

News release



Everett Public Schools

May 25, 2012

For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4040

Andrew Harper, 425-385-6300

Heatherwood eighth-grader earns Youth Challenge Creativity Award

McKaulay Kolakowski known for his giving nature, his music and for creating “virtual” Monorail ride

For twenty years, the Lynnwood Rotary Club has been recognizing students in Snohomish County in six categories: creativity, courage, leadership, community service, environmental service and inspiration.

On May 17, the club acknowledged McKaulay Kolakowski for his creativity. Kolakowski's Heatherwood Middle School mathematics and robotics teacher, Andrew Harper said, Kolakowski was eligible for a number of the club's annual awards and explained why in the nomination of his student.



McKaulay Kolakowski is the kind of student you would like to clone – he is always positive, helpful, engaged, creative and thinking. A hard worker, he has been a foundational member of the Heatherwood Hawkbots Robotics Club for his whole career at Heatherwood Middle School.

I am especially impressed by his spontaneous help of younger students – he shows an empathy and desire to help that would be admirable if displayed by any mentor three times his age. Several times I was so glad to see him come to meetings where he was obviously there just to be of service. He did this without any prompting, and the gratitude of the younger students showed clearly on their faces.

McKaulay shows hard work and creativity in all phases of his life – he is in advanced band, is an accomplished pianist, and will be going to China this summer as part of a group tour.

McKaulay came up with the idea of writing a software program to show views that you would see when riding the Seattle Monorail – he has worked tirelessly on this idea, and has even been invited to a workshop at Lakeside School to show off his skills.

So in the end it's really a tough call to say WHICH award McKaulay qualifies for – he is a self-less giver, who understands service to others. He has great ideas, and works tirelessly to fulfill them. He has a great sense of humor, and is appreciated by all around him.

---end---