Students showcase skills

by Kevin Mertz | Posted: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 8:44 am

MILTON — Approximately 100 middle school students from seven area school districts had an opportunity to showcase their technical skills during the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit's (CSIU) Regional Middle School Computer Fair, held Monday at the CSIU headquarters in Milton.

Bill Herald, who works in technical support and software quality assurance at CSIU, said the fair was open to middle school students in all 17 districts served by the intermediate unit.

Computer

From left, Milton Middle School students Emma East, Maura Short and Kendall Fedder stand by their Fluffy Bunny logo entry in the CSIU Regional Middle School Computer Fair.

Students from Milton, Southern Columbia, Shamokin, Mount Carmel, Central Columbia, Danville and Millville participated.

Herald said the fair received 30 entries from participating districts. Categories included Animation, Graphic Design, Computer Fair Logo, Digital Movies, Web Page Design and Programming.

"We award first, second and third in each category," Herald explained. "The students that make first in their category are promoted to states in May."

The statewide competition will be held at Dickinson College and feature the winners from each intermediate unit across the state.

Herald was impressed with the entries in CSIU's competition.

"A lot of the students are going out of their comfort zone and created projects with a computer," he said. "The whole push about the computer fair is if you get kids excited about the tools they use in each project area, they can use those when they go out to start a career."

Two teams of students from Milton entered the Graphic Design category.

One entry, titled Fluffy Bunny, was created by Kendall Fedder. The other, titled Grupper's Gato, was created by Kylie Keefer and claimed second-place honors in its category. Other students to assist with the entries from Milton were Arella Sandrick, Alexis Melhorn, Emma East and Maura Short.

Seth Reitz, the student's advisor, said interest was high among sixth-grade students interested in entering the contest.

According to Reitz, approximately 160 sixth graders submitted designs for consideration.

The two winners were picked by Reba Rohrer, an art teacher in the district.

"They had a lot of competition to begin with," Reitz said of the two entries selected to take part in the computer fair.

The students enjoyed being part of the process and noted that their designs were created using Word.

"I never thought you could make stuff on Word from shapes," Fedder said. "I thought you could just type."

Fedder added that she was "really excited" to have her entry be part of the competition.

Like Fedder, Keefer was also impressed to learn the various designs she could create using Word.

"You can make things and make it look fabulous," she said of the process.

Bryce Turner, a sixth-grade student from the Southern Columbia Area Middle School, was part of a team with an entry in the animation category.

"I started around the beginning of January and I just finished a few designs last week," he explained. "It's a simple animation of a fish that takes on a magic power... and becomes a giant robot."

He enjoyed learning some basic coding skills as part of the process.

Like Turner, seventh-grade student Jaron Ferrara said his group started working in January to create their entry in the logo category.

"It's a simple logo for the Pennsylvania Computer Fair," Ferrara said. "I liked how we got to make our own design. We used Illustrator, and I learned a lot about how to use that."

Herald was happy to learn the students enjoyed using Illustrator as part of the process.

"Adobe Illustrator is a higher-end program they get excited about," he said.

CSIU Regional Middle School Computer Fair winners were:

• Graphic Design: 1. Four Paws, entered by Mount Carmel student Kiara Blocker; 2. Grupper's Gato, entered by Milton students Kylie Keefer, Alexis Melhorn and Arella Sandrick; 3. Kitty Koffee, entered by Central Columbia students Megan Minning and Ruby Podeschi.

• Web Page Design: 1. Troop 20, entered by Central Columbia student Thomas Huckans; 2. Seventh Grade Boys Basketball, entered by Central Columbia students Trystan Crawford, Cade Davis and Elvin Jiang.

• Computer Fair Logo: 1. Hardwired Metamorphosis, entered by Shamokin student Emma Dailey; 2. The Keystone State: Computer Fair Logo 2018, entered by Central Columbia students Ellena Adams and Rylee Granville; 3. Computer Fair Logo 2018 entered by Danville student Lucas Robenolt.

• Programming: 1. What is Bullying, entered by Danville students Brian Myers and Kevin Chen; 2. Allegra Dance, entered by Millville student Samantha Wolfe.

• Digital Movies: 1. On the Heel of a New Tomorrow, entered by Central Columbia students Touidal Islam, Benjamin Hosler and Marcus Petersheim; 2. Sahara Slip Up, centered by Central Columbia students Logan Zilz, Gavin Wagner and Griffin Kneely; 2. Mental Illness PSA entered by Central Columbia students Holly Hales and Jessica Mowery.

• Animation: 1. Dream Job, entered by Central Columbia students Makiah Brewer, Emma Morgan and Rebecca Vertucci; 2. The Characters Within, centered by Central Columbia students Audrey Hiller, Olivia Hartman and Lindsey Walker; 3. Black Frost/Action Movie, entered by Southern Columbia students Owen Boswroth and Wyatt Roadarmel.

Staff writer Kevin Mertz can be reached at 570-742-9671 or email kevin@standard-journal.com.