

## **World Education Support Personnel Day**

World Education Support Personnel Day is tomorrow May 16, this is the day we celebrate members in support staff roles in our education system. Support staff aren't qualified teaching staff, but they work alongside teachers, and administrators to support students and there are many support staff roles in a school. These roles are a fundamental part of the success of the education system and have an essential place in each school and education centres. Members in these roles are often forgotten, go unnoticed and are undervalued in the school community, however, they are the silent heroes who support students, parents, teachers, administrators and management.

School support staff have a special place in the school community, as they are trusted, respected and befriend students and parents. Often forgotten are the activities that teacher/employee administrative systems are dependent on, like bussing, technology support and other essential tasks that support staff manage and complete in central administration offices behind the scenes. Without the expertise and commitment of these team members the education system would not function effectively. Every support staff member has a vital part in the education system that ensures our children have safe, clean and welcoming environments to learn in.

Throughout the pandemic and now as we begin to recover from it, support staff members continue to provide high-quality service, working behind the scenes without falter, to ensure teachers and administration are able to continue to provide the best education possible to students. Over the past several years, the Ontario Government and School Boards have continued to undervalue, underfund and properly support these positions resulting in cuts to these positions. They have failed to recognize the importance of these members who silently continue to ensure a world-class education system.

Please join the OSSTF District 7 Office Professional and Technicians Bargaining Unit (OPT) Executive on May 16, in recognizing the extraordinary commitment that all support staff in these important roles in Bluewater provide to support the success of all student's and the education system. The OPT Bargaining Unit consists of School Office Managers, Office Professionals, Library Clerks, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Application Support, Software Application Trainer, Accounting, Purchasing, Transportation, Learning Services, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Adult and Continuing Education/Blended Learning/Summer School, Business Services Development, Student Success/Program, Plant Services, Health and Safety, Student Success/Program, and Research Specialist.

**Thank you to All Education Support Personnel for everything you do.**