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Newsmaker: Stacy Kamumbu

By Mike Cronin, TRIBUNE-REVIEW
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Photos



Stacy Kamumbu

About the writer

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Residence: Stanton Heights
Age: 13

Family: Father, Joshua Kivuva, 40; mother, Leonora Kivuva, 39; brother, Victor, 10; sister, Megumi, 7

Noteworthy: Won the 2007 Carnegie Museum of Natural History Award for her project, "What is a Mosquito's Preference for Different Oils?" Judges gave her a perfect score in a competition that drew entries from 85 schools. Her experiment demonstrated the attractive or repellent effect of citronella, castor and peppermint oils on mosquitoes. She found that citronella oil works best at repelling mosquitoes, followed by castor oil. Peppermint oil attracts mosquitoes. She plans to enter her project in the Junior Academy of Science State Finals next month at Pennsylvania State University.

Education: In eighth grade at the Ellis School, an all-girls school in Shadyside

Background: Stacy and her family moved to Pittsburgh in 2000 from Nairobi, Kenya. Besides English, she speaks Swahili and Spanish. Stacy hopes to become a surgeon.

Quote: "There are lots of mosquitoes in Africa. I wanted to find a way to keep them away with natural oils. There are a lot of oils around Africa. ... I've always liked finding out how things work and why. That's why I like science."

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