



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

Community

B E G I N S H E R E

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Making the Grade

Where Canada Ranks in Education...and What SOSD is Doing to Take It Further

Our schools rank with the best in the world . . . second only to Finland.

According to a recent analysis of education and skills among the world's 17 best-performing countries, Canada ranked second. Only Finland scored higher.

The analysis was conducted by The Conference Board of Canada, an independent, not-for profit organization at the front of applied research in Canada. The final report titled "How Canada Performs: A Report Card on Canada" states how "Canada's strength is in delivering a high-quality education to people between the ages of 5 and 25 with comparatively modest spending."

Yet there is always room for improvement and Canada's strength in education is actually considered a contributing part of its weakness. Most schools have a tendency to focus so strongly on "school-acquired skills" meaning work-based training and life-long education needs tend to get overlooked.

That, however, is not the case in the Seven Oaks School Division. In addition to preparing students for post-secondary education, the Division recognizes the role education plays in helping people find work, advance in their careers and become inspired, involved and actively learning for life.

CVE: Putting Skills to Work

Seven Oaks School Division provides opportunities to develop work-related



skills that enable some students to enter the workforce immediately after graduating. One of the best examples of this is the Division's well-known Cooperative Vocational Education (CVE) programs.

There are five CVE programs in the Division, spanning five trade areas where job opportunities are traditionally quite high; Aviation Trades and Technology, Autobody Repair and Painting/Auto Mechanical Repair, Culinary Services, Hospitality Services and Health Care Aide. Each program is nationally and provincially recognized while still providing credits required for graduation and entrance into a post-secondary institution.

What distinguishes the CVE programs from many others is the extended

work placement involved. Students not only learn theories in the classroom, but have the opportunity to put that theory into practice in an actual workplace over a six to seven month period. They gain practical experience and make real-world contacts, both of which can look particularly good on a resumé.

CVE programs are also open to graduates and young adult learners, which means more people in the community have opportunities to develop new skills and work toward employment – whether they're currently in school or not.

For more information on CVE programming, visit: www.7oaks.org/site/cve/cve_home_adf7bb3ceafa4febbdc28d46b0332079.aspx

Continuing Education is Community Education

Instilling a lifelong love of learning is a fundamental aspect of the Seven Oaks School Division's approach to education and to continuing education in particular.

The Division recognizes that lifelong learning includes having opportunities to learn outside the typical classroom setting, exploring personal interests and developing new skills at any age. The continuing education programming in the Seven Oaks School Division provides those opportunities with a wide array of programming that covers such areas as Fitness and Health, Business and Technology, Personal Development, Cooking and Crafts as well as Youth Programs.

Within these categories, people can find courses in virtually anything from website building to yoga to Feng Shui. All courses are taught by local instructors at different schools in the Seven Oaks area and provide affordable opportunities to learn in evenings and after work. Just as importantly, the courses provide people with a unique social environment where they can meet others from the community who share similar interests.

When people enjoy what they learn, they take a more active interest in it and share it with others. It's the feeling of accomplishment, camaraderie and genuine excitement about the subject matter that ignites the desire to learn and to continue learning long after school is out.

For more information on Continuing Education programming: www.7oaks.org/continuing_education.aspx

Seven Oaks Adult Learning Centre

Even with the many options offered through CVE and Continuing Education programming, many older students and adults want to further their education in order to advance their careers or post-secondary options. The Seven Oaks Adult Learning Centre is the place to do just that.

The Seven Oaks Learning Centre is located at Maples Collegiate and holds classes on weekdays (except Friday) during the day as well as in the evening to accommodate those who work or have family responsibilities. September through June, the Centre provides a place for people to earn a Mature Student Diploma, a regular high school diploma or an upgrade to their existing credits for university, college or work.

Available courses include English and Consumer Math as well as other areas such as Law, Family Studies and

Career Exploration. Most full courses are completed in 18 weeks and all are recognized by universities, adding to an individual's ability to meet entrance requirements.

Through it all, staff are available to encourage, support and assist each person as much as possible. There is a genuine desire to see people succeed because each success makes the entire community stronger.

For more information on the Seven Oaks Adult Learning Centre phone (204) 632-1716.

There is a lot of A+ going on in and out of schools in Seven Oaks School Division. Whether people are pursuing post-secondary education, finding employment or just actively learning in areas that interest them, the Division continues to make sure everyone makes the grade.



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