



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Third Grader Wins Top Award at the 2009 Invention Convention**

Central Ohio's best student inventors showcased their creations at the 14th annual Invention Convention held Saturday at COSI in Columbus, Ohio. All finalists were pre-selected in their school district to participate in this year's competition.

For the past seventeen years over one million Ohio kids have participated in The Invention Convention creating useful, sometimes crazy and always interesting inventions. Offered free to schools in the area, districts located in Franklin, Delaware, Union, Madison, Pickaway, Fairfield and Licking counties were invited to participate in the Invention Convention.

At a time when the nation seeks new direction and remains hopeful despite many problems the word "innovation" seems to be a part of everyone's solution. The Invention Convention Program continues to focus on innovation, inspiring students in grades k through 8 to create and problem solve while developing their own 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 Grand Prize winning invention was "The Super Nutrition Nanny", a food scanner that helps kids make good food choices. Inventor, Kaylee Drerup was presented with Central Ohio's 2009 Edison Award – a \$2,500 College Scholarship supplied by College Advantage, Ohio's 529 Plan. She is a 3rd grader from Scioto Ridge Elementary School (Olentangy School District) in Powell, Ohio.**

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

- **In grades K-2** the first place winner is Tyler Grayson Morefield a 1st grader from Westgate Alternative School (Columbus Public School District) for his invention, "Katabelt", a way to help remember Kata moves for those who study karate.
- **In grade 3** the first place winner is Angel Watkins from Siebert Elementary School (Columbus Public School District) for her invention "Ultimate Cranium Cradle", a protective helmet for gymnasts.
- **In grade 4** the first place winners were tied. Kira Benson a home schooled student (Buckeye Valley School District) won for her invention, "Auto Up", a device that picks up small toys and objects off the floor easily. She was tied with Liam Bruce a 4<sup>th</sup> grader from Worthington Christian (Worthington School District) for his invention "No Burn Barrier" a cover for hot stoves.

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- **In grade 5** the first place winner is Hannah Gilliam from Gables Elementary School (Columbus City School District) for her invention “Taco Tape”, a device that keeps one from making a mess when eating tacos.
- **In grade 6** the first place winner is Darcy Faiella from Park Street Intermediate School (South Western School District) for her invention “Hydraulic ATM”, an adjustable ATM makes it easy for everyone to use.
- **In grades 7-8** the first place winner is Christian Starr, an 8th grader from Bloom Carroll Middle School (Bloom Carroll School District) for his invention “LAW”, a device that allows you to carry tools up ladders hands free.
- **Kid’s Choice Award** goes to Jessica Wells, an 8th grader from Madison Christian School (Groveport Madison School District) for her invention, “Cozy Cleaners”, a floor cleaning device.
- **Haley Humanitarian Award goes to Christian Starr, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Bloom Carroll.** Christian Starr was the recipient of the ‘Haley Humanitarian Award, a \$250 college scholarship in honor of the late CPD Officer, Tim Haley, his Inspiration & Support of Young Inventors, and his life of service. The Haley Humanitarian Award was presented by Rene Haley, CPD Officer Alan Blackmon, and Director IC Rushton, in honor of Officer Haley’s Inspiration & Support of Young Inventors and his life of service.

Invention Convention student winners have been recognized nationally. 1999 Invention Convention Winner Lisa Wright has a provisional patent on her invention, The Wright Candle, and was formally inducted into the National Gallery for America’s Young Inventors in 2000. Eleven other Invention Convention “Alumni” have achieved national recognition – including national television appearances on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, David Letterman and Montel Williams. Springfield City School Student, Tyler Violet appeared on The Ellen DeGeneres Show with his invention, “The Remote Finder”.

The expansion of the program is made possible through the contributions of The Invention Convention’s Founding Partners: Battelle, The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, This Week Community Newspapers and JUST THINK Inc. Supporting sponsors contributing to the program include Donatos, Honda of America, Huntington Bank, The J. E. Grote Company, the Kroger Company, Limited Brands, The Columbus Dispatch and Wolfe Associates. CollegeAdvantage, Ohio’s 529 Savings Plan returns as the “Official Scholarship Provider”.

**To help insure that the program remains free to schools in the area the general public and business community can donate online at [www.just-think-inc.com](http://www.just-think-inc.com) or send their contributions to the address below.**

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For the best pictures from the day press can go to:

<http://www.just-think-inc.com/columbus/2009winners/index.html>

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

Name		Grade	School	School District
SYLVIE	MIX	5	5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Elem	Columbus Public
NICHOLAS	ANDERSON	3	Wyandot Run Elm	Olentangy
ANGELIQUE	STEPANIAN	6	Waggoner Rd Md	Reynoldsburg
MATT	SCHUMM	4	Smith Elm	Delaware
NICK	PAVONI	6	Jones Md. Sch	Upper Arlington
ETHAN	KELLNER	3	JohnnycakeCorners	Olentangy
MEGAN	SALYER	5	Berwick Elm	Columbus Public
SARAH	CLAWSON	6	Hannah Ashton	Reynoldsburg
BENJAMIN	MORROW	4	Westview Elm	Worthington
CAMDEN	TAYLOR	6	Berwick Alt.	Columbus Public
EDDIE	HOFFMAN	2	Licking Heights S.	Licking Heights
AIDAN	KUHN	4	Indianola	Columbus Public
ANDERSEN	WEAVER	5	Devonshire Elm	Columbus Public
NOAH	STEVENS	4	Longfellow Magnet	Westerville
ALLY	MCKEEL	4	Indianola	Columbus Public
DEVIN	HUBER	4	Gables Elm.	Columbus Public
REGINA	CAVIN	4	Winterset Elm	Columbus Public
EMILY	FLANAGAN	5	Salem Elm	Columbus Public
CALVIN	HERPOLSHEIME	5	Alpine Elm	Columbus Public
MEGAN	CALDWELL	5	Gables Elm	Columbus Public
CLARA	SELLE	6	Ohio Virtual	Delaware
DOUNIA	OGLE	6	Ohio Virtual	Delaware
CALVIN	FAUSEY	2	Ecole Kenwood	Columbus Public
MATTHEW	FISHER	5	Tremont Elm	Upper Arlington
WILL	SORRELL	5	Tremont Elm	Upper Arlington
ALEX	WAITKUS	6	Dominion Md. Sch	Columbus Public
BRENDON	FINNEY	6	Dominion Md Sch	Columbus Public
NICHOLAS	BAPST	6	Park St. Inter	South West
BRIANNA	WELLS	5	Madison Elem	Groveport Madison
RACHEL	AUSEC	3	Scioto Ridge Elm	Olentangy
KAYLA	LYNCH	5	Northtowne Elm	Columbus Public
ENZO	BERGESE	3	Windermere Elm	Upper Arlington
ANOUSHKA	KARNAD	3	Indian Springs Elm	Olentangy
ALEXANDRA	YAUCH	K	Ecole Francaise	Columbus Public
MACKENNA	BAY	3	Indian Springs	Olentangy
TINA	HOHMAN	5	Tremont Elm	Upper Arlington
HENRI	HEGEMIER	4	Tremont Elm	Upper Arlington
ELENA	KOZELEK	5	Indian Springs Elm	Columbus Public
GILLIAN	BAKER	5	Saint Mary's	Lancaster
PETER	XIONG	6	Creekview Inter.	Marysville
JOHN	SEELEY	6	Park St. Inter	South West
ALEX	SARNA	6	Willis Intermediate	Delaware
VERONICA	GARCIA-MARTI	5	Northtowne Elm.	Columbus Public
EVAN	MORRIS	6	Bloom Carroll Md.	Bloom Carroll
MARA	DIAZ	7	Dominion Md Sch	Columbus Public
JAMES	HAIN	5	Valley Forge Elm	Columbus Public
MICHELLE	ROWLAND	5	Winterset Elm	Columbus Public
MATTHEW	MOYER	5	Indian Springs Elm	Columbus Public
FLANNERY	STEPHENS	7	Ridgeview Md. Sch.	Columbus Public
HUNTER	WHITE	6	Waggoner Rd Md.	Reynoldsburg