

## HEADQUARTERS FOR HAIR

### School Cuts that Help

*(published in the Richmond Review, February 24, 2007)*



Elaine Woo admits that she struggled in school, lacked goals and had no sense of direction. But that all has changed, since she discovered the Hair Design Apprenticeship Program at Hugh Boyd Secondary School. An extensive summer renovation of two classrooms resulted in a beautiful, state-of-the-art hair salon - "Headquarters Hair Design", as named by the students, will soon be open to service the general public.

The Hair Design Program is in its inaugural year. This two year program high school students an opportunity to learn the basic fundamentals of hairdressing, including an overview of the operation and management of a hair salon. Students receive both high school credits and recognition for technical training from the Industry Training Authority. Upon successful completion of the program, students may be fully certified as a hair stylist.

Woo loves the effect that hair design has on people, "when you help people look good, they automatically feel better about themselves – they have more confidence and a sparkle in their eye".

Both classroom teacher, Patti Allison and hair design instructor, Cindy Partridge describe Woo as enthusiastic, positive and a very hard worker. Woo was also one of the first students to start working on real clients. According to Allison, Woo "definitely has what it takes to make it in this business – she has a lot of potential".

After graduation, Woo expects to upgrade her education by adding esthetics to her skills. "My dream is to one day own my own salon". Allison says that she can see this dream definitely becoming a reality for Woo.

Apprenticeship programs, such as these, help students to feel good about themselves and help build up their self worth and confidence. "This program literally saved me. It's keeping me in school and I'm more focused now".

*All Richmond School District Parents and Students are invited to come out and see Elaine and her classmates showcase their talents at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Options Fair, held Thursday, March 1, from 3:00 – 8:00 pm at Cambie Secondary School. Admission is free.*