

FABULOUS FIRSTS



St. Michael's Country Day School in Newport salutes four eighth-graders who recently earned academic distinctions at both national and local levels. On the left, David Kehoe and Bethany Fowler have set up a two-year winning streak in the state for the NYSE-sponsored Stock Market Game Essay Contest (David won in 2008; Bethany in 2009). On the right, Alycia Karlovich and Tim Howe are Gold-Medalists and Rhode Island first-place division winners in the 2009 National Spanish Exam.

WE APPLAUD ALL OF OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND THE TEACHERS WHO HELPED MAKE THEM HAPPEN.

ST. MICHAEL'S COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

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Greg Pearson, left, Laurie Keene and Ron DiMauro, creators of the new Wax Buddy tool for surfboards

Island architect creates new tool to smooth surfboard prep

By Joan Breakell

Rhode Island has its share of passionate surfers who take to the water whenever the waves are good. But, quite a bit of work must be done before a surfer ever hits the waves.

The wax that provides foot traction on the board's surface must be in good condition, and that means regularly scraping off the old sand-filled wax, applying a new coat and combing it for added traction.

It is a chore nobody likes. Fortunately, island architect and surfer Ron DiMauro has come up with a tool for surfers who want to spend

more time in the water and less time maintaining their boards – the Wax Buddy.

Previously, the main tool used for the job was a small plastic rectangle with a blade on one edge and a comb on the other. According to DiMauro, the comb works, but the blade often does not do the job and the tool digs into the user's palm. Surfers have resorted to kitchen spatulas, metal putty knives or razors, and the whole operation can take more than an hour.

DiMauro decided there had to be a better design and set to work. First, the tool needed a handle for

strength and leverage. The blade needed to be flexible and sharp enough to scrape off the wax without damaging the board. Add to that a retro design, earth-friendly material and a color that would appeal to both guys and girls, and DiMauro knew he had a winning idea.

He consulted his friend, Greg Pearson, who worked in a local surf shop and had taught him to surf. Pearson loved the idea and, along with fellow surfer Laurie Keene, joined DiMauro to cre-

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