

## 'Shaving' the day: a Grade 8 student's Movember mission hits its mark

A Grade 8 student has almost single handedly seen the beards and mustaches shaved off five staff members while raising more than \$500 for a charitable organization. Kolton Johnson, an École Deer Meadow School student, is a part of Interact, a type of leadership class taught by Sandi Hoppins.

The project raised money for "[Movember](#)", a movement focused on men's physical and mental health.

***"I am so proud of Kolton and his hard work," says Sandi Hoppins, teacher. "He completed this project almost entirely by himself and was happy for others to get the credit. He is humble, quiet and kind and just a good person."***

***"It felt pretty good that we reached our goal," says Kolton Johnson (pictured right, with a stylist from a local barbershop and salon).***





***“I learned that there isn’t time for messing around. I learned a lot about solving problems and that I could solve them by myself. I learned that doing things by yourself isn’t as hard as you think,” says Johnson.***

***“Before being in Interact I didn’t think I could do something like this. It helped me reach another point in my life, and now I can do more than I could before,” he says.***

With his Movember project Johnson first raised more than \$275 at the school by promoting and selling \$1 mustaches that students could wear and have fun with.

Then Johnson arranged for several stylists from Kelly’s Salon in Olds to come to the school to shave the beards and mustaches of five Deer Meadow staff members. Johnson convinced the staff members to agree to be shaved if he was able to raise \$500. The additional \$225 came from the salon, which donated their tips to help Johnson reach his goal.

***“Thank you to Kelly’s Salon and also to my friends Ethan and Miles who contributed ideas to the project as well,” says Johnson.***

Interact is more than just a class; it falls under the umbrella of the Rotary Club, and Interact class members are considered Junior Rotarians. Johnson and all his classmates are challenged to develop a project that will raise funds or increase awareness for an organization or a cause that they care about. As a part of their project students build a plan, create advertisements within the school, work with a cash float if they are doing an in-school fundraiser, pay for supplies, and work with a budget.

Some of the causes that Interact students have supported in the past include the children’s hospital, cancer research, the new emergency women’s shelter in Olds, the foodbank, You Matter (mental health), Wounded Warriors, Terry Fox Society, Deer Meadow School Band Camp, an animal rescue, Christmas Angels, stockings for seniors and more. This year a couple students created cake pop poppies around Remembrance Day to raise money for veterans.

***“It’s quite rewarding as a teacher to see all the good that students can do,” says Hoppins. “I think it helps our community see how amazing the youth in our communities are, and how much students can contribute. At the same time it builds the skills, confidence and character of our students.”***



# Chinook's Edge shop teachers collaborate to prepare students for career success



*“We are grateful for their collaborative efforts and commitment to student success in Chinook’s Edge,” says Fletcher.*

Jerod Ferguson, who teaches CTS at Innisfail High School, says, ***“This process better prepares all teachers for class instruction and is especially helpful to new teachers to build programming to meet the goals of Chinook’s Edge School Division.”***

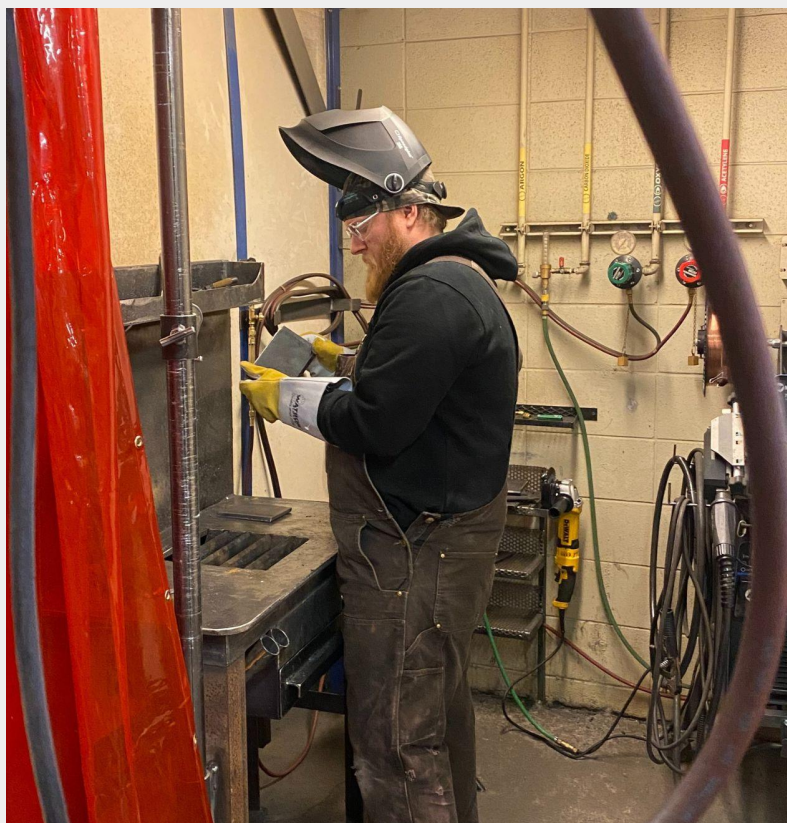
The shop teachers worked on curriculum alignment in the morning for welding, construction and mechanics. In the afternoon they worked with an Olds College journeyman instructor, Nick Fetterly, to train further in techniques that they can share with students.

*“It was an excellent day of teacher learning that directly impacts our students,” says Fletcher.*

Industrial Arts teachers in Chinook’s Edge are working together to strengthen the experience of students in their classes. Ten teachers, including eight from high school and two from middle schools, gathered in Olds on the Professional Learning Day on November 29, to begin the process of aligning all of the learning modules they offer to students in their shop programming.

***“The benefit of the alignment is that students across the division are focused on the same preparatory experiences,”*** says Brianne Fletcher, Career Connections Coordinator. ***“This consistency is aiming for industry and career readiness in our curriculum delivery, with our priority of helping students make career connections. Alignment will be especially valuable for students who want to explore dual credit experiences, because they will head into those more advanced classes with a consistent set of skills, and an increased likelihood of success.”***

***“We have exceptional Career and Technology Studies (CTS) teachers in the school division who offer quality learning experiences in their schools; these experiences allow students to explore career possibilities and gain valuable skills,”*** says Fletcher.



# From superintendent to storyteller: Ray Hoppins shares farm safety lessons with a smile

Staff in Chinook's Edge are pleased to be welcoming Ray Hoppins into their schools again this year. Hoppins retired from his role as Associate Superintendent of People Services in Chinook's Edge in June 2024; he has been visiting schools this school year sharing farm safety presentations.

***“The smile on his face when he had finished for the day... you could tell he loves teaching kids and that being with students fills his bucket,” says Claire Funk, Principal of Spruce View School. “It fills our bucket too!”***

***“Seeing kids and staff in schools has been energizing,” says Ray Hoppins.***

***He says, “Meeting students and helping them learn about safety on farms, ranches and outdoors spaces has filled my bucket. Students have their own stories, understandings and ah-ha moments to share with so much humour, laughter and kindness.”***



Hoppins says the topics he presents are comfortable for him, because he grew up on a farm that his family has operated successfully for 120 years. Also he worked for a 4-H branch for several years. Additionally, having been a coach in community sports for many years, Hoppins says he enjoys being with youth.



***“Growing up on a farm has provided me with an appreciation for the important role that agriculture, farms and ranches play in our province,” says Hoppins. “It’s refreshing to visit schools and connect with kids. I always knew I’d continue to spend time with youth and help rural communities in some manner.”***

***“He was really nice and funny,” commented one Spruce View student. Another student said, “We loved the book and how he used different voices when he had to be grumpy!”***

Hoppins is working with Heartland Training & Support Hub presenting to Kindergarten to Grade 6 classrooms in schools between Rocky Mountain House and Oyen including in Chinook’s Edge schools. Presentations are designed to help keep kids and families safe on farms, acreages, colonies, rural properties, all terrain vehicles, horses, roads, trails and outdoor spaces.

