

GDHS students know WHERE it's at in science competition

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer



Monique Tuin and Wayne Fang recently captured awards in the 2010 WHERE Challenge. Tuin showed what Lego building blocks are made of and Fang broke down a Quartz clock to its base elements.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Fang wasn't the only GDHS student to win an award in the 2010 WHERE Challenge.

Grade 9 student Monique Tuin put together a two-minute video that has been posted on Youtube that shows what Lego toy building blocks are made of, earning her \$200 for winning at the regional level to qualify for the nationals with Fang.

And because GDHS submitted more entries than any other school in Canada, it also received the national school prize of \$1,000.

"I find the WHERE Challenge works well," said Bonnie Sparling, Georgetown District High School Grade 9 science teacher. "Students can pick an object that they like and a method of presentation that they like, so they really enjoyed it. I have 50 students and all 50 submitted an entry."

Last year, GDHS student Oliver Yee was the third grand prize winner for his poster essay on pencils, also netting \$1,000 for the school.

If you're in a hurry, it may not be a good idea to ask Wayne Fang for the time of day.

The well-mannered Grade 9 Georgetown District High School not only can tell you what time it is, but he recently won a national award for demonstrating what a Quartz clock is made of—right down to its base elements.

Fang earned a \$1,200 bursary for his Powerpoint presentation in cartoon form of his project named 'Timey' (pronounced Timmy) that describes what materials go into the making of an ordinary household timepiece.

"This was a wonderful entry," said Jane Wynne, a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada and WHERE Challenge judge. "It met all the criteria, while blending comedy and science information with excellent graphics."

The competition is called the WHERE Challenge, a contest open to youths aged 10-14 in which the participants create an educational story about non-renewable earth resources found in everyday items, having to meet the rigid criteria set by judges and organizers.

"Instead of looking up at the wall in the classroom and wondering 'What time is it?' my intention was to look at what materials are used for a regular Quartz clock," said Fang.

"Basically, the Quartz acts as the heart, and the battery is the pulse, but there are a few other non-renewable resources that go into it, like petroleum, glass, plastics and aluminum."

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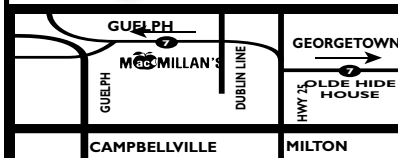
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