

SAANICH SCHOOL DISTRICT
JUMPSTARTS STUDENT CAREERS

Tyler Tremblay

by Stu Rhodes

The instant I walked through the door at Splinters Millworks I noticed this young worker with a big smile on his face. Any time you see a worker completely engaged in what he is doing, and smiling about it, you know it's a

good thing. I visited the shop to interview Tyler Tremblay, and if his enthusiasm for what he is doing wasn't immediately apparent when I first saw him, it certainly became crystal clear as soon as he started to describe what he gets to do in that shop.

Strangely enough, one of the first things Tyler told me he likes about working at Splinters is that he gets to learn new stuff almost every day. This coming from a student who has not attended high school on a regular basis since grade 10 but is looking forward to graduation from Parkland Secondary at the end of June. How can this be?

With the help of his career counselor, Roger Pires, Tyler was able to participate in a trades training partnership program where he attended regular school in the mornings of his grade 11 and 12 years to complete the essential courses for graduation and worked part time at Splinters as an apprentice cabinet maker/joiner in the afternoons. Tyler was so keen about this trade pathway that he even spent most of the summer between grade 11 and 12 attending "level one" technical training at Camosun College. While we regard it quite an accomplishment for students to graduate from high school and complete the first level of technical training in their chosen trade, Tyler took it the extra mile. At the beginning of May he returned home from the British Columbia Institute of Technology where he successfully completed "level two" of his technical training. This is an amazing accomplishment for a high school student to be halfway through a four-year apprenticeship by the time he/she graduates from

high school.

Tyler's first successes in woodwork came in middle school where he enjoyed all the elective shop classes.

"I just love taking a piece of rough lumber and turning it into something beautiful," Tyler says. His dad owns a construction company and Tyler credits him in part for encouraging him to pursue his passion, but he is particularly grateful for the mentoring and instruction provided by his Parkland shop teacher, Tyler Caddell, who, he says: "... always pushed me and made me challenge myself to take on more complex projects and raise the bar for perfection."

Tyler is not the first secondary school apprentice to work for Dave Sheridan of Spinters Millworks. Dave is a community-minded employer who believes in the power of youth and his business is reaping the benefits of their passion and enthusiasm.

Tyler admits that he is very fortunate to have had this opportunity, but also admits that he took full advantage of it. As a young worker who has found his niche working in a craft that is chockablock full of rewards and learning, he has this advice for other youth contemplating their future: "Find your passion, and make a career out of it!"

For more information on how to get involved as a student apprentice, or as an employer sponsor in this, or any other career program in Saanich School District, contact Garry Arsenault, 250-658-6679; Roger Pires, 250-655-2715; Wendy Walker, 250-514-0259; Stu Rhodes, 250-415-9211; Kathy Stefani, 250-704-4956; or Patti Jordanne, 250-744-4782. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/saanichcareers> to view the promotional video Jump Start Your Career. ✨

