

Celebrating school libraries

Coquitlam Now
Fri 20 Oct 2006
Page: 12
Section: Community
Byline: Simone Blais Education
Column: Class Act
Source: Coquitlam NOW
Edition: Final
Story Type: Business; Column
Length: 890 words
Illustration: Photo: Asif Zaman; Photo: Craig Mah has his head shaved.

Monday is the day to celebrate the heart of schools. International School Library Day is Oct. 23, and students in District 43 will be celebrating with international inspiration.

A host of elementary schools in the district have partnered up with schools across the globe to exchange personally designed bookmarks, as well as a list of the books they like to read.

Teacher-librarian Pat McCann at Glen Elementary said that her students created bookmarks that were sent earlier this month to Boulcott School in Lower Hutt, a suburb of Wellington in New Zealand.

"This project promotes books that Canadian children love to read, as each bookmark describes a favourite book to read from this school library," McCann said, adding that Glen students will "find out what children on the other side of the world love to read too."

CLOSE SHAVE FOR PRINCIPAL

Vanier Elementary School held a walk-a-thon to raise funds for an in-school publishing house, where the children will have their written works turned into special quality books.

The publishing house is meant to complement the school goal of improving children's writing, and will be supplemented by a writer's series with visiting B.C. authors this year. School principal Craig Mah challenged the students by vowing to shave his head if they raised \$3,500 in pledges -- a challenge which they easily met.

Mah was subjected to the clippers during a recent school assembly, when kindergarten teacher Sandy Jones lopped off his locks.

RIVERSIDE TURNS 10

Riverside Secondary is preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary on Thursday, Nov. 9, and is inviting the community to take part in the bash.

The celebrations at the school will include special displays and presentations by each department. The English department is hosting a coffee house with readings of poetry, recitations of plays and some music. The technology education and art departments have combined to create a special model of the school, which will be on display in the foyer.

The library has also plans to display archives of the school's first 10 years.

Guests, alumni and dignitaries are welcome to drop by the school between 3 and 7 p.m., and check out the celebration ceremony at 4 p.m.

The school is located at 2215 Reeve St. in Port Coquitlam.

POSTER PLANS

The British Columbia Art Teachers' Association (BCATA) is welcoming the images and voices of students, teachers, administrators, parents and members of the community to create a series of mini posters to communicate the importance of the arts.

The objective is to have representation from students of all ages, school districts and art institutions throughout the province. Posters will be distributed through newsletters, BCATA mailings and will be featured on the BCATA website. Permission must be obtained from parents, and only first names or a class name will be published.

For more information, contact Regan Rasmussen at 250-478-5548 or e-mail rrasmussen@shaw.ca.

BIG BUCKS FOR SCHOLAR

Port Moody Secondary's Asif Zaman has cashed in when it comes to scholarships.

The IB program graduate managed to scoop up \$39,300 in awards and bursaries to go towards his studies at Simon Fraser University.

Zaman won an SFU entrance scholarship (\$34,000), in addition to receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from Pacific Coast Terminals, \$1,000 from Miller Thompson, the \$500 Coquitlam Teachers' Association merit award, \$2,000 for the provincial gold medal and \$800 from the Passport to Education.

MATH FUNDING

B.C. graduate students in mathematical sciences will receive \$100,000 in funding from the B.C. government in an effort to place student interns at businesses provincewide.

The goal of the funding is to move more math students from the classroom into the workforce for hands-on experience. The funding will enable businesses to benefit from unique mathematical skills, seen as a new way to drive innovation in the Canadian economy, according to Dr. Arvind Gupta, the scientific director of Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS), which manages the math internship program.

"No longer is the choice for math graduates to either become professors or move south of the border to greener pastures," Gupta said in a news release.

"Through the support of the B.C. government and local organizations and businesses, we're providing math graduates with an unprecedented chance to use their skills in the workforce, to shed a different light on complex problems than traditional disciplines and make important contributions to the Canadian economy.

"As a result of the effectiveness of math students, more and more companies are realizing the benefits of incorporating the students within their organizations."

MITACS is a national research network that brings together university researchers and companies in a collaborative effort to solve industry problems, in fields such as biomedical, health, environment, natural resources, information processing, risk and finance, communication, networks and security.

Launched in 2003, the MITACS internship program provides graduate students with an opportunity to address high-level research issues using advanced mathematics on-site at a company -- spending a minimum of 50 per cent of their time over a four month-period at a company, undertaking research on a problem jointly identified by the business, MITACS and the students' supervising professors. The rest of the students' time is spent at the university, further advancing their research under the guidance of their supervisors.

To date, the internship program has brought about 45 students into B.C. businesses.

For more information about the MITACS internship program, visit www.mitacsinternships.ca.