

4/17/09

## Local school teams go global



The United Penguin Society Destination Imagination team from Olympus Junior High School include Ben Gorsen, left, Jared Mayer, Dillon Kanada, Chandler Dale, Nichole Sullivan, Julia Bermudez and Matthew Moeller, front.

Being creative and learning to solve problems is no sweat for several area elementary school children.

There are three groups of kids from the Eureka Union School District in Granite Bay and Roseville who will be representing California at the Global Destination ImagiNation competition in Knoxville, Tenn. May 20-23.

Destination ImagiNation is one of the world's largest creativity and problem solving programs for youth of all ages, with more than 300,000 students in more than 45 countries and the U.S. participating annually in challenges. Teams of up to seven children work together for eight to 12 weeks to create a unique solution to the challenge, which can have a focus that is theatrical, structural, improvisational, scientific or technical-or a blend of all these areas. Teams also learn and practice creative quick-thinking skills for the Instant Challenge portion of the program.

The teams must design, create and present the solution to their challenge without any help from adults or other children. The adult team managers help facilitate and guide discussion but are not allowed to contribute in any way to the teams' efforts or solution. The program in Roseville/Granite Bay is run completely by volunteers and coordinated by teachers at local schools.

The Olympus Junior High team of seven seventh-graders, named U.P.S. (United Penguin Society), has been competing in DI together for more than four years. The Eureka School team of seven fourth-graders, the Hawaiian Islands, has been competing together for three years at the elementary school level.

A new team, the Fabulous French Fries, from Excelsior School is a team of seven fifth-graders competing in the Theatrical/Technical Challenge at the elementary level. The Fries also won the DaVinci award at the regional competition in March, which recognizes creativity in the competition.

Currently the teams are seeking support from local service organizations, the Eureka Schools Foundation, the Eureka Union School District and other businesses in their quest to make it to Knoxville in May. They are also holding bake sales, hosting refreshment carts and recycling to earn their way to Globals.