

## *The Alarm Speaker*

### **I. Abstract**

In our classroom, we saw a PowerPoint presentation about kids' inventions that help people. We did an inventions webquest. We pretended we were scientists from Planet Zap who took a spaceship to Earth. We worked together to choose the most useful Earthling invention to take home to Planet Zap. After learning about many different inventions, we brainstormed how we could help others. We wanted to help blind people when there is a fire so we invented The Alarm Speaker, a new kind of alarm that has a Global Position System and talks. The alarm will tell the person the safest and fastest way to leave the building to stay safe from smoke and fire.

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### **II. Description**

#### **Present Technology**

Today, there are fire alarms and smoke detectors that make loud noises so that blind people can hear the alarm when there is danger. Blind people use Braille to read and write and can learn more about alarms using Braille.

#### **History**

Two hundred years ago, people used whistles to let others know when there was a fire. In the 1850s, a hand-shaken wooden rattle alarm was used to wake up people when there was a fire. Smoke detectors were invented in the 1970's.

#### **Future Technology**

We think that the future will have talking alarms with a GPS in all buildings, especially hospitals and schools. The alarms will give directions how to get out safely and say things like "get low and go" if there is smoke.

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### **Breakthroughs**

More research is needed in making alarms with a GPS and improved computers.

### **Design Process**

We worked in groups to brainstorm problems that we have at school and home.

Our group then chose a problem that we wanted to solve. We used a circle map to decide on four ideas. First, we wanted to make a wall button that a seeing-eye dog or person could press to call the fire department, but we thought that it would not work if it was in the place where the fire had started. Then we considered automatic doors that would open when there is a fire, but thought that they may block a person from exiting. We thought of inventing a door alarm but then felt that our GPS alarm was even better.

### **Consequences**

We believe that The Alarm Speaker will guide blind people to safety when there is smoke or fire. The GPS will help the people get out quickly. We felt that one negative consequence is that if there is a problem with the alarm battery or the GPS gives wrong information, the person may get hurt in the fire.

## *The Alarm Speaker*

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Alarm Speaker



Helps Blind People

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Alarm  
Speaker  
Tells  
the fastest,  
safest  
way to  
get out of a fire!



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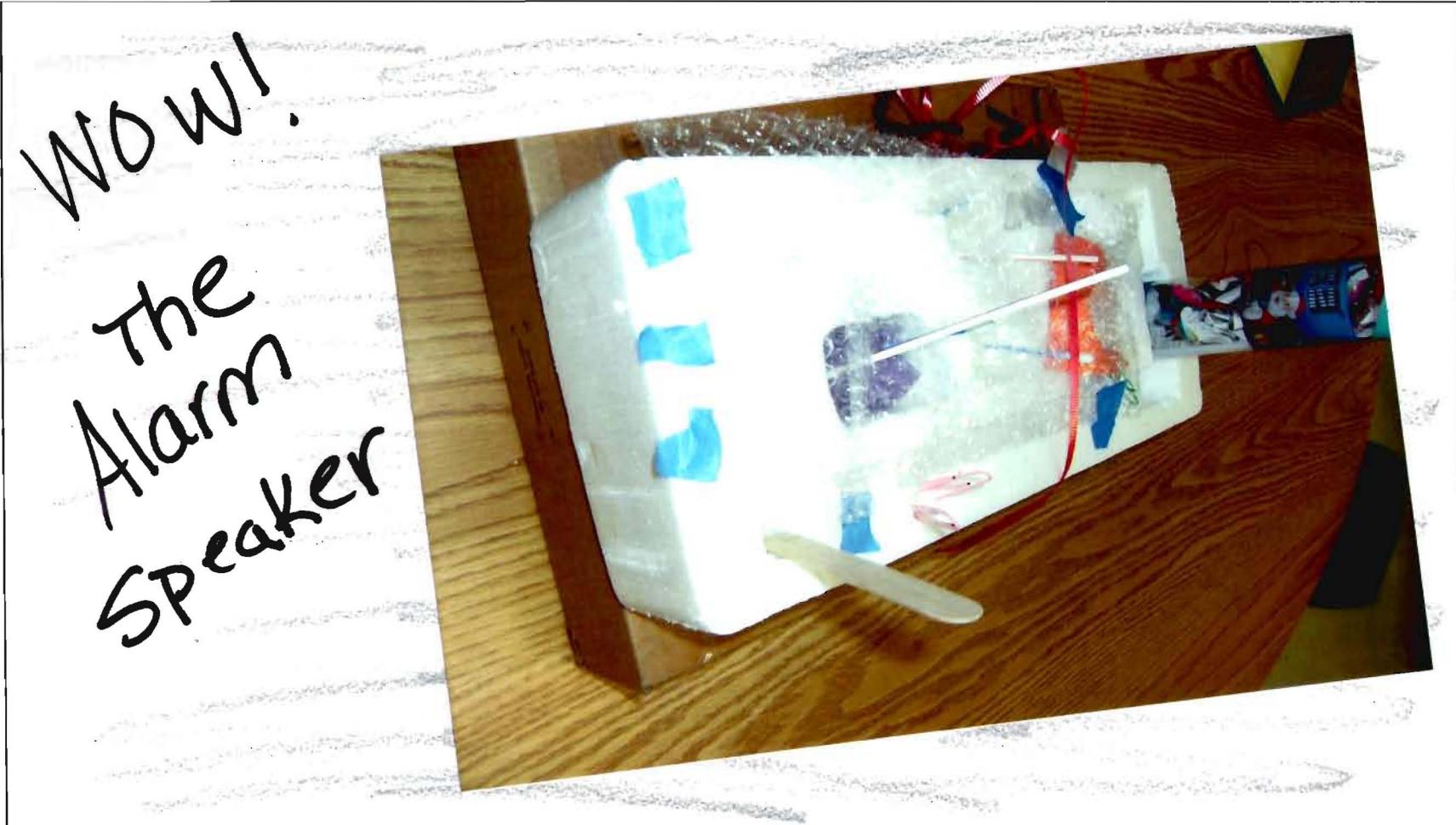
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