



News Release

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No Shortage of Creativity and Innovation at the annual WNY Invention Convention!

(BUFFALO) April 30, 2018 --- Mason Herington watched his grandmother maneuver with her cane. As much as it helped, the PS 156 Frederick Law Olmsted sixth grader knew the cane needed to do more. So he set himself on a path to make one that did.

Learning about the planets is tough, especially if you're in elementary school. But not only did Brian and Sean Bartelo have an idea for a way to help teach young students more about the planets, they found a way to have a little fun too.

Mason, Brian and Sean were among the more than 120 Western New York students who demonstrated their problem-solving inventions at the annual WNY Invention Convention on Sunday, April 29, 2017 at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Some of the best and brightest elementary & middle school students from across WNY participated.

A new addition is the WNY Invention Convention's affiliation with the National Invention Convention. This year, all first place winners received an opportunity to participate in the National Invention Convention at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan from May 31 - June 2.

Among the top were the following awardees:

Inventor of the Year (Grades K-4)

Amanda Lovell (Grade 4) from Smallwood Dive School for the "Fire Box" reusable pizza box

Inventor of the Year (Grades 5-8)

Mason Herington (Grade 6) from BPS 156 Fredrick Law Olmsted for the "All-Terrain Cane" which helps its user navigate a variety of indoor and outdoor terrains

People's Choice Award

Rebecca Higgins (Grade 7) from Akron Middle School for the "Lazy Laser" pet toy

Director's Choice Award

Karter Baker (Grade 5) from BPS 156 Fredrick Law Olmsted for the "Heat Feet" sock-based foot warmer

Additional winners appear on the following pages.

(continued)

Goodwill Re-invent Category (Grades K-3)

1 st	The Perfect Pocket	Sofia Wieczkowski from Smallwood Drive School <i>A pocket for pants with no pockets</i>
2 nd	The Cool Drinker	Michelle Morgani from Our Lady of Black Rock
3 rd	Glass Sculpture	Alexandra Rathbun from Our Lady of Black Rock

Goodwill Re-invent Category (Grades 4-8)

1 st	Cuddle Buddies	Kayley Gust from Smallwood Drive School <i>A stuffed animal that offers children comfort with heat, cold or huggable fluff.</i>
2 nd	Book Buddy	Abigail Lamb from Smallwood Drive School
3 rd	Lazy Laser	Rebecca Higgins from Akron Central Middle School

Grades K- 2, Group A

1 st	Test Board	Brian and Sean Bartelo from Bartelo Home School <i>A fun way to teach young students about the planets</i>
2 nd	Hockey Helper	Jonathan Hart from Smallwood Drive School
3 rd	The Tushy Cushion	Whitney Appler from Smallwood Drive School

Grade K-2, Group B

1 st	Clean Shot	Cooper Jones from BPS 67 Discovery School <i>A combination hockey stick & broom that cleans while you shoot</i>
2 nd	Guinea Pig Bed	Caitlin Schumacher from BPS 67 Discovery School
3 rd	The Grow With Me Stick	Sean Pafik from BPS 67 Discovery School

Grade 3, Group A

1 st	The EZ Brush	William Genau from Smallwood Drive School <i>A hairbrush that dispenses gel to get rid of cowlicks and keeps hands mess free.</i>
2 nd	Doggy Vest	Adeline Donovan from Eden Elementary
3 rd	The Ultimate Gamers Case	Zachary Glovack from West Street Elementary

Grade 3, Group B

1 st	Paw Wash	Hailey Werth from West Street Elementary A washing station for pets
2 nd	Snuggly Buddy	Mariana Martin from West Street Elementary
3 rd	Puggy Wuggy's Paw Wash	Edith Trapp from Smallwood Drive

Grade 4, Group A

1 st	Fruit Fly Repeller	Sophia Donovan from Eden Elementary <i>A fake fruit that lures and traps fruit flies</i>
2 nd	Jelly Slices	Lauren Hart from Smallwood Drive School
3 rd	Multi-task table	Samuel Lincoln from Eden Elementary

(continued)

Grade 4, Group B

1 st	Fire Box	Amelia Lovell from Smallwood Drive School <i>An eco-friendly reusable pizza box</i>
2 nd	Feed Frenzy	Charlotte Hoffman from Smallwood Drive School
3 rd	Step Walker	Parker Jasper from Colonial Village Elementary School

Grade 5, Group A

1 st	The Shooting Star	Alessandra Ferrer from BPS 156 Fredrick Law Olmstead School <i>The shooting star that stops bookmarks from falling out of books.</i>
2 nd	Super Stopper	Molly Duggan from Smallwood Drive School
3 rd	Tasty Scrub	Mia Finch from St. Joseph's University School

Grade 5, Group B

1 st	Wheel Sled	Natalie Huber from BPS 156 Fredrick Law Olmstead School <i>Help give traction in the winter to luggage, garbage cans, or anything with wheels.</i>
2 nd	Trash Stoppers	Peighton Jasper from Colonial Village Elementary
3 rd	Suck it Up	Faith Kauffman from Tapestry Charter School

Grade 5, Group C

1 st	The Waker Maker	Charlie McDonnell from PS 156 Fredrick Olmstead <i>An invention that will make your bed and wake you up.</i>
2 nd	Aqua Thermal-Dapter	Cameron Tillou from Smallwood Drive School
3 rd	Fancy Desk	Eva Pisarzewicz from Smallwood Drive School

Grade 6

1 st	All-Terrain Cane	Mason Herington from BPS 156 Fredrick Law Olmstead <i>A cane that works in a variety of outdoor settings</i>
2 nd	EZ Groomer	Michellynn Schroeder from Schroeder Homeschool
3 rd	Extend Arm	Clarence Funderburg from St. Joseph's University School

Grade 7-8

1 st	Anti-Bully Band	Maya Kay from BPS 156 Fredrick Law Olmstead School <i>A band that you wear in school to help prevent bullying..</i>
2 nd	P.E.F. Watch	Finn Safford-Cameron from Tapestry Charter School
3 rd	Snack-It in Plastic	Laila Myree from St. Joseph's University School

By encouraging students to apply critical thinking to everyday problems, they can find renewed interests in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). For year's media reports have shown how kids in the US are falling behind in their STEM skills. The WNY Invention Convention hopes to reverse that trend by providing students with a forum that allows them to provide answers to challenges and problems that are not bound by conventional wisdom or practical implications, but that show creativity, ingenuity and great promise.

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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.

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