



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Columbus, Ohio

Contact: Jerrie West

740-965-8326

[jstrickling@juno.com](mailto:jstrickling@juno.com)

## **Second Grader wins Grand Prize with “American Chopsticks” Invention**

**Saige Rook**, a second grade student at Lincoln Elementary (Lakewood City Schools) accepted the **Grand Prize** at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cleveland Invention Convention held at The Great Lakes Science Center on Saturday. Her Invention, “American Chopsticks” was her solution to a common problem - trying to get food on a fork or spoon without using your fingers. The invention won her the Grand Prize, a \$2,500 CollegeAdvantage Scholarship.

This year over 250 schools and districts in Cuyahoga, Medina, and Lorain counties were invited to participate in the Invention Convention program where the top 140 students from across the region displayed their creations at the Cleveland competition. Students competed for the \$2,500 grand prize, six \$500 first place prizes for each category, and fifty \$50 U.S. savings bonds.

In existence for 13 years in the Columbus area, over one million Central Ohio kids to date have participated in The Invention Convention, creating useful, sometimes crazy and always interesting inventions. Offered free to schools, The Invention Convention inspires students to create and problem solve while developing their inventions. It differs from science fairs in that the focus of the curriculum is to recognize simple to complex problems that individuals face everyday and follow them through the process of creating solutions to them. The program has recently garnered international press recognition from student inventors with appearances on national television shows such as Ellen Degeneres and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

Additional Winners at the 2008 Cleveland Invention Convention are:

### ***1<sup>st</sup> place winners of a \$500 college scholarship***

- **In grade K-2** the first place winner is Abe Dalisky, a second grader from Lincoln Elementary (Lakewood School District) for his invention, “Teacher Tac”, a different way of securing items on bulletin Boards.
- **In grade 3** the first place winner is Zachary Dudzik from Lincoln Elementary (Lakewood School District) for his invention, “Removable Light-Up Pencil Grip”, an invention that helps you write in the dark.
- **In grade 4** the first place winner is Jakob Walz from St Thomas More for his invention, ”Secure-A- Can”, his solution to keeping trash cans from blowing out of your yard.

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- **In grade 5** the first place winners are Shannon Bahr and Cheyenne Wurm from Huntington Elementary (Brunswick City Schools) for their invention, "Double Duty – Folding Laundry Basket" a laundry basket that doubles as a table.
- **In grade 6** the first place winner is Hiatt Hernon from Irving Elementary (Lorain City Schools) for his invention, "The Extended Time Cover", a device that reminds you of your due date for library books.
- **In Grade 7-8** the first place winner is John Schulze, a seventh grader from Lee Burneson Middle School (Westlake School District) for his invention "No Mess Mower", a removable plastic liner that fits under the mower.

*Additional Awards were given to the following:*

**Chairman’s Choice Award** goes to Jessica Wilson from Hillside Middle School (Parma City Schools) for her invention, "The Pet Mat", a step-on mat for pets to let their owners know they want indoors.

**The 2008 Cleveland Teacher of Excellence Award** goes to Michelle Newbacher, a teacher at Irving Elementary (Lorain City Schools) Newbacher received a \$1,500 computer set-up for her classroom, a class trip to The Great Lakes Science Center, a Donato's Pizza Party and a PTReptiles Assembly Program.

**The 50 Superior Innovators who earned savings bonds are:**

Name	Grade	School
<b>MEDINA COUNTY</b>		
Nick Gazy	3	Ella Canavan Elementary – Medina City Schools
Curtis Kolke	5	Ella Canavan Elementary – Medina City Schools
Cassy Ulry	3	Ella Canavan Elementary – Medina City Schools
Griffin Becker	4	Huntington Elementary – Brunswick City Schools
Lane Obryant	3	Huntington Elementary – Brunswick City Schools
<b>LORAIN COUNTY</b>		
Kathrine Britvec	7	Longfellow Middle School – Lorain City Schools
Ilianna Velez	7	Longfellow Middle School – Lorain City Schools
Brianna Overton	7	Longfellow Middle School – Lorain City Schools
Gabrielle Vanca	6	Lowell Elementary – Lorain City Schools
Elizabeth Spanos	8	Sheffield Middle School – Sheffield – Sheffield Lake City Schools
<b>CUYAHOGA COUNTY</b>		
Jacob Caraffi	7	St. Thomas More
James Duman	7	St. Thomas More
John Houghtling	4	St. Mel Elementary
Kent Adams	3	Lincoln Elementary – Lakewood City Schools
Stephen Zanghi	3	Lincoln Elementary – Lakewood City Schools
Isaac Karel	2	Lincoln Elementary – Lakewood City Schools
Catherine Hauck	2	Goldwood Primary – Rocky River City Schools
Allison Ladd	2	Goldwood Primary – Rocky River City Schools
Chris Grimm	8	Lee Burneson Middle School – Westlake City Schools
Scott Hulver	8	Lee Burneson Middle School – Westlake City Schools

Olivia Clark	8	Hillside Middle School – Parma City Schools
Steven Grzincic	8	Hillside Middle School – Parma City Schools
Naomi Virnelson	8	Shiloh Middle School – Parma City Schools
Minela Zupljanin	8	Shiloh Middle School – Parma City Schools
Vladimir Mikitin	8	Shiloh Middle School – Parma City Schools
Melanie Missig	8	Shiloh Middle School – Parma City Schools
Shannon Basalla	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Kylene Oswald	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Megan Berordinis	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Kim Tretiakow	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Taylor Caprella	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Alex Scott	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Sarah Carney	7	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Courtney Monde	7	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Alexander Conroy	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Kelli Kiffer	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Natalie Eberhardt	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Savanna Roldan	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Jamie Fitch	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Alisha Turner	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
George Gabor	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Brandon Sykes	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Daniel Galek	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Bryan Schatmeyer	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Jena Klefman	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Shelby Stocker	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Brittany Salay	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Elizabeth Walker	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
Michael Sterpka	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools
John Vennick	8	Greenbriar Middle School – Parma City Schools

The expansion of the program is made possible through the contributions of The Invention Convention’s Founding Partners: Battelle, Honda of America & Just Think Inc. Cleveland’s contributing sponsors to this year’s program include: Pearne & Gordon, LLP (a Cleveland law firm specializing in patent law), Donatos and The Great Lakes Science Center. In addition to presenting sponsors, The Invention Convention is proud to have CollegeAdvantage, Ohio’s 529 Savings Plan, as the “Official Scholarship Provider”.

For more information on the Invention Convention visit their web site at : [www-just-think-inc.com](http://www-just-think-inc.com).

**CONTACT:**

Cleveland Regional Coordinator, Steve Dietrich: (614) 425-9337  
[steve@just-think-inc.com](mailto:steve@just-think-inc.com)

Executive Director, Cherylyn Rushton: (740) 548-8182; (614) 425-9338  
[cherylyn@just-think-inc.com](mailto:cherylyn@just-think-inc.com)

To arrange an interview, contact:

Promotions Manager, Jerrie West Strickling: (614) 425-9335 or (740) 548-4665  
[jerrie@just-think-inc.com](mailto:jerrie@just-think-inc.com)  
Toll Free 1-866-587-8446