



Contact: Cindy Pantea,
Communications & Event Manager,
Keep Akron Beautiful, 330.375.2116
cpantea@akronohio.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

February 1, 2019

Keep Akron Beautiful Awards Student Environmental Projects

As a sponsor of the Akron Public Schools Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Expo, Keep Akron Beautiful judged environmental projects and awarded three students monetary prizes for their experiments.

Akron, Ohio (February 1, 2019) – Keep Akron Beautiful (KAB), an organization that promotes taking individual responsibility for our environment, sent three judges to the 63rd Annual Akron Public Schools Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Expo, which was held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at North High School. Judges were tasked with awarding student projects that best tested their theories about environmental concerns.

“Keep Akron Beautiful looks forward to supporting Akron Public School students each year at this event,” said CEO Jacqui Ricchiuti, “and we hope the students experience the same excitement when proving their theories or revealing their unexpected findings that our judges do when viewing their work.”

The three judges were Jacqui Ricchiuti, KAB CEO, Kevin Lockett of Lockett Media, who is a KAB Board Member and substitute teacher, and Cindy Pantea of the KAB staff. All three judges were impressed by the participating Akron Public school students’ experiments. Three students were awarded monetary prizes.

An award of a \$100 Visa gift card went senior, Carly Justice, for her project entitled, “Recycling Plastics in Lightweight Concrete: Reducing Global Waste.” Coach Westphal is her instructor. With global waste being an environmental problem, Justice sought a possible recycling solution to divert more plastic waste from landfill. Her thorough investigation of testing the strength of different plastic material led to her conclusion of its possible low volume use in construction applications.

An award of a \$75 Visa gift card went to Patricia Butler, a 7th grader, for her project, “Red Worms Versus Earthworms in Composting.” Coach Whaley is her instructor. Testing her hypothesis that larger earthworms would produce compost faster than red worms, Butler found that both types tied.

An award of a \$50 Visa gift card went to Isabella Salzgeber, an 8th grader, for her project “All-Natural Cleaners Versus Non All-Natural Cleaners.” Coach Nicolino is her instructor. By testing surfaces cleaned by both all-natural and chemical cleaning products, Salzgeber found that the lack of bacteria-fighting Sodium Hypochlorite in all-natural cleaners resulted in 80% more bacteria remaining on tested surfaces.

Congratulations to all the participating Akron Public School students, their coaches and Dr. Katrina Halasa, Akron Public Schools Science Curriculum Specialist, who leads the event.

About Keep Akron Beautiful: *Keep Akron Beautiful is a 501(c)(3) agency serving the citizens of Akron by improving Akron’s quality of life through beautification and responsible environmental management. For program information, visit www.KeepAkronBeautiful.org.*

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