I am looking for a volunteer mentor for some very capable middle school students. This would be a good volunteer experience for the right student.

Information is following on the students.

SFU students may contact me directly at tmilden@choiceschool.org or phone me at 604.313.1130. We ask that the mentor attend an orientation session and spend at least 10 hours working with the student and help produce a product. For more information about the mentorship program see www.vsb.bc.ca/mentorship. Although I have retired from the VSB, I did coordinate their program for many years and follow the same guidelines and made that site.

DIY BUILDING PROJECTS

BACKGROUND

Justan is a 11-year-old in grade 6 who is interested in Do-It-Yourself building projects. He likes to take radios, telephones and vacuums apart and make movies, art and DIY projects. Some of his favorite creations are: VR goggles, a hammock, electrolysis of water to make hydrogen to blow up a balloon, freezing coke (liquefaction experiment), a robotic arm, a multiple sound emitter from a circuit board, and 3D modelling using Sculptress and Blender which he learned on his own. He enjoys classes such as Maker space, woodworking (Applied Skills), DIY, Gearing UP at UBC, Animation in 2D at the Arts Center in Richmond and science. Justan built a small cow relaxer, an automatic dot maker and a catapult. He watches a lot of building tutorials on YouTube such as building foam board houses, RC cars, and automatic cereal milking spoons. Justan is learning programming and learned how to use the 3D machine.

WHAT WOULD A MENTORSHIP WITH JUSTAN LOOK LIKE?

A mentor would do several of the following things with Justan:

• answer Justan’s questions e.g. How do I make my glue gun work better? How do I make complex parts? Where do I get material? How do people cut cardboard so well?
• guide Justan with welding, metal work, wood working and cutting skills
• work together to expand our ideas
• assist with a designing a project, building it, finishing it and redoing it to improve. Some project ideas are:
  A fast RC car, puppet (animatronic), hovercraft, plane, tracker’s excavator or tank
  An auto aiming turret (using an Arduino)
  Big tall sky scraper using popsicle sticks
  A working safe
  A flamethrower
  A foam house or realistic looking house
A full sized cardboard cosplay suit
A working mini roller coaster model
A working planting machine

WHY MENTOR JUSTAN?
A mentor would enjoy working with this polite, student who has great ideas. They would share their love of building and get more done because they are working on projects together.

CHINESE SINGING OR OPERA

BACKGROUND

Ethan is a 13-year-old in grade 8 who has been interested in Chinese Singing and singing in general for 9 years. From a young age he was exposed to classical music and opera. In the summer of 2017 Ethan traveled to Taiwan and where he got more interested in Chinese Music. He takes singing lessons and has learned songs in different languages. Ethan listens to a lot of opera sung in Italian. His dream is to become a professional singer and bring people joy.

WHAT WOULD A MENTORSHIP WITH ETHAN LOOK LIKE?
A mentor would do several of the following things with Ethan:

• show him how to express even more passion when performing
• answer his questions, such as: What is the purpose of singing besides that it’s fun or a job? How do I pronounce the lyrics in a foreign language?
• teach him about opera
• help him to make the words even clearer when singing in high register
• advise him on how to add more emotion in his singing and connect emotionally to the audience
• give constructive criticism
• introduce him to other singers
• assist in preparing him for a performance

WHY MENTOR ETHAN?
A mentor would enjoy working with this sensitive, deep-thinking, respectful student. Ethan is talented and passionate about singing. He is eager to learn and says he will fulfil his role as a partner in the mentorship relationship.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

BACKGROUND
Jayden is a 13-year-old in grade 8 who began programming because he loved playing video games and wanted to make his own. Jayden learned ProcessingJS through Khan Academy and has made over 25 games. Jayden runs a programmer’s club at school, has done a passion project on programming, participated in Night of the Notables as G. Boole and releases his games on Khan Academy. His long-term goal is to get a job as a games programmer and maybe make his own programming language.

WHAT WOULD A MENTORSHIP WITH JAYDEN LOOK LIKE?

A mentor would do several of the following things with Jayden:
- answer his questions, such as: What’s the best language to learn? In what situations would it be most beneficial? Which programming language is the easiest to learn? How can I improve my coding?
- teach him Python or HTML
- assist in making a project e.g. developing a role-playing game or 3D/first-person game
- advise him on how to make his codes more efficient
- help Jayden find a programming language that best suits him

WHY MENTOR JAYDEN?

A mentor would enjoy working with this keen, logical, personable student who is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about programming. He has a good sense of humour and is willing to learn. Jayden says a mentor would like his ability to find inspiration in unusual places and enjoy casual conversations with him.

VIDEO EDITING

BACKGROUND

Winston is a 12-year-old in grade 8 who is keen to develop his interest in editing videos since helping others make tutorial videos. He has edited six role-playing games, posts videos on YouTube, uses Adobe Premier Pro-editing software and searches the internet for tips on how to edit. Winston would like to improve the quality of his videos so more people will watch them.

WHAT WOULD A MENTORSHIP WITH WINSTON LOOK LIKE?

A mentor would do several of the following things with Winston:
- answer his questions, such as: How are codecs different and which codecs are better than others? What colours and fonts work best for subtitles?
- assist in making a project e.g. editing a video game, creating a video of the mentorship program, showing how to use a green screen
- explain techniques and strategies to hook a viewer
- provide hands-on experiences in the editing and how movies are made
- teach him how to use all the aspects of Premier Pro
WHY MENTOR WINSTON?

A mentor would enjoy working with Winston because he pays attention, has a good work ethic and enjoys video editing. He describes himself as well-mannered, friendly and easy to get along with.

Teresa Milden
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