

April 11, 2016

## **ACE-IT HAIRSTYLISTS LEND SUPPORT TO DOWN SYNDROME RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

ACE-IT Hairstyling students, **Gracyn Hiemstra** and **Pailin Suwanna-ruang** recently lent their time and talent to the Down Syndrome Research Foundation. The stylists provided the models with hair and makeup services, so they could look their best in front of the camera. The Down Syndrome Research Foundation is a Burnaby-based organization that empowers individuals with Down syndrome to reach their full potential as contributing members of the community. We are proud of our students for supporting this worthwhile cause.

## **NATIONAL MATH CONTEST WINNER FROM BURNABY SCHOOL**

Sun Life Financials' Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC) is Canada's premier math competition. Its purpose is to encourage high school students to explore, discover, and learn more about mathematics and problem solving. The results of Burnaby South student **Boya Yong** speak for themselves. He received a 'Best in Canada' silver award in the grade 8 and under category. Congratulations Boya.

## **TWO BURNABY TEACHERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

**Amos Lee**, Math Teacher and Advanced Learning Department Head at Burnaby South Secondary, and **Maria Nicolidakis**, Math Teacher and Math Department Head at Burnaby Central have both been recognized with McEwen Family Teacher Recognition Awards from UBC and SFU respectively. The award celebrates teachers who go above and beyond teaching the curriculum to ensure their students succeed not just academically but personally as well. The award, includes a \$5,000 school grant to be used for enrichment activities or programs. All good deeds get noticed, for a \$250 honorarium also goes to the former student of the winning teacher who submitted the nomination.

## **DEAF CONNECTIONS WEEK**

Last week the Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf & Hard of Hearing launched their first **DEAF CONNECTIONS WEEK** Celebration. It provided an opportunity for growth, mentorship, inclusion and friendship. Day one brought students from across the province together at the BC School for the Deaf to experience life in a deaf environment. Day two was Optimist Speech Competition Day, where 24 students presented on how their optimism has influenced others. Two students from the BC School for the Deaf, **Nina Ward** and **Ethan Bolton** who presented speeches using American Sign Language, placed 1st and 2nd respectively. The final day of the event was Friendship Day at the Vancouver Aquarium and included a chance to sleep with the beluga whales.

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### **MIND OVER METAL**

During the first week of spring break, 15 enthusiastic Burnaby Schools youth got up early each day to participate in a welding camp hosted by BCIT. Funded by the Canadian Welding Association, it provided a unique experience for students who would benefit the most and might otherwise not get the opportunity to attend such a program. The youth were extremely dedicated and exceeded the welding instructor's expectations – and the expectations of the youth too. One participant, a self-confessed poet, was so inspired, she wrote a poem about the experience and shared it on the final day. The CWA and BCIT look forward to hosting our students again next year.

### **EVERYONE'S A WINNER AT BURNABY'S GOT TALENT**

Burnaby students certainly are talented – and the singers, dancers, musicians and beatboxers didn't miss a beat at Burnaby's Got Talent! The appreciative audience got their money's worth – and then some! The top four finalists included beatboxer **Jonathan Calvez** (Burnaby Mountain), pop n' lock dancers **Stanley Ho and Louis Blanco** (Moscrop), interpretive dancer **Ai Okanaka** (Burnaby South) and vocalists **Avery and Veronica Amores** (Byrne Creek) who ultimately took home the trophy at the end of the night. Amongst the highlights was DSAC's announcement that over \$4,500 had been raised for the Burnaby Youth Hub. Congratulations to the hardworking DSAC members and the performers for a great night that showcased Burnaby Schools' talent and heart.

### **BC WINTER GAMES**

What a Games it was! 1700 participants and 1800 volunteers were part of the Penticton 2016 BC Winter Games that took place in March. And they included thirty six students from eleven Burnaby schools. The youth participated in a variety of sports including netball, judo, ringette, karate, and speed skating. Twenty five students returned to Burnaby with medals. Congratulations to all of our Burnaby School's participants.