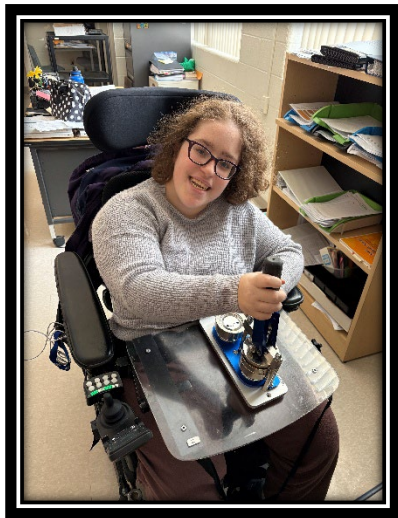


# Experience Works

## Twentieth Edition Newsletter: Spring 2025

### Maya's CP Awareness Initiative



This June, **Maya** will graduate from **Stephen Lewis S.S.** As part of her work experience, she took the initiative to organize a **Cerebral Palsy (CP) awareness event** at her school. Her goal was to help peers to better understand and support individuals with CP. Maya's project included research, collaboration with teachers, students and a guest speaker, event promotion, and interactive discussions. Maya shares her experience below of fostering awareness and inclusivity at her school.

"I do my work experience in our **school library** at Stephen Lewis S.S. This year I wanted to add something different to my job experience. The library often hosts guest speakers, so as part of my work experience, I organized a presentation for Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month. There were many steps I took when completing this project. First, I had to initiate the project back in September. I decided the event should take place in March because that is Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month. Next, I asked my physiotherapist to come and talk to the school about what cerebral palsy is and what the treatment options are. After that, I had to advertise. I created a flyer for my event and went around to different work rooms explaining why each office would benefit from bringing their classes to my event. I also ordered the button maker and created a button design and the class, and I made buttons which I gave to those who attended the event. Finally, I had to overcome my nervousness about presenting to strangers as I was responsible for writing a script and introducing the guest speaker before the event and thanking her after the presentation was over. The event was very successful- we had over 75 participants and everyone learned something!"

Congratulations Maya on this meaningful achievement and your upcoming graduation!

## **“I learned skills to get a job in the future.”**

**Jun Jie** from **Milliken Mills H.S.**

I am pleased to have had my work experience at **Boston Pizza** this year. I had a fantastic time at the workplace and met new people every day. My work duties included making pizza by placing pepperoni and cheese on it, cleaning up the tray and putting the uncooked pizza in the oven. Working at Boston Pizza I learned skills to get a job in the future. I also gained safety knowledge about dangers, hazards, and customer service, built up my confidence with transit training independently, and I am now comfortable taking transit on my own.



## **Lorianna plays a valuable role in supporting students.**



**Lorianna** is a bright and enthusiastic student at **Milliken Mills H.S.** Her warm smile and friendly demeanor bring joy to the school community each day. Beyond her cheerful presence, Lorianna plays a valuable role in supporting student wellness through her involvement in the **healthy snacks program**. Each weekday morning, Lorianna works collaboratively with peers from the DD class to sort and prepare snack bins that are distributed throughout the school. These snacks provide a much-needed boost for students who may have missed breakfast or simply need a quick pick-me-up during the day. Lorianna takes great pride in her work and finds fulfillment knowing that she contributes to the well-being of her fellow students.

Her dedication, reliability, and positive attitude are deeply appreciated, and her contributions have made a meaningful impact at MMHS.



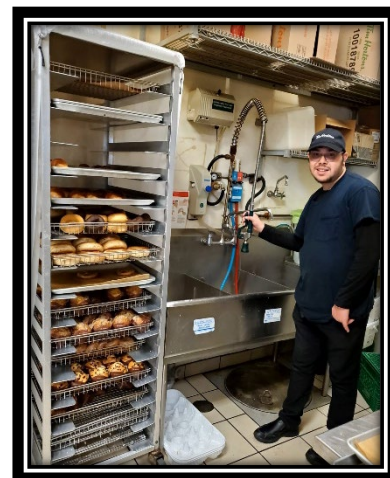
## At work Kayla is all smiles with a happy attitude.



**Kayla** will be graduating this June from **Huron Heights S.S.** She completed work placements at **Toys R Us**, **NewMakelt** and the **Newmarket Library**. When Kayla worked at Toys R Us she learned many skills. She did a great job finding where returns go and keeping the store tidy. Kayla even helped her classmates with their training. At NewMakelt, a creative space where artists do pottery, she helped to keep the shop tidy and clean. Kayla enjoyed working with the staff and they let her know they were grateful for her help. Finally, at the Newmarket Library Kayla is very efficient at her job. She loves to take the cart full of books on the elevator to the floors upstairs. She is very focused on her work and will ensure all books are on their correct shelves. Kayla's favourite area to work in is the young adult section which can be complicated, but she has it all figured out. At the end of her shift, Kayla picks books out for herself and for her classmates and signs them out independently. She is great at doing her job and she makes it known that she loves working there with her smiles and happy attitude.

**“I would recommend Work Experience to any student.  
You can see what it is like to have a job.”**

My name is **Liam** from **Hodan Nalayah S.S.** I do my work experience at **Tim Hortons**. Let me tell you about the work I do there. It is a wonderful job, and the team is so nice. Some people do come up to you and ask you questions. At work, what I do is work in the back and front of the store as well as the drive-thru. In the back, I do the dishes and sanitize the front section of the coffee shop. I clean and sanitize the tables, while in the drive-thru I restock the cups. They give me a drink and snack food during my breaks. I would recommend work experience to any student; so, take a shot and try! See what you think. That way, you can see what it is like to have a job!



## “It feels good to work!”

**Andrew** from **Aurora S.S.**

My first work experience was for the school breakfast club. I liked putting food for people on the carts and saying hi to all the people. I learned all their names. I also helped stack chairs and did cleaning. I then did community work placements at **Dollar Tree**, **Shoppers Drug Mart** and **No Frills**. I enjoyed learning how to face products on the shelves and stock the food and drinks. I took a bus to my placements and learned the different routes to each store.

My first paid job was at **Maple Downs Golf Club** through the Reena program. I worked there for two summers, preparing the soil and seeds and then repairing the divots on the golf course. The Reena staff helped me to solve some problems when I started working at the golf club. Then last summer the program found me a job at a farm. I did weeding, watering and cleaning. I was working with my friends. It feels good to work and receive money for it!



## “I really like working!”

**Stanley** from **Richmond Green S.S.**



I work at **No Frills** as my work experience, and I really like working there. I take the YRT and use my Presto card to pay for the bus. I like to get to my placement on time and always say hello to my co-workers and my supervisor. Then I start to stock the shelves in each aisle. It takes a lot of time because of the many items in each aisle. If I need help with something I ask my co-workers and supervisor. The best part about working at No Frills is that all the employees are very nice and friendly.

The thing that is very challenging to me is talking to customers about finding the items that they want in No Frills. I have learned where many of the items are in the store, like kidney beans, rice cakes and tomato soup. I have also started to talk to customers more in my shift. If there is a mess or spill on the shelf of the aisle I will clean up and put the messy product into the back of the store. That is all my work experience!

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