



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2008 Central Ohio Invention Convention Kids...Inventing the Future of America

Over 400 of Central Ohio's best student inventors showcased 347 creations at the 13th annual Central Ohio Invention Convention held today at Veteran's Memorial in Columbus, Ohio. All finalists were pre-selected from over twenty participating school districts, to participate in this year's competition.

For the past thirteen years over one million Ohio kids have participated in The Invention Convention creating useful, sometimes crazy and always interesting inventions. 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 ThisWeek Community Newspapers. This year The Invention Convention has moved onward with statewide expansion plans including the 3rd successful Miami Valley Invention Convention at Wright State University and the 2nd Cleveland Invention Convention at The Great Lakes Science Center.

The program 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 winners of the 2008 Invention Convention are:

The grand prize "Edison Award", a \$2,500 college scholarship from CollegeAdvantage, Ohio's 529 Savings Plan goes to Mark D. Wright and Michelle Vawter a team of 7th and 8th grade home schooled students from Westerville. The team won the award for their patent-pending invention "Immunity Insurance", a nano technology drug that releases proven cold fighting compounds when the virus enters the body.

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1st place winners of a \$500 college scholarship

- **In grades K-2** the first place winner is Enzo Bergese a 2nd grader from Windermere Elementary (Upper Arlington School district) for his invention “R.S.C.B. Retractable School Crosswalk Barrier”, a physical barrier that is retractable between pedestrians and cars.
- **In grade 3** the first place winner is Madi Sullivan a 3rd grader from Indian Springs Elementary School (Olentangy School District) for her invention “The Quickitch”, a device that lets cooks scratch their itch without making a mess.
- **In grade 4** the first place winner is Ellie Levine from Wellington School for her invention “Pick Up Buddy”, a tennis hopper with wheels that also picks up the balls.
- **In grade 5** the first place Kailey Beard a 5th grader from Indianola Alternative (Columbus City School District) for her invention ”Towel Taggers”, a reusable color coded clip for family members to use on their towels.
- **In grade 6** the first place winners Corey Tye a 6th grader from Park St. Intermediate (Southwestern School District) for his invention “Strap Em Up”, an adjustable strap that holds your socks up when you skate.
- **In grades 7-8** the first place winners is Christian Starr a 7th grader from Bloom Carroll Middle School (Bloom Carroll School District) for his invention “ROSS - Remote Operated Spike System”, a remote operating device for controlling stop sticks for police officers.
- **Kids Choice Award** goes to Alexandria Braun a 3rd grader from Liberty Tree Elementary (Olentangy School District) for her invention “Recycle Lid-inator”, a secure lid for trash cans designed to control overflow.

In addition to presenting sponsors The Invention Convention is proud to have supporting sponsors, Cardinal Health, Donatos, Huntington Bank, The J. E. Grote Company, The Kroger Company, Limited Brands Foundation, The Columbus Dispatch and Wolfe Associates. CollegeAdvantage, Ohio’s 529 Savings Plan returns as the “Official Scholarship Provider”. Companies, local organizations and individuals interested in supporting this program for children in their area may obtain more information by calling the numbers listed below or logging onto The Invention Convention’s web site at www.just-think-inc.com

Toll Free 1-866-587-8446

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A complete listing of the 50 winners receiving excellent ratings is attached below and photos of the 2008 Central Ohio Invention Convention award winners may be downloaded off the Convention Web site at www.just-think-inc.com/media.

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Here are the 50 superior innovators from the 2008 Columbus Invention Convention. Each student receives a \$50 savings bond. Congratulations to all of the winners, finalists, and participants!

| Student | Grade | School District |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| BRIANA B SIALE | 2 | COLUMBUS |
| IAN SALVADOR | 2 | DELAWARE CITY |
| SADIE WOODRUFF | 2 | DELAWARE CITY |
| ANDREW M MERZ | 5 | COLUMBUS CITY SCH |
| PHILLIP J MERZ | 5 | COLUMBUS CITY SCH |
| ZOE COLLIS | 6 | UPPER ARLINGTON |
| TORAN GEORGE | 5 | DUBLIN |
| ALYSSA GROSSMAN | 6 | REYNOLDSBURG |
| ALEXIS MAHAN | 6 | COLUMBUS |
| DAVID MAHAN | 4 | COLUMBUS PUBLIC |
| ANDREW CARRINGER | 6 | COLUMBUS CITY |
| JUSTIN MOELLER | 6 | COLUMBUS CITY |
| CORAY NAPIER | 6 | SOUTH WESTERN CITY |
| DALLAS REED | 6 | SOUTH WESTERN CITY |
| LOUIS WEMYSS | 6 | JEFFERSON LOCAL |
| KAILEY CAGLE | 5 | PRIVATE/WESTERVILLE |
| CALEB CAGLE | 2 | PRIVATE |
| ANGEL V WATKINS | 2 | COLUMBUS CITY SCH |
| FAYE HARTMAN VAETH | 2 | COLUMBUS CITY SCH |
| SAMMI CERINO | 6 | JEFFERSON LOCAL |
| COURTNEY TINNEL | 8 | COLUMBUS |
| MORGAN TODD | 8 | COLUMBUS |
| EMILY METTILLE | 6 | NEWARK |
| CHARLES PAYNE | 5 | WESTERVILLE CITY SCH |
| JAKE NELSON | 3 | OLENTANGY |
| LINDSEY LIGHTNER | 6 | JEFFERSON LOCAL |
| MAKAYLA SCHAEFER | 3 | OLENTANGY |
| AUSTIN EBBRECHT | 2 | WESTERVILLE |
| BRETT BUZASH | 3 | OLENTANGY |
| AARON BENSON | 7 | GROVEPORT MADISON |
| JESSICA LILLY | 7 | GROVEPORT |
| SUJIT RAO | 6 | REYNOLDSBURG |
| KELSIE O'LEARY | 5 | COLUMBUS |
| CAITLYN BRADFORD | 6 | BLOOM CARROLL |
| JULIE JACKSON | 6 | BLOOM CARROLL |
| IAN MCGEE | 7 | GROVEPORT |
| MEGAN MILLER | 6 | MARYSVILLE EXEMPTED |
| NATHAN R ARROWOOD | 5 | FRANKLIN |
| JOSH ROSELER | 6 | PRIVATE |
| KATHLEEN BROOKS | 3 | UPPER ARLINGTON |
| ALESSIA BERNON | 3 | UPPER ARLINGTON |
| DAKOTA HAYES | 4 | WESTERVILLE CITY SCH |
| ZACHARY ARNOLD | 5 | COLUMBUS CITY SCH |
| RENEE DELGADO | 6 | JEFFERSON LOCAL |
| KENNEDY CALLENTINE | 6 | BLOOM CARROLL |
| KYLEE CANFIELD | 6 | BLOOM CARROLL |
| MIRANDA ROSS | 5 | UPPER ARLINGTON |
| GRAYTON GIESMAN | 5 | WORTHINGTON |
| ALLISON VITIOE | 5 | COLUMBUS CITY |
| KATE SULLIVAN | 2 | DELAWARE CITY |