

For immediate release

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Trades students succeed because of partnership and support from Valley business community

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools commends local business owners and staff for being an integral and supportive part of the training journey for many District students pursuing career opportunities in the trades industry.

Each year, secondary trades students work within their community at local companies, whether paid or unpaid, to explore career pathways and gain valuable experience in the trades industry such as carpentry, electrical, welding, fabrication, and mechanics.

Along with the support of the local business community, these work placements give youth hands-on learning experiences, industry knowledge, and specialized skills, all of which lead to a more enriching education experience outside the classroom. In addition, students develop valuable interpersonal communication skills needed in supporting customers, or between co-workers and with supervisors.

Blake Kenschak, G.P. Vanier Secondary student, recently completed a 100-hour placement with DN Auto during his Grade 11 year. Prior to the Trades Sampler Program, he was not entirely certain which career path to follow.

“The work experience was a really nice steppingstone, and it all came together for me this year,” shared Kenschak. “Everyone [at DN Auto] was super friendly, and I had a good time and learning experience. It was a good introduction to become an automotive mechanics.”

From a parent's perspective, Sandra Gadd acknowledged how fantastic the program has been for her son Morgan, enrolled at Mark R. Isfeld in the Metal Mechanical Program.

“It was a dream come true for him to get that kind of on-the-job experience at Edgett Excavating. He's had minimal actual work experience before because his disabilities have meant he has had to complete classes throughout each summer,” expressed Gadd. “I'd like to thank [the District] for the opportunities the program and support have given him. Morgan is so much more confident about his future after high school now.”

Comox Valley Schools would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses that supported our Trade Sampler Program this year. Without their contribution that our District relies on each year we could not successfully support students in their career pursuits in the trades industry throughout British Columbia.

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Benco Ventures
Rideout Construction Ltd.
Pacific Air Mechanical
ServiceMaster Restore
AFC Construction
Alpine Concrete
Andrew Sheret Ltd.
KEB Construction
Cameron Contracting
Horizon Energy Systems
Coastal Pacific Mechanical
Killops Electrical
Aroc's Contracting Ltd.
Boondock Development Ltd.
Knappett Projects Inc.
Mainroad North Island Contracting LP
Canadian Tire
Forbidden Mechanical
Fountain Tire
Seeco Automotive
Randall's Autobody
DN Auto Corp
Courtenay Mazda
North Island Tractor Ltd.
Courtenay Auto Repair Centre
Mount Washington Alpine Resort - Maintenance & Facilities
School District 71 - Maintenance & Facilities
Westview Ford
Kal Tire
Dale's Plumbing
Atlas Manufacturing Ltd.
CanWest Mechanical Inc.
Ridgeline Mechanical Ltd.
Edgett Excavating Ltd.
JYD Plumbing & Gas Ltd.
Dalron Systems Ltd.
Forbidden Alloy Products
CSN-Reliable Autobody
T-Mar Industries Ltd.
Coastal Welding & Metal Fabrication

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Image Source: Comox Valley Schools



A Comox Valley Schools trades student works closely with a Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School shop teacher. Workplace experience within the school district and throughout the local business community has enabled youth to gain a broader experience with hand-on learning opportunities.