



KIDS' SCIENCE CHALLENGE



A project of Jim Metzner Productions, producers of the award-winning radio series Pulse of the Planet

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The 4th Annual Kids' Science Challenge Announces Winners

National Science and Engineering Competition for Third to Sixth Graders Selects Three Winners from over 1400 Entries

(Kingston, NY, May 2, 2012)–Now in its fourth year, **The Kids' Science Challenge** has announced the winners of this year's competition and once again 3rd through 6th graders from all over the country have come up with creative, innovative ideas for solving science and engineering problems. The winning students, chosen from over 1400 entries, will collaborate with scientists and engineers to see their ideas come alive. Funded by the National Science Foundation and created by Jim Metzner, award-winning producer of the Pulse of the Planet radio series, the Kids' Science Challenge encourages elementary school students to discover that science is cool!

"The students had the chance to think creatively about real problems and issues that affect their world," stated Jim Metzner. "And once again, we were impressed by their ability to think 'outside the box.' We were impressed by the caliber of the entries and our scientists and engineers are really excited about collaborating with the winning students to work on the questions and challenges they've raised." This year's winners have come up with creative toy packaging that creates no refuse that would end up in a landfill, a test to see if animals are 'smart enough' to cooperate with each other to obtain food, and an idea for a space capsule that would allow astronauts to grow their own food in outer space. The Kids' Science Challenge is proof that even young kids (one winner is a 3rd grader) can think like scientists.

AND THE WINNING STUDENTS ARE:

Zero Waste

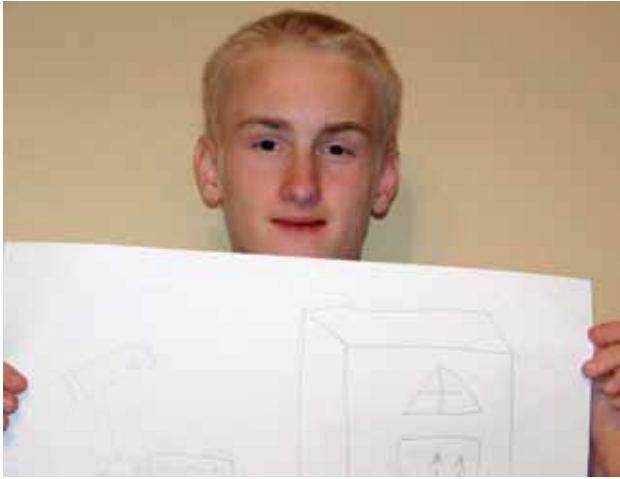
Joshua Yi

*3rd Grader, Warnsdorfer Elementary School
East Brunswick, NJ*

Teacher – Cynthia Mazza

To answer the challenge to "invent a package that never ends up in a landfill," Joshua came up with two designs for toy packing where the package becomes part of the toy. Joshua will come to New York City to work with Laura Tufariello, founder of Design & Source, a company that develops, designs and produces creative eco-friendly packaging and her team to create his design.





Animal Smarts

Mason Ganoung

*6th Grader, Wilbur Middle School
Wichita, KS*

Teacher – David Clark

Mason's idea, to come up with an experiment that enhances the life of an animal and demonstrates its particular intelligence, is to see if two birds can learn to cooperate to access food from a bird feeder that requires two birds to work as a team. Mason will work with David Shepherdson, Deputy Conservation Manager at the Oregon Zoo and may have the opportunity to test his challenge on other zoo animals.



Meals on Mars

Isabelle St. Onge and Carlisle Patete

*6th Graders, Asheville Christian Academy
Swannanoa, NC*

Teacher – Linda Mitchell

Isabella and Carlisle want to know if they can build a capsule-shaped ship that would create gravity using centrifugal force, allowing them to grow plants normally, without genetic engineering. They came up with a design that would allow the astronauts to grow vegetables and raise rabbits, which would provide them with food. The girls will work with Michele Perchonok, Advanced Food Technology Manager and Vickie Kloeris, International Space Station Food Systems Manager at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The first 1,000 entrants to the competition received free science activity kits. The three winners will visit their scientists and participate in fun activities in those locations, including visiting science museums, local attractions, and receiving VIP tours of special places. Joshua Yi (Zero Waste) will work with his scientists/designers at Design and Source in NY, along with visits to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum and VIP tours of the city. Isabelle St. Onge and Carlisle Patete (Meals on Mars) will work with their scientists and get a behind the scenes tour of the Johnson Space Center, as well as visits to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and Kemah Boardwalk. Mason Ganoung (Animal Smarts) will spend time working on his experiment at the Portland Zoo and will also visit Mount St. Helens, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, World Forestry Center Discovery Museum and Hoyt Arboretum. In addition, the four students will receive cool prizes including Carolina Biological and Edmund Scientifics Microscopes, books and science kits. The teachers of the winners will be receiving certificates as well, and their schools will be receiving handsome plaques.

The Kids' Science Challenge website serves as a year-round resource for kids and teachers. Not only can they track the progress of the winners, but they can play educational science games, watch videos, download hands-on activities and learn lots of exciting facts.

The Kids' Science Challenge winners and scientists will also be featured on Pulse of the Planet's broadcasts and podcasts on www.pulseplanet.com. Pulse of the Planet, which recently aired its 5,000th episode, is broadcast over 211 public and commercial radio stations around the world, reaching one million listeners weekly. In May and June, the winning students will meet with their scientists and engineers at their labs, workshops and in the field. Follow their journey on the KSC blog at www.kidsciencechallenge.com.

For further information about this year's and last year's winners, activities for children and educators, and to follow this year's winners, see www.kidsciencechallenge.com. **Note: Jim Metzner, the Kids' Science Challenge winners and the scientists will be available for interviews through abriskin@aol.com.**



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Pulse of the Planet are made possible by
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