

# The Dispatch

Portage Collegiate Institute  
Career Development Newsletter



## VINCE EXCELS AS HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICE



*PCI Grade 11 High School Apprentice Karly Vince*

Karly Vince is a Grade 11 student who is currently enrolled in the High School Apprenticeship Program. Vince was able to secure an apprenticeship with Ingram's Plumbing and Heating, which allowed her to begin collecting hours towards her level one plumbing certification. In addition to the authentic apprenticeship hours, Vince is on track to receive all eight of the associated Grade 12 HSAP credits towards high school graduation. Vince's apprenticeship has her getting a complete taste of the trade, including becoming familiar with parts, the participation in miscellaneous labour around the shop, and assisting on jobsites as required. When asked about her favourite part about her apprenticeship, Vince responded, "Learning how plumbing works and recognizing all the pieces. Also, getting to go to job sites and being able to helping out."



ALL HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP ISSUE

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## ANDERSON TAKES FIRST STEPS TOWARDS APPRENTICESHIP



PCI Grade 12 student Clinton Anderson is taking the first steps towards apprenticeship by gaining employment at Ranger Enterprizes. Anderson was able to get an entry level position at Ranger Enterprizes as a shop assistant where he aspires to eventually be able to apprentice as a Truck and Transport Mechanic.



*PCI Grade 12 High School Student Clinton Anderson with Ranger Enterprizes shop mechanic Randal Boschman*

## LODWICK GAINS VALUABLE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE AS APPRENTICE CARPENTER



*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice*

*Kaeleb Lodwick*

Kaeleb Lodwick is a Grade 12 PCI student who has begun his apprenticeship as a carpenter. Lodwick was able to land a job as an apprenticeship with Meadowland Homes, where his tasks include placing walls, measuring studs, cutting various materials, and the preparation and pouring of concrete. He acknowledges that he finds the essential skills of working with others and communication as important. Lodwick notes that through communicating effectively with his boss and co-workers, he is able to learn and to stay injury-free. He comments on daily morning meetings where everyone becomes clear on tasks at hand and goals for the day. He notes that responsibility is an important soft skill, in that if you are not responsible, you can hurt yourself or someone else can get seriously injured. Lodwick is enjoying the educational aspects of his employment as he is learning real-life skills that he can use now and in the future. He offers the following reflection in regard to his apprenticeship, "You are having fun, you are making money, and you are moving towards the next step in your life".

## OLSON BEGINS APPRENTICESHIP AS AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN



PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Kiernan Olson

Kiernan Olson is a Grade 12 PCI student who is currently apprenticing as an automotive technician at Metcalfe's Garage in Treherne. Through the High School Apprenticeship Program, Kiernan will be earning hours towards his apprenticeship as an automotive technician as well as credit hours towards high school graduation. As a high school apprentice, he is responsible for various tasks including multi-point vehicle inspections, oil changes, accessory installation, and detailing. He points to document use as an essential skill that he uses daily as an apprentice. He indicates that the multi-point inspections that he completes are essential to ensure safety. His favourite part about his employment is being able to work on cars every day. He also enjoys seeing the new vehicles and the latest in technology. He mentions that the soft skill of having a strong work ethic is super important as well. He states, "Jobs need to be done promptly and properly. There are always things to be done and having a strong work ethic tells the employer that you are responsible and reliable."



## GURKE PARTICIPATES IN THE FORD ASSET PROGRAM AS HIGH SCHOOL APPRENTICE

As a high school apprentice, Grade 12 PCI student Josh Gurke is getting a head-start in the field of automotive technology. Gurke found employment at Westward Ford where he began the collection of hours towards his Ford Asset certification. His apprenticeship has him developing the essential skill of using digital technology. Gurke has been learning how to use diagnostic scanners that produce codes by sensors identifying what part of the vehicle needs to be serviced or addressed. Gurke has also been developing the soft skill of teamwork. Gurke, his coworkers, and his journeyman, all work together to help complete tasks and to service vehicles efficiently. When asked about his favourite part of his job, he responded, "This is my dream career! I get to work on vehicles all day in a hands-on learning environment."

# WESTWARD FORD



PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Josh Gurke

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## BELINSKI GETS EARLY START ON HEAVY DUTY APPRENTICESHIP



*PCI Grade 10 High School Apprentice Matthew Belinski*

Matthew Belinski is a Grade 10 PCI student who has signed up for the High School Apprenticeship Program as a Heavy Duty Equipment Technician. Through Matthew's employment at Leslie Farms, he is getting hands on training in the trade, is earning credits towards high school graduation, and is earning a salary. He is also earning legitimate apprenticeship hours towards certification in the trade. Matthew pointed to effective communication as an important essential skill in his employment, "During harvest, there are a lot more people working and it is important to communicate with others to coordinate the many different tasks." Belinski also notes that it is important to have a strong work ethic. When asked about his favourite part about his apprenticeship Belinski replied, "The work interests me and I know the employer well. It's a good feeling working outside in the fresh air and the scenery. Great sunsets!"

**MCGLAUGHLIN TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS TRUCK AND TRANSPORT MECHANIC APPRENTICE**

*PCI Grade 12 High School Apprentice Darian McLaughlin*

Darian McLaughlin is a Grade 12 student who is currently enrolled in the High School Apprenticeship Program. McLaughlin was able to find employment at Meseyton Construction, which allowed him to begin to collect hours towards his level one Truck and Transport Mechanic certification. In addition to the apprenticeship hours, McLaughlin is on track to receive all 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, diagnostic testing, and the completion of various inspection checklists. He points to the essential skill of communication as important as conveying information with his managers and fellow workers is paramount. He comments that without effective communication, things may not get fixed correctly and people could get injured. He says that soft skills such as having a strong work ethic is another important aspect of his apprenticeship. He notes that having a strong work ethic includes getting the job done as efficiently, as properly, and as safely as possible. When asked about his favourite part about his apprenticeship, McLaughlin comments, "I think it's great! It's a good experience where I'm doing something that I like and getting hours towards my apprenticeship."

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## SAWCHUK GAINS LIFELONG SKILLS AT BAILEY HOMES



*PCI Grade 9 student Brooklyn Sawchuk with Bailey Homes foreman Stewart Ferguson*

Grade 9 PCI student Brooklyn Sawchuk has attained a position with Bailey Homes as a student employee. Sawchuk will be working as a general labourer with one of the Bailey Homes crews. Having completed the Grade 9 Career Development pre-requisite, Sawchuk will be eligible to earn up to two Credits For Employment for her work in the carpentry trade. Bailey Homes GM Sharon Bailey had the following to say about Brooklyn's employment, "She is learning a trade that she will take the experience and knowledge with her throughout her life. She's small but mighty and fits in perfectly." When asked about her favourite part about her job Sawchuk responded, "I like working with the crew and being able to work outside doing some hands on learning."





## 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 Journeyperson, 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



**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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