

# HOW SCHOOL TECH GRANTS ARE IMPACTING CANADA'S FUTURE

At Best Buy, we're passionate about equipping Canadian students with the right technology, and keeping them inspired, motivated and empowered. Since 2001, our **School Tech Grants** program has provided more than **\$2.8 million** to 194 schools to purchase new technology for their students.

We recently spoke with a **Heidi Jungwirth**, Grade 4/5 teacher at **Courtenay Elementary School** - one of our 2017 grant recipients - to find out how much this grant has impacted her students.

## Why did you apply for a School Tech Grant?

As a school with limited resources, we rely on grants and donations to buy the "extras". When the students from your school come from families that also have limited resources, these kids don't always have the same opportunities at home that other kids have.

## What did you use the funds for?

We bought a class set of a dozen Sphero balls, which will help teach students coding and robotics skills, while incorporating collaborative STEAM activities. We also bought four iPads to run them.

## How have your students been impacted by this technology?

Having our own set of Sphero balls enables our students to spend more time learning and exploring coding and robotics. Our school district has Sphero balls but because they're shared, students don't have as much time to internalize the learnings. Having our own set benefits the whole school district because other schools can use the district sets for longer. Purchasing extra iPads also means that there are a few more available for general classroom use, and makes this technology available to more students.

## What have your students been able to accomplish in the past year?

One interesting project was done by two girls in Grade 5, who were learning about the circulatory system. They made a large drawing of the circulatory system and then programmed the Sphero ball to travel along the arteries and veins, and to talk about the circulatory system as it moved along.

My own class has combined a few different subjects with Sphero ball programming. We started out in Social Studies by talking about immigration, and then made a huge world map (pictured below) so that we could track our families' routes of immigration from around the world. We also added interesting sites that we have been learning about, and each pair of students programmed the Sphero ball to make a 4-stop round-trip from place to place, while talking about each destination. Some of the children added extras, like sounds and music, to make their presentation more interesting!

