

# Experience Works

## Twentieth Edition Newsletter: Winter 2024-2025

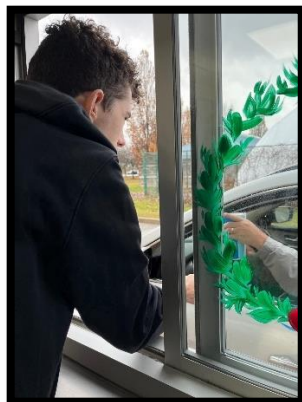
**“I like this job. It is like family.”**



**Jeevan** from **Richmond Hill H.S.**

I work at **Farm Boy**. I take a VIVA bus, just one stop. I pay with a Presto card I got it from school. I go with Mr. P, who doesn't have to pay. I have a free card for him. I wear my outfit, wash my hands, and wear a hair net and gloves to protect me from the germs. I do bakery, meat, and produce departments. Sometimes, I do one thing, sometimes the other. In the bakery, I put cookies in the box. In the produce department, I wrap vegetables in bags. In the meat department, I squish the meat to make patties and put them in a package. Sometimes, I stock the shelves. Mr. P helps me when I need to read the dates on packages. I like this job. It is like a family. I like to talk to customers, but sometimes, I have to tell them that I'm a student. After school, I would like to work in a place like that.

**“I feel good, and I like working.”**



**Joseph** from **Bill Crothers S.S.**

I work at **Dairy Queen**. My boss's name is Yvonne. I started working last January. I help serve customers. The customers buy burgers, chicken, fries, blizzards, cones, sundaes and many other foods. I wash dishes, clean tables and chairs and tuck chairs, clean doors and windows. I refill candy and fill the ice. I sweep the floor and restock sauces. I like all the sauces from sweet and sour, barbecue, honey mustard and ranch and I actually like gravy. I feel happy by working. I feel good and I like working.

## “PEAK is helping me to do the right things.”

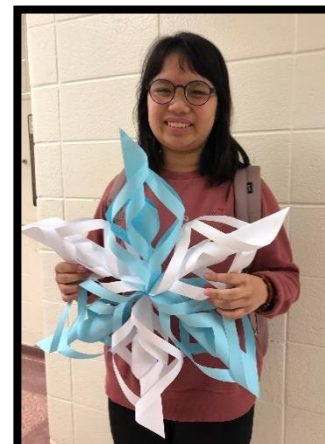
### Ezekiel from PEAK Central

My name is Ezekiel and I work at **Shoppers Drug Mart**. I work every day, and I eat lunch in the lunchroom for 30 minutes. At work I do facing, restocking, picklist, expiry dates, sanitizing, sweeping, wiping, security tags, 3M tags and price tags. My favourite job is the picklist because I like to read the numbers. My coworkers treat me nicely and they help me to do my work safely. They like it when I'm focused. I learned new bus routes and I get to go for lunch with friends on Tuesday. PEAK is helping me to do the right things like talking about teenager and adult topics.



## Special Events Crew

**Unionville H.S.** is home to a lot of special events and performances. This has created a variety of special events jobs. Thus, we have a **special events crew** in our Life Skills Class who help with all the important jobs leading up to and following these wonderful events. Our newest students **Janice, Corbin,** and **Michael** have done a great job learning all the new job skills needed to be a part of this crew. Here is a sample of some of the jobs for which the event crew has been responsible: folding special events table clothes from the awards breakfast, assembling the programs for grade 8 day and special art / drama/ music/ dance performances, take down of promotional posters following special events, folding the dish cloths and drying towels from the food and nutrition classes cooking labs, and creating holiday decorations to deck out the main office for the holidays! When asked about their favourite job perk, Janice, Corbin, and Michael unanimously agreed that it was being invited to be the cookie judges for the chocolate chip cookie days with the food and nutrition classes! Congratulations crew on so many jobs well done!



## “I am a Talented Worker!”



### Jahlia from PEAK North

Jahlia has had growth with his foundational skills, both for work and for life. He stated “since coming to the PEAK program, I learned to be independent in the program and doing it at work too. I’m a talented worker”. He went on to say “At PEAK I made friends and went on field trips with PEAK Central too”. Social skills and communication are some of Jahlia’s primary goals.

As for his work skill goals, Jahlia works in the kitchen at **Montana’s BBQ & Bar** and has a second placement at the **Salvation Army**. “I’ve learned how to portion foods and keep the kitchen counters clean and sanitized” says Jahlia, “At the Salvation Army, I sort through boxes of donations to find the things that are good for buying for people”. He has been moved into some differentiated tasks at Montana’s, which he is really enjoying as well, getting to learn more about the day-to-day maintenance of the restaurant. Jahlia continues to work on his goals and is eager to gain more experience and independence.

## “I love working at DQ!”

### Daniel from Miliken Mills H.S.

I work at **Dairy Queen**. When I go to work Ms. Fisher comes with me. I hope to go there and back independently in the near future. At work, I clean the chairs and tables, make sure the glass is clean, and stock the ketchup, ice cream cups and spoons. I call out orders, say good afternoon to the people, and I wash dishes. I recently learned how to make Blizzards and ice cream cones. They give me a discount, so I can buy food and drinks. They have a mocha frappe (Mocha MooLatté Frozen Blended Coffee), *that thing is fire*, better than other places. The 4-piece classic chicken, it’s so juicy and the fries are so crunchy. Those are my favourite. I love working at DQ.



## “I look forward to my work experience every week!”

**Cade** from **Dr.G.W. Williams S.S.**



I started my work placement at **Shoppers Drug Mart**. When I first started, I knew it would be a job I would enjoy. The dress code requires me to wear all black and no hats, so I show up to work in my uniform, enter the break room with a security code, and greet staff. I then locate the manager and learn what responsibilities I have before starting to work.

I often stock shelves, cut cardboard boxes, check expiry dates, and put overstock on a cart to be transported to the warehouse. The location where I work has two floors and often, I am on the first floor but now I am going up to the second floor sometimes. Some days I have tools that assist me in scanning and locating products to re-stock. When I open boxes, I use a box cutter. When I fold cardboard boxes, I can take them to a machine that will press the cardboard into a flatter shape. For safety, I mapped out the store layout and showed emergency exits in case of fire or emergencies. I look forward to my work experience every week.

## Matthew received glowing evaluations from employers!

**Matthew** is a grade 12 student at **Keswick H.S.** He has been in a Work Experience placement at **Zehrs** since Fall 2023. Matthew’s duties include packaging and labelling baked goods, stock rotation, pulling near expired baked goods, price reduction, light cleaning duties and facing. Matthew can work independently using great time management skills. He takes initiative at work and has learned to communicate appropriately with his supervisor and co-workers. Over the past two years Matthew has gained many important transferable and employability skills. He is a mature student who demonstrates a high level of understanding of how to be successful in a work placement. He has received glowing evaluations from his past and current employers who have specifically requested him to come back each school year. Matthew has recently been accepted into the PEAK North Program, where he will be starting in February 2025.



## **The Work Experience Program is an invaluable opportunity for students to grow both personally and professionally!**



Students from AMHS (from left to right): **Laura, Whitney, Caulder and Jianqiu (Jack).**

The Work Experience Program allows students in the community classes to develop and improve essential soft skills. They gain valuable experience through both in-school and community placements, which are designed to prepare them for future success.

In-school placements include roles in the **office, library, cosmetology lab, art lab, music classroom, caretaking, and greenhouse**. Community placements, such as **No Frills** and **Cafeteria-Trio**, offer students the chance to engage in real-life work environments. Their responsibilities in these placements include tasks like packaging, organizing, stocking, cleaning, planting, and caring for plants.

Through these placements, students have developed critical skills such as following instructions, teamwork, organization, basic problem-solving, flexibility, punctuality, and socialization. The in-school placements also provide opportunities for students to collaborate with peers, fostering inclusion and a sense of teamwork.

This program is an invaluable opportunity for students to grow both personally and professionally, equipping them with the tools they need for future success.

**Do Work Experience...Because Experience Works!**