

TAKE NOTES

Children of any background can benefit from 4-H

Calling all third- through 12th-grade students: Whether you live in a subdivision, an apartment, a mobile home or on a farm, you can learn a lot by becoming a member of 4-H.

During Johnson County 4-H Week today through Friday, 4-H ambassadors will visit schools to answer questions and help students sign up for 4-H.

For information about registration or how to enroll in Mini 4-H for first- or second-grade students, call Sarah Pence at 736-3724.

Eighth-grader receives plaque, savings bond for winning essay

Megan Hein, 13, and 30 other students in Chrissy Harmon's English class at Center Grove Middle School North recently submitted 300-word essays for an annual writing contest sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau.

Of the 1,000 eighth-graders who participated in the statewide contest, Hein, the daughter of Don and Diane Hein of White Rover Township, was chosen as a district finalist.

Her prizes include a plaque, a \$50 savings bond, dinner and a tour of the statehouse.



HEIN

Children awaiting visit from author of 'No More Dead Dogs'

Author Gordon Korman will speak to students at Clark-Pleasant Middle and Clark-Pleasant Intermediate schools March 3.

Korman wrote "No More Dead Dogs," "Son of the Mob," "Losing Joe's Place" and the soon-to-be-released "Born to Rock."

Robotics group that received grants set to compete in March

The Center Grove High School Robotics Club received a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Workforce Development.

The Center Grove Education Foundation also gave a \$2,000 grant to the group.

The club will compete on March 17 and 18 at Purdue University. Their challenge, called "Aim High," involves shooting foam balls into a hoop.



Elementary-school students participate in science fair

Congratulations to the winners of the Maple Grove Elementary science fair:

• **Category A winners:** Sean Peters, first place; Mark Balish, second place; Joy Atzinger, third place

• **Category B winners:** Kyle Rasnake, first place; Matthew Wickens, second place; Greg Simon, third place

• **Category C winners:** Rachel Casey, first place; Ellen and Troy Vorhies, second place; Nichole Alfano, Abby Berry and Kathy Held, third place

• **Grand champions:** Rachel Casey and Kyle Rasnake

South side students eligible for scholarship from bank

Home Federal Bank is accepting applications for Leadership Award scholarships worth \$500.

Applications are available at high school guidance offices.

Deadline is Feb. 28.

School snapshots



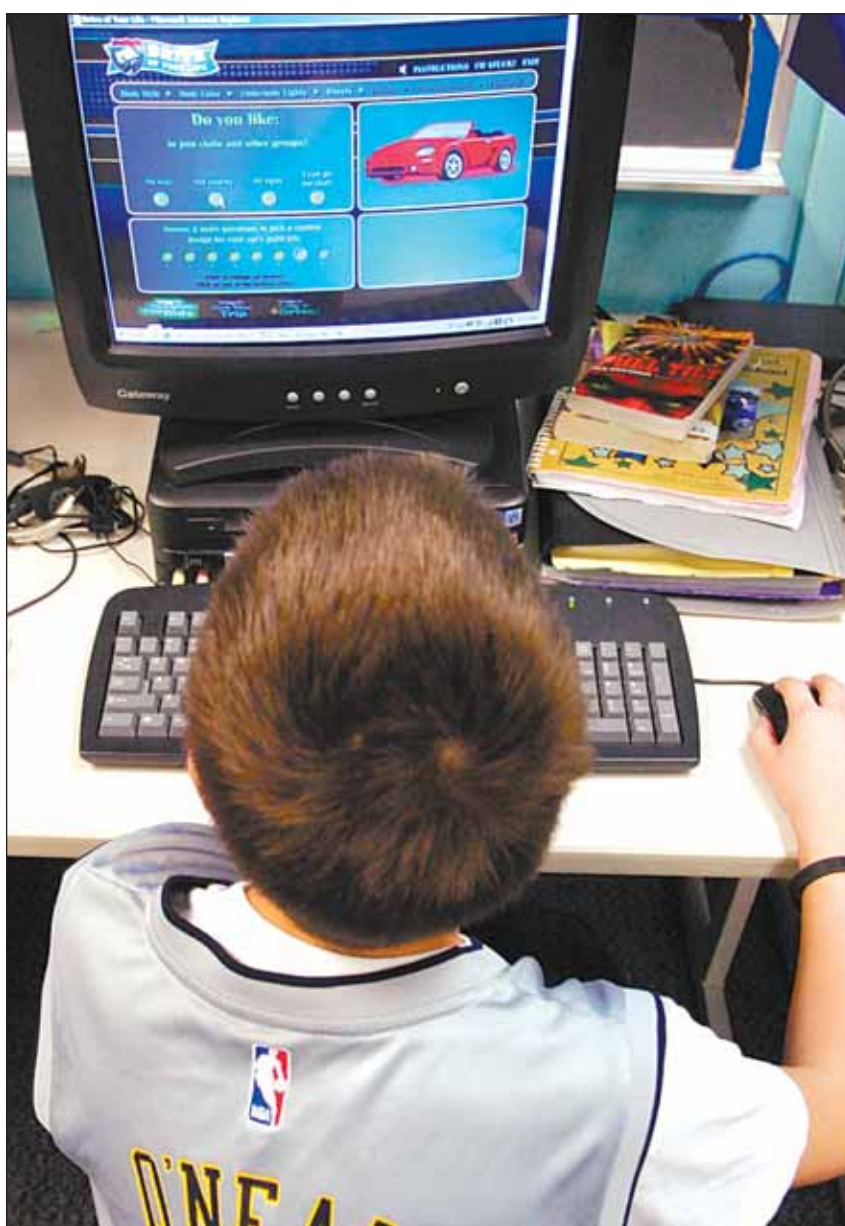
SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Twenty-two Custer Baker Middle School students learned about government at the Indiana statehouse on Jan. 25. They competed to attend "From the School House to the State House" by writing an essay about community involvement.



Zach Sander, Molly Shank, Courtney Cooper and Adam Eakman, from left, were among more than 40 Roncalli High School students who recently traveled to Washington for the National Pro-Life March.

Video-game inspired Web site pushes students down career paths



Zane Ping, 12, uses the Drive of Your Life program to create a red convertible. Ping, a sixth-grader at Greenwood Middle School, used the car to "test drive" interesting careers.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Driven to succeed

By MICHAEL W. HOSKINS
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His dream job was a popular one among school-age boys: pro baseball player.

But then 12-year-old Aaron Seats played a video game in school that changed his mind about a career with the San Diego Padres.

A Web program helped Seats realize he could work as a sports trainer if baseball doesn't work out.

"I hadn't really thought of that before," said the sixth-grader at Greenwood Middle School.

Seats and students across the county are using a video-game style program to learn how their interests match up to potential careers, how bad decisions could derail their goals and what high school classes will best put them on their career paths.

More than 700 southside students are among the 19,000 middle and high schoolers statewide using the Drive of Your Life program developed by Indiana Youth Institute.

"We're not picking out an exact career goal but are stressing career awareness and just want students to pinpoint what they're interested in," Greenwood Middle School guidance director Paul Reuter said.

"We want them to be aware of their skills, values and interests that will help

guide career choices later on," he said.

The program gives students insight about particular jobs by asking questions about their interests and what kind of class activities they prefer.

As part of the program, students choose the make, color, wheels and custom decals on a car they will use to "drive" to their career interests.

Once the program is complete, students get a printable, personalized "license" that lists careers matching their interests.

"If students have the proper tools during their middle school years, there is an increased likelihood they'll be excited about planning for college and future careers," said Bill Stanczykiewicz, president and chief executive officer of Indiana Youth Institute.

Greenwood Middle School sixth-graders used the program this year during computer classes.

Zane Ping's list included careers in engineering management and architecture. In his fire-engine red convertible, the 12-year-old "drove" toward information about salaries and job descriptions.

Along the way, he took a couple of detours that warned him about how drugs and alcohol, sexual activity or breaking the law could hinder his career goals.

One of the detours was about professional sports, which Ping's classmate, Seats, took and ended up dodging potholes, crashing into a roadblock and getting a \$500 traffic ticket.

The citation included a comment that warned, "Only three of every 10,000 high school basketball players make it to the NBA. Practice sports, but study hard to prepare for a career with better odds."

Drive of Your Life helped Seats realize a sports-related career like athletic training would incorporate his other interests: medicine and science.

"It's a pretty cool game that gets you thinking about jobs," Seats said.

CAREER PATH

Indiana Youth Institute's Web-based program helps middle school students plan for careers.

Drive of Your Life, found at www.driveofyourlife.org, is designed in a video-game style.

Students design cyber cars, answer questions about their interests and then take a virtual drive toward a particular job.

When customizing cars and answering questions, students can reply with a "No Way!" "Not exactly," "All right" and "I can go for that!"

Here's a snapshot of questions kids are asked:

- Would you like a job to study what makes up our planet?
- Would you like a job writing stories or news articles?
- Would you like a job helping people solve their legal problems?
- Do you like it when teachers let you express your feelings through class assignments?
- Do you like competing in groups?
- Is it fun to take things like a radio apart?
- Do you have fun solving logic puzzles?
- Do you like to draw?

SOURCE: www.driveofyourlife.org

Teacher Dave Dean monitors students as they use the Drive of Your Life program at Greenwood Middle School. The video-game style activity is designed to spark an interest in careers.



If you were a super hero, what would your super power be?

"To be able to turn into anything I would want. If I wanted to hide, I could turn into a toothbrush, and no one would know."



Brennan Gilpatrick, 11, son of Mike and Kelly Gilpatrick of Greenwood, fifth grade, Maple Grove Elementary

"To melt. Because it is cool."

Olivia Bair, 6, daughter of Laura and Brian Bair of New Whiteland, kindergarten, Sawmill Woods Elementary



"To be invisible. Because I would like to hide from my brother."

Maria Smarelli, 6, daughter of Heather and Matthew Smarelli of Whiteland, kindergarten, Sawmill Woods Elementary



"Flash. To be super fast so I could win races."

Nicholas Carrizales, 6, son of Samantha and Saleh Carrizales of Greenwood, kindergarten, Sawmill Woods Elementary



"I would have fire power. There's lots of things about fire. I would make the fire warmer."

Rayne Robb, 5, daughter of Alena and Richard Robb of Franklin, kindergarten, Sawmill Woods Elementary



MATTERS OF THE ARTS

Student-artists use variety of mediums

Scholastic Art Competition winners have earned recognition for their work.

Center Grove High School
• **Gold keys award winners:** Kelsey Coffey, ceramics; Brenna Lotz, drawing; Amber Hadley, apparel design (also an American Vision nominee); Alesha Kelker, jewelry design; Colin Bright, photography

• **Silver keys:** Kimi Coffey, ceramics; Kelsey Coffey, drawing; Michale Hoover, drawing; Tyler Johnson, drawing; Ryan Moore, drawing; James Verkamp, drawing; Kate Sullivan, apparel design; Katie Barrett, graphic design; Ashley Foltz, product design; Ashley Stacey, product design; Abby Williams, product design; Jenny Wiperman, product design; Zach Curd, photography; Lynnea Chom, photography; Eric Martin, photography; Megan Richeson, photography; Jenny Wiperman, photography

• **Honorable mention:** Kelsey Coffey, drawing; Dee Cox, drawing; Andy Posey, apparel design; Elizabeth Ransone, product design; Joanie Taylor, product design; Emily Stace, mixed media; Laurel Lee, photography

Franklin Community High School
• **Gold key:** Chelsey Hughes, drawing
• **Silver keys:** Janelle George, painting; Chelsey Hughes, drawing