

## **Mason Ray, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Happy Valley Elementary School wins a Provisional Patent Award at the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo in Alexandria Virginia**



During the school year of 2016-2017, forty educators from Santa Cruz County, Sunnyvale, San Jose, Watsonville, Richmond, and Sonoma County delivered the Next Generation Science Standard, Common Core aligned STEM curriculum adopted by the California Invention Convention. Students were asked to identify problems in their own lives, or their family's, and invent a solution that solved the problem.

The inventions then became part of competitions that took place at the school level and at science and engineering fairs with finalists from those competitions moving onto the statewide California Invention Convention that was held in Santa Cruz County, April, 2017.

At the state convention thirty judges from Google, Verizon, Plantronics, Brocade, Central Coast Patent, UCSC, and a number of other companies and organizations chose six young inventors to continue onto the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE) held from June 1 through June 3 in Alexandria Virginia at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Three hundred top inventors from across the country competed for the top prizes at the NICEE competition.

The six students representing California at the national competition were: Jonah Guyer and Oliver Willet, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Happy Valley Elementary School, Lillia Young, 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Watsonville Charter School of the Arts, Samuel Delgadillo, 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Watsonville Charter School of the Arts, Ronja McArthur, 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Happy Valley Elementary School, and Mason Ray, 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Happy Valley Elementary School.

We are pleased to announce that Mason Ray was a Winner at NICEE competition, chosen by patent experts as one of three Provisional Patent Awards sponsored by Central Coast Patent Agency.

Mason invented The Cleat Cleaner, which solved his problem of tracking mud through the house after playing baseball. The Cleat Cleaner is a piece of rubber that fits over the bottom of the sports shoes so that the cleats can poke through. After completing play, the rubber piece can be removed, and the mud rinsed off, leaving the bottom of the shoe mud-free!

The California Invention Convention will be training its next group of teachers in this hands-on, project-based curriculum on Saturday, September 23, at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. This year we will be expanding the grade levels to include 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8th grade students. Educators interested in participating in the 2018 California Invention Convention please call Crystal Alexander-Culp, Executive Assistant at the SCCOE, (831) 466-5800, to register. Cost for the workshop is \$25 which includes a light breakfast and lunch.

