

BRIANNA BELL | 13

incoming eighth-grader at Kimpton Middle School in Stow

WHAT SHE GOT: Brianna, who recently won the 2007 Miss Pre-Teen Ohio Photogenic Competition, proved to be the most creative, thriftiest shopper in our bunch. She got three outfits for her \$50 by sticking to resale shops and discount stores. "I found all the good labels — Abercrombie, Hollister, Limited Too — but at a much cheaper price," she says.

Abercrombie & Fitch fitted shirt, \$1. (All clothing is from the Growing Years resale shop in Stow.)

Abercrombie & Fitch corduroy jacket, \$10.

Limited Too brown T-shirt, \$5.

Aeropostale miniskirt, \$6.

Espadrille sandals, \$7.99, at Payless Shoe Store.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARVIN FONG | THE PLAIN DEALER

BACK TO SCHOOL

The REAL deal

Teens have the tools when shopping for school

KIM CROW | Style Editor

This is the time of year we're supposed to gravely inform our readers about big trends in back-to-school fashion. "This year, students will gravitate to brightly hued polo-neck tops and fitted denim inspired by their favorite celebrities." Yawn.

Rather than a bunch of old people telling you what's cool for school, we went right to the source for that information — teenagers themselves. We gave three local kids a budget of \$50 each and asked them to hit the stores, looking for an outfit — or outfits — that best summed up what they consider the top style trends for fall 2007.

All three teens sought out bargains with practiced ease. Brianna Bell of Stow hit the resale shops, Kayleigh Dalton of Cleveland headed for cheap chic H&M, while Michael Jones of Shaker Heights went straight to sales racks at Dillard's and American Eagle Outfitters. Did they come in for their photo shoots with the trends we hoped they would buy into? Of course not.

That's what being a cool kid — and uncool adult — is all about.

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FASHION PHILOSOPHY: "You don't have to spend a lot of money to look good," Brianna says with conviction. When she shops, she likes to look for items that will complement what already exists in her wardrobe. "You don't need a whole head-to-toe outfit, you can mix and match with what you already have."

FASHION PHILOSOPHY: "I'm not going to just grab something and bring it home. I'll try it on," says Michael. "So I try on a lot of things, and I'll get whatever I think looks good. It's usually T-shirts or polo shirts, something comfortable." He admits that he likes to shop but doesn't know if his friends do, too. "It's not really something we talk about."

E4 SEE THE OUTFIT THAT 15-YEAR-OLD KAYLEIGH DALTON PUT TOGETHER

MICHAEL JONES | 17

incoming junior at Shaker Heights High School

WHAT'S IN FOR FALL?

"A lot of people still wear cargo shorts, but colorful, plaid shorts are really popular this year."

WHAT HE GOT: Michael hit the sales racks for his finds, cargo shorts and a graphic-printed T-shirt. "Everything was 50 percent off. It was a good time to shop."

Ralph Lauren graphic T-shirt, \$24.19, at Dillard's.

Cargo shorts, \$19.95, at American Eagle Outfitters.

