

"I wanna weld!" beamed Dylan, a Grade 6 Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) student, after attending Mind Over Metal, a five-day welding summer camp, with assistant Mike Willing.

Welding Camp Confirms Interest in New Industrial Arts Classroom

The Edmonton camp, sponsored in full by the Canadian Welding Association (CWA), brought together 20 students from Grades 6 through 9 from the northern part of Alberta, including five students from MANS.

"Welding is actually fun," affirmed Wayne, Dylan's classmate. Their enthusiasm comes as no surprise to Deborah Mates, director of the Canadian Welding Association Foundation.

"We're seeing kids that didn't have a direction get inspired," says Mates. "It's changing lives." It's not uncommon, she says, for 18 of the 20 students to want to continue with welding. They see a reason to continue through high school to get to apprenticeships.

It was a win-win venture: the CWA wants to encourage talented students in a trade with a shortage, and MANS got to gauge student interest in industrial arts, which is included in the blueprint for MANS's high school building—a much-needed solution for meeting the NAD space requirements for denominational accreditation.

"The camp was an absolutely fantastic opportunity for the students," says Willing. "The instructor's enthusiasm just spills over!"

It's an excitement that lingers. "My son loved this camp," wrote parent Kristen "Krissy" Omeasoo in a MANS Facebook post after her son returned home with his welding camp certificate. "He keeps talking about welding. We were both very happy he got to experience this with the school and other fellow students."

For Mates, the camp was a success on several levels. "Just having someone say [to the student], 'You did a good job—'" she says, smiling, "and you can see them light up." ■

Lynn McDowell is director of Planned Giving, Alberta Conference, and campaign manager of The Bridge Campaign to build a high school building at Mamawi Atosketan Native School.



Travis (Grade 8, MANS) executes a great MIG weld using the welding simulator.



MANS students Dylan and Ryker in full welder gear give Mind Over Metal welding camp an enthusiastic two-thumbs-up.

Students Honour Asi's Investment

In recognition of Adventist-Laymen Services and Industries' (ASI) award of financial support for MANS's high school building project, Braydon Omeasoo-Steinhauer (sign language artist) and Krista Abt (beadwork artist) represented the students of MANS at the school's ASI convention exhibit. The ASI convention was held in Spokane during the same week as Mind Over Metal. ■



Braydon Omeasoo-Steinhauer



Krista Abt