



**ROMEO  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS**

## **GOOD NEWS ACROSS 'R' DISTRICT**

June 10, 2024



*Little Inventors winners from each elementary school pose with the Romeo High School students who helped create prototypes for the winning designs.*

### **Inventions brought to life**

The fourth graders had the vision – and the drafting and engineering students from the Design, Engineering & Manufacturing (DEM) Academy brought them to life.

Out of 10 finalists selected from all five elementary schools, one winner was chosen to represent each school and the high school students got to work to create a prototype. These five prototypes were presented at the Little Inventors “Romeo Style” awards ceremony at Romeo High School on May 29.

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“The program allows our students to showcase their creative ideas that can help the world,” said Lisa Yeip, Hevel Elementary STEM teacher. “Elementary students let their imaginations run wild, and are not caught up in if something is possible or not. They simply imagine and then create. That’s what makes this program so special. We spend a lot of time talking about how things that exist currently were probably thought to have been impossible years ago.”



Students were provided with information about seven real people (and one dog) from around the world for whom they could create solutions. For example, Sonia from Concepción, Chile was looking for an invention to bring joy to older people and make them feel valued. Dileep from Masai Mara, Kenya wanted something to help animals access water or survive during a drought. Dominic from Newcastle, England wanted an invention to entertain his baby for at least 30 minutes. And Leo the dog from the U.S. wanted an invention to make him feel less lonely when his humans were away at school and work.

Coming up with solutions was up to the fourth graders, according to Sarah Savage, STEM teacher at Amanda Moore Elementary. To kick off the project, they studied inventors of the past, such as

Thomas Edison, Marie Curie and Henry Ford, along with “inventions that are happening right now, and future inventors – which is them,” Mrs. Savage said. “It was really amazing the things they came up with.”

While the fourth graders could let their imaginations run free, the drafting and engineering students had to take a more pragmatic approach. Working in teams, they narrowed down the projects to ones they felt they could bring to life. Some students participated on the build team, while others documented the process, made the awards and wrote the script for the ceremony.

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“They learned how to problem solve and do the design process,” mechanical design and engineering teacher Dan Kiehler said. “Basically they used the same engineering process they use in class – come up with a problem, brainstorm, come up with as many solutions as you can and build a prototype. It was truly a group project.”

The “Romeo Style” winners were the Fun Ball, created by Nathan Martin from Amanda Moore; the Plant Care Clip, created by Lauren Warner from Indian Hills; the Plastic Boater, created by Gabby Newsome from Hamilton-Parsons; the Fixi-it Sharpener, created by Penelope Tomasino from Washington; and The Lego Lifter, created by Nick Ess from Hevel.

In addition to the Romeo winners, three Romeo students were included among 10 finalists for the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) Born to Invent contest and their designs made into prototypes. Their inventions were unveiled at the 2024 Little Inventors Celebration on May 30. Sabrina Serra, last year’s winner from Amanda Moore Elementary, served as a special guest emcee.



*Pictured with their inventions (and students from the College of Creative Studies) are, from left, Scarlett Willin, Amanda Moore Elementary (Baby Playtime Crib product design by the College of Creative Studies); Lily Smith, Hevel Elementary (The Tallhouse product design by PTI Engineered Plastics); and Bella Cercone, Washington Elementary (the Coral Fan product design by the College of Creative Studies).*

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