

World Education Support Personnel Day

World Education Support Personnel Day is May 16, 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. The members in these roles are often forgotten, unnoticed and 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 activities that teacher/employee administrative systems are dependent on like bussing, technology support and other tasks that support staff in central administration offices do behind the scenes, without the expertise 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, support staff members continued to provide high-quality service, working behind the scenes without falter, to ensure teachers and administration were 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 cut these positions, fail to recognize the importance of, undervalue and fail to support members who 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, Community Education, Plant Services, Health and Safety, Student Success/Program, and Research Specialist.

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