

Kids offer a glimpse of the future

Young people at Intel's Computer Clubhouse take a guess about what kind of technology will rule in the years to come

BY RAY PITZ

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Forty years from now, we'll live in a world with hover boots, flying chairs and talking houses.

So say some young Intel Computer Clubhouse technology whizzes envisioning the future during a recent session at the Beaverton Police Activities League.

And the ideas the students generated on Tuesday afternoon will soon be shared with young people worldwide as they are uploaded to the Web.

"The whole idea is Intel is celebrating its 40th anniversary," Janet Rash, community relations manager for Intel, explained during a recent meeting of the young minds. "So what they're going to do is talk about what technology will look like in the next 40."

After posing the question of what technological advances will look like four decades from now, students transformed their thoughts into drawings using crayons and markers.

Cole Magnuson, 10, came up with no less than 12 ideas regarding the future including a portable remote control device "that can teleport you to anywhere."

But he didn't stop there, coming up with visions of what it would be like to fly with the help of hover boots and a body-changing watch.

"Put the watch on and say 'invisible' and you're invisible," he said.

Magnuson also envisions a future that includes a prison consisting of laser beams for bars that would prevent prisoners from leaving because "they get shocked."

He also sees a future need for limitless liquid refreshment.

"One of my favorites would be the Dr. Pepper fountain," he said. "It's like a fountain that sprays out Dr. Pepper but can spray out other drinks (too)."

For 8-year-old Jackie Padilla, the future includes flying cars, tables and chairs.

Her chair idea consisted of having an armrest remote control that would allow a screen to pop up for a variety of activities.

Padilla also believes there will be floating school lunchroom tables in the future that will allow students to zip from one side of the cafeteria to another with the push of a button.

Brandon Niemela-Lawrence, 11, sees a future with money literally growing on trees.

"It's like an ATM but it's a tree," he said of his sketch.

His other ideas include robotic plants and talking houses.



JONATHAN HOUSE / THE BEAVERTON VALLEY TIMES
Intel fellow Nancy Douyon helps Lexi Conrad learn the basics of the image altering program, Photoshop, during a teach-in session in Beaverton on Tuesday.

“They would talk on their own and have a brain of their own,” he said of the latter. “They’d say ‘hi’ when you got home.

After the ideas were drawn, students transferred their knowledge to the computer using Adobe Photoshop.

At his computer, Wesley Hudson, 11, drew a garage to house what he thinks the cars of the future will look like.

He foresees flying taxis, which are vehicles as large as airplanes when they’re airborne but later shrink to fit into small portals inside a parking garage. Hudson called his futuristic vision Galactic City.

What happens now is that Beaverton’s computer clubhouse will join 85 clubhouses throughout the world with plans to upload their images and an artist will create a digital mural of their work, said Rash.

The local Intel Computer Clubhouse, which has been around since 2000, is one of numerous clubhouses worldwide designed to bring technology to young people ages 8 to 18. The clubhouse provides hands-on computer experiences for the students.