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 Ad Number: F81402
 Description: kidz
 Ad Size: 6 x 20.75"
 Ad Builder: Julie Beacham-Hooie
 Insertions: 1

Code: 001300000
 Revision No.: 3
 Sales Rep: Blank #1
 Rep Phone:
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 Date: Mon, Mar 30, 2009 - 4:22 PM

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Client Approval OK As Is OK After Corrections Initials _____ Second Proof

Insertion Date: Wed, May 6, 2009
 Publication: Bradenton Herald

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in Education Presents
Inquizi
 Brought to you by Adult, Career & Technical Education



SCHOOL Biz & Buzz



Banishing Boredom, Building Skills

Keeping students engaged and learning is no problem for Lon St. John, technology education teacher and Technology Student Association (TSA) advisor at Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS). Lon reveals, "Students are able to study so many different areas of technology that boredom is not a problem in my class. Energy, communication, and construction are just a few of the subjects we cover."

Currently students are working on constructing models of their dream homes. The models are in various stages of completion and are based on a scale of 3/4" = 1'. Cement foundations, pine studs, and particleboard cut to size fill the tabletops as students work through the building process.

"My goal is to bring real world experience and understanding of real world application to the classroom so that in the future when students are remodeling their own home, they will understand what a load-bearing wall is," Lon says. "They will know what sheathing, trusses, and barrier vapors are. Use of space, energy efficiency, and green technology will be familiar concepts."

Lon's students are busy building practical skills that will last them a lifetime, and are having a great time doing it.

KIDZ Biz & Buzz



InnoVators
Go Green

What's the earth's favorite color nowadays? Perhaps you've heard the phrase, "Go green!"—a common slogan used by those concerned about the environment.

There's another term floating around out there. "Green building"—a concept which refers to the most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly way to build houses, apartments, and commercial structures, is becoming more popular as the cost of living increases and the health of the planet decreases. Green building professionals deal with factors such as insulation to prevent heat and air-conditioning loss, solar power, strategic placement of windows to take full advantage of sunlight, and using recycled materials.



What kind of exclamation do your parents make when they open expensive utility bills? Remodeling homes for energy efficiency can drastically reduce electricity and water costs. Simple renovations like wrapping insulation around the pipes of hot water heaters or sealing cracks in windows and doors make a huge difference. Green makeovers can also lessen pollution and the amount of carbon dioxide emissions, which eat away at the earth's atmosphere. Our lifestyles have more of an effect on our surroundings than we realize, and it's important to make as little a dent as possible. It may be your home, but it's not just your earth.

Green building techniques improve old structures, but a main concern is the technology involved in building new ones. This growing industry utilizes specific materials that are reusable, renewable, recyclable and non-toxic, products such as bamboo, recycled metal and stone, panels made from paper strips, baked clay, sea grass, linen, and cork. Homes are fitted with solar panels to replace hot water heaters. Greenbuilding.com uses the phrase, "Futureproof your house" and encourages people to reap the benefits of green-built homes: they are environmentally advantageous, more affordable, offer a healthier living space, have a higher resale value, and last longer.

Do your own research on green building techniques and examine your home to see which areas you can improve. Not only will your parents have less to complain about when the bills arrive, but you'll contribute to the overall well-being of our world.

The Future is in Technology

Nicholas Johnson is a remarkable young man with many diverse interests. This 13-year-old Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS) seventh grader plays the trumpet in the school jazz band, takes Taekwondo classes three times per week, volunteers for Underdog Rescue of Florida, and is the president of the BCMS Technology Student Association (TSA).

Nicholas is an avid and successful competitor. Last year he won first place in the TSA State Environmental Challenge event and went on to place in the top ten in the nation in the Technology Transfer Challenge event. He recently attended the Lockheed Martin Manatee County TSA District competition where he enjoyed participating in Problem Solving and Chapter Team events. He also recently attended a TSA Leadership Training Conference where he competed in Problem Solving, Mini Structural Challenge, and Chapter Team events. This week, Nicholas has just returned from Orlando where he competed in the TSA State competition in the Environmental Challenge event.

Nicholas' dream job is to become a technology teacher and TSA advisor for middle school students. He is off to a great start!



Explore IT

Home Energy Survey

Complete this home energy survey from the California Energy Commission. Find out how your home measures up.

When you are done, ask your family: how can we save more energy? [Source: http://energyquest.ca.gov/teachers_resources/index.html](http://energyquest.ca.gov/teachers_resources/index.html)

SAFETY FIRST!

Be sure an adult helps you to check appliances.

Ways to save energy in my home

- We turn off lights, computers, televisions, radios, games, etc. when they are not in use. We turn off the lights when we leave a room.
- We turn down the heat or air conditioning when we are not home or at night.
- We use Energy Star® appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher, washer, clothes dryer, etc.) and electronics (cordless phone, DVD player, computer printer, etc.).
- We run the washer, dryer and dishwasher only when we have a full load.
- When possible we hang clothes outside to dry.
- Our water heater is set low (close to 120° F).
- We take 5-minute showers.
- We use fluorescent light bulbs or lighting rated by Energy Star®.
- We use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking small amounts of food.
- We use rechargeable batteries.
- We check the furnace and the air conditioner to be sure they work well and the filters are clean.
- The faucets are in working order (no drips or leaks).

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DISCOVER the Future

Regional Careers: Occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupation Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Minimum wage	\$7.21	-
Environmental Engineers	\$34.91	\$51.42
Architectural and Civil Drafters	\$12.23	\$24.57
Carpenters	\$13.53	\$24.60
Construction and Building Inspectors	\$17.24	\$24.12
Middle School Teachers (annual, as reported for entire Suncoast region)	\$38,292	\$61,934
Postsecondary Vocational Teachers	\$15.40	\$32.37

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
 FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in any of these areas can find related educational programs at these schools*:

- Buffalo Creek Middle School
- Lakewood Ranch High School
- Manatee Technical Institute,
- Manatee Community College,
- University of South Florida

*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- www.otherpower.com
- www.greenbuilding.com
- <http://energyquest.ca.gov>
- www.tsaweb.org
- www.floridatsa.com



InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Christine Fritch (941) 748-0411 ext. 5464, cfritch@bradenton.com Julie Beacham-Hooie, Page Editor.

