

January 9, 2017

## **CANADA'S MOST**

Burnaby Mountain is laying claim to the fame of a few of "Canada's" top contenders.

Grade 12 student, Justin Choi, recently made his mark in "Canada's Most Informed Student" Competition. The competition is based on a daily quiz focused on post-secondary and career options, labour market, health & safety, and financial literacy resources. Last spring, Justin was one of 38 competitors of 500 left standing in the 40 day qualifying round. In the final round this past fall, he finished with 394/400 questions correct to tie for 4th place and won a \$500 ChatterHigh Scholarship.

Also, Mountain alumnus and debating coach, Frankie Cena, was a contestant on the pre-holiday competition of *Canada's Smartest Person*. He "aced" his 45 second improv pitch of a movie to *Ghostbusters* director Ivan Reitman. Perhaps his film will be coming soon? Congrats to both Justin and Frankie - two "top" Canadians.

## **FINLAND'S FINEST**

Benjam Papp, a grade 12 Burnaby Central student is the 2017 Finnish National Skating Champion, placing first in the Junior Category for Finland Nationals by over 20 points. Benjam is a student in Central's AVPA program. It gives athletes and performers the opportunity to pursue their interests at a professional level while maintaining their studies. Benjam began skating at age 9. Surrounded by three other skating siblings, the competition amongst them is fierce! He's hopeful that someday soon he'll be competing in the world championships - we'll be watching.

## **FORMER ACCOMPLISHMENTS MOTIVATE TODAY'S TEAM**

A few years ago, Burnaby South's 1953 senior basketball team was inducted into the Burnaby Sports Hall for their provincial win - yet until recently, they weren't recognized on home court. In early December, South acknowledged this team's accomplishment by raising their "win" banner to the rafters. Joel Grigg was on hand to relish the moment. His father had been on the team, and he himself was a team member when South won in 1979. Athletic director Robbie Puni believes that past success motivates present teams - so get ready for another awesome season of Rebel fever coming soon.

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## **READY TO PLAY**

Windsor Elementary won some funds last Spring to make improvements to their playground. Recently, Shawn Pettipas, Senior Manager, of BCAA Community Impact presented Principal Kinder Jones with a cheque for \$20,000 to be used towards some new intermediate playground equipment. A merry-go-round spinner and climber have been purchased and will be installed in the summer of 2017. Thank you BCAA for making this school's dream a reality!

## **MATH MADNESS**

Once again, Moscrop Secondary students are flexing their math muscles. Over the break, the school learned that its math students finished amongst the top five BC schools in the 2016 Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge. Math team members will be attending a special day of activities at UBC later this month. More Moscrop student math achievements coming soon.