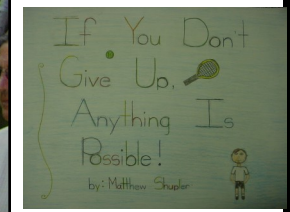


# Omni Tech students design their way to success



The winners of the Palm Beach County School District's Red Ribbon 30-Second Anti-Drug Commercial Contest. Front row: 7th graders Xavier V. (left), Michael P. and Koby W., received a plaque along with \$100 for the first place award. Back row: Mr. Goldstein and Dr. Tuman-Rugg. Photograph by James W.

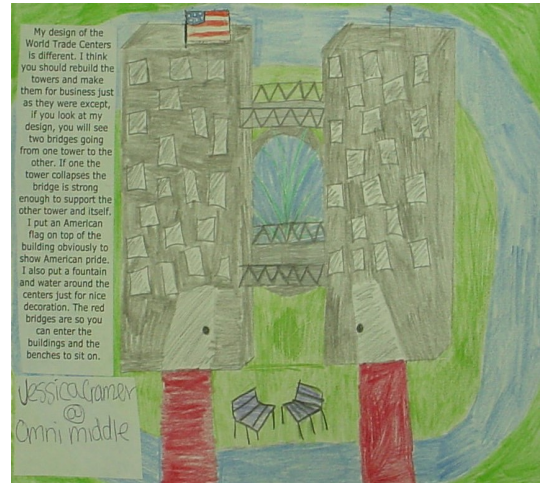
Omni's Technology students in Mr. Goldstein's classes have had an amazing first semester, utilizing the design process to create electronic books, proposals for a future World Trade Center site, a 9/11 memorial video (as part of a school-wide project), robots in the after-school Robotics Club, bridges tested to destruction, and Flash movies and web pages as part of a new class website.

Seventh graders Xavier V., Michael P. and Koby W. won first place in the Palm Beach County School District's Red Ribbon 30-second Anti-Drug Commercial Contest. Working as a team, they created their winning entry, *Fully Baked*, by making an electronic book—an E-book. They brainstormed ideas for their book, wrote and illustrated the story, took digital photos of their illustrations, inserted these digital photos into a PowerPoint slide show, typed in the text for the story, narrated the story using computer microphones, animated the text and pictures of each slide to choreograph their entry into each frame, added a musical soundtrack from midi files they searched for on the Internet, burned CDs for each group member, made a cover illustration for their CD cases and illustration labels to put on their CDs. This is the same process used by about 70 Technology students in sixth and seventh grade to create their own CDs. Tech students have created and published onto CDs about 30 E-books this semester. In addition to *Fully Baked*, E-books include: *A Hacker's Story* by 7th grader Zachary B., a story about a talented computer whiz that gets himself into trouble; *Lily & Isabelle*, by 8th grader Stefanie N., a story about a little girl and her magical horse; *Vectorman*, by 7th graders Anderson F.

and Manuel C., a story about a superhero who battles the most powerful menace in the world to save the day; *If You Don't Give Up, Anything Is Possible* by 7th grader Matt S., a story about a boy at tennis camp who, through persistence becomes a champion; *The Hulk*, by 7th grader Schuyler H., a story about an amazing rollercoaster ride; and *Redder Than Red*, by sixth graders Krislyn P. and Jessica C., a story about a singing group that finally gets its big break and becomes famous. You can view these E-books on the Technology class website, by going on the Internet to <http://www.omnimiddle.org>. Scroll down and click the homework button on the left, catch and click on the moving *E* button for *Electives*, click on the picture of Mr. Goldstein to bring up the Classwork Calendar. Click on the link that reads “*Come see our class website.*”

Tech students also utilized the design process to create proposals for a future World Trade Center site. Students sketched out ideas, wrote about them and designed Power-Point slides with narrations that for a class CD. The classes sent the proposals CNN, which put out a call for ideas on what should be built at the site of the Twin Towers in New York. The *WEST BOCA TIMES* featured Omni's Tech students and their design proposals in an extensive article in September.

The after-school Robotics Club won the Technical Award in November at the District Robotics Competition at Woodlands Middle School. Club members Lauren G., Adrienne C., Giles M., Arvin A. and Koby W. navigated their way through intricate tasks on an obstacle course to finish second place overall in the competition. The Sunday Sun-Sentinel featured quotes from team members, along with a photograph.



The cover of the class CD: *9/11, A Design for the Future*, by sixth-grader Jessica C. The class sent the CD, featuring design proposals for a future World Trade Center site, to CNN.

Eighth graders have been working with Macromedia Flash, Dreamweaver and Fireworks to create their own web pages and web movies. These are featured on the *Omni Tech* class website in Period 2. The class website, a new addition to Omni's Technology program this year, greets visits to its homepage with a Flash movie of a rabbit “magically” appearing out of a top hat. Mark S., an eighth grader, created this Flash animation. The website showcases the students' work, including E-books, digital portfolios, web pages and Flash movies.



Sixth graders Olven C. and Matteo Q. work together as a team to design and create their own bridge for the SECME bridge-building competition.

Currently, sixth- and seventh-grade Tech students are designing, constructing and testing balsa wood bridges as part of a SECME competition. SECME promotes competitions in bridge building, mousetrap cars and water rockets in grades K-12 to introduce students to the field of engineering. Students test the efficiency of their designs by subjecting their bridges to increasing amounts of weight, until the bridge finally buckles. By choosing strong structural shapes for their bridge designs, students can construct bridges that hold many times their own weight, learning to “do more, with less.”