

# The Dispatch

Portage Collegiate Institute  
Career Development Newsletter



## DRIVEN GRADE 10 STUDENT APPRENTICING AT FAURSCHOU AGRICULTURE PURSUES HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN EXCITING TRADE



*PCI Grade 10 High School Apprentice Susan Maina*

Susan Maina is a driven and intellectually curious grade 10 student at Portage Collegiate Institute, who is currently apprenticing at Faurischou Agriculture. With a focus on small engine and power sports, Susan is actively involved in assembling and performing other duties as needed, relishing the hands-on and kinesthetic learning opportunities that come with the job. Susan highly recommends this field to other students who enjoy the automotive end of things and prefer an active work environment over a desk job. Although she is not sure if she will pursue this career path forever, Susan is considering driving large transport vehicles, welding, or working on the pipeline. Her passion for understanding how things work is evident in her work, making her an asset to any team she is a part of.



**FAURSCHOU**  
AG CENTER

ALL HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP ISSUE

## VINCE GAINS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE BY SECURING PLUMBING APPRENTICESHIP



*PCI Grade 9 High School Apprentice Kirby Vince*

Kirby Vince, a talented 15-year-old grade 9 student at Portage Collegiate Institute, has registered as an apprentice in the trade of plumbing and has shown great promise in the field. Kirby has a natural aptitude for skilled trades and takes pride in his work. He enjoys the independence of the job and finds satisfaction in the sense of accomplishment he feels when he completes a project. Although he has only just started, we have no doubt that Kirby will be successful in his career as a plumber or electrician. Kirby's passion, dedication, and natural talent will undoubtedly lead him to great success in the skilled trades, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for him.



## WALKER'S PATH TO SUCCESS IN PLUMBING: A HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM EXPERIENCE



For those who prefer a more hands-on learning experience, like Cohen Walker, the trades and apprenticeships may be the perfect fit. One can start working towards obtaining their levels while still in school, allowing them to learn quickly about the trade they are interested in pursuing. If one does not enjoy sitting in a classroom and prefers being out in the field, then working in the trades and becoming an apprentice may be the ideal career path. Despite being a high school apprentice, Walker has already taken on numerous responsibilities such as learning about parts and inventory and assisting his journeyperson when needed, showcasing the opportunities for growth and development within the plumbing trade. As for his future goals, Walker aims to obtain his red seal in plumbing and his gas ticket, and he is currently working towards achieving these milestones through his apprenticeship at Cobbe's Plumbing and Heating.

*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Cohen Walker*



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## GROWING SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE: JACE BOYCHUK'S HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AG EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY



*PCI Grade 12 student Jace Boychuk*

Jace Boychuk is a talented and hard-working grade 12 student at Portage Collegiate Institute who has a passion for agriculture equipment technology. Currently, he is pursuing his apprenticeship in this field at Enns Brothers in Portage la Prairie, and he finds it an extremely rewarding experience. Jace enjoys learning new things and working with the people at Enns Brothers who have been very supportive and helpful in his journey as an apprentice. He highly recommends high school apprenticeships to anyone who loves working with their hands and has a passion for mechanics. Jace is planning to pursue a red seal certification in agriculture equipment technology after completing his high school education. His employer is impressed with Jace's work ethic and dedication to his craft, and they are confident that he will become an outstanding professional in his field. Overall, Jace Boychuk is a remarkable student and apprentice who is determined to achieve his goals in agriculture equipment technology.





## FROM PIPES TO MUSIC: THE MULTI-TALENTED SHANE GRANT



*PCI Grade 11 High School Apprentice Shane Grant*

Shane Grant is an exceptional Grade 11 student at Portage Collegiate Institute who has found his calling in the trade of plumbing. Currently, he is apprenticing at Cobbe's plumbing and heating where he enjoys learning how everything works. Shane is an active person and enjoys moving, making this program a perfect fit for him. He is someone who likes to learn how things work and how to fix things, not simply in theory, but actually doing it. In addition to his passion for the trades, Shane is also considering a career as a professional musician. However, he recognizes the value of obtaining certification and pursuing a life-long career in the trades. He is even considering H-Vac as another possible trade to pursue. Shane's skills and work ethic have not gone unnoticed by his employer. They are impressed with his abilities and dedication to learning. It is clear that Shane has a bright future ahead of him, and his passion for learning and dedication to his craft will undoubtedly serve him well in whatever path he chooses to pursue.



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## BELINSKI CONTINUES TO SHINE AS TRUCK AND TRANSPORT MECHANIC



*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Matthew Belinski*

Matthew Belinski is a Grade 12 PCI student who is enrolled in the High School Apprenticeship Program as a truck and transport mechanic. He has secured an apprenticeship with Burbank Express, where he is gaining hands-on experience in the trade, earning credits towards high school graduation, and receiving a salary. Belinski is also earning legitimate apprenticeship hours towards certification in the truck and transport mechanic trade. At Burbank Express, Belinski is responsible for servicing and maintaining trucks, including conducting oil changes, inspections, diagnostics, and other necessary maintenance tasks. Belinski recognizes the importance of communication in his role, stating that "effective communication is essential to ensure efficiency, thoroughness, and safety in the workplace." When asked about his favourite aspect of his apprenticeship, Belinski notes that it has provided him with invaluable learning opportunities and experiences that may not have been available to him



## HANDS-ON TRAINING PAYS OFF: FARNCOMBE THRIVES IN AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIP



*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Evan Farncombe*

Evan Farncombe, a Grade 12 student at PCI, is currently excelling in the High School Apprenticeship Program as an automotive service technician at Kitson's Service Station. Through this program, Farncombe is earning credits towards his high school graduation while also gaining hands-on training in the automotive service trade and earning a salary. Farncombe is accumulating legitimate apprenticeship hours towards certification in the trade and is currently gaining experience in oil changes, transmissions, and brakes. He recognizes that effective oral communication is an essential skill in his field, as it allows him to ask for help when needed. Farncombe's enthusiasm for his work and positive attitude towards his colleagues are commendable. He views the extra credits as a great benefit and enjoys working with his team. Farncombe's dedication to his apprenticeship program and growing skills as an automotive service technician make him a promising young professional in his field.



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## SWIDNICKI PARTICIPATES IN THE HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AS TRUCK AND TRANSPORT MECHANIC



*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Andrew Swidnicki*

Grade 12 PCI student Andrew Swidnicki is a registered Truck and Transport Mechanic apprentice who is gaining valuable experience and a head start in the trade at Portage Transport. Swidnicki thoroughly enjoys learning on the job and getting hands-on experience with trailer repairs, tires, and brakes. He recommends this trade to students who enjoy understanding how things work and learning through hands-on experience. Swidnicki is proud to be part of a supportive and hardworking team, finding the collaborative nature of the work engaging and fulfilling. His dedication and passion for the trade are evident, and he has found his calling as a truck and transport mechanic. Swidnicki is considering pursuing a career as a diesel mechanic with CN, which he believes would be a natural next step in his professional development.



## MORRISON-PRIEUR LEARNS LIFELONG SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE AS AN APPRENTICE



*PCI Grade 9 plumbing High School Apprentice Austin Morrison-Prieur*

Austin Morrison-Prieur is a 15-year-old grade 9 student at Portage Collegiate Institute who is currently apprenticing as a plumber with AB Plumbing. Despite his young age, Austin has already shown great potential in the trade and has been impressing his employer with his skills and dedication. When asked about his favourite part of the apprenticeship, Austin mentioned the flexibility of being able to work during high school hours and the fact that it is available to a lot of people. He also enjoys the environment and the people he works with, which has made his apprenticeship even more enjoyable. With a lifelong passion for building and working on things, Austin aspires to become more experienced in the trade and make a career out of it. His employer has noticed his potential and has been providing him with opportunities to learn and grow in the field, which has been a great source of encouragement for Austin.



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## CARPENTRY PASSION: CODY PLETT, THE GRADE 10 APPRENTICE CRAFTING HIS FUTURE



*PCI Grade 10 High School Apprentice Cody Plett*

Cody Plett is a dedicated grade 10 student at Portage Collegiate Institute, who has found his passion in the trade of carpentry. He is currently an apprentice with Plett Bros Construction and is thoroughly enjoying the hands-on work involved in interior finishing, especially working on baseboards and doorframes. Cody is a quick learner and finds that he is able to understand and retain information better when he is actively engaged. He sees himself pursuing a career in carpentry and possibly owning his own business in the future. Cody highly recommends this trade to students who enjoy working with their hands and being outdoors.

## ***JD PLETT BROS CONSTRUCTION***



## MEECHES TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS TRUCK AND TRANSPORT MECHANIC APPRENTICE



*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Trey Meeches*

Trey Meeches is a Grade 12 student who is currently enrolled in the High School Apprenticeship Program. Meeches was able to find employment at Long Plain First Nation Public Works, which allowed him to begin to collect hours towards his level one truck and transport mechanic certification. In addition to the apprenticeship hours, Meeches is eligible to receive eight of the associated Grade 12 HSAP credits towards high school graduation. As part of his apprenticeship, he has participated in a number of tasks including oil changes, safeties, brakes, transmissions and even some welding. Meeches points to thinking skills and problem solving as important to his apprenticeship, "When a vehicle comes in we have to use problem solving skills to narrow down the components to figure out how to repair the problem." When asked about his favourite part about being an apprentice he responded, "The best part is that by working hard you develop a specific mindset and mentality."

## RISING STAR IN AGRICULTURE: CELEBRATING PARKER MCCUTCHEON'S APPRENTICESHIP JOURNEY



*PCI Grade 11 High School Apprentice Parker McCutcheon*

Parker McCutcheon is an exceptional Grade 11 student at Portage Collegiate Institute who is currently apprenticing in the trade of Ag technician with Verwey Farms Ltd. His responsibilities include maintenance, repairs, diagnostics, and a wide range of tasks related to the operation of farm equipment. Parker enjoys the challenge of the work, especially the puzzle aspect of it. He takes pleasure in identifying a problem, figuring out how to solve it, and seeing the end result. Parker highly recommends a high school apprenticeship to anyone who enjoys hands-on work and mechanics. He believes that the ability to learn and put what you learn into practice is invaluable. Parker's goal is to obtain a red seal in the trade, which will keep many options open for him in the future. He sees himself continuing to work on the farm, applying the knowledge he has gained through his certification.



## AI HAULANI EARNS SALARY, HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT, AND AUTHENTIC APPRENTICESHIP HOURS AS AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN



*PCI Grade 11 High School Apprentice Yousef Al Houlani*

Yousef Al Houlani is a promising automotive technician apprentice who is currently working at the Hope Arising Employment Training Centre. He has a passion for working with automotive technology and has shown great potential in his field. When asked about his favorite part of the job, Yousef replied that he enjoys everything about it and takes great pride in fixing things. For Yousef, every aspect of his job is important, and he has a keen eye for detail that helps him excel in his work. When asked about his future aspirations, Yousef confidently stated that he wants to become a mechanic and eventually open his own business. With his enthusiasm and dedication, there is no doubt that Yousef will succeed in achieving his goals.



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## CHAD MELNIC: GROWING AS A YOUNG TRADESPERSON IN CARPENTRY



*PCI Grade 11 High School Apprentice Chad Melnic*

Chad Melnic, a Grade 11 student at Portage Collegiate Institute, has found his passion in the trade of carpentry. He has been apprenticing with Hoop and Holler Construction and his Building Construction Trades teachers have noticed a remarkable development in his skills since he began his apprenticeship in the field. Chad thoroughly enjoys learning and observing from his journeyperson, and he has gained experience in framing, roofing, insulation, and drywalling. It brings him a great sense of satisfaction to be in the shop and working outside using his hands. Chad highly recommends an apprenticeship to anyone who enjoys being outdoors and working with their hands. This trade allows for a lot of time spent in the fresh air. His ultimate goal is to own and operate his own carpentry business or venture into another trade, such as becoming an electrician or plumber. He is also interested in welding. With his dedication and growing skills, Chad has a bright future ahead as a young tradesperson.

## MASON DEMONSTRATES A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN THE SKILLED TRADES



*PCI Grade 11 High School Apprentice Les Mason*

Les Mason is an exceptional Grade 11 student at Portage Collegiate Institute who is currently pursuing an apprenticeship in Automotive Technology at Westward Ford. With skills in tire replacement, oil changes, and vehicle safety inspections, Les is a valuable member of the team. He takes pride in working with his hands and has a passion for understanding how vehicles work. Les has his sights set on a career in the skilled trades and is considering becoming an aircraft maintenance engineer or an ag technician. He is determined to continue working hard and honing his skills to excel in his chosen field. Les's dedication and passion for his work are evident in his excellent performance on the job.

# **WESTWARD**

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## **FORD**

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## GRADE 9 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM INTRO TO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TRADES PROGRAM



*PCI Grade 9 Intro to Construction Trades Grads*

This photo captures a group of enthusiastic grade 9 students who have completed an Intro to Building Construction Trades pilot program. As part of this program, the students received hands-on training in various construction trades including carpentry, electrical, and plumbing. The program was made possible by the Teachers Idea Fund Grant, which allowed the students to travel to Winnipeg once a week for the training. The program was a great success, thanks to the partnership with the Manitoba Construction Sector Council. In this graduation ceremony, the students proudly received their own tools, a testament to the skills they have acquired and the dedication they have shown in completing the program.







## PLPSD ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SHINES LIGHT ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP

**As Assistant Superintendent for the Portage School Division, you have demonstrated a very progressive approach to career development that includes mandating a Grade 9 Career Development course. Can you comment on this?**

I felt it was very important for all grade nine students to have this course in grade nine. I advocated this for the students to allow them to have access to the career credits that are available to them in grades eleven and twelve. In the past, when students wanted to access the career credits; the student had to take a career development course prior to the career credits being granted. By all grade nine students taking the course, it alleviates the pressure on the student in the higher grades when the student is working and would like to use the many career credit options available, as they have fulfilled the career development requirement. Career development exposes students to the many different aspects of work-life, it allows students to explore and consider many different employment opportunities that are in today's world. It starts the process for the students to gain employability skills, knowledge of the working world, and emphasizes the importance of collaboration and the ability to communicate effectively.

**You have also been a strong proponent of vocational programming such as Automotive Technology, Hairstyling, Building Construction Trades and the Health Care Aide program to name but a few. Can you comment on this stance towards vocational programming and education?**

Vocational Programming allows students the opportunities to gain technical skills and knowledge while attending high school. It prepares students to enter the workforce with skills and in some cases a complete first level of the trade area, and in other cases, a diploma that permits the student to work directly in the chosen field of study. The vocational courses are set up so the student will take the required courses and practicums three of the four years of the student's high school programming. If the student completes all eight courses, they will graduate with a dual diploma. The Health Care Aide Program is completed the last semester of the student's grade twelve year. It is exciting to see the Health Care Aide students graduate from the Health Care Aide Course and graduate from high school all in one week. Many of our graduates from our programs, immediately enter the workforce in their trained areas. It is wonderful that our students are being employed with the technical skills that they have learned in the high school programs.

**The High School Apprenticeship Program provides students with the opportunity to begin collecting authentic apprenticeship hours while still in high school. What are your thoughts about the promotion of the skilled trades and associated college options to students?**

The High School Apprenticeship Program is another excellent program that our students may access. The ability for the student to earn apprenticeship hours and high school credits simultaneously not only allows the student to gain on the job skills and training that can be used towards apprenticeship when they graduate, but they are earning high school credits at the same time. This will assist the student in the future and they will be able to acquire the Red Seal in their field, much faster. Working under a Red Seal Journey person, the students have a direct expert working and teaching them the important skills and the knowledge needed to be successful in the trade.

It is important that all students are exposed to career development options. Our students live in a fast-paced changing world. Students today need the ability to acquire transferrable skills, problem solving, collaboration and communication. Through the different career option credits, students have the opportunity to gain these skills.



*Portage School Division Assistant Superintendent Pamela Garnham*

## HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP

# MYTHBUSTERS

**Myth: Students can't apprentice in a compulsory trade.**

**False:** Students can in fact apprentice in a compulsory trade. High School Apprenticeship allows students to experience a compulsory trade like Construction Electrician before committing to post-secondary college instruction. It is a great opportunity to experience a trade in an authentic environment.

**Myth: High School Apprenticeship is for students who do not want to go to university.**

**False:** Many students who earn apprenticeship hours and credits have full intention of attending university. Students can earn High School Apprenticeship hours and credits outside of the regular school day (even in the summer months).

**Myth: High School Apprenticeship involves students committing to a career path at 16 years of age.**

**False:** Most students are unsure as to what career path they will follow. High School Apprenticeship allows them to get a taste of a particular trade so that they can make informed choices as they move towards high school graduation and consider post-secondary options. In no way are students committing to a life-long career at 16.

**Myth: In order to apprentice, your mentor must be a ticketed, red seal, or certified journeyperson.**

**False:** People who have been working in a trade for a number of years and that possess a lot of knowledge about a certain trade can register to become Designated Trainers. You must have a ticketed, red seal, or certified journeyperson as a trainer in order to apprentice in the compulsory trades.

**Myth: A high school apprentice can't be apprenticed by a family member.**

**False:** Provided the family member is a ticketed Journeyperson or a Designated Trainer, students can certainly apprentice under the guidance of a family member. Family connections are extremely beneficial in securing a High School Apprenticeship.

**Myth: High School Apprenticeship isn't real apprenticeship.**

**False:** High School Apprenticeship is authentic real-deal apprenticeship. High school apprentices are registered with Apprenticeship Manitoba and earn authentic apprenticeship hours. It's legit!



To learn more about courses and programming featured, students,

parents, and employers are encouraged to contact

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