

October 24, 2016

## **BUILDING BRIDGES TO JAPAN**

Last week, students in six of our secondary schools had the opportunity to meet and learn alongside visiting students from Tokyo's Nichidai Tsurugaoka (pronounce: Nick-i- day Sue - rue -gack - a) High School. The Japanese students were paired with "Canadian buddies" in the morning. In the afternoon, the Japanese students hosted an interactive cultural fair that showcased traditional Japanese games and art. Arranged through a partnership with the District's International Education Program and MLI, a service provider for International Students, this unique cultural exchange was a mutually beneficial learning experience.

## **EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

Orange Shirt Day provides an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. It is recognized on September 30. Many District schools participated by hosting school assemblies, distributing facts on posters or 'paper shirts' or through special performances brought into the school.

Two weeks after Orange Shirt Day, Second Street Community School and Cariboo Hill Secondary hosted a Celebration of Aboriginal Culture evening. More than 175 people attended and enjoyed a dinner of salmon, bannock, rice, salad and chicken. Aboriginal dancers performed and encouraged audience participation. Children were kept busy with craft activities that included tile making, button blankets and cookie decorating. Special thanks goes out to the event's funding partners and the community parents and community council who orchestrated the event.

## **COMIC CASH CREATION**

Pavan, a grade 7 student at South Slope Elementary, is one of 3 finalists in the TELUS WISE comic contest. As a finalist he has won \$500 for himself and \$1000 for the school for a digital literacy program - but South Slope can win up to \$3,000 if he wins it all! TELUS WISE is a free educational program that helps keep Canadian families and communities safer from online criminal activity such as financial fraud & cyberbullying. Cast your vote for Pavan's comic today, and every day until October 28!

**Vote at:** <https://wise.telus.com/footprint/comic-contest/>

- more -

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

International Day of the Girl Child recognizes girls' rights and the unique political, social and economic challenges they face around the world. To create awareness, two events that focused on gender stereotypes in the media was organized by the United Nations Association in Canada in partnership with the Burnaby School District and AJC Media Group. The events kicked off with panel discussions made up of accomplished experts throughout Metro Vancouver. Then moderators Greg Neuman and Dawn Black helped guide participants in a collaborative discussion on how to counter the negative effects the media has on harmful gender norms. Almost 100 parents and youth attended these sessions that were held at Byrne Creek Centre for Dialogue.