



News Release

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Invention Convention Showcases Critical Thinking & Innovation

Kids from Kindergarten to 8th Grade Introduce Newest Inventions!

(BUFFALO) May 1, 2016 --- Nearly 100 students representing eleven (11) Western New York Elementary and Middle Schools presented their inventions today at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Each invention was meant to solve a problem, address a need or fill a gap in our everyday lives - and they met the challenge!

That's what you get when you give a student the tools to solve a problem. Answers! Answers that are not bound by conventional wisdom or practical implications, but that show creativity, ingenuity and great promise! Innovative medical devices. Promising kitchen tools. Gadgets that save time or maximize impacts. All from students in grades from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade!

The WNY Invention Convention was created to promote creative thinking and encourage scientific problem solving among students in our community. By applying critical thinking to everyday problems, these students find renewed interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). For years media reports have shown how kids in the US are falling behind in their STEM skills. The Invention Convention hopes to reverse that trend.

New this year was a T-Shirt Design Contest. Students from all over were invited to design a T-Shirt that was consistent with the goals of the Invention Convention as well as communicated their perspective. James O'Brien, a 7th Grade student from Akron Central School, was the winner with a design that featured gears and a high lift. A copy of his submission and photo are attached.

Returning again this year is the "Re-Invent" category, where students will re-purpose and combine everyday items found at their local Goodwill Store into marketable real-world innovations in sustainability. Goodwill Industries of Western New York is partnering with the WNY Invention Convention to sponsor the new category at this year's annual design competition.

Winners and their categories included:

WNY Inventor of the Year, Kindergarten through 4th Grade category:

Jack Pack by Hailie Watson, Grade 2 - Colonial Village Elementary
(see description below)

WNY Inventor of the Year, Fifth through Eighth Grade category:

Robotic IV Proximater by Maya Kay, Grade 6 - Olmsted School 156
(see description below)

Director's Choice Award: AIM-X by Shira Symons, Grade 7 - Kadimah School

An orthopedic assistance device intended to help people with injuries or disabilities to improve their basketball shooting skills.

- People's Choice Award:** The Multi-Function Stick by Lilly Sokolofsky & Ava Fox, Grade 3 - Akron Central Middle School
The walking stick holds a flashlight, compass, first-aid, and a water filter.
- Goodwill Re-Invent Award:** The Chopping Champion by Michael Scime, Grade 5 - Smallwood Drive School
A cutting device similar in concept to a Swiss Army knife, but designed for the chef/cook to expedite food preparation- includes knives, grater and seasoning shakers.
- Apparel & Cosmetic** Sanitizer Pants by Cassandra Westphal, Grade 4 - Taylor Elementary
Sanitizer pants have a pouch in the pocket to have sanitizer always available.
- Ecological:** Ice Fan by Matthew Murak, Grade 4 - Smallwood Drive School
The Ice Fan is a very cost- & environmentally-friendly air conditioner.
- Food:** Double Dining by Ella Archabald, Grade 4 - Eden Junior/Senior High School
Feeding system for pets to allow more than one pet to eat at a time.
- Games:** Double Duty Vacuum by Quinn Heuls, Grade 5, Olmsted School 156
A vacuum that can suck toys up. There are different hoses for different toys and you can dump the toys out the other end.
- Home/Garden:** Toasty Clothes by Gianna Cicco & Aryona Nablo, Grade 5 - Colonial Village Elementary
A dresser with a heater so that your clothes will be warm when you want to wear them.
- Medical:** Robotic IV Proximater by Maya Kay, Grade 6 - Olmsted School 156
An IV stand that moves with the patient and stays a certain distance away from the patient.
- School:** Jack Pack by Hailie Watson, Grade 2 - Colonial Village Elementary
This invention is a child's backpack that has been modified so that when needed a child can open pockets and a hood and sleeves come out so the child has a "jacket" with her "backpack"
- Sports:** The Gripnator by Amy Hamilton, Grade 5 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
A gymnastics hand grip and in the grip pad there is already chalk and a water tube that squirts out water.
- Tech & Transport:** Sliderbench by Cameron Tillou, Grade 3 - Smallwood
A piano bench with a seat that rolls left and right so that you can reach the keys.

About the WNY Invention Convention

The mission of the Invention Convention is to promote creative thinking and encourage scientific problem solving in K-8th grade students. Public, Private and Charter School students are all invited to develop solutions to problems they encounter in their daily lives, and to submit their final inventions to the WNY Invention Convention through their school representatives. In this way, it is hoped that we will build a new generation of creative Americans who meet challenges head-on and learn to apply critical thinking skill to all aspects of life.