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Stepping Stones Museum for Children and Jefferson Science Magnet School Send Student Inventors to the Connecticut Invention Convention ***Two Students Receive Student Inventor Recognition Awards***

Norwalk, CT, May 6, 2010 – On May 1, an estimated 5,000 people packed Gampel Pavilion at the University of Connecticut for the 27th Annual Connecticut Invention Convention. Stepping Stones Museum for Children brought four student inventors from Jefferson Science Magnet School in Norwalk to compete among 675 students in kindergarten through 8th grade for more than 260 Invention Awards. Imagination into practice was the theme of the day as 100 schools from across Connecticut competed for honors, including Student Inventor Recognition Awards.

Jason Thornley and Jeffrey Ramirez, both third graders at Jefferson Science Magnet School, received Student Inventor Recognition Awards, including a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, for their entries in the 27th Annual Connecticut Invention Convention. Jason's "Never Untied" solves the problem of his shoelaces becoming untied when playing on the playground. He invented a clip that holds the knot of the shoelace in place. Jeffrey's "Open Close" solves the problem of stuff falling out of his school desk or people taking pencils from his desk. Jeffrey describes his invention as being "like a door, but it is connected to the desk." It can also be detached to move it to a different desk.

The students from Jefferson Science Magnet School were part of the Invention Convention after-school program at the museum and top finishers in the Stepping Stones Invention Convention competition held in April. Stepping Stones is the only museum in the state that offers the program as a series of after-school workshops.

"The workshops allow young inventors to exercise their ingenuity and critical thinking by working to solve problems that affect them in their lives," said Hyla Crane, director of education at Stepping Stones. "The museum looks forward to being a hub of Invention Convention activity in Fairfield County by offering the program as an ongoing after-school workshop and by hosting teacher training in 2011."

Other Stepping Stones' inventors included Mahnoor Khan, a fourth grader, with her "Splatter Stopper," which keeps toothpaste from splattering on the mirror; and Dilip Parchuri, a third grader, with his "Dancing Clean," which attaches to your shoes and cleans muddy floors as you dance with your feet.

Stepping Stone Museum for Children's Invention Convention program was made possible through the generous funding of board member, Jack Neafsey.

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The Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is an award winning, internationally recognized, 501(c)(3) (not-for-profit) educational organization started in 1983 as part of the Connecticut Educators Network for the Talented and Gifted. The program is open to K-8 students statewide, and is designed to develop, encourage, and enhance a student's Critical Thinking skills through stimulating hands-on activities. This program is the opening pipeline of future scientists, engineers, doctors, and visionary workers of the 21st century. The problem solving skills learned in this program use all one's core curriculum learned to date, to solve a real-life problem a student discovers him or herself.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children, a 501(c)(3) private non-profit organization, is an award-winning children's museum committed to broadening and enriching the lives of children. With four main galleries, a toddlers-only gallery, a new outdoor play space and more than 100 hands-on activities, Stepping Stones offers children ten and under plenty to explore and discover. Museum exhibits, educational programs and special events complement efforts in schools, childcare centers and homes. In 2010, Stepping Stones is commemorating its 10th birthday with a year of celebrations, surprises and special events. Stepping Stones will celebrate the opening of its 22,000 square foot "green" expansion in November 2010, providing new exhibits and innovative programming. To learn more visit steppingstonesmuseum.org or call 203 899 0606.

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