

Stephanie Staples

Bring Your "A" Game to Work & Life!



To all the new teachers in the OECTA
Who have chosen this career, in spite of the pay
I'd like to let you know what you may not hear
As you teach those dear children year after year.

Your position is crucial, it's a calling you know
Most mortals couldn't do it, no matter how much the dough :)
The difference you'll make, the lives that you'll change
It may not be easy, when it's new and all strange

But don't forget the reason you choose this vocation
I know it's not just 'cause of summer vacation ;)
You know it's deeper, more profound, more intense
The feelings you get there will be no regrets

And despite endless marking, lesson plans and reports
Competing priorities and demanding cohorts
Balancing delicately your work and your life
One bleeding into the other and all causing strife

In this noble profession you can hold your head high
The kids are engaged and you know why
It's the time that you took, the love and care
The belief that each child has a true gift to share

Living those values, strong and true
Imparting your wisdom that's what you do
Impacting the community for years to come
Ensuring all feel valued and no one feels dumb

So listen beginning teachers, even though you're new
You have gifts to share and it's crucial you do
We need your light, your innovation and more

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For the long term and what's in store

Because the kids will fight and parents may scream
Jenny will cry and Jack will daydream
The days will be long and the night's will be short
Your principle may question something you report

And someday you'll wonder why you're here
You'll just want some chocolate or maybe a beer :)
But you will stay calm and collected and cool
And the next day be back smiling at your favourite school

And no one will know what you've gone through or done
To ensure the success of each little one
Your secret will be, extreme self care
Highlighted on purpose because you're so aware

That you can help no one, not kids or families
If you are burnt or broken or overwhelmed, you see
So new teachers, for the kids sake
Make you a priority, it's never a mistake

And before I head back on my plane bound west
Let me thank you profusely in the name of the rest
Because you do what you do, our children are growing
On the outside and inside, your love is showing

Thank you teachers, for all that you do
It's not just a job, it's a mission for you