

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD students get creative to help kickoff Technology Showcases

The Comal ISD Instructional Technology Showcases aren't until May, but thanks to help from students around the district, the event received a creative kick-off.



More than 200 students from elementary to the high school level entered a contest to design the art logo for the showcases, which have an Apple-like theme called "iConnect."

Students were encouraged to submit an original piece of art that will be used to help advertise and promote the events. The overall winner's logo will be used to decorate T-shirts given to every student and teacher that participates in the showcases. The image will also be used on all promotional materials, including the Technology Showcase website which was recently launched. There is a link to the website at www.comalisd.org.

Technology Showcases will take place at all three Comal ISD high schools in May.

"We were overwhelmed with the great response we had to the logo contest," said Jennifer Wivagg, Comal ISD instructional media specialist. "Determining the winner was very difficult."

The overall winner of the contest was Morningside Elementary fifth grader Alexander Oliva, who came up with the imaginative idea to use the "C" in iConnect to mimic the Comal ISD logo.

“I saw our district logo had a big letter ‘C’ with a tree in it,” Oliva said after being told he was the contest’s overall winner. “I asked my teacher what she thought about me putting that in my contest entry, surrounded by my own drawing which included a light bulb over the first letter, and she thought it was a great idea. And now, here we are.”

Not only will Oliva see his winning entry in many different places leading up to the technology showcases, but he was also shocked when he discovered a brand new iPod touch inside a gift bag presented to him by Wivagg and Sharon Spinks, Comal ISD coordinator for Instructional Technology.

“I’ve never had anything like this,” Oliva said. “I can’t wait to use it.”

Wivagg and Spinks also presented certificates and iPod nanos to three other winners at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Anna Ramirez, also a student at Morningside Elementary, Mountain Valley Middle student Jennifer Cardenas and Canyon High student Justin Rauch received these prizes. Their logos are displayed on the Technology Showcase website.

The technology showcases will take place at Smithson Valley High on May 4, at Canyon High on May 11 and at Canyon Lake High on May 12, running each night from 6-8 p.m.

Parents and community members are invited to attend the showcases, which will feature technology workshops conducted by students, displays of student projects, a film festival, information about Internet safety, and a technology playground where attendees get to use the types of technology they see in the classrooms.

“This gives us the chance to show parents how we teach in the 21st century classroom,” said Spinks. “We want to show our community members exactly how we’re putting their bond dollars to work.”

IN PHOTOS: Morningside elementary fifth grader Alexander Oliva can't contain his joy when he discovers an iPod touch inside the gift bag he received for being named the overall winner in the Comal ISD Technology Showcase logo contest.

Olivo poses with fellow Morningside Elementary fifth-grade student Anna Ramirez, who won the elementary division of the Technology Showcase logo contest and received an iPod nano.

Olivo's winning entry features the tree-lined Comal ISD logo "C" surrounded by the Technology Showcase's Apple-like theme "iConnect."