

STUDENTS GET HAIR RAISING EDUCATION

Hair Design Program is Open to any Student in District

(published in the Richmond Review, February 23, 2008)



“I like making people feel good about themselves.” That is what Olivia Chow wants to do with her life.

Chow, a grade 11 student at MacNeill could do anything with her life – a strong academic background (she’s been on the honour roll) and athlete of the year for her grade in the past. Chow is in the first year of the Hair Design Apprenticeship Program at Hugh Boyd School. The Hair Design program is in partnership with the Cosmetology Industry Association of BC. Students learn all the fundamentals of hair

dressing over two years and are eligible to write the Certificate of Qualification exam upon successful completion of the program. The program is open to any student within the school district and is taught by Chantal Garand, a qualified hair stylist who has 30 years of industry experience.

Chow enjoys the program and likes working with her hands. She likes how the classes are smaller which allows her to get more attention and time with the teacher.

As part of the program, Chow is working at HairMasters – there she gets to practice the skills she has learned. Chow will also be competing in the upcoming Regional Skills Competition at Cambie Secondary School on March 8. There, she will compete against other secondary school students from Surrey and Langley in a four hour challenge.

Joining her will be fellow classmate, Daniela Franco. Franco, a grade 11 Cambie student who has been interested in hair design for a number of years. Franco sees the District’s Apprenticeship program as a great opportunity to learn skills while still in high school. The program is equivalent to that offered at a post-secondary institution, but enables students to earn high school credits and avoid tuition costs – a savings of around \$7000.00.

Both Chow and Franco enjoy the great environment of the class. They feel like they are learning a lot and like the family atmosphere – students helping each other.

Both students intend to continue on with hair dressing after graduation, but in two different directions. Chow intends to study business and hopes to enter the fashion world and eventually open up her own salon. Garand describes Chow as “very grounded” – a key trait needed for the industry - “She has an analytical business mind which will help her in the future”.

Franco hopes to combine her hair dressing skills with her interest in teaching and hopes to be teaching hair dressing one day. Garand describes Franco as “a very astute person who has a keen eye for design, good spatial perception and a great personality”. Garand considers both students have the potential to succeed in this industry.

Chow, Franco and their fellow students will be on hand showcasing their talents at the district's 5th Annual Career Options Fair, on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at Cambie Secondary School. The event runs from 3-8pm and is open to the public. Free admission.

The Regional Skills Competition also takes place at Cambie School, on Saturday, March 8, 2008. Competitions are open to the public and start at 8:30am with a medal ceremony at 3pm.