

mom e o

magazine

Resource Community for Entrepreneurial Mothers

Sari Crevin
Getting a grip
on having it all –
career woman,
entrepreneur,
mom

November ~ December 2009

much
more
inside!

His & Hers
cool
christmas
goodies!

RETRO TOYS

That was then – this is now
and we still love them!



HOME *Cooking* FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Tasty Turkey Alternatives
& a little something on the side –

PENCIL BUGS:



Made by a kid but not just for kids

Jason O'Neill's cute critters are making homework just a little more enjoyable.

When *Forbes* called to tell him he had made their *Top 10 Role Models 18 & Under* list in January 2008, Jason had to ask his mom who they were.

"I didn't know what *Forbes* was. My parents had to explain it to me," he says smiling.

"(Forbes writes about) celebrities and people who have done much more amazing things for much longer than I have. It's a real honor."

Jason is the creator of Pencil Bugs, a quirky craft meant to motivate kids to do their homework. He began when he was just nine.

The inspiration struck in a roundabout way when he saw his mom creating crafts for a local craft fair.

"I thought if I helped her I would get some of the money," Jason says, "but mom said I had to come up with my own idea."

After a few failed attempts Jason hit upon his first Pencil Bug, which he painted his favorite color- red.

They come in eight colors and have Styro-foam heads and springlike antennae.

They sit on the end of any pencil, pen or marker.

A huge success at the fair, Jason began selling them at school. When another boy offered to buy his idea, Jason realized he was on to something big.

"I thought I'd better pursue this, and that's what I did," he says. "I've learned if you don't know something it isn't that bad you just have to find someone who does."

Pencil Bugs has since expanded to include greeting cards, bookmarks, and even t-shirts.

One day there may even be a video game or movie.

Jason, now 13, has become a public speaker. He is often invited to schools where he hopes to inspire other kids to follow their dreams.

Jason even shared a stage with Mark Victor Hanson, co-creator of *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book series. Impressed, Hanson included Jason in *Chicken Soup for the Soul's Extraordinary Teens* edition, and *Richest Kids in America*.

"Richest Kids includes all different aspects of rich," says Jason. "I haven't made millions yet, I'm on my way to hopefully, but I'm rich in many other ways also."

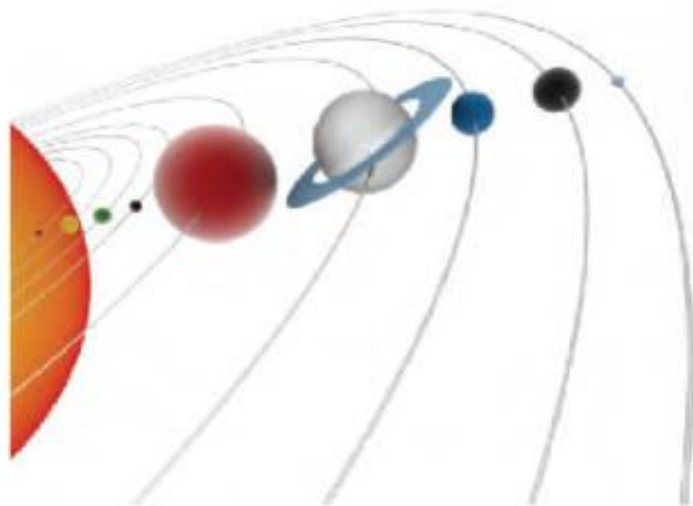
Due to their success, Pencil Bugs will be moving to a manufacturing facility in the near future.

In 2006, Jason received the Young Philanthropist of the Year award for his charitable donations. Every quarter he takes a portion of his profits and buys toys for Rady Children's Hospital of San Diego.

"I've never been in the hospital," he says, "but I know if I was I'd want someone to think about me and to maybe do something to make it a little easier."

This Christmas, Jason is raising money to donate 250 teddy bears to the hospital. Truly, this young entrepreneur is definitely an amazing role model.

ASTROTOTS SPACE CAMP FOR LITTLE DIPPERS



AstroTots president and founder Becca Robison inspires young girls to reach for the stars.

Whether it's creating Martian landscapes out of red clay or learning about chemical reactions with Alka-Seltzer rockets, Becca brings her love of science to girls in impoverished communities.

Becca lives in Layton, Utah, and started the AstroTots Space Camp for Little Dippers when she was 11.

"The goal of AstroTots is to inspire young girls, and help them believe they are capable of anything they can imagine."

When she was 10, Becca attended her first "space-oriented" camp. When she returned home and began sharing her dream with other girls, she was told that "being an astronaut was a *boy's job*."

"I was completely devastated," she says, "when I talked to my mom about it, she told me I should change their opinions."

Becca held an experimental space camp in her backyard for neighbourhood girls.

It was an immediate success and Becca realized she had started something amazing. A short time later, AstroTots took off.

A mobile day camp, AstroTots is non-profit and relies upon donations and grant money. (Becca herself is a volunteer.)

The camp moves throughout the US and accepts 25 girls between the ages of four and 10.