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Staten Island Advance (NY)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES DOMINATE SCIENCE FAIR MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS PURSUE TOPICS SUCH AS THE FRESH KILLS LANDFILL, POLLUTION AND RECYCLING IN THE BOROUGHWIDE COMPETITION

SUSAN LUNNY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

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While many people spent yesterday basking in the sunny skies, several young Staten Islanders who participated in the 60th Richmond County Science Fair basked in a different glow -- the glow of winning.

The annual fair, which is the only boroughwide fair in New York City, was sponsored by Community School District 31 and the Kiwanis Club of Richmond County. This year the fair was dedicated to the memory of Georg Olsen, a longtime Kiwanis member who had assisted with the event for many years.

About 600 children from 92 public, private and parochial schools participated in the competition in the Michael Petrides Educational Complex, Sunnyside. A total of 453 projects were reviewed, according to Mary Beth McCarthy, District 31 science coordinator and fair coordinator.

Format, concept, method, interview and technique were the criteria used to judge the participants. Students who competed in the boroughwide fair had already received prizes at their own school fairs.

Many students chose to further evaluate projects they had worked on in previous years, noted Paul Rosenfeld, a science teacher at Totten Intermediate School, Tottenville.

Mrs. McCarthy encouraged the idea.

"That's what real scientists do. They follow up on what they learn. The students start simple and get a little more complex each year and improve their techniques," Mrs. McCarthy said.

While students often are interested in looking at environmental issues, Mrs. McCarthy noted that this year there has been a surge in that interest, with more than 100 students choosing to pursue topics such as the Fresh



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Kills landfill, pollution, recycling and acid rain.

Mrs. McCarthy said that the media and more classroom studies of the environment are just a few of the things that have sparked students' interest in the subject.

Charles Umana, a fifth-grade student at Our Lady of Mount Carmel-St. Benedicta School, West Brighton, decided to further study tornadoes because he had learned about them in school.

"I showed that tornadoes form when the cool air mixes with the warm air and that they're most common in summer and spring," Umana said, noting that Islanders need not fear because tornadoes most often hit the states of Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa and Florida.

Umana even created his own simulated tornado, which couldn't be compared to what he saw in the movie "Twister," but did draw a crowd of passers-by whose interest had been sparked by the sound effects he had on tape.

Joseph d'Auguste also had an interest in the environment. However, he chose to study an issue that hits home -- Fresh Kills. The sixth-grade student at Totten Intermediate School wanted to find out if the landfill can eventually be turned into an energy-producing site for Staten Island.

"Once the dump is closed, it's just going to sit there for years and years, so I figured I'd put a use to it," said d'Auguste, whose project earned him a first-place prize.

To do that, he designed a wind turbine that would produce the most energy for Staten Island because our borough, d'Auguste learned, has "Class 4" winds that are considered adequate for a wind turbine.

"It's a reusable form of energy, so it's not hurting anything. It's environmentally friendly," said d'Auguste.

Would Staten Islanders be interested in d'Auguste's idea? He thinks so.

"By doing this, it would lower the electric bills of Islanders," he said.

Many students got their ideas from activities they, or their families, do at home from household cleaning to home repairs.

Frank DiDio, for example, enjoys building things at home with his dad. The young carpenter, who is a sixth-grade student at Egbert Intermediate School, Midland Beach, decided to find out if all glues are "created equally."

According to DiDio, white Elmer's Glue ranked the lowest while "Gorilla Glue" (which he said can be purchased in home improvement stores) earned top scores.

"This glue will stick to anything," DiDio said.

Allison Surlless, a sixth-grade student at Morris Intermediate School, Brighton Heights, noticed that her 1-year-old sister April always has a tough time pushing her trucks, and other toys, on their thick carpet at home. So Miss Surlless decided to study friction, by finding out which surface a toy truck will move the slowest on.

"I confirmed what I thought to be true -- the toy truck goes the slowest on the thickest carpet," Miss Surlless said.

Some students based their projects on careers they plan to pursue when they are older. Katie Reeder, a future zoologist, wanted to see if she can help animals, her "future patients," who have been involved in oil spills.

"I wanted to see if I can help the animals by getting oil off them quicker," said Miss Reeder, an eighth-grade student at Sacred Heart School, West Brighton.

Miss Reeder looked at past oil spills both nationally and locally, and also conducted experiments to see how oil can be removed quickly from animals to protect them from the harm they encounter when there is a spill.

"I learned that oil can be dissolved quicker using soap instead of just water," she said.

Jeffrey Seguritan, of Bernstein Intermediate School, Huguenot, won the cover design contest for this year's program illustrating a science CD-ROM.

In addition to parents, teachers and faculty members from local schools and community leaders, Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly (D-North Shore) also was on hand to present awards and congratulate all the contestants.

The winners:

Fifth-grade individuals First place

Morgan D'Esposito, PS 3; Alvin Frazier, Mehrosh Khan, Angelo Rivera, PS 18; George Malinowski, PS 22; Alison Flood, PS 29; Paula Caruselle, PS 30; Alexander Markow, PS 32; Samantha Krakowski, Stephanie Tafone, 36; Jared Vega, PS 41; Daria Haidary, PS 42; Maxim Berger, PS 48; Thomas Liu, PS 69; Ashley Teatum, St. Ann School; Nicole King, St. Christopher's School; Anne Marie Perchiacca, St. Clare School; Sarah Gurrieri, Notre Dame Academy; Theresa Statile, Our Lady Queen of Peace School; Christina Judith D'Antoni, St. Joseph Hill Academy; Nicole DeFendis, St. Patrick's School.

Second place

Brett Stewart, PS 3; Charles Hock, PS 16; Joseph Helferty, PS 32; Amada Martinez, PS 42; Justin M. Young, PS 55; Vincent Liquori, Christine Trezza, PS 60; Joseph Runfola, PS 80; Kristen-Maria Kaelber, Academy of St. Dorothy; Megan O'Rourke, Sacred Heart School; Robert John Soto, St. Joseph/St. Thomas School; Caitlin Jones, St. Patrick's School; Matthew Louis Marotto, John Cassidy, St. Teresa School.

Third place

Tracy Takach, PS 4; Chelsea Nasti, Brian Melnick, PS. 5; Elsie DeForest, Joseph Socolick, PS 8; Aileen Lennon, PS 11; Daniel Feliciano, PS 18; Ashley Speller, PS 19; Edward Rosado, PS 22; Tiquana Jeter, PS 31; Joseph Merola, PS 42; Jillian Levoyer, PS 50; Jenna Barr, PS 52; John Schemitsch, PS 54; Robert Truzzolino, Melissa Loukas, PS 55; Gabrielle Olya, PS 60; Daniel DeLara, PS 80; Jamie O'Donnell, Holy Rosary School; Lauren Peyton, Notre Dame Academy; Susan Sheehan, Our Lady Queen of Peace School; Eli Hollander, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School for Boys; Joseph Arena, St. Adalbert's School; Matthew Cirelli, St. Joseph School; Danielle Ward, St. Mary's School; Alexander Dean, Trinity Lutheran School.

Fifth-grade group First place

Elizabeth Manning, Jessica Rossi, PS 1; Rachel Rudoff, Elana Mizrahi, PS 23; Andy Pfadt, Akshay Gunesh, PS 45; Michele Marchi, Jennifer Baranello, St. Charles School; Lauren Navallo, Jaimie Dalessio, St. Christopher's School; Amanda DiCaro, Angelica Pavone, Our Lady Star of the Sea School.

Third place

Brittany Jarvis, Lauren Silverstein, PS 4; Zerimar Carattini, Aysha Flash, PS 16; Michael Palazzolo, Aki Papraniku, PS 39; Christine Ierardi, Stefanie Dwyer, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; James Gatto, Thomas McCafferty, St. Clare School.

Six-grade individual

First place

Joseph Crane, Kathleen Dailey, Bernstein Intermediate School 7; Kristen Danielsson, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Joseph d'Auguste, Jonathan Herbst, Totten Intermediate School 34; Allison Inga, Paulo Intermediate School 75; Kathleen D. Reilly, Christina M. Roperti, Academy of St. Dorothy; Amanda DeMauro, Notre Dame Academy; Jessica Figuly St. Joseph/St. Thomas School; Ralph Pietropesa, St. Rita's School; Laura Berardocco, St. Teresa's School.

Second place

Stephen Brooker, Bernstein Intermediate; Nicholas Compton, Prall Intermediate School 27; Gary Maida, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Kristy Mealia, Totten Intermediate School 34; Rachel Hervold, Markham Intermediate School 51; Kaia Huss, PS 80; Killian Tormey, Notre Dame Academy; Andrew Blancero, St. Christopher School; David Drogon, St. John Villa Academy; Diana Gesualdi, St. Joseph Hill Academy; Michael Jezycki, St. Joseph's School; Peter Lee, Trinity Lutheran School.

Third place

Valerie D'Ambrosi, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Jeffrey Wan, Dreyfus Intermediate School 49; Laura Anne Tuccillo, Markham Intermediate School 51; Maegen Hepworth, Katherine Myers, Robert Splaine, Morris Intermediate School 61; Ilissa Schwartz, Paulo Intermediate School 75; Debbie Katsoris, PS 80; Robert Cavagnaro, Holy Rosary School; David Lebowitz, Jewish Foundation School; Armando D. Gomez, New Dorp Christian Academy; Moshe Weiss, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School; Thomas DelMastro, St. Ann School; Michael Farruggia, St. Charles School; Natalie Langone, St. Joseph's School; Angelina Gault, St. Peter's Elementary School; Richard Minevich, Staten Island Academy; Jessica Dolinger, Trinity Lutheran School.

Sixth-grade group

First place

Danielle Panariello, Noel Goldrick, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; Michael Albertsen, Christopher DiForte, St. Ann School; Danielle Grimaldi, Christopher McKeon, St. Clare.

Second place

Justin Nistico, Joseph Perchiacca, St. Clare.

Third place

LouAnn Haran, Jacqueline Kling, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; Lisa Perrotti, Michael Perrotti, St. Charles School; Christine Diamond, Eileen DeWaters, St. Christopher School; Katherine Karoll, Kaitlyn Reuter, St. Charles School;

Seventh-grade individual

First place

Joseph Gambella, Bernstein Intermediate School 7; Cassandra Quinlan,

Christine Zissler, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Corinne Casey, Joseph Voccaro, Natasha L. Sim, Totten Intermediate School 34; Joseman Raju, David Le, Morris Intermediate School 61; Karen Mazzola, Paulo Intermedite School 75; Christina Walsh, Blessed Sacrament School, Zahava Schmukler, Jewish Foundation School; Cristina Fulgencio, Notre Dame Academy; Itiya Brand, Dahlyt Berezin-Bahr, Alexandra Weiser, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School for Girls; Suzanne Nizza, Staten Island Academy; Kyle Malenfant, Trinity Lutheran School; Jillian Turchio, Academy of St. Dorothy; Vincent Palmieri, St. Ann School; George R. Cramer, St. John Villa Academy; Edward Madigan, St. Joseph's School; Jenna Maggio, St. Mary's School; Lisa Pierce, St. Peter's Elementary School.

Second place

Tara Lee House, Bernstein Intermediate School 7; Valentina Concordia, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Joseph Schafer, Vincent Giordano, Prall Intermediate School 27; Dina Russell, Totten Intermediate School 34; Jamie Borik, Markham Intermediate School 51; John Hederman, Morris Intermediate School 61; Aviva Pearlman, Jewish Foundation School; Jessica Botte, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; Zev Tambor, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School for Boys; Jeffrey Baione, St. John Villa Academy; Alan Lanham, St. Joseph Hill Academy; Kristen Aquino, St. Joseph/St. Thomas School.

Third place

Kevin O'Neill, Egbert Intermediate School 2; Denise Peluso, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Michael B. Fontana, Prall Intermediate School 27; Morris Green, Dreyfus Intermediate School 49; David Nastri, Robert Unterman, Laurie Intermediate School 72; Brian H. Auer, PS 80; Angela Faljean, Our Lady Queen of Peace School; Christopher Sacaccio, New Dorp Christian Academy; Anthony Esposito, St. Ann School; Michael David, St. Christopher's School; Jason Pagan, New Dorp Christian Academy; Kristy Hopkins, St. Joseph/St. Thomas School; Mark Robertson, St. Paul School; Alex Pascual, St. Sylvester School.

Seventh-grade group

First place

Megan Cavanagh, Jistin Scimeme, Egbert Intermediate School 2; Elizabeth Duberstein, Amanda LaCava, Prall Intermediate School 27; James Bacchi, Edward Carreras, Morris Intermediate School 61; Gina Ripillino, Natalie Pascone, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; David Rusi, Anthony Virga, St. Teresa; Natasha Giallarenzo, Augenie Frias, St. Roch School.

Second place

Daniel Garofalo, Ryan Pakalik, Blessed Sacrament School; Laura Kohborger, Sarah Barchitta, Stephen Gnoza, Gregory Del George, Holy Rosary School; Amanda Marchi, Stefanie Bini, St. Charles School; Alexandra Terrone, Alexandra Campus, St. Patrick School.

Third place

Andrew Flash, Daniel Ramirez, Steven Black, Prall Intermediate School 27; Frank Jordan, Brian Tremer, St. Charles School; Tara LiPera, Christine Mahoney, St. Clare School; Peter Pellegrito, Patrick Gordon, Sacred Heart School.

Eighth-grade individual

First place

Jeffrey Seguritan, **Joshua Blackman**, Bernstein Intermediate School 7; Eboni Robinson, Dreyfus Intermediate School 49; Lawrence Bianco, Eva Stein, Markham Intermediate School 51; Chris Oh, Laurie Intermediate School 72; Allison Fisch, Matthew Mizrahi, Jennifer TabEEK, Paulo Intermediate School 75; Jennifer Pumarejo, Our Lady of Good Counsel School; George F. Mina, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Benedicta School; Erik Tseng, Our Lady Queen of Peace School; Christopher Vuttaggio, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; Joshua Sturm, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School for Boys; Ashley Proscia, St. Charles School; Lindsay Hett, Thomas Blancero, St. Christopher's School; Robert Russo, St. John Villa Academy; Sanjeevan Iswara, Elisabeth Cardiello, St. Joseph Hill Academy; John Zaborskis, St. Joseph/St. Thomas School; Tomy Amato, St. Rita's School.

Second place

Vanessa Bellucci, Bernstein Intermediate School 7; Laura Corno, Totten Intermediate School 34; Russell Cu, Vincent Immiti, Morris Intermediate School 61; Gregory Salomon, PS 80; Matthew Costa, Academy of St. Dorothy; Brian Gardner, Blessed Sacrament; Juliana Elias, Holy Rosary School; Laura Gretz, Notre Dame Academy; Lauren Lonuzzi, Our Lady Star of the Sea School; Garth Sullivan, New Dorp Christian Academy; Malkie Jacobowitz, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School for Girl; Joseph Schirripa, St. Ann School; Lauren Bilotti, St. Charles School; Luke Parlato, St. Mary's School; Jeanna Messina, St. Patrick's School; Sheneeka Gunaratne, St. Paul's School; Ifeoma Ejiogu, St. Peter's Elementary School; Lee Matthew Minervini, Trinity Luthern School.

Third places

Julie Buddensick, Jaclyn Iacorto, Thoms Matthew, Barnes Intermediate School 24; Holly Pietromonaco, Markham Intermediate School 51; Sean Bradley, Marielena Gallucci, Morris Intermediate School; Howard Voletsky, Laurie Intermediate School 72; Adam Ben-Haim, Jewish Foundation School; Catherine Baggs, Our Lady Help of Christian School; Anthony Mascolo, Our Lady Queen of Peace School; Shea Weiss, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School; Daniel Cohen, St. John Villa Academy; Jennifer Encarnacion, St. Joseph's School; Ryan Dandrea, St. Margaret Mary School; Jennifer Panicali, St. Roch's School; Dung Phan, St. Sylvester's School; Kelly Calvo, St. Teresa's School.

Eighth-grade group

First place

Joseph Cappabianca, Garrett Vogel, Blessed Sacrament School; Jenna Ferrara, Cara Liander, Notre Dame Academy; Nisar Ahmed, John Levendosky, St. Patrick School

Second place

Jonathan Friedman, Benjamin Cohen, Jewish Foundation School.

Third place

Carissa Gonzalez, Jillian Cannon, St. Margaret Mary School; Kristin Zinn, Lauren Six, Eltingville Lutheran School; Justine Caguiat, Lindsay Naeder, Our Lady Help of Christians School; Kathleen Cunningham, Courtney Pittick, Staten Island Academy; Laila Khan, Yasmeen Khan, Dreyfus Intermediate School; Craig Chiaccheri, John Dalessio, St. Ann School; Tiffany Carrao, Lauren LaBarbera, St. Adalbert's School

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods Enviromental Awards

Gregory Alvarez, Markham Intermediate School 51; Howard Bilecky, Paulo Intermediate School 75; Laura Anne Tuccillo, Markham Intermediate

School 51; Daniel Garofalo, Ryan Pakalaik, Blessed Sacrament School; Jenna Ferrar, Notre Dame Academy; Kristin Zinn, Lauren Six, Eltingville Lutheran School.

Borough President's Award

Maxim Berger, PS 48; Richard LaBarbara, PS 53; Thomas Del Mastro, Michael Albertsen, Christopher DiForte, St. Ann's School; Allison Inga, Howard Bilecky, Paulo Intermediate School 75; Laura Anne Tuccillo, Markham Intermediate School 51; Joseph Vaccaro, Totten Intermediate School 34; Anthony Esposito, St. Ann's School; John Zaborskis, St. Joseph/St.Thomas School; Evan Stein, Markham Intermediate School 51.

Marshmallow Bridge Contest

First place

Dominick Quartera, Barnes Intermediate School 24.

Second place

Kenneth Arani, PS 30.

Third place

Julia Concordia, PS 32.

Staten Island Science Teachers Association Award

Jonathan Herbst, Totten Intermediate 34.

Advance Photo by Hilton Flores: Joseph d'Auguste, 11, of IS 34 explains his project, "Can the Fresh Kills landfill be turned into an energy-producing site for Staten Island?"

Caption: A student checks out the science project created by Emily Dunn of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Caption: Allison Surlless, 11, of PS 61, discusses her science project on friction.

Caption: Charles Umana, a fifth-grader at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, describes his project on tornados. It came complete with sound effects and visuals.

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