



News Release

Saskatoon School Wins \$20,000 Best in Class Fund Technology Grant from Best Buy Canada

Bethlehem Catholic High School's Winning Grant Proposal Selected By Panel of Technology and Education Experts Among Hundreds of Canadian Entries

Announcement Highlights:

- Best Buy Canada awards \$250,000 in technology grants to 15 Canadian schools.
- Bethlehem Catholic High School awarded with \$20,000 technology grant for successful grant proposal.
- Geek Squad will offer complimentary technology support to Bethlehem Catholic High School.
- An additional five Canadian schools will receive \$10,000 each in technology grants this year.
- Since 2008, Best Buy has awarded \$750,000 in technology grants through Best in Class.

Burnaby, BC, December 15, 2010 – Christmas came early for students at Bethlehem Catholic High School in Saskatoon, SK when they were awarded a \$20,000 technology grant as one of ten national winners of the Best in Class Fund awarded by Best Buy, Canada's fastest growing retailer and e-tailer of consumer electronics. Bethlehem Catholic High School is one of two SK-based schools to receive the \$20,000 grant which will include cutting edge consumer technology and support from Best Buy's Geek Squad on how to maximize it in the classroom.

Bethlehem Catholic High School's winning proposal was an inspirational video that showed what it would be like if the students had the ability to integrate mobile technology into the classroom. With the use of iPod Touches, the students were able to break out of their four walls and develop their creativity.

"Every year we at Best Buy are so inspired by the innovative ways of incorporating technology into the classroom proposed in the Best in Class Fund submissions," said Danielle Jang, Communications Manager at Best Buy Canada. "We initially set out to award ten \$20,000 grants, but we were so impressed by the innovation and quality of proposals received, that we decided to award an additional five schools with honorable mentions each worth \$10,000."

Conceived as an education-focused program that inspires teachers and students to develop compelling educational projects that will advance learning through the integration of technology in the classroom, The Best in Class Fund has become an increasingly popular program among Canadian schools and has been backed by a number of Canada's top technology and education experts.

"In all of the winning proposals, students and teachers clearly outlined breakthrough ways to incorporate new technology into their classroom or school and showcased how this investment would add substantially to their learning environment," said Dr. Michele Jacobsen, who was part of a research effort earlier this year that explored the correlation between teachers' willingness to integrate technology in classrooms and student performance. "In order for Canadian schools to remain competitive and best facilitate student education, Canada needs programs like The Best in Class Fund to help us engage and teach today's tech-savvy youth."

The ten schools to receive a technology grant worth \$20,000 and complimentary Geek Squad services are:

1. Clayburn Middle School – Abbotsford, BC
2. Langley Fine Arts School – Fort Langley, BC
3. Elizabeth School – Cold Lake, AB
4. **Bethlehem Catholic High School – Saskatoon, SK**
5. École W.S. Hawrylak School– Regina, SK
6. Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute – Winnipeg, MB
7. Crosby Heights Public School – Richmond Hill, ON
8. St. Rita Catholic School – Woodstock, ON
9. École Secondaire Sieur-de-Coulonge– Fort-Coulonge, QC
10. Millwood High School – Lower Sackville, NS

The 5 additional schools to receive an honorary grant of \$10,000 are:

1. St. Mary's High School – Calgary, AB
2. Shaftesbury High School – Winnipeg, MB
3. Sunny View Junior and Senior Public School – Toronto, ON
4. École Jean-Jacques-Bertrand – Farnham, QC
5. École Joseph-Hermas-Leclerc – Granby, QC

About The Best in Class Fund

The Best in Class Fund Program began in 2008 and to-date Best Buy has donated \$750,000 (including \$250,000 this year) in technology grants to schools in Canada. The program is open to teachers and students in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, and NS.

Each Fall, students and teachers are asked to develop their proposals, which must include a video and a written proposal that outline how they would like to integrate various consumer electronic technologies in the classroom and how it will provide an educational benefit, and submit online at www.BestBuy.ca/BestinClass in time for the year's set deadline. One submission is allowed per school and it can come from a single class, or from a cross section of students and teachers from the same school, such as Student Council or other student clubs.

This year's program was championed by a national technology advisory board comprised of: Dr. David Vogt, Director of Digital Learning Projects for the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Education; Dr. Michele Jacobsen, Chair of Educational Studies in Language, Culture & Technology at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Education; as well as the respected technology experts and journalists, Marc Saltzman and Francois Charron. The technology advisory board provided critical expertise by also vetting the proposals down to the final winning schools.

For more Best in Class information and submission guidelines, please visit www.BestBuy.ca/BestinClass.

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