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**Alive & Unedited:**  
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Aaron Hibbs attempting to break hula-hooping record

## CPS students shine at Invention Convention

Thursday, May 24, 2007

By **SUE HAGAN**  
*ThisWeek Staff Writer*

It's a problem every school child who is hurrying to his locker to get books or a coat has encountered. The student at the neighboring locker has his door open, blocking yours entirely.



BY ADAM CAIRNS/THISWEEK

Dominion Middle School sixth-graders Zane Geiger and Eben George came up with a solution clever enough to win the Kids Choice Award at the Central Ohio Invention Convention held last Saturday.

Their "Sliding Locko" features a door that slides into the wall and out of the way.

"It's basically a locker that opens up along a rail," said Geiger during an interview Monday. "Unlike normal lockers, it doesn't open up 180 degrees and cover the locker next to it."

Two other Dominion students, both seventh-graders, took first place in the seventh/eighth grade division.

Trying to avoid using the "really gross" sinks at camp, Sarah Sinclair and Caitlin McNaughton came up with the "Wash N Go Sink."

Two small basins stacked one atop the other, the upper basin has a spout that pours water into the lower one.

"This is a little portable and compact sink for travel," said Sinclair. "The water in the top provides running water ... so you can brush your teeth or wash your hands."

McNaughton said there are other camping sinks on the market, but they are either just single basins or they have to be attached to a water source to provide the running water.

The Dominion students were among seven students from Columbus Public Schools that took top prizes in the 12th annual Invention Convention, held May 19 at Veterans Memorial.

This year, students from 18 school districts in seven central Ohio counties were involved and 454 students in grades K-8 who had earlier placed at the highest levels in their school-level invention conventions made it to the final competition.

**Attorney Dane Stinson, volunteering as one of the judges for the annual Invention Convention, interviews Stewart Elementary School fifth-grader Shikel Fluellen about her automatic bed maker invention at Veterans Memorial May 19. Fluellen devised a way to make her bed with a simple pull of a string.**

MAY 30, 2007 | Currently: 86° Partly Cloudy

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May 2007							>
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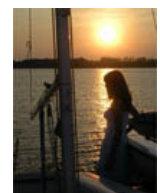
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Photo taken at sunset on Hoover Reservoir.



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Since 1996, more than 1-million students have participated in the Invention Convention at their school level, and 5,659 have advanced to the finals. There have been 750 winners, \$300,000 in college scholarships awarded, and one invention that went on to earn a patent.

Through the Invention Convention, students learn to recognize everyday problems and work through the solutions.

Dakota Robinson, a fifth-grader from Avalon Elementary recognized a problem the hard way -- he broke a tooth on an unpopped popcorn kernel.

He won the Chairman's Award for "The Popcorn Perfecter," a two-part container that includes a top section with holes large enough for kernels to fall through into a smaller tray.

Once they are separated and thrown out, he can add flavorings to the container and give it a good shake.

Robinson said it took a couple of tries to create the container he wanted.

"At first we glued the kernel catcher with caulk, but that washed off. Then we used super glue and that worked," he said.

Linden Elementary fifth-graders Jaevon Gillispie and Theo Stokes took first for their grade level for inventing the "Tune Carrier," which holds musical instruments and attaches to a backpack.

Eight other Columbus students received \$50 savings bonds for scoring in the top 50, and five more won a space in "Camp Invention."

This year, the top place "Edison Award," a \$2,500 college scholarship, went to second-grader John Wright, a home-schooled student from Westerville. His invention, "The Umbrellanator," is a protective device to keep wet umbrellas from dripping after use.

First-place finishers at each level received \$500 college scholarships. Besides the teams from Dominion and Linden, those went to:

- Grades K-2: Tessa Perry, a second-grader from Carlisle Elementary in Delaware, for her invention, "Coffee Filter Stay-Opener," a coffee filter that stays put.
- Grade 3: Emilee Brown of Walnut Creek Elementary in Olentangy Local Schools, for "The Anti-Carsick Reading Hat."
- Grade 4: Alize Raptou of Worthington Christian School for "Healthy Handle," a device that keeps door handles germ free.
- Grade 6: Zachariah Jaffe and Eric Loring from Granby Elementary School in Worthington for "The Flagpole of the Future," a sensor that raises and lowers the flagpole.

The "Gee, I Wish I'd Thought of That" award went to fourth-grader Ben Finn, of Longfellow Magnet School in Westerville for his "Waterproof Pocket," which keeps items dry in the swimming pool, and the Director's Choice award, a \$300 scholarship, went to Joey Scarberry, a sixth-grader at Park Street Elementary in South-Western City Schools.

The Invention Convention is a program offered free to school districts in the area through the contributions of its presenting sponsors: Battelle, Honda of America and

#### QUICK POLL

Should the Ohio General Assembly keep vouchers in the upcoming two year state budget, or should the program be cancelled?

(Choose one answer)

- The voucher program should be continued
- The voucher program should be discontinued

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