

DOODLE EARNS FMS STUDENT BIG CHANCE

FEINSTEIN 8TH-GRADER MOLLY BROWN WINS STATEWIDE CONTEST
SPONSORED BY GOOGLE; NATIONALS NEXT



Kendra Leigh Miller/Daily Times

ABOVE: Feinstein 8th-grader Molly Brown explains her design, which will appear on Google's home page, to her classmates in the auditorium at the school yesterday. Brown and 49 other students statewide will have their designs featured online.



RIGHT: Brown with FMS Principal Arthur Lisi (center) and Coventry Superintendent Mike Almeida after the announcement was made her design would be going global with Google.

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COVENTRY — Molly Brown, an eighth-grade student at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School, is bringing her art to the world in hopes of making the world a better place.

Brown learned last week she was a state finalist in the "Doodle for Google" annual competition and at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday it was made official when representatives from Google announced Brown had won Rhode Island's competition.

While she was being announced, 49 other students from every state were also receiving the same news, at the same time.

"I knew about it last week but I didn't realize this assembly was going to be so big," Brown said. "I got shaky walking down the aisle."

Each year, Google holds this competition in an effort to find and reward creativity. The doodles that people see on the website's home page each day are created by doodlers.

The company's philosophy is, who better to create those doodles than talented and creative young artists?

The contest, created in 2008, is open to students in grades Kindergarten through 12. Winning criteria is based on four components; artistic merit, creativity, theme communication and appropriateness of the supporting statement.

This year's theme was, "If I could invent one thing to make the world a better place..."

Brown's design was a mechanical device that is building world peace and creating a world without all the poverty, intolerance and problems.

She explained that creating the drawing took about 45 minutes but coming up with the concept took a few days.

All 50 state finalists have the opportunity to take a trip at the end of May to the Google headquarters in California to meet some doodlers and see the company.

From there, four national finalists are selected. Those four receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a tablet.

The finalist wins a \$30,000 scholarship, Chromebook, tablet and \$50,000 for their school

See DOODLE, Page A-2

Doodle from FMS goes digital

Continued from Page A-1

to open a technology lab.

Rachel and Debra, Google representatives from the New York City office, explained that there are thousands of entries.

Brown gave all of the credit to her family.

"They've all pushed me forward all this time and I love them with all my heart," she said. "I'm really excited to meet some of the doodlers who have inspired me."

"I'm stoked," said Brown's mother, Diane.

"This is phenomenal," said her father, Jim. "She's always been a great kid too, never any issues and she's friends with everyone - a great kid."

Rachel said Google has had creative doodles on their homepage since the first in 1998, when it was just the name and a stick figure.

"Since then, the doodles have gotten much more elaborate and beautiful," she said. "We try to express holidays, mark significant periods in time and history and other things. We even had an interactive Pac Man game."

"You should've seen the artwork she was doing when she was just four years old," said Molly's aunt, Paula.



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Brown's classmates, Jasmine Pabon, Brianna Sousa and Lexie Kaplan proudly wear her design.

The winner of the competition is all based on the number of votes he /she receives online. To support Brown, go to

doodle4google.com and cast your vote. Voting opens at noon April 29 until May 9th at the 11:59 p.m. deadline.