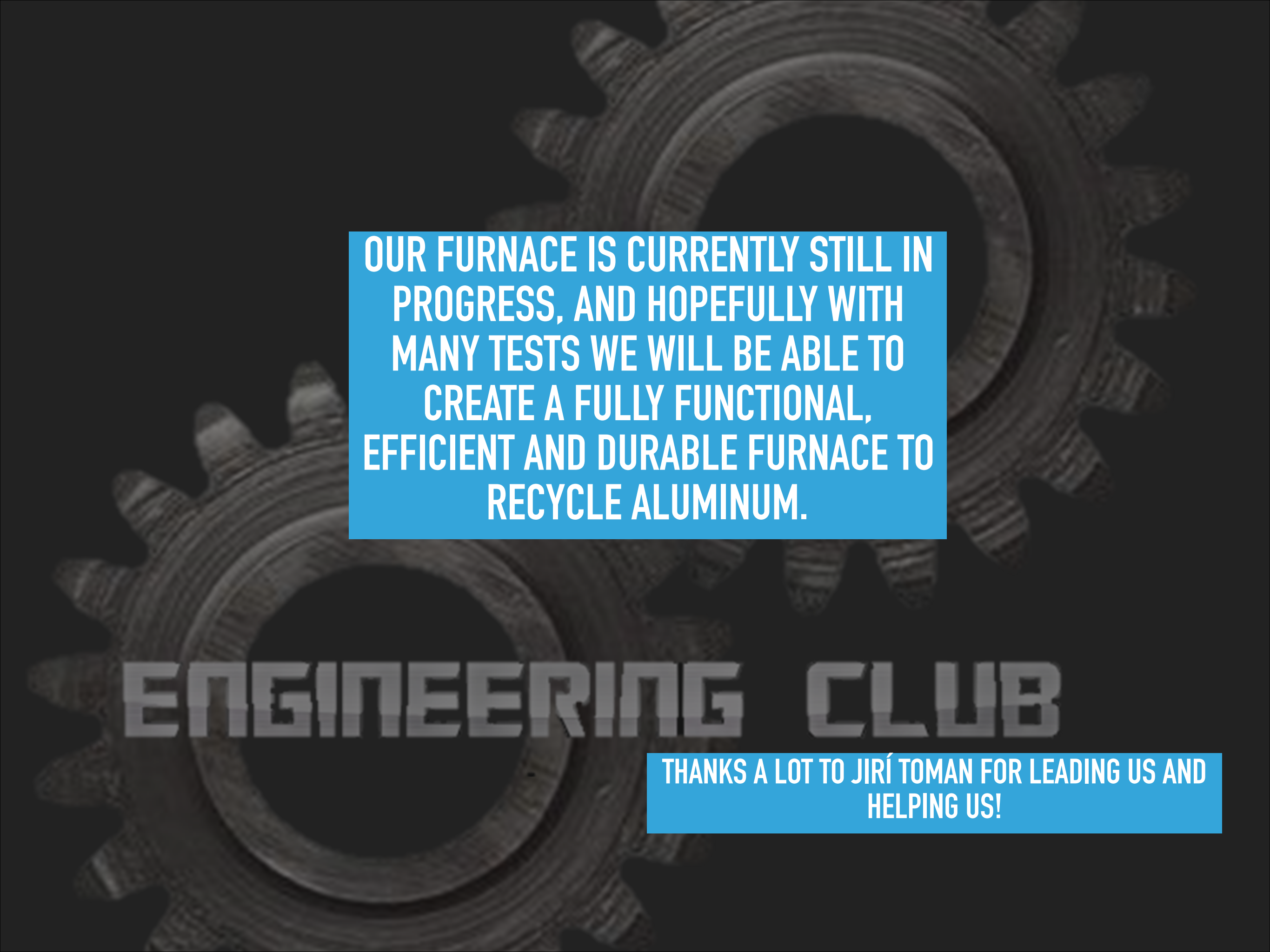
BUT HIS TIME THERE WAS NOT MUCH SPACE BETWEEN THE CONTAINER AND THE WALLS OF THE FURNACE, WE HAD TO BREAK DOWN EACH PIECE OF COAL INTO SMALLER PIECES...



LOTS OF ASHES WERE SHOT OUT FROM THE FURNACE, AND IT DID NOT GET AS HOT AS BEFORE



WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO MELT A VERY SMALL AMOUNT THIS TIME



OUR FURNACE IS CURRENTLY STILL IN PROGRESS, AND HOPEFULLY WITH MANY TESTS WE WILL BE ABLE TO CREATE A FULLY FUNCTIONAL, EFFICIENT AND DURABLE FURNACE TO RECYCLE ALUMINUM.

ENGINEERING CLUB

THANKS A LOT TO JIRÍ TOMAN FOR LEADING US AND HELPING US!

OUR SPONSORS



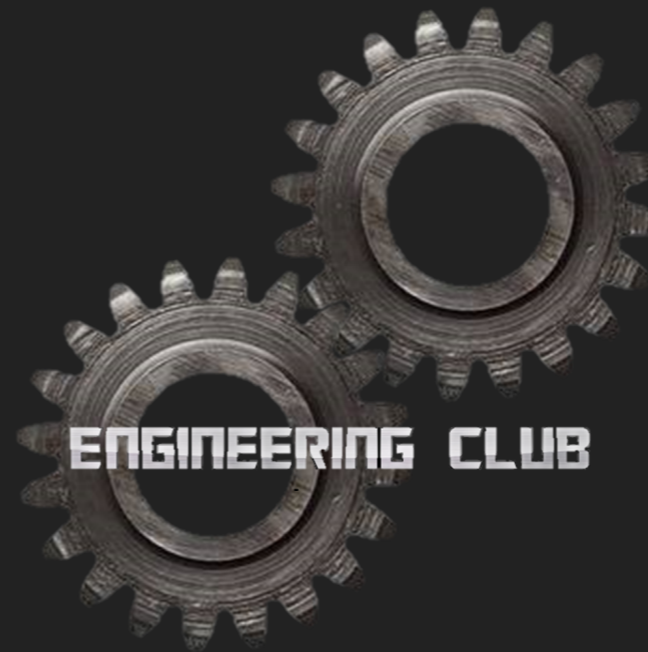
923 Company



The Prague British School



JIRÍ TOMAN



(we could use some more!)