

Schools rise to Hip2B² challenge

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ELEPHANT toothpaste bubbling out of a cooldrink bottle earned a high school team from Paarl the winning spot in a science challenge yesterday.

The Klein Nederburg Secondary School pupils were among hundreds from across the province participating in the Info for Innovators event at Spine Road High in Mitchells Plain.

The event comprised different rounds and in each teams of pupils were set a different task.

The school hall was abuzz as pupils tried to complete tasks, including using a sponge, sandpaper and duct tape to transfer water from one container to another, and designing a safety jacket, which had to be waterproof and visible at night.

In the last challenge, a few of the teams had to make "elephant toothpaste" from a list of products and the Klein Nederburg Secondary team won after their mixture was the first to bubble out of a cooldrink bottle.

"It has been very exciting. We have learned so much," said winning team member Méranzo Lewis.

The pupils have now been invited

to compete for the title of SA's Top Young Innovators in the inaugural HIP2B² 3M Innovation Challenge.

HIP2B² is a youth initiative founded by entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth after his First African in Space venture in 2002. It promotes the study of science, maths and technology-related subjects.

HIP2B² general manager Cathryn Treasure said yesterday's event provided pupils with information on the Innovation Challenge and also introduced them to the concept of innovation. Similar events for Grade 10 pupils will be held in Durban and Joburg this month.

For the Innovation Challenge, teams of two will have to identify a problem that affects them, their families or their communities and propose a solution using the application of maths and science.

From these submissions five finalist teams will be selected by a judging panel.

Leading up to the final, they will have the opportunity to job-shadow within industry and to present their projects and prototypes to a mentor for input and guidance.

The finals will be held in Joburg in October.

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ALL THE WINNERS

Marscha Lee Swartz, Deidre Williams, Meranzo Lewis and Renecia Maxwell from Klein Nederburg High School in Paarl.

PICTURE: ROSS JANSEN

