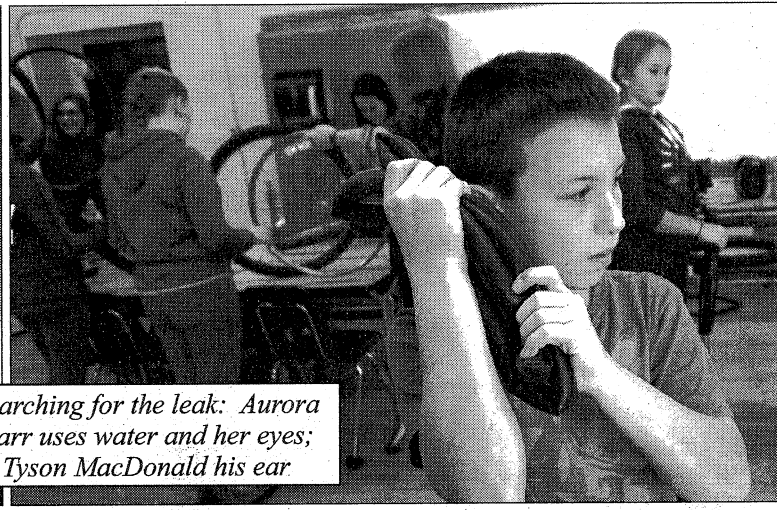




Searching for the leak: Aurora Carr uses water and her eyes; Tyson MacDonald his ear.



Getting at the inner tube: Makalya Maki and Karlyn Rissanen



Left: Teacher Marlon Douglass covers some tire and tube basics with Jaden Keash, Tyson MacDonald, Katherine Painter, Kylie Oreel, Aurora Carr, Paige Burgstaler and Karlyn Rissanen

## Bike repair as an introduction to the trades

M. McKinnon

Grade seven and eight students at AHS and across the Rainy River District are developing a new set of skills this year: bike repair.

It's a very practical skill for the students, nearly all of whom have bikes and ride them regularly. And finding someone to repair a bike in the small towns of the district can be a challenge.

The program has a much broader goal than this practical one, however: it aims to encourage students to consider the trades as a potential career pathway. The trades are about taking care of equipment, working with tools, and solving mechanical problems - all of which are elements of bike repair.

"It's so easy to see what this does for them," said Techways Program coordinator Marlon Douglass, who teaches the bike repair class. "At the start, they

hardly want to touch the tools or the bike parts. We get them to play with the stuff, try different things... and pretty soon you can see their confidence growing."

He showed us a video of a couple of district students, girls, who had put together a step-by-step DIY video for replacing the brake cable on a ten-speed bike. Their approach was calm, clear, and positive - just like the YouTube pros.

Douglass, who completed a professional bicycle maintenance certification course at the Winterbourne Institute in Guelph, assembled a collection of professional tools and, through donation, several dozen bikes and bike parts. The board provided a trailer and he travels to work with each of the eighteen grade seven and eight classes in the system (about four hundred students).

His visit at AHS Junior on December 6 was his second. The students worked on brakes and gears in his visit earlier this fall. Douglass enlists the students' regular teachers to work with him. The class is split in two, with half the students doing hands-on work with him while the other half works from video and other components with their teacher.

In addition to the bike repair classes, the Techways Program includes small carpentry projects and a variety of different design and build projects.

The whole town could end up benefitting from this program. Douglass hopes the students will be ready to run a bike repair clinic for everyone one day this spring.



Left: A well-banced wheel rolls straight. Teacher Marlon Douglas offers some tips on how to achieve that balance to Alex Boshey, Caryss Kehl, Katy Lacosse, Julia Sportak, Jaida Anderson, Joel Bingham, and Bill Deafy

### The McGillivray canoe, busing concerns, long-term future of AGS still on the agenda

## New Council, old issues

M. McKinnon

Council won't forget about old business, Mayor Dennis Brown indicated Monday, raising three issues past Councils have struggled to resolve with minimal satisfaction.

The Mayor hopes new Thunder Bay mayor Bill Mauro -

Robert Davidson started searching for the canoe, which was given to the city of Fort William after the race. It was supposed to have been put on permanent display at Chippewa Park and then moved to Historical Fort William when it was opened.

turned down options to accept a replica in its place.

Paddler Don Meany, Mayor Brown and his predecessor, and a long line of supporters, have over the years protested that the original intent of the province after the Centennial Canoe

transportation consortium measures the distance on a property line to property line basis. (If it used a door-to-door basis, the primary students would qualify for busing.)

Council has also been concerned that the consortium