The Parent Perspectives newsletter is created to provide information, suggestions, and tips for parents to better understand and celebrate their child’s experiences through involvement in the Future Problem Solving Program International. In this issue a list of parent tips has been included as well as a testimonial from first time problem solving parent, Shwane Simpson. Shwane’s son, Brock, is now a 5th grader in Frisco, Texas. Please enjoy!

As a parent, I love the FPS concept and process. My son was new to FPS last year and did a Community Problem Solving project. I feel as though my son learned a lot of practical, real-life skills and that participating in the program built his confidence. By learning how to use the FPS program, he was guided to dig deeper to understand the real problem that his group was trying to tackle. It is amazing to me that the program is able to teach a 4th grade student like him to be able to identify and analyze problems! I also really like that he had to be a part of presenting the findings, doing public speaking and interviewing. I was so proud to see that he had learned how to clearly and concisely explain his project and results. The skills these kids learn in FPS are invaluable! They will be able to take these skills and apply them in school and college! I personally think this program should be implemented in every school.

~Shawane Simpson, Parent~

Pictured — 2021 International Junior Grand Champion Community Problem Solving team from Texas. Left to right: Christina Quintana, Noah Quintana, and Brock Simpson.

This team of three students created Project Food Waste Champs. They learned that schools waste over 350,000 tons of food per year. Food waste is a major problem because when food is thrown in the trash, it does not have air and therefore cannot decompose properly. This creates methane gas that is harmful to the environment. The F.W.C. team focused on reducing food waste in schools by creating a school composting program.
How Can Parents Support their Problem Solvers?

• Offer to train as an evaluator. All affiliate programs need evaluators. Choose to evaluate in one or more of the components:
  - Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS)
  - Community Problem Solving (CmPS)
  - Scenario Writing (SW)
  - Scenario Performance (ScP)
One need not be a teacher to evaluate. Contact your Affiliate Director to inquire about evaluator training.
• Become a guest speaker or help to find a guest speakers on one of the competitive topics for the year.
• Coordinate a healthy snack schedule for FPS meetings. (You have no idea how appreciated this would be by the students and the coach!)
• Assist with fundraising. If the FPS-ers travel to an Affiliate Bowl or International Conference or need additional resources/materials, funds are always needed and appreciated.
• If you are in a country in which the main language is not English, offer to translate the English version of one or more resource or publication into the country’s native language.
• Become familiar with the 6-step creative problem solving process and assist the coach—especially if the coach has more than one team. Or, become a coach yourself!
• During meal times, carpooling, or while on family outings, brainstorm with your kids creative solutions to real world issues.
• Challenge your kids by asking them to project today’s trends into the future.
• Consider writing on a future scene writing team. All it takes is a little creativity, good writing skills, research, and teamwork!
• Volunteer to monitor or assist at the competitions.
• Constantly converse with your kids to learn along with them about the topics, the process, and encourage them towards success!
• Become a member of the Parent Committee, we’d love to have you!

“At the end of the day, the overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”

~Jane D. Hull~
What are your kids currently studying?

Because we are an international organization, we utilize a separate calendar for the Northern and Southern hemispheres. This causes us to be flexible in our thinking while allowing us to meet the school time frames around the globe. Currently, the Southern Hemisphere affiliates are preparing for their 2021 National Bowls, while the Northern hemisphere affiliates are starting a new calendar of topics for the 2021-22 school year.

The Southern Hemisphere is preparing to compete on the topic of **Personalized Medicine**!

**Good luck to all Southern Hemisphere students on this challenging but fascinating topic!**

The topics for the Northern hemisphere for the 2021-22 school year are:

Practice Problem #1—**Water Supply**  
Practice Problem #2—**Building Green**  
Qualifying Problem—**Insects**  
Affiliate Bowl—**Mining**

**We challenge all parents to assist their students in thinking futuristically, creatively, and use critical thinking in addressing these fun topics!**

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This newsletter is designed for you—our students’ parents!

- Is there something you’d like us to cover in a future newsletter?  
- Do you have an FPSPI experience you’d like to share?  
- Would you or your child like to submit a testimonial?  
- Do you have questions we might be able to answer?

Submit your questions, ideas, and testimonials to: [april@fpspi.org](mailto:april@fpspi.org) or [cyd.rogers@txfpsp.org](mailto:cyd.rogers@txfpsp.org)

**We welcome your responses and look forward to hearing from you!**