

EDUCATION/ *Students, staff raise \$20,000 in three days*

Elgin's generosity shines

Students and staff at Elgin Park secondary school raised a whopping \$20,574.69 in three days at a recent school-wide fundraiser.

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Combine that with about \$12,500 kicked in by the Semiahmoo Rotary Club, and the South Surrey school reached its six-month, \$33,000-goal in less than a week.

Moved by the tsunami disaster in south Asia, students want the funds to go directly to a school-rebuilding project in Thailand instead of to an aid organization, said math teacher Brad McArthur.

Elgin's 1,200 students thought \$12,000 was a good goal to set and were pleasantly surprised when the grades 8 and 9 classes collected \$3,000 the first day. Another \$6,000 was brought in by grades 10 and 11 students the next day and \$8,000 by the graduating class and staff. Another \$2,500 trickled in before the week was up, said McArthur.

"It was unbelievably suc-



Elgin's David Wen, Dana Horrocks, Justine Clift and Mark Worthing.

PHOTO/ Brian Howell

cessful."

When the Rotary Club – which will oversee the project – heard how successful the event was, it was so impressed that within five minutes another \$4,000 was collected by individual donations and a pledge for \$8,500 was made to top up the amount to \$33,000, said McArthur.

"The whole school was at a ceremony to announce the amount and present the cheque to the Rotary. It was amazing when they announce the total.

Everyone went wild cheering," said Justine Clift, a Grade 12 member of Solutions Society, the school's environmental human rights club.

"We are hoping to build a three-prong plan with the Rotary," said social studies teacher Debra Swain. "First we rebuild, then we re-equip as the school's needs grow, and third we look toward making it a sister-school relationship possibly including student exchanges working in conjunction with Semiahmoo Rotary."