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Broward County Commission Libraries Division Presents  
**Invent Broward Reception at Main Library**  
**Celebrates the Creativity of Children**

BROWARD COUNTY, FL – A reception to honor the student participants of Invent Broward will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 20, 2008 on the 6th floor of Main Library, 100 South Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. The private reception is limited to media and invitees only, and it will recognize the ingenuity and creativity of the elementary school students involved in Invent Broward.

Invent Broward, a program sponsored by the Friends of the Fort Lauderdale Libraries and presented in association with Broward County Public Schools, encourages children to expand their imagination and utilize their critical thinking skills by creating an invention – something that would make their life easier, solve a problem or add an enhancement to something that already exists.

With students ranging from Kindergarten through fifth grade, these inventions run the gamut from simple and practical to mind-blowing and theoretical. *Here are a few practical examples:*

A shoe shine machine for busy minds: Simply place your shoe under the wooden rod with its foam brush attachment, and rock the lever back and forth to shine your shoes while you're busy watching TV.

A baseball cap with a built-in cooling system: the Fan Cap. A brace is attached to a button on the top of the cap, and at the end of the brace, dangling in front of a person's face, is a plastic, battery-operated fan.

An Extended Equipment Grabber built from five 13-inch PVC tubes screwed together with a punching glove on top helps retrieve things stuck in trees or on top of roofs.

A portable mobile for babies is very “mobile.” It can be moved anywhere and easily swapped out with different colorful stuffed animals. The mobile has a vertical post and a horizontal arm, both cushioned with paint rollers. Plastic hooks are attached to the arm to hold small toys.

*And here are a few theoretical concepts that may someday see the light of day:*

A Super Duper Pooper Scooper—a remote-controlled robotic shovel on wheels, with a collection box. Suggested retail price of \$49.99.

The Automatic Character Drawer consists of a computer keyboard and a drawing pad. The instructions for this device are written on a poster, showing the steps to pick a letter from A to Z, pick a character, pick a pose, hit Enter, wait one minute and watch it draw your cartoon character.

Robomatic 3000, a four-foot tall robot built out of cardboard, that can do house chores, change light bulbs, sense intruders, cook and vacuum, and play with kids. This one is a display model.

And there’s one very thoughtful, environmental concept—an illustrated system for collecting reusable waste water in an underground storage tank connected to an outdoor sprinkler system. Collected water can also be pumped upstairs to use for flushing toilets.

See these – and many others – at Main Library’s Invent Broward display, located on the sixth floor of Main Library. The inventions can be viewed by the public during regular library hours until April 19, 2008. Media interested in attending the Invent Broward reception are requested to RSVP to 954-357-7504.

The award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, founded in 1974, provides essential quality-of-life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The Library consists of 37 branches that provide three million items and more than 2,000 computers for public use, and after-school literacy, youth, and teen programs. Its website, [www.broward.org/library](http://www.broward.org/library), includes free online reference and information databases in addition to access about library services, locations, and events that customers access on average 300,000 times a month. The Broward County Library is the ninth-largest library system in the United States, serving more than nine million walk-in customers annually.

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