

Money is on Crawford, 14 to boost game's success

English teaching aid entrepreneur is still at school himself

By LALITA AUGUSTINE

HE is still at school, but this successful entrepreneur is already celebrating his first year in business.

And 14-year-old Crawford Johnston wants to share his invention with all Scotland's secondary schools.

The teenager launched Creative Writing Magic Money Cards last summer and they have since helped thousands of pupils improve their English skills.

As part of the first anniversary celebrations, Crawford would like to meet Scottish Education Secretary Michael Russell and is offering a free set

of cards for every Scottish secondary.

He said: "I'd love to meet him to discuss any way I can help."

Crawford, whose family is from Cardonald, Glasgow, but who lives with his mum Ruth and dad John in Northampton, came up with the idea when he was just 11, to help him understand his own English homework.

He said: "I found reading textbooks dull, so I started writing out the words and definitions on paper and cut them out. I spread them out

in front of me and I thought wow, this really works. If I found them useful, maybe others would as well."

Funded by his pocket money and an inheritance, Creative Writing Magic Money Cards was launched last year.

The cards, designed to help nine to 15-year-olds improve their creative writing skills, are being used by schools in the UK and abroad, and have been praised by the National Union of Teacher's magazine, *The Teacher*, and the *Times Educational Supplement*.

Played as a game, the cards explain concepts such as the use of paragraphs and creative structures for short stories.

'Money' points are allocated to each card and pupils are encouraged to use as many as possible to increase their winnings.

The game fits



■ Dad John, mum Ruth and grandad Johnny with Crawford, who is about to begin studying for his GCSEs

in with the Curriculum for Excellence for Scotland, and National Curriculum Key Stages 2 and 3 in England.

Crawford said: "The cards work for adults as well as children."

The business-savvy teen, who is to start studying for GCSEs this term, said: "I'm amazed it's got this far. I

didn't expect anything more than a few orders."

Proud John, 58, said: "I wasn't doing half the things he does when I was 14."

Crawford's 88-year-old grandfather, Johnny, from Cardonald, said: "I'm very proud of my grandson."

For details, see: www.creativewritingmmc.co.uk



■ Crawford Johnston, 14, is celebrating his first year in business with his creative writing game as he continues his own school career

Allergies in spotlight at workshops

FAMILIES affected by severe allergies are invited to take part in two special workshops, aimed at managing the condition.

A workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Express at Glasgow Airport on Saturday, September 8 from 1-5pm, providing information for parents who have an allergic child aged three-11.

A workshop will be held the next day at the same time, for parents and children aged 11 to 18, covering risks management, handing over responsibility to the allergic youngster and a refresher on adrenaline auto-injector use.

For more information, see www.anaphylaxis.org.uk or call Gill Elliott on 01252 893859 or e-mail gill@anaphylaxis.org.uk

Get in lane for bowling alley art prize

A GLASGOW bowling alley is calling on kids to swap pins for pens to help design a quirky creature in a nationwide competition.

AMF Bowling, at Springfield Quay, is one of 42 centres across the UK urging youngsters to create their own monsters for its Monster Bowl event in October.

The winner will win a bowling session for all their classmates.

Anyone under 16 can enter, the closing date is Sunday September 16. See www.amfbowling.co.uk/monsterbowl for details and entry form

Co-op coup for school

LOUDOUN Academy in East Ayrshire has become the first Scottish School of Co-operation after linking up with the Co-operative Society.

Now 12 pupils hope to become the first in the country to gain a SQ award in Co-operative Studies.

The school teaches pupils from several villages, including Fenwick, which is believed to be where the world's first co-operative workers' enterprise was founded in 1761.

Glamour and games raise £60k for hospice

By LINDA ROBERTSON

BURLESQUE, butlers in the buff and a truly knockout event helped raise £60,000 for the Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow.

More than 630 glamorous ladies gathered at the city's Hilton Hotel on Friday for the eighth annual Girls Up Town dinner, which raised more than £45,000.

Guests enjoyed performances from Glasgow's Club Noir, Britain's Got Talent star Edward Reid and cocktails served by butlers from Man Candy.

On Saturday, 18 teams clambered over inflatable assault courses for It's A Knockout at Glasgow Green, which generated more than £14,000.

The Florence Nightingale And The Machines team from the Nuffield Health won the morning competition, with Team MG from the Bunker Bar securing the afternoon title.

The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, next to the River Clyde, helps patients with life-limiting and terminal illness achieve the best

quality of life for the time they have left.

In 2011 the hospice announced plans to build a new facility in Glasgow by 2016.

"We'd like to thank every person who helped us to raise much-needed funds," said Morag Cunningham, the hospice's director of fundraising and communications.

"I would especially like to

thank Lorna McGowan, Frances McMeeking and Laurie Nicol, the organising committee for Girls Up Town.

"We hope everyone had a really enjoyable time at both events and I would encourage those interested in fundraising to visit www.ppwh.org.uk to find out how they can get involved."