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MAHS Students Win First Place in Fairchild Challenge

Six Moon Area High School (MAHS) students won first place in Challenge One of the Fairchild Challenge, which was to create a performance inspired by the theme "Healthy Eating, Healthy Planet." Presented in partnership with the Phipps Conservatory, the Challenge asked students to research the childhood obesity epidemic and then, through their performances, motivate children to eat healthier.

Students Jenna Murray, Vaughan Sulkava, Julia Michelbrink, Val Snaman, Taylor Kowalewski, and Dana Murray created Mr. Health-o and the Veggie Factory to

meet the requirements of this challenge. They performed their skit for a panel of judges at Phipps on Thursday, October 20.

As winners, the group also lent their voices to the Saturday Light Brigade (SLB), a morning public radio program transmitted from the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. The students gave a performance and were interviewed by SLB host Larry Berger live on air during the "Youth Expression Showcase" segment of the show. Project Advisor and MAHS Gifted Teacher Steve Palumbo joined them.

Phipps Conservatory serves as a satellite partner for The Fairchild Challenge was designed and initiated at the Fairchild Tropical and Botanic Garden in Miami, Florida in order to encourage students to examine and respond to a multitude of environmental issues through differently creatively-driven challenges. Phipps Conservatory became a satellite partner of the program in 2008 and provides schools with the opportunity to compete for $3,200 worth of prizes for their schools' science and environmental programs. For more information, please visit http://phipps.conservatory.org/.

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