

# Inventor from page B5

hydrogen molecules in the exhaust gases.

Although the hydrogen eventually reacts with oxygen downstream in the catalytic converter to form harmless water, it first "ticks" the exhaust gas oxygen sensor, causing both the sensor and the converter to work at less than maximum efficiency.

The key to Ford's invention, according to Hopburn, staff technical specialist, was to recognize that "a small conditioning catalyst placed before the oxygen sensor reacts with the hydrogen before it reaches the sensor, allowing optimum performance of both the sensor and the catalytic converter."

"Not only are these trucks cleaner than others in their

class, but the extremely high efficiency of the emission control system eliminates the need for recirculating the exhaust gas and this leads to improved drivability and performance," said Willey.

The natural gas-powered trucks are not only super clean in terms of ground-level pollution, they also help address global climate concerns. Natural gas-powered vehicles emit 20 percent less carbon dioxide than is produced by the equivalent gasoline-powered vehicles.

McCabe has seven U.S. patents and is the 1996 winner of the Michigan Catalyst Society Parravano Award for excellence in catalyst research.

# Triad holds special day for children



**Mentor:** Nancie Long and Katie Ranilovich work together on a project during Triad Performance's Take Your Child To Work Day last week. The company has sponsored an event for several years.

Triad Performance Technologies, Inc., a performance improvement consulting firm headquartered in Farmington Hills, offered employees an alternative to the standard Take Your Daughters to Work Day April 23.

Companies typically will sponsor a day in which employees can invite their child for a day of simply watching the parent work. It is usually a one-on-one experience and the child learns about the tasks involved in doing one job only.

In contrast, Triad offered a feature-packed, educational experience in which children learned not only about their parent's jobs, but about seven different occupations.

They witnessed what it is like to work in a business office by participating in individual sessions that address every facet of what it takes to run an award-winning consulting firm.

Starting at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 24, and lasting through an entire work day, Triad hosted girls and boys, ages 8-14, for an exciting day entitled Bring Your Child to Work Day.

This year's program incorporated the Olympics' theme and participants were assigned to teams identified by the five colors in the Olympic rings.

The day began with a welcome reception where they got

an overview of the business and learn how Triad company rules compare to rules at school.

After a short break they left with their teammates to rotate through seven half-hour sessions, breaking after session three to enjoy a private lunch with their mentor.

The sessions featured this year included: Creative Services, Accounting, Reception, Sales & Marketing, Consulting, Computers, and Multimedia.

The children created personal business cards with graphic designers, installing memory

chips inside computers, and creating an interactive multimedia resume of themselves on diskette.

In previous years, the children's favorite session was working at the reception desk where they have been allowed to answer phones, bind documents, and send faxes and E-mails.

The day culminated with a wrap-up and evaluation session in which they write a thank-you note to their teachers, writing about all that they've experienced during the day. After all, attending this event requires

missing a day of school.

The schedule each year is altered slightly as children of employees look forward to coming back year after year. Twelve-year-olds Becca Patterson and Nicholas Snyder haven't missed a year since Triad's program began five years ago.

There is one concern parents have expressed about having their child attend this event.

The children have such a good time they walk away not realizing that sometimes their parent's work (like school) can be routine ... not always a party!

# Taxes from page B5

Savings bonds or other vehicle to help you provide for those later years.

Just a few suggestions, says Kurth, in case you haven't thought of them yourself. But, everyone has some "wants" and this might be the time to indulge a little without going overboard. Some new clothes? A nice dinner out? A short weekend trip to someplace special? Try to consider the other suggestions that have been listed here first, then have some fun.

Big suggestion: put your refund in your savings account first, then plan how to use it. Just don't cash the check and spend it! Those who use the

direct deposit refund avenue fare a little better in controlling this. And remember ... it's never too early to start planning ahead for the 1998 tax year.

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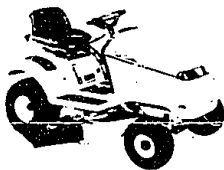
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