



## Three Surrey schools share in \$100,000 Best Buy technology grant

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 – Surrey, BC -- Best Buy Canada and the Surrey School Board today announced the donation of a total of \$100,000 to three Surrey School District secondary schools from Best Buy Canada's "Best in Class Fund" (BICF).

All Surrey Grade 8 and 9 classes were invited to submit a lesson proposal that would incorporate technology use. The top three submissions were chosen by the BICF judges to receive the grants in the form of a Best Buy gift card. The winners are:

**Frank Hurt secondary school, Grade 9 Art class:** First place – \$50,000. The submission identified the need for digital cameras, computers and software to connect traditional photography techniques with digital technology and incorporate digital photo manipulation. The goal is to promote creativity using technology.

**Tamanawis secondary school, Grade 9 Math class:** Second place – \$30,000. This submission requested tablet PCs and software to promote student peer support and to record and prepare math examples for posting on YouTube as well as a tutoring website page. The goal is to improve student communication and math comprehension using communication technologies.

**Semiahmoo secondary school, Grade 9 English class:** Third place – \$20,000. The Semiahmoo submission requested camcorders and computers to be used by students to record a ten-minute play that students must write and perform. The objective is to promote writing, communication and presentation skills.

Close to 100 Frank Hurt Fine Arts program students burst into cheers and screams when Best Buy Canada director of marketing Loveena Chera announced the first place, \$50,000 grant at a special assembly this morning.

"This year, the Best in Class Fund identified Canadian public schools in need and will support them by helping bring technology into the classroom as a way to provide educators new ways to enrich the learning experiences of Canadian youth," says Loveena Chera, Director of Marketing, Best Buy Canada. "Best Buy's mission is to help bridge the digital divide between children who have access to technology and those who do not."

The fund is a Best Buy pilot community investment program aimed at inspiring teachers and students to develop compelling educational projects that advance learning through the integration of technology in the classroom.

“The board very much appreciates the support of our community partners like Best Buy Canada in extending the educational opportunities for our students,” says Surrey Board of Education chair Reni Masi. “Certainly, promoting the understanding and use of information and communications technologies among students and teachers is critical and in fact, a board objective, and the Best Buy grant directly supports that goal.”

Each of the school classes will arrange a date and time in the new year to make their purchases at a Best Buy store.

More information about the Best in Class Fund is available at [www.bestbuy.ca/bicf](http://www.bestbuy.ca/bicf).

### **About Best Buy**

Best Buy stores in Canada are a division of Burnaby, BC-based Best Buy Canada Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Best Buy Co., Inc. (NYSE:BBY). Best Buy is Canada’s fastest-growing specialty retailer and e-tailer ([www.bestbuy.ca](http://www.bestbuy.ca)) of consumer electronics, personal computers and entertainment software and also operates the Geek Squad ([www.geeksquad.ca](http://www.geeksquad.ca)). Best Buy Canada also operates Best Buy Mobile, which sells mobile phones, plans and accessories in 3 shopping center locations in Greater Toronto. There are currently 57 stores in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Best Buy offers consumers a unique shopping experience with the latest technology and entertainment products, at the right price, with a no-pressure (non-commissioned) sales environment. The Company is committed to kids and communities, supporting non-profit organizations that help youth develop their skill set, discover their talents and sustain a lasting interest in education. For more information about Best Buy, including store locations, visit [www.bestbuy.ca](http://www.bestbuy.ca)

For more information, please contact:

For the Surrey school district:  
Doug Strachan  
Manager, communications  
(604) 599-7468  
[strachan\\_d@sd36.bc.ca](mailto:strachan_d@sd36.bc.ca)

For Best Buy Canada:  
Sarah Penz  
Community and Corporate Giving  
(604) 412-1024  
[spenz@bestbuycanada.ca](mailto:spenz@bestbuycanada.ca)