

STUDENTS LEARN TO BUILD CAREER

Students are Building Two Playhouses and a Shed at Cambie

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It's not every day a student gets to learn how to build a house from the ground up - but for Richmond School District students Spencer Kelly and Tim Yu, it is.

Kelly and Yu are students in the district's Carpentry Apprenticeship Program. Partnered with Kwantlen College, these students are working towards their Level 1 Technical Training in Carpentry. The program is open to students from all over the district.

For Kelly, being in the program is a natural fit as he grew up working with his dad in the shop and also works for the family business, K.F. Kelly & Son Ltd. Aligned timetables allow Kelly, a McRoberts French Immersion student, to participate in the Carpentry program, hosted at Cambie Secondary School.

Yu, one of three Palmer students in the program, has always enjoyed woodworking class and was recommended by his teacher to apply to the program. Yu describes the program as "really useful and practical".

Both students enjoy the hands on aspect of the program and the opportunity to build larger projects. Working all day on Carpentry gives them the opportunity to really spend some time on a project.

Currently students are building two playhouses and a shed in the Carpentry compound, located at the back of Cambie school. At first, Yu couldn't even begin to imagine building a structure like a shed, but now that his group is half finished, he is proud of the progress that was made and can really see it coming together.

Following graduation, Kelly intends to travel while continuing with his Apprenticeship as he works towards his Red Seal qualifications in Carpentry. He also hopes to add Architecture and Land Development to his skill set. Yu hopes to get into the real estate business – purchasing older homes and renovating them for re-sale.

Carpentry instructor, Matthew Wallace, describes Kelly as a natural leader whom other students turn to. Kelly plans on competing in the upcoming Regional Skills Competition, held at Cambie School on Saturday, March 8. Wallace says that Yu is a very hard working student who has tremendous potential in carpentry. Both students see this high school Apprenticeship program as a great opportunity to get a head start on their future plans.

See Kelly, Yu and all of the carpentry apprenticeship students demonstrate their skills as they build a small house inside the gym at the 5th Annual Richmond School District Career Options Fair, held Thursday, February 28, 2008 at Cambie School from 3-8pm. Admission free.

Kelly will also be competing against carpentry students from other school districts in the upcoming BC Regional Skills Competition, held Saturday, March 8, at Cambie School. Open to the general public from 8:30-2pm. Admission free.