

EMSB's Career Fair was back for a 24th edition

By Jesse Ostroff
The Suburban

Do you remember that time towards the end of high school when you needed to make a calculated decision regarding what career path to choose? Did you ever wish there were some more guidance available to help steer you in the right direction or show you options you never knew existed? The English Montreal School Board (EMSB) recently addressed that concern by holding their 24th annual Career Fair, where over 2,000 Grade 11 students attending the two-day event held Oct. 23-24 at the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic. There, representatives from numerous colleges and trades set up physical booths where students could be hands-on and try various skills out.

"Career fair is amazing. I think it's been the most successful one yet," said Lovina Brown, academic and vocational information counsellor at Shadd Health & Business Centre. "I see the students are vibrant, eager, interested. Presenters have a lot to give and they're asking a lot of good questions."

"Career fair is my favourite event of the year and a real way to interact with the students," added Giovanna Arcuri, an advisor in continuing education at Vanier College. "I find that the students don't quite yet know what to do. They ask

about programs that are different from each other. We give them as much information as we can as it's a very tough journey for them at this age to decide what their future is going to be."

It can be extremely difficult to have a career path planned out at age 16 or 17, which is exactly what this event is designed to help. "I found the career fair very interesting," said Shaquan, a Grade 11 student at Marymount Academy. "I got to walk around and find many possibilities that I didn't know I wanted to see."

"I don't really know what I want to do, I've been so confused but coming here has been helping me in terms of what I want to do," said Miriam from Marymount Academy. "I saw culinary options, and people working on nails, it opened my eyes to what career paths are out there."

In terms of trades, there were a wide variety of booths, including hairstyling, welding, and construction where students were able to be hands on with professionals and actively learn while having fun and asking many questions

"Some 60 per cent seemed to know what they wanted to do while the other 40 per cent were open to other programs," said Matt Enos, a professional theatre teacher at Dawson College. "This is what we're here for."

For more photos and a video, see the story at TheSuburban.com



Over 2,000 Grade 11 students attended the two-day event held at the St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic.



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