

STUDENTS GET TASTE OF WORKING WORLD

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Food brings people together – Cassandra Malley grew up in the kitchen next to her mom and has always helped cooked for his big family.

Malley, a grade 12 McRoberts student is in the Cooking Apprenticeship program at Richmond Secondary School. In partnership with Vancouver Community College, Malley and fellow students are working towards their Level One Technical Training in Culinary Arts. The program is open to all students in the district.

Malley loves the hands on aspect of the program and sees it as an amazing opportunity. Students spend the morning cooking and then work on theory in the afternoon. Malley says that she has learned so much already and can't believe that she gets to do this while in high school.

Her fellow classmate, Amanda Veldman, likes how things are done on a bigger scale in the program. Veldman, a grade 12 MacNeill student really likes the fact that she gets to meet and work with students from other schools. Aligned timetables allow students from throughout the district to participate in various Apprenticeship programs while still attending their neighbourhood school every other day.

Cooking teacher, Mavis Anthony describes Malley as a great team worker who shows lots of focus, determination and initiative – “she always has a smile on her face”. Veldman is described as a quick learner who is very keen.

To complement Malley's training at Richmond High, she is also doing a work experience component at the highly acclaimed, Diva at the Met, located in the Metropolitan Hotel in downtown Vancouver. Malley is involved in prepping, cooking and garnishing and says it's a lot of fun.

Veldman is doing her work experience at La Belle Auberge. She also likes to be challenged and will be competing in the BC Regional Skills Competition. There she will be given a black box of ingredients & three hours in order to create two courses. She will be competing against students from various school districts in this culinary challenge.

Malley, Veldman and all of the Cooking Apprenticeship students will be participating in the very popular Iron Chef Competition at the 5th Annual Richmond School District Career Options Fair.

The 5th Annual Richmond School District Career Options Fair is Thursday, February 28 at Cambie School. The event runs from 3-8pm. Admission is free.

The BC Regional Skills Competition is Saturday, March 8 at Cambie School. It runs from 8:30-2pm. Competitions are open to the general public.