



Attorney Patrick Hart, Principal Diane Kittleberger, Brandy Lockhart, Steven King, Ellen Remington, and Attorney John Hill. Back row: Bike Winner Nathan Klatt, a kindergartener.

Four budding young authors win bicycle helmets

Four budding authors won bicycle helmets at Clinton Elementary and one winner received a bike, in a helmet safety contest sponsored by the law firm of Scanlon and Gearing of Akron.

Children were taught the need to "Buckle up your Brain" at a safety assembly in April and invited to write a poem, rap or paragraph about why wearing a helmet is important. Entries were judged by law firm members on creativity, content and originality. A winner was selected from each grade level and from those winners, one winner was selected to win a bike.

Helmet winners were announced by Attorneys Patrick Hart and John Hill on May 29 at an all-school presentation assembly. They are: Kindergarten - Nathan Klatt, First Grade - Brandy Lockhart, Second Grade - Steven King, Third Grade - Ellen Remington. The winner of a new blue 24" Scorpio bike was Nathan Klatt.

Scanlon and Gearing Co. decided to actively promote helmet safety after one of their attorneys, Mark Hilkert, had a bicycle accident. Thanks to the helmet he wore, he avoided serious injury. This is the third year the firm has sponsored the

helmet safety contest in ten area schools to educate children about the importance of helmets, during May, American Bike Safety Month.

The New England Journal of Medicine, 1989, reports that one in seven children involved in a bicycle related accident suffers a head injury and 75 percent of all cyclist's deaths involve head injuries. Helmets have been shown to reduce the risk of brain injury by 88 percent and the risks of head injury by 85 percent.

Other schools participating in this year's safety contest are: Findley, Lincoln, King, Portage Path, St. Sebastian (all in Akron), Johnson in Barberton, West Main in Ravenna, Newberry in Cuyahoga Falls and Schrop in Springfield.

The winning entries from Clinton are:

Nathan Klatt (Kindergarten): "You might fall and crack your head or you might die and if that were to happen my parents would cry. So I wear my helmet every day when I go out to play."

Brandy Lockhart (First Grade): "I feel it should be a law to wear a helmet while riding your bike. Because a helmet protects your head, brain and face from bad hurts. I have fallen off my bike before and my

neighbor fell and broke her jaw! She had to have her mouth wired shut. Now she always wears a helmet when she rider her bike and I always wear mine."

Steven King (Second Grade): "I wear a helmet because somebody could get their head split open or you would get unconscious. You could die. You could get injured. God did not give me my brain to waste."

Ellen Remington (Third Grade): "Wearing a helmet while bike riding is cool. They come in all kinds of colors and designs and keep us safe too. Without a helmet your life could really change if you had an accident. If you hit your head you might not ever talk, walk, run, think or hug your mom and dad again. So be cool - Helmets rule!"