

# RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS



# THE GIFT OF TIME IS PRICELESS

The best way to keep volunteers excited, motivated and engaged is to recognize their efforts on a regular basis. Above all, volunteers want to know that their efforts are appreciated and that they are making a real difference in students' lives.

Volunteer recognition should be ongoing, personalized and part of the regular routine at the breakfast club.

## INFORMAL WAYS TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS

- Always remember to say thank you! Say it often and in many different ways. For example: leave notes from students and staff in special places, write it in the school newsletters, include it as part of the school P.A. announcements, post it on the fridge or a school bulletin board and say it at school assemblies. Be as specific as possible; volunteers will be happy to know that someone notices the little things they do that makes the club so special!
- Take the time to stop and talk with each volunteer every morning and encourage students to do the same. Ask them about their day and get to know them personally;
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to try new roles and learn new skills or share their talents with students;
- Invite volunteers to special school events, meetings, and professional development opportunities;
- Celebrate special occasions, holidays, and volunteers' birthdays.

## FORMAL WAYS TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS

- Present volunteers with a certificate of appreciation at a school assembly;
- Have students make special thank you cards for each volunteer;
- Hold a volunteer breakfast where volunteers are served by students and staff;
- Provide volunteers with special school privileges; this could also be based on hours or years of experience volunteering. For example, give the volunteer a special parking space or a free hot lunch for their child;
- Make a dedication to top volunteers. For example, name a favorite breakfast recipe after them, dedicate a new book to the school library in their honor, or dedicate a row in your school garden;
- Submit volunteers for a municipal, provincial or federal volunteer recognition program.

Always remember to say thank you!

Celebrate special occasions, holidays, and volunteers' birthdays

Take the time to stop and talk with each volunteer daily