

**Oct 13, 2009**

### **Recognizing Teacher Excellence**

"A good teacher inspires a thirst for learning that lasts a lifetime," stated Prime Minister Stephen Harper earlier this month when 84 Prime Minister's Awards were bestowed to educators across Canada. Among the recipients was Burnaby Mountain math teacher, Richard Ryant who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement. Teachers were nominated by parents and fellow educators as leaders who have been innovative in helping students excel. Richard graduated from Burnaby Central's vocational program in 1983. Fourteen years later he returned to the district to begin a career as a teacher.

### **Cariboo Student Proves That "Yes He Can!"**

Cariboo Hill grade 12 student Jake Anthony lives with autism, a communication disorder. However he hasn't let that stop him. A student in the Pre-employment Program, Jake already has an impressive portfolio.

- On Oct 13 Jake will be presenting an award to Prime Minister Harper recognizing the role the Prime Minister has played in promoting/passing legislation for the Registered Disability Savings Plan.
- On November 7 he will be awarded the Provincial Yes I Can! Award which honours children and youth with disabilities who have excelled. The BC selection committee has chosen Jake's nomination to be considered for the International award.
- Jake has been very active in the local film industry. Of late he has been an extra in two of the "Twilight" movies and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

### **Burnaby Staff Member Recognized at UN Video Conference**

On October 13, at 7:30 am, at Byrne Creeks Centre for Dialogue, 100 district secondary students and teachers joined students from New York and Philadelphia via videoconference to celebrate 71 years of achievement for the United Nations. During the event, Albert Lee was awarded the Global Education Motivators Award for the years of technological support he has provided in bringing the world into the classroom. Board Chair Diana Mumford and Superintendent Claudio Morelli were on hand to offer their congratulations to Albert on this recognition.

### **ACE-IT Student Follows The Sun**

Burnaby North grade 12 student and Viking View Student Newspaper editor Jory Wong has been hired as a contract-based photojournalist with the Vancouver Sun. Jory was the driving force behind the re-birth of the Viking View school paper a couple of years ago. She is also enrolled in the district's Film & Broadcasting ACE-IT program.

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### **A New Beginning for Burnaby Central**

The official groundbreaking for the new Burnaby Central took place on October 1. Board Chair Mumford welcomed guests and acknowledged that the new school will be safe, secure and enhance learning opportunities with energy and technology systems that best meet the needs of today's learners. Burnaby Central Aboriginal Youth Leader Jay Morven and his uncle performed a "new beginning" ceremonial song prior to six golden shovels being dug in the dirt. A reception followed, catered by students from Central's ACE-IT Professional Cook Training Program.

Details of the new Burnaby Central Secondary can be viewed on the district website at [www.sd41.bc.ca](http://www.sd41.bc.ca)

### **Inspired to Change the World**

On September 29, "We Day Vancouver" brought 16,000 BC students together to learn about how they can help change the world with their daily choices. More than 550 Burnaby student leaders, one of the largest participating groups, were inspired by participants that included His Holiness the Dalai Lama, endangered species activist and scientist Jane Goodall, actress Mia Farrow, and Free the Children's inspirational founders Marc and Craig Kielburger. Students who attended are in turn sharing the knowledge they gained with their schools and are looking at ongoing ways that they can implement change throughout the year.