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Otis student seeks funds to attend conference

BY LESLIE BIXLER
Staff writer

FREMONT -- Dominic Cominsky, a sixth-grader at Otis Elementary School, is trying to raise more than \$2,000 to attend the Junior National Young Leader's Conference in Washington, D.C., April 4-9.

"It's a very big honor," said his mother, Cathy Cominsky.

Dominic was nominated by his teacher Tracie Dye. While he is the only one from his school who is going, students participate in the conference from all over the country.

Dominic is taking donations through the Fremont Federal Credit Union in care of Dominic Cominsky.

"I'm really excited because I've always wanted to go to D.C.," Dominic said.

Students who attend are responsible for funding the trip themselves, and Dominic has been hard at work writing letters to area businesses, selling homemade candles and doing odd jobs for family and friends to earn the money to go.

"He's at least halfway to his goal," Cathy said.

Dominic found out he was nominated when he received a letter last October. His mother said the great thing about the experience is that it will help prepare him for college.

Daniel R. Sanchez, a probation officer at the Fremont Municipal Court and a Green Springs police officer, coached Dominic for fifth- and sixth-grade basketball. Dominic always showed respect for Sanchez and the members on the team, the coach said.

"He was the kid, who would help out another kid on the team if they were hurt or feeling down," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said he would have the kids bring in their grades every Thursday to see who would be playing in Saturday's games. Dominic always strived to bring in good grades.

The Fremont Police Department has donated money toward Dominic's trip, Sanchez said.

According to the letter Dominic received, the leadership program is designed to educate, motivate and inspire exceptional sixth and seventh grade students by giving them the confidence and leadership skills that will take them through high school and beyond. He was nominated based on demonstrated maturity, academic achievement and outstanding leadership potential.
