



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS: PATHWAYS ACTIVITIES HELP STUDENTS TO BLOSSOM

Mattawa Grade 7 and 8 Girls took part in one of the many experiential learning opportunities as they explored opportunities for women in the trades.

# Girls Get Hands-on Experience in the Trades

*We've included an article written by Jennifer McCharles for the Nugget May 21, 2019. The article covers an event that celebrates opportunities for young women to discover the trades. Featured are grade 7,8 girls from across the board exploring opportunities in the trades in partnership with Ontario Youth Apprenticeship and Canadore College.*

## Off the beaten Path-trying something we may not have considered.

Taylor Devan was among 64 Grade 7 and 8 students who participated in Tuesday's Young Women in Trades program held at the West Ferris Arena. The event was organized to offer young women the opportunity to consider a trade as a future career path.



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Emma Gilchrist had never removed an alternator before. Taylor Hicks got her first taste of what a millwright does. Taylor Devan spent part of her morning learning the ins and outs of electrical work.

These are just some of the first experiences 64 local female students got to experience Tuesday during the Young Women in Trades program held at the West Ferris Arena.

The day, organized by the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, provides an opportunity for grades 7 and 8 girls to experience 19 different trades in a hands-on setting.

Some of the options include culinary, heavy duty mechanic, plumbing, carpentry, sheet metal and drywall.

Emma, a Grade 8 student at West Ferris Intermediate and Secondary School, said she's never worked on heavy machinery before. "It was pretty cool," she added. "I even got to take off an alternator. Never did that before."

Elizabeth Normand, a Grade 8 student at St. Theresa in Callander, doesn't think she'll be pursuing a career as a brick layer, but had fun trying it out. "It's all in how you use the tools," she said. "I still want to be a veterinarian, so I don't see myself as a brick layer, but it's a lot of fun and it's great that it's all about girls."

Taylor Devan had never touched an electric drill, nor has she wired a light socket. "I have absolutely no experience," she said with a smirk. "And to be honest I'm not sure how fond I am of this drill."



Elizabeth Normand, of St. Theresa Catholic School in Callander, receives some brick-laying lessons from Melissa Zaba, Tuesday, during the Young Women in Trades program at the West Ferris Arena. There were 64 female students from grades 7 and 8 experiencing 19 different trades. Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles, The Nugget

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Young women were painting, drilling, styling and cooking up a storm in stations set-up throughout the arena.

Roy Desjardins, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program coordinator, said “women are unrepresented in the trades and this was an opportunity to help change that.” He said, “educators from colleges, secondary schools and professionals working and representing their sector led the groups.

“The goal is to give new experiences and to maybe get young women to rethink their career path and consider the trades,” Desjardins said. “It’s also an opportunity to show these students that they can be successful and maybe take a glance at college courses offering trade programs.”

## REENGAGEMENT FINDING THE RIGHT PATH

### An exciting new program in partnership with the Ministry of the Solicitor General that clears a path to success.

When our reengagement teacher Alysha Young walked into the North Bay Jail two years ago, she saw nothing but opportunity, in student Adwenna Peters, who she was there to visit and support and in others who were in the facility and just needed a chance to see what they could become. Then, Supervisory Officer Myles fully endorsed the initiative and since that day in 2016, over 200 students have re-engaged while in the North Bay Jail.

To date, students have earned 2022 credits and we now boast more than 50 graduates of the NNDSB.

Graduating students have gained employment with great wages, benefits and pensions. One student boasted that he had also found himself an apartment with a "rain shower". “ Ms. Young shared, “He is very excited about all of this. as am I! :) “ Another student wrote, "From junkie to criminal to millwright worker to finishing off as an electrician, my life should be a movie."

Our first student and first College graduate, Adwenna Peters walked across the Canadore stage in June 2019. We are excited by the opportunities we are providing to the disengaged in the North Bay Jail which joins the list of newly created opportunities like Con Ed learning in Burks Falls established in 2017. Our path sometimes takes a curve we didn't expect. We are happy to provide a compass to bring learners back on track.

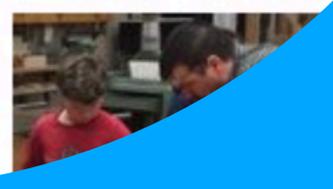


*Adwenna Peters, at her College graduation with teacher Alysha Young*



## TRANSITION ACTIVITIES CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT

The “Paddle Project” begun between FJM and MDPS has started a wave of incentive with AHSS and Sundridge Public Schools engaging in a similar project this year. The links to indigenous education and the opportunity for students to connect across the panels has been quite rewarding. An activity kit for paddle building has been created and is held at the CSC for schools that wish to join in this tech and outdoor education based experiential learning. The many teachers grade 7-12 who were involved in bringing this experience to life with meaning for students is quite incredible.



## PATHWAYS BEGIN WITH A HEALTHY JUMPSTART

### Almaguin Highlands Secondary School Pilots New Literacy Learning Skills Course

In the summer of 2017/18, the secondary program team embarked on a journey toward closing gaps in learning skills for students entering secondary schools. A new curriculum for “GLE” learning skills courses was written and was ultimately piloted at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School. Evidence gathered by the team and teacher Amy Plant is highly positive. Student surveys showed students who professed to be struggling in all classes at the beginning of the year, attributing their success in all classes in the latter part of the semester to the skills they had learned in the new GLE. Students spoke to understanding what type of learner they were and how to help themselves to be successful and resoundingly spoke to increased confidence in themselves to be successful. While we can attribute this success to the structure of the course, it cannot be done without a responsive teacher at the helm. Amy Plant’s mindful contributions to the course were added to the GLE in additions this year and an alternate literacy unit was created in order to keep the learning fresh and engaging for students.

The GLE pilot is just one of many literacy initiatives that are taking place at AHSS and across the board. We hope to show more stories as our confidence in gap closing in literacy increases. “I noticed that this pilot curriculum integrates very high expectations for struggling learners, a departure from past GLE curriculum which often focused on GAP closing in content areas or some general academic skill building coupled with time to work on other classes. One example of high expectations includes the novel, *The Leaving*; it is the longest book by far that most of our GLE students have ever read. However, the integration of heavy scaffolding and targeted focus on academic skills to support those high expectations made the students successful. They surprised themselves at being able to finish *The Leaving*. The pride these students felt at having read this large novel was incredibly inspiring. They could hardly believe it themselves. I truly believe that success builds self-esteem and the sense of accomplishment these learners felt cannot be overstated. The academic skills that supported this accomplishment included, but were not limited to before, during and after reading strategies including, determining main idea, pausing to clarify, predict, question, and connect, as well as specific vocabulary strategies and vocabulary building, in general. Without this integrated skill development, practice, the encouragement of self-reflection, and timely descriptive feedback, the novel study may have been a dismal struggle for many. The use of word walls throughout the course supported content vocabulary in relation to both content and skill development.”

*Quoted above NNSDB teacher Lisa Rogers, Differentiated Learning Resource Teacher, Almaguin Highlands Secondary School*



## PATHWAYS LEARNING HAS AN UPWARD TRAJECTORY

### Parry Sound Secondary School Specialist High Skills Major Students Cook up a Medal Finish

The Headlines in local news for Parry Sound on May 16 read “Medal Finishes for Parry Sound High School Students: Lily Harrison brings home 1st gold in restaurant service category.” We are proud of the level of professionalism that our young adults are showing in skills competitions: opportunities that are provided by participation in Specialist High Skills Major programs. The program at PSHS run by the very talented and passionate teacher Blair Cousins is moving these students toward exciting career paths.



*Parry Sound High School students Hazel Downey (left) and Tanaya Skinner make fresh pasta for the school's third annual alumni chefs tasting menu fundraiser. The two won first place at Georgian College's annual High School Hospitality Competition. May 14, 2019*

THE SHSM PROGRAM AT PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL RUN BY THE VERY TALENTED AND PASSIONATE TEACHER BLAIR COUSINS IS MOVING THESE STUDENTS TOWARD EXCITING CAREER PATHS.

*Parry Sound High School students Megan Morrison, David Cartledge, Isabelle Lafrance, Hannah Downey, Rebecca Parker, Tanaya Skinner, Hazel Joy Downey, Lily Harrison and Sophie Jackson have many medal finishes from various competitions this season. May 14, 2019*

