

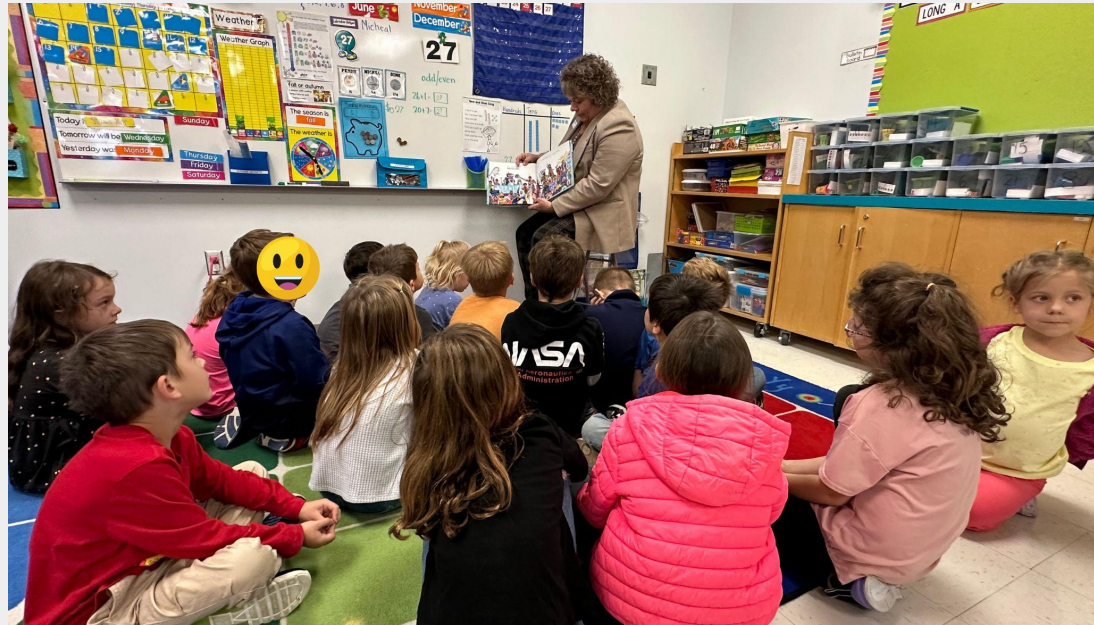
Alberta's Parliamentary Secretary honors École Steffie Woima for exceptional support of Ukrainian Evacuees

Alberta's Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services & Ukrainian Evacuees, the Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, visited Chinook's Edge a week ago, and specifically a class with Grade 1 and 2 students in it, at École Steffie Woima Elementary School. Two of the students in that class have recently arrived in Canada from Ukraine.

Also, Hon. Armstrong-Homeniuk presented a certificate honoring the school for "helping Ukrainians in a time of need", to Angela Eadie-Gyori, Principal of Steffie Woima, and to Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent, Chinook's Edge School Division.

Hon. Armstrong-Homeniuk explained to the students, ***"I am visiting communities in Alberta to see how Ukrainian newcomers are doing. It's my job to make sure their needs are met."***

She also said to the class, ***"I have heard that you are welcoming to students who are new in your school. Thank you for being good friends."***



Left to right: Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk - Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services & Ukrainian Evacuees, Angela Eadie-Gyori - Principal of Ecole Steffie Woima Elementary School, Karyn Barber - Associate Superintendent System Services



Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk - Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services & Ukrainian Evacuees hands out pins with the Canadian and Alberta flag on them, at Ecole Steffie Woima Elementary School

Provincially, there are 68,000+ evacuees that have arrived from Ukraine. There are 20+ students in Chinook's Edge that are evacuees from Ukraine.

Yuliia Marcinkoski, a member of the Alberta Advisory Council on Ukraine (ACAUR), came with Hon. Armstrong-Homeniuk to the school, and says, ***“The government has tailored supports to evacuees, but what we are wanting to hear is what are the barriers and challenges, especially for people living outside of Calgary and Edmonton.”***

“We are happy to welcome these students in our classrooms, and learn how we can help them,” says Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent of System Services. ***“We appreciate and thank the Parliamentary Secretary for her visit, and for listening to these students, and considering what support they and their families might need to be successful. Thank you to our staff, and students as well, for the way evacuees are received in our schools.”***

“Thank you to the Parliamentary Secretary for visiting us,” says Angela Eadie-Gyori. ***“We share your commitment to ensuring our new students are welcomed here.”***

Hon. Armstrong-Homeniuk says she was impressed to hear specifics of how the Steffie Woima welcomed Ukrainian Evacuees; students are inclusive, staff have worked to find translation to ensure families could work with staff to help their children, and specific staff worked one-on-one with students to ensure they learned to read (and within one year they were reading at grade level).

“I wanted to recognize this school and the division for going above and beyond,” says Hon. *Armstrong-Homeniuk.*

The Parliamentary Secretary says she plans to visit multiple communities in the near future to understand what is working and where the province could improve its support for newly arriving Ukrainians.



Flexing their knowledge: Chinook's Edge Students explore new dual credit course offering in kinesiology



Last week, students were invited to attend one Kinesiology class in person, to experience the high performance lab at the College. Instructor Rob Weddell was showing the students how to perform fitness assessments.

"I took the course because I want to do physio or kinesiology after I finish high school," says Victoria Hiebert, a Grade 11 student attending Didsbury High School.

"I was excited to come today to RDP, to experience the high performance lab," says Jonah Olfert-Weins, a Grade 11 student from Cremona School.

In the course students learn about factors that impact personal health, theories and methods relating to healthy behavior change, basic nutrition concepts, physical activity's impact on health, and stress management practices.

"We are happy to expand dual credit programming available to students," says Brianne Fletcher, Career Coordinator, Chinook's Edge School Division.

A new dual credit course is now open to Chinook's Edge students. Kinesiology is being offered for the first time, to dual credit students, at Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP). Chinook's Edge has 12 students enrolled, along with other students from two other K-12 school divisions. The Kinesiology course is offered mostly online and in asynchronous classes, supported by staff at the school level.

Kinesiology is one of three courses that are being offered through RDP focused on readiness for careers in Health Sciences, as well as an offering of a Medical Terminology course the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. Health Sciences is one pathway Chinook's Edge is working on developing further, as well as pathways like skilled trades, hair stylist, technology, aviation, business/finance, and agriculture.



“We know these experiences are meaningful for students; they help students explore career options, they help students connect academic success in their schooling to the futures they desire, and they build confidence in students that they can be successful in the post secondary environment,” says Fletcher.

Students who complete the course receive credits towards their high school diplomas, as well as towards their post secondary education.

The course wraps up just before the Christmas break. It will be offered again in the second semester.



Career Connections student feature

Exploring a passion: Cremona student Jonah Olfert Weins takes kinesiology dual credit class to support his aspirations



Jonah Olfert Weins is one of the students enrolled in the RDP dual credit kinesiology program. Jonah is in Grade 11 attending Cremona School

He would like to take kinesiology at the post secondary level once he has finished high school. He plans to head to the United States for track and field on a full scholarship.

Olfert Weins wanted to take the dual credit kinesiology course to see if it will be a fit for him at post secondary. Through the program he is learning how to live a healthy lifestyle and take some of the concepts and apply them to his personal training for track and field.

Olfert Weins was excited to go to the high performance lab at RDP. He says, *“I’m excited! I think it will be a cool experience to learn about what it means to live a healthy lifestyle and to meet my peers who are also taking this course.”*



Chinook's Edge program gives Grade 9 students a head start in exploration of skilled trades



Sixty Chinook's Edge Grade 9 students are taking advantage of an opportunity designed to begin exploration of, and readiness for skilled trades careers. The newly designed "CTF Fuse Your Future", a three day exploration experience at Olds College of Agriculture & Technology, will give students confidence in the next steps available to them at the high school level.

CTF stands for Career and Technology Foundations. CTF courses are offered in middle school, whereas in Grades 10 to 12, students can enroll in CTS (Career and Technology Studies) courses.

"We designed 'CTF Fuse Your Future' to allow students to explore different career-related experiences earlier than high school, which we anticipate will help with navigating Career pathway planning," says Brianne Fletcher, Career Connections Coordinator.

"We are working to extend our Career Connections priority into lower grades, and build students' confidence moving into the dual credit experiences for Grades 10 to 12. Just imagine how well versed and confident our students will be entering into these career experiences in high school," Fletcher says. "I'm excited about that and what this does for their future."

Roxy Reynolds, a Grade 9 student from Bowden Grandview School, says, *"This is a great opportunity to explore the profession of welding, as well as get insight into the trades. I am hoping to learn more about welding, and the trades in general".*





Bella Stoutenburg, a Grade 9 student from Spruce View School says, ***"I took this experience to try and help me learn what I would like to pursue as a career when I am older, and the trades have always been an interest of mine. I am wanting to learn more about welding and all trades."***

The CTF initiative has been underway for three years. The first year the division welcomed 60 students to the campus for one day. Last year, Chinook's Edge had Grade 8 students that came from around the division to experience heavy duty equipment.

This year the opportunity is expanding to Grade 9. Students come to the campus for three days, separately throughout the fall, in rotations of 15 students at a time. New this year is having students coming to the opportunity with safety orientation completed online, so that more of the time is spent learning hands-on about welding, from expert journey person instructors.



Students featured in this article are from Ecole Olds High School, Spruce View School and Bowden Grandview.





"The three days allows students to grasp the content and hands-on portion of welding and understand how to be successful in skilled trades careers as they head into high school," says Fletcher.

This school year is also the first time the opportunity has happened in welding. In the winter semester, the division will again offer heavy equipment mechanics to the Grade 8 students.



Noah Hetu, a Grade 9 student from Spruce View School, says, *"This has been a great opportunity to extend my knowledge in the trades. My family is a part of the trades, and I too will be a part of the trades after high school. I love the feeling of being in the shop and learning. Anything Trades related and anything hands on, this is why I took the opportunity".*

Paige Bennett, a Grade 9 student from Ecole Olds High School, says, *"I wanted to try 'Fuse Your Future' for some experience and knowledge for when I'm older. We learned how to measure metal and make dog tags. I really enjoy projects and hands-on learning"*



Jackson Corkum, a Grade 9 student from Ecole Olds High School, says, *"I like having different opportunities to learn outside of the classroom and explore career choices. The day was full of lots of hands-on learning and was very interesting. I'm looking forward to creating more projects and learning more about welding in the next two classes"*

