

# Mac & Cheese

## You'll see this girl on the box

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM  
STAFF WRITER

**M**akayla McCoskey just wanted to see her picture on a Kraft Macaroni & Cheese box.

So the 6-year-old broke out her crayons, paper, glue and some macaroni and created a picture that showed how much she likes the pasta dish. The picture depicted McCoskey feeding a mouse some macaroni and cheese.

"I knew that a mouse likes cheese, so I thought the mouse would like macaroni and cheese," she said.

Her mother, Julie, encouraged her to enter Kraft's "I Want the Blues" contest, but also told her to be realistic.

"Don't be disappointed if you don't get your picture on the box," she told her daughter, who is a kindergartner at the Montessori Center of Farmington Hills. "There will be thousands of kids entering the contest" — nearly 25,000 entered the contest.

McCoskey's dream came true. She was one of 12 contest winners of the second annual contest. Entrants composed rhymes, slogans, short stories and drew pictures explaining why they "want the blues." She was the only winner from Michigan.

Winners received \$10,000 each in scholarship money and an all-expenses-paid family trip to New York City. They also will get to see their photographs on Kraft Macaroni & Cheese boxes beginning this fall.

That, of course, was Makayla's goal all along. She didn't have her eye on the \$10,000 scholarship or even on the trip. Her dream was "to get my picture on the box."

Her mother said they expected to ride in taxis, but were greeted with much more as they stepped off the plane.

"They picked us up in a limousine," Julie McCoskey said,

describing her daughter's VIP treatment during the trip. "They treated (Makayla) like royalty." Once off the plane, the McCoskey family, including Makayla, Julie, 2-year-old sister Monica and father Walter were immediately greeted by someone from Kraft. The Kraft employee walked with them and got their luggage for them. The contest winners were chauffeured through the city in a Lexus sport-utility vehicle.

While in the "Big Apple," the McCoskey family saw the Broadway staging of "Beauty and the Beast," the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and shopped in Manhattan stores.

After the Broadway show, the McCoskeys got to meet the cast, which includes Andrea McArdle, star of the original Broadway "Annie."

They also had dinner with aliens at a theme restaurant called "Mars 2112," where diners got to dance with "aliens" after riding in a simulated rocket.

Makayla also rode a simulated Empire State Building flight ride, where ride feel as though they're flying off the building.

"There was glass flying right at you," Makayla said.

"It was a little bit overwhelming," her mother said of the experience. "She had microphones and TV cameras in her face."

But Makayla thrived in the limelight.

"I liked it," she said. One busy day included a six-hour photo shoot where she had to eat macaroni and cheese and pose with giant macaroni and cheese boxes in front of a horde of cameras. She also sang the "Blue Box Blues" with the other contest winners.

Late nights on the town quickly blurred into early mornings. "We had a lot of big days with very little sleep," her mother said.

Makayla's highlight of the trip was dancing with a dinosaur. For the ballet, tap and Hawaiian dance student, it was a way to practice her skills.

"(Cheesaurus Rex) was my favorite part of New York," she said, describing an orange human-sized dinosaur. She received a "Cheesaurus Rex" flashlight as one of her souvenirs.

She also enjoyed meeting two contest winners, particularly Nicole Cavalliere, 6, of Jannette, Pa., and Nicole West, 8, of Morongo Valley, Calif. She described them as "Nicole and Nicole."

Julie McCoskey said her daughter was continually dazzled throughout the entire trip. "Mommy, this is really nice," Makayla told her mother more than once.

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having to print it out," said Elmouchi.

Libraries of the future, she predicts, will offer more material via the Internet. "We have the same problems that people have at home, it's critical to have an Internet that you can depend on," she said. This means better and faster connections.

Not everyone is plugged in. The Redford Township District Library offers Internet access to staff, but not library patrons.

"The Internet is no source of authority for information," said library director Fred Paffhausen. "I think the Internet is a tool, one of many to access information using new technology."

At the Redford Township District Library, instead of opening up a magazine, patrons might open a CD. A variety of resources and data bases are available on CD — everything from health magazines to how to write a resume.

Over 2,500 people a month log on to the Internet at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. In the future, more and more people will be accessing information from home, predicts library director Sandra Wilson.

Immediacy of information is one thing the Internet has going for it.

"Someone came in the other day and wanted to know all of the current leaders in the U.S. Senate and House," said Wilson. "A lot of them have changed, and the Internet is a good place to get timely information."

Papal agrees. "There's an ocean of information to sift through to find the one piece of information you want. There's no immediacy. People need information now. Rather than going fishing, they need to know the

best way to find it." The Farmington Public Library was a leader in the State of Michigan in bringing Internet access to public libraries. They've been online since 1994.

"We're providing information resources that people pay for with their tax dollars," said Papal. "Not everything is online. The resources we provide are expensive. I use tax money as wisely as I can to make sure people have access to information. We have to be selective in what we make available. My voters just approved a library millage, they believe in the value of what we're doing. Our circulation has increased 13 percent during a time people predicted the death of public libraries."

Still, the Internet hasn't replaced print. Even though many magazines are available on the Internet, some people enjoy coming into the library to read the latest edition their favorite magazine.

"People for various reasons want hard copies," said Canton library director Jean Tabor. "The Internet has given us so much opportunity to provide information. Librarians use Web sites like they would books, but the demand is over increasing for print. It's trying to find the right mix that's the challenge."

Librarians help people organize information. "We help them wade through a growing universe of information to get what they need," said Plymouth District Library Director Pat Thomas.

### Testing technology

Remember when you had a choice between Bet and VHS, eight track or cassette? Libraries are often the first to test new

technology.

"I see the library as playing a transition role for products," said Thomas. "We offer products for people to try out to see if they want to invest in them."

Papal agrees and sees this as an ancillary role for libraries. "Kids will read the same book over and over," she said. "A parent might check out a CD to see if their child likes it before they buy it."

With technology changing things faster than ever, libraries are becoming a little cautious about spending. At one time CDs were either Macintosh or IBM compatible, now you can CDs that will accommodate both Macintosh and personal computers which are no longer dominated by IBM.

"We're beginning to see books on CD," said Livonia city librarian A. Michael Deller. Books are tape are popular with patrons at many libraries, and now that cars are coming equipped with CD players, people are starting to inquire about books on CD.

The Livonia Public Library has some books on CD, and the Canton Public Library is looking at offering them.

"Tapes break and wear out," said Tabor. "CDs are easier to store too."

A lot is going on, and Tabor sees a future of more technology that's faster with more sound and video.

"We're going to be a real value in the community," said Thomas. "I remember when I started 25 years ago. We were just getting a copy machine. All you had were the books the shelf. It took so long to get information. This is so much fun to do. You can keep searching until you get the information you want."

## Miss Farmington to entertain

Erin Cogswell, the 1999 local representative from Oakland County with the Miss America Scholarship Program, will be one of this year's guest entertainers at the 1999 Michigan International Women's Show at the Novi Expo, held from April 29 through May 2.

Also appearing will be some of the 1999 Miss Farmington/Oakland County Contestants. The Oakland County has an official franchise to the Miss America Program, giving young women the opportunity to receive scholarships through the largest

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SHOW

scholarship program available to young women in the United States. More than \$32 million was awarded in scholarships to young women since last year's origination of the Miss America Scholarship program.

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