

January 12, 2016

HISTORIC MOMENT 2015

Last year Burnaby South Social Studies teacher **Ms. Sabha Ghani** made a deal with her class that if they entered the Government of Canada's "History Now" Contest, then she would enter too. Several students took her up on her offer, and one student **Tim Cormier**, won a Government of Canada History Award and cash prize for his essay: [*Our Emblem and Herald: The National Flag of Canada.*](#)

But that's not all - for **Ms. Ghani** was also a winner! Her engaging teaching project [*Canada's Prime Ministers: Show Me the Money.*](#) had students analyze the prime ministers on our current currency and then pick one to be considered for the new \$500 bill. She was one of 20 teachers recognized - and she received a cash prize too.

CREATING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On November 26, almost 100 educators from the District, and SFU, our community partner, came together to share and dream about Community Education in our schools. The theme of the day was "How can we live and breathe the goals of community schools in all of Burnaby's schools?" Facilitators included Director of Instruction, **Peter Dubinsky**, who reviewed the "History of Community Schools," and Principal **Sue Montabello** who spoke on "Care and Community." It was an inspiring day for all and established a great framework to move forward.

ZOOMFEST 2015 - AND THE WINNERS ARE

Once again the spotlight was on Burnaby Schools' talent at ZoomFest - a contest where young filmmakers have 48 hours to plan, shoot and produce a finished film. The movie *Void* by seven Burnaby South students received nominations in three categories - Sound Design, Technical and Male Actor. It ultimately won the Best Actor award, with an exceptional performance by **Hanzel Morzo** and second place for Sound Design. Additionally, Byrne Creek Community School student filmmakers submitted the film *Painted Memories*. Accolades to **Shina Likasa** who was the third place finisher in the Best Actress category.

BURNABY SCHOOLS 101

There are many options for parents to consider when choosing the right school for their child. To introduce preschool parents in Burnaby to the District and showcase the opportunities that it offers, Assistant Superintendent **Wanda Mitchell** and Early Childhood Education Coordinator **Doreen George** have taken a presentation about Burnaby Schools on the road. So far they've visited two preschools, connecting with more than 50 families. Trustee **Katrina Chen** attended last week's parent evening event with son Yoann, who hopes the new preschool friends he met will be attending a Burnaby school in the near future.