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By [Rita Frankenberry](#)
The Virginian-Pilot
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Eleven-year-old Brianna DeSouza came away from a recent trip to the beach with more than just sand in her paperback novel.

The Landstown Elementary School student also came up with an innovative idea that earned her second-place honors at a statewide competition.

The By Kids For Kids, or BKFK, contest challenged the young Thomas Edisons to come up with inventions in one of four categories: Going Green, Signature Style, Sports Evolution and Digital Arts.

Brianna's invention was definitely a by-product of

necessity. She designed a zippered waterproof pocket for swimsuits.

"Because the money gets all soggy," Brianna said.

The pockets - which would be fashioned from a raincoat-type material and sewn into swimsuits and swim trunks - could be used to store small items such as money, ID cards and keys.

Anita DeSouza, Brianna's mom, was with her daughter the day she got the idea for the product.

Family members were taking turns baby-sitting personal items left on the beach blanket, when Brianna decided there had to be a better way of keeping money and other valuables safe at surfside.

"She said, 'I have an idea. What if bathing suits had a waterproof pocket?' " Anita DeSouza recalled. "I thought it was a good idea and remembered the contest."

Weeks earlier, DeSouza had heard about the By Kids For Kids challenge on a CNBC program. BKFK, a company that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship by young people, also sells youth-created products nationally.

Elizabeth Rintels, 12, of Keswick, Va., won first and third place in the Going Green and Signature Style categories for her "Water Watcher" invention.

After learning that reducing her shower time by one minute would save about 1,000 gallons of water a year, Elizabeth looked for a smart way to conserve, according to a BKFK news release.

Her device could be fastened to any faucet. "It signals a red light and sounds a beep every time a half-gallon of water is used," the company reports.

Elizabeth's Crane Purse design took the third place in the Signature Style category. She came up with the idea of a purse shaped like the bird while passing the time folding paper into paper cranes, according to BKFK.

"I would like to congratulate Elizabeth and Brianna for their outstanding creative achievements in this Contest," Norman Goldstein, the Founder and CEO of BKFK said in a statement.

"We have enjoyed getting to know many talented youth and educators in Virginia, and look forward to working with the state in the future."

The next stop for the young inventors is the company's national competition, where each category carries a cash prize.

If Brianna wins the grand prize in the Signature Style category there, she will bring home \$10,000.

For more information on By Kids For Kids, visit online at www.bkfk.com

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