

# Inventing the next big thing

*Kings Valley  
students show  
off inventions*



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

**Kings Valley Charter School second grader Blake Hauck shows off the Egg Dispenser at the Invention Convention on Thursday afternoon.**

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

PHILOMATH— Kings Valley second-grader Blake Hauck stood proudly in the Kings Valley Charter School gym on Thursday afternoon, ready to explain how his invention worked to anyone who asked.

His project, after all, wasn't just for fun.

It was an invention born from necessity.

"I was in my car thinking of uses for something," Blake said. "Then, I thought of something. It's hard for me to lift the chicken coup and get the eggs."

And thus, the Egg Dispenser was born.

The contraption featured a spot for chickens to lay their eggs, which then roll down through a duct into a basket where the eggs will fall in harmlessly.

"It's easier for me to get the eggs now," Blake beams.

The project was one of many at Kings Valley Charter School's Invention Convention on Thursday.

The items ranged from the tasty (squishy fruit

pops) to the practical (mobile desk) to ones like the Goobsoo, which addressed the timeless problem of boredom.

Of course, while Kings Valley's inventors were hard at work, they were learning more than they realized.

Christian Petrovich, father of Cedric Petrovich, the inventor of the Goobsoo, saw his son fully embrace the inventor's process.

"It was really great because he came up with this idea, which was neat to see," Petrovich said. "I'd ask him questions so he could figure out how to make it happen and put things together. It was really super fun."

While Kings Valley's students put their minds to work to solve some of the world's problems, the hope from staff and parents is that it may inspire some to one day find major breakthroughs.

"Getting kids to create solutions to problems or making a product better is a great start in developing future scientists and inventors," Kings Valley director



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**Second-grader Hailie Eckhold presents the Pillow with a Pocket during Kings Valley's Invention Convention.**

Jamon Ellingson said.

One of those future inventors could be first-grader Hailey Eckhold, the mastermind behind Pillow with a Pocket, something so simple, but aims to fix a problem everyone can relate to.

"It's so when you're in bed you don't lose small items," Hailey said.

Each project had a problem it tried to address. Inventors often worked through a number of iterations before they got their inventions just right.

While we'll have to wait and see if Thursday inspired the next Steve Jobs, the Invention Convention was already a success in teaching kids to not be afraid to put their imagination to use.

"I think the best thing that kids learned is to start with an idea and then try many different prototypes until they get the best one," Ellingson said.



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**Jeshua Bush presents his invention, the Sour Nutty Bites, to Christian Petrovich at Kings Valley Charter School's Invention Convention on Thursday evening.**



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**The Yo-Yo case was one of several inventions on display on Thursday at Kings Valley Charter School.**



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**Acacia, left, and Noel Bush present their Squishy Fruit Pops on Thursday evening.**



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**Cedric Petrovich, right, demonstrates how the Goobsoo works during the Invention Convention on Thursday as Faith Bush, right, watches.**