

This past semester OCENET and OCDSB schools hosted international students from 46 countries around the world...with international students attending 22 high schools and 22 elementary schools throughout the OCDSB.

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OCENET's international students enjoy learning in Ottawa

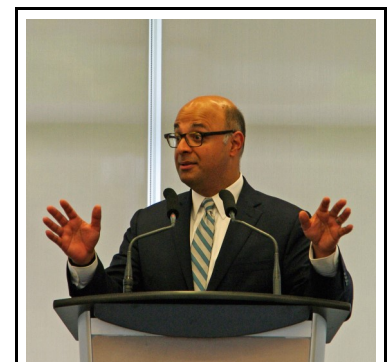


All OCENET international students attend OCDSB schools and can study a wide variety of courses in many subject areas. In this photo, Amelie (Austria) and Loise (Germany) are enjoying the learning experience of a school field trip to the Lafleche Caves in the nearby province of Quebec. Both students attend A. Y. Jackson S.S. and joined the Natural Disasters class of Geography teacher, Mr. Barter in May. The girls enjoyed exploring the caves, learning about geological history, and they really loved the bats!

International Certificate students present at Global Health Forum

During the evening of Wednesday, May 25th, students enrolled in the International Certificate Program (ICP) participated in the ICP Global Health Forum surrounded by the beautiful architecture of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam buildings, the Ottawa headquarters of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) on Sussex Drive.

The event was MC'd by Rameesha Qazi, Gender Officer at the AKFC who ably directed the evening's program. The CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, Khalil Shariff, introduced the evening with inspiring words, emphasizing the interdependence of our world and stated: "our ethical responsibilities don't carry



Khalil Shariff, CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada

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ICP Global Health Forum (cont'd)



ICP student Nadani presented on issues concerning access to vaccines and medication equity



Students participated in an activity during the intermission

passports or stop at the borders between countries.”

OCENET's Sean Oussoren, International Education Coordinator, provided details on the purpose of the ICP and introduced the teams of students prior to their presentations.

Ten groups of students delivered a series of presentations focussed on various global health issues. The range of topics was extensive and included the following: Mental Health, Primary

Health Care, Climate and Health, Economics, Medicine and Vaccines, War and Global Health, Chemicals and Global Health, Vaccine Equity.

Many of the students participated in the ICP Global Forum to contribute to their portfolio as one part of the requirements for completing the International Certificate.

During the evening there was an intermission where refreshments were served and where Sophia Mizayee, Education Officer and Youth

Engagement Officer at the AKFC, along with MC Ram-eesha, invited attendees to participate in a group activity which illustrated the gender challenges that women face in many countries.

There were approximately 60 attendees at the ICP Global Forum and everyone – students, parents, friends and volunteers – learned a great deal about current global health issues and some possible solutions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyyVwRdxEts>

Young People's Language School offers limited summer program

On July 4, 2022, Young People's Language School (YPLS) will open its doors for in-person learning for the first time since March 13, 2020, a hiatus of 843 days. The program will be offered exclusively to the 19 participants in the Osaka Gakugei Ottawa Program (OGOP). According to YPLS Director of Studies, Greg Duggan, limiting the program to one group is a practical approach to re-opening, stating, “the Osaka students are already in Ottawa, having arrived in January, and keeping the number of students relatively low will make everything like staffing and activity planning easier as we get our feet wet again.”

The program will include three hours of classes on Mondays to Thursdays that focus on improving students' English language

skills. Fridays will be devoted to full-day activities that include things such as museum visits, mini-golf, and swimming. YPLS office administrator, Chau Hoang says of the planned activities, “we always strive for a balance between activities that offer cultural and/or educational value with those that are just for the sake of having fun and enjoying spending time with each other.”

Another aspect of this summer's program will be the inclusion of International Certificate Program (ICP) students in both the classroom as well as Friday activities. An OCENET-Osaka Gakugei initiative has allowed the OGOP and ICP students to establish and maintain a connection that started well before the OGOP students arrived in Ottawa through regular zoom meetings in

which students shared Japanese and Canadian culture, play games, and practice each others' language. “It's been great for our students,” says Osaka Gakugei teacher, Tom Clark, to which he adds, “our students have really benefited from the connection with the ICP program; I'm sure they will continue to do so through the summer program.”

Overall, the outlook for this summer's program is one of

enthusiastic anticipation, as expressed by YPLS teacher, Matt Levesque. “I'm excited to be working with YPLS again after such a long time as it's a wonderful program where students build strong connections and what they learn in the summer lasts a lifetime.”

The OGOP summer program at YPLS will run from July 4 to August 19 at the Continuing Education building at 440 Albert Street.



Short-term and Group Programs return to in-person delivery

by **Constantine Ioannou**,
Program Director

The OCDSB will be welcoming back visiting student and teacher groups to our schools this Fall!

During the pandemic, the International Projects and Exchanges division of OCENET focused its work on the delivery of training programs for teachers online, using the Brightspace platform. Programs included training programs on teaching English or on teaching subject areas in English. In addition, the Global Explorer Program united Canadian students and their international peers in discussions, tasks and reflections on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This was an enriching experience for all, especially as the pandemic made it a challenge for international travel.

This Fall, international student groups will start to return for language

enrichment and intercultural development. Secondary schools in the OCDSB will have the opportunity to meet students from Barcelona, Spain that will spend four months in our system this Fall. Some of our middle schools will be welcoming students from Brazil later this season.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome back our colleagues from Galicia, Spain!

These are teachers of English Immersion (elementary and secondary divisions) that come for a four week program of workshops and placements in our schools to observe teaching and to help develop their language skills.

Teachers from Galicia have been coming to the OCDSB for almost 15 years and we are pleased to welcome them back to our system - all 90 of them! They come for a four week program where about 15 days are spent observing and assisting in our classrooms. These experienced teachers are

eager to get to know their Canadian colleagues so schools are encouraged to reach out to be part of this program. See

the excerpt of the brochure below for more information, or contact Constantine Ioannou at: constantine@ocdsb.ca

WHAT DO SCHOOLS DO?

- Welcome teachers to your school
- Establish contact teacher(s) to liaise with visitors
- Provide teachers opportunities to become involved in classes at the school, including but not limited to their specific content areas (math, music, art, physical education, social sciences, science, technical studies)
- Invite teachers to provide insight into their school, city, province while placed at your school
- Include teachers to help in classes and other activities at the school




HOW DO WE BENEFIT?

- Global awareness through the integration of international teachers in your school
- Teachers provide additional support in your classes
- An honorarium is issued to each school that welcomes teachers
- **OCDSB Strategic Plan**
 - Culture of Innovation
 - *global connections in schools*
 - Culture of Caring
 - *engagement within the community and its diversity*
 - Culture of Social Responsibility
 - *leadership opportunities by engaging with international visitors*

2021-2022 Lynch-Getty Global Student Awards

Anis Alkhusi - Glebe CI

Dania Zanneri - Earl of March SS

Malous Fattahi Ghaz - Cairine Wilson SS

Anita Suthakaran - Cairine Wilson SS



International students welcomed the chance to participate in OCENET's 3-day field trip excursion during the weekend of May 27-29 to explore Toronto's landmarks and to visit iconic Niagara Falls

ICP students participate in inaugural EURO Challenge



Dario Stipisic, WISE Senior Program Director, helped to facilitate and host the Euro Challenge



The team of students from Canterbury High School were awarded the first place trophy which was presented by EU Ambassador to Canada, Melita Gabrič, following the first Euro Challenge event to be held in Canada

On May 4th five teams of students from several OCDSB schools and one school from Toronto participated in the inaugural Euro Challenge Competition in Canada. This all-day competition was funded by the European Union and held at the Ottawa Art Gallery. The five teams involved students from Grade 9 & 10 at Canterbury HS, Colonel By SS, Earl of March SS, Glebe CI, John McCrae SS, Merivale HS, Nepean HS and West Carleton SS. Many of these students are also enrolled in the International Certificate Program (ICP).

The Euro Challenge requires students to focus on a particular topic or issue, such as climate change, gender equity, population growth, etc., from the perspective of a specific EU country. Each team of four students delivers a 15 minute presentation to a panel of

judges comprised of representatives from the diplomatic corps, academia, and banking. Following each team presentation, the judges ask a series of challenging questions that requires students to use the information they have researched to support and defend the proposals they have made to address their assigned issue related to the country they are representing. The students spent several months actively preparing for the competition.

The Euro Challenge was launched in the United States in 2006, and currently over 60 schools participate in this annual competition. The Euro Challenge focuses on the 19 countries which use the euro as their currency. The event is organized by WISE (Working In

Support of Education) which has been involved for several decades in developing financial literacy curriculum in the US.

WISE contacted OCENET's International Education Coordinator, Sean Oussoren, for assistance in setting up the first Euro Challenge event in Canada, and everyone was impressed by the calibre of the OCDSB students who presented in Ottawa.

At the awards ceremony following the announcement of the winning teams the Canadian Ambassador for the EU, Melita Gabrič, addressed the audience to speak about the history and importance of the euro as a currency in uniting Europe, followed by presentations to the top three winning teams with trophies. The

students from Canterbury H.S. received first place, followed in second place by John McCrae S.S. with Earl of March S.S. in third. A representative from Moody's presented financial awards of \$1,200 to each student in the top team and \$1,000 to members of the second place team.

It is anticipated that the Euro Challenge Canada event can be expanded upon for next year with more teams participating from across Ontario.



The judges' table included representatives from academia, finance and the diplomatic community to evaluate the student teams

In their own words: Life as an International Student

Most issues of *Global Connections* highlight the experiences of OCENET international students studying in OCDSB schools. This issue profiles international students from Vietnam, Brazil and Austria.

Thu from Vietnam



Thu came from Vietnam to attend Gloucester High School when she was in Grade 10, and now, three years later, she is in Grade 12 and looking forward to graduation. Thu wanted to become an international student because of her sense of adventure and wish to be independent, and to experience new cultures, a new country and new people. She feels that her experiences have made her more adaptable, and overcoming inevitable challenges has enabled her to succeed as an international student. Thu also became involved in school activities and is enrolled in the International Certificate Program. Thu really loves her teachers at GHS. She plans to attend a 2 year program in Commerce at Algonquin College and then transfer to a university.

“I wanted to experience life independently, and wanted to learn about new cultures, a new country and new people.”

- Thu,
international student from
Vietnam

Davi from Brazil



From São Sebastião, a coastal city in Brazil, Davi attends Nepean High School and is in Grade 12. He has come here to study for one semester and chose Ottawa because it is considered a safe place and there is lots of freedom. He feels his English skills are improving a great deal because of his school classes and because he only speaks English with his host family. Before coming to Ottawa Davi researched the weather, food and the local culture, but the reality is still different than what he initially expected. Because there are fewer courses to study at one time, he finds there is less pressure on him in school here than at his Brazilian school. During his free time, Davi plays guitar, reads and exercises, and has started writing as a new hobby. He intends to go to university in Brazil to study music or arts.

“It is important to live with a host family that speaks English because I have to speak English with them to communicate, and my English improves every time we talk.”

- Davi,
international student from
Brazil

Amelie from Austria



Currently attending A.Y. Jackson S.S. in Grade 11 for one semester, Amelie is from Vienna, the capital city of Austria. She loves the English language and appreciates the opportunities to develop her English language communications skills. Before coming to Canada, she researched interesting things to do in the Ottawa area and finds Canadian people to be very pleasant. While studying here she has developed a new interest in learning about peoples from other cultures. When she is not at school, she spends spare time going to the gym or hanging out with her host family sisters. Her best experiences include snow-boarding at Mont Tremblant, watching an ice hockey game, and visiting a cottage in Calabogie. After graduating from high school in Austria next year, Amelie plans to attend university there or in Canada.

“I highly recommend being an international student. Even if it seems to be hard, it is totally worth it; you will have the best experiences of your life.”

- Amelie,
international student from
Austria

Meet OCENET: Ross Laing



- Ross Laing,
International Education
Consultant

1. What are some of your main roles at OCENET?

I work at OCENET on a part-time basis. I am currently involved in a wide range of activities that support OCENET initiatives. One of my main roles is writing articles and publishing our newsletter *Global Connections*. I work on several writing projects and research topics, and write reports related to international education. I am also certified to administer and assess the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and deliver presentations on intercultural awareness.

2. What aspects of your job do you enjoy the most?

I really enjoy the opportunity to meet with international students and to visit OCDSB schools to connect with educators who are involved with international education initiatives. I often serve as a city "guide" to

new international students when they first arrive in Ottawa and enjoy introducing them to our city. I greatly appreciate and value the professionalism and comradery amongst the OCENET staff.

3. What have been some of your OCENET accomplishments?

I was seconded as an OCDSB teacher to serve as OCENET's first International Education Coordinator to develop and launch the OCDSB International Certificate Program in 2012. Under the direction of subsequent International Education Coordinators Kathy Scheepers and Sean Oussoren, the ICP program has expanded to approximately 600 local students and serves as a model for other programs across Ontario and Canada.

4. What new projects are you working on at OCENET?

I continue to work on stories to highlight OCENET's work in our newsletter *Global Connections*, prepare new program guides as part of the orientation for new international students, develop resource guides for administrators, and recently completed a publication comprised of hundreds of photos to celebrate OCENET's 20th Anniversary. Just recently, I started a new monthly newsletter directed towards international students to inform them of local activities and events of interest.

5. What are some of your interests outside of work?

I am an avid amateur photographer and have recently completed a diploma program in photography at Algonquin College. I am active in two Ottawa camera clubs and participate in many photo excursions. Other interests include gardening, music, and outdoor sports activities, such as golf, walking and snowshoeing.

Best wishes to Sue Boudreau in retirement



Sue Boudreau (far left) with colleagues (l-r) Katherine Noble, Constantine Ioannou, and Kari Hanes



Sue at work in the classroom

by Constantine Ioannou,
Program Director

Over twenty years ago, OCENET started an English program for visiting international students during the summer. One of the first teachers brought into the program was Sue Boudreau - a dedicated and experienced teacher of English as a Second Language. Sue became the Lead Teacher for a program that has become a very popular offering every summer for school groups and individu-

al students around the world.

Sue had the responsibility of coordinating the various levels of the program. As Program Lead, she established guidelines for assessment, thematic units, operations and the bridging of morning English classes to afternoon activities. She was also involved in creating *Memoires* books for each visiting school group that eventually became online blogs. Many chaperone teachers

from overseas as well as Canadian teachers in the program admired Sue's strong work ethic and organization. Sue often worked many additional hours in order to ensure that all details of the program were set and that she could actively support student learning as well as providing professional support to the staff. The summer program benefited greatly from her expertise and commitment and we are all thankful for her contributions over two decades. Sue will be greatly missed by all at OCENET.

International Certificate Graduation 2022 returns to an in-person event



Students who graduated from the OCDSB International Certificate Program are all smiles as they gathered to celebrate their achievements and show off their new certificates at a ceremony held at the Ottawa Technical High School (photo by Richard Smith)

Since the inaugural International Certificate graduation ceremony in 2013, almost 600 students have graduated from the International Certificate Program (ICP).

This year Covid protocols allowed students to receive their diplomas at a ceremony held during the evening of Wednesday, June 8th, in the auditorium of the Ottawa Technical High School. Following introductory remarks by OCENET International Coordinator, Sean Oussoren, who is responsi-

ble for administering the ICP, several students delivered presentations about the insights they learned in completing their International Certificate.

Dorothy Baker, OCENET Board member and former OCDSB Superintendent, and Geoff Best, OCENET Executive Director, along with the ICP Advisors from each school presented the students with International Certificates as proud fami-

ly members and friends looked on.

This year 107 students from 20 OCDSB schools were awarded certificates. Each student completed a series of internationally focussed activities. More information on the ICP is available at: https://www.ocdsb.ca/secondary/programs/international_programs/international_certificate_program



OCENET Executive Director, Geoff Best, addressed the ICP graduates about the importance of developing intercultural awareness.

Renovation improvements at OCENET offices at 440 Albert St.

by **Dahlia Liwsze,**
Administrative Assistant

The Albert Street Education Centre received some upgrades during Covid.

Roch B eland is the chief custodian at the site and says that the renovations have gone smoothly. "Almost all (99%) of the work is done," he confirms.

Installing a new fire alarm was the first thing done at 440 Albert Street. This took place from February 2021 to

September 2021. The smoke detectors, horns, and pull stations were replaced with new ones, with "all new wiring" being installed.

Electrical upgrades were made from February 2021 to December 2021. Aging electrical switching equipment was replaced. Sixty-four electrical panels were replaced in the building.

Room numbers were changed at the request of the fire department, and

the building suddenly acquired a fourth floor! OCENET's Ottawa International Students Program (OISP) office became Room C406 (formerly C315). The Young People's Language School (YPLS) is in Room 236, and the Ottawa International Projects & Exchanges (OIPE) office is in Room 214.

The PA system was also replaced and new house phones were

placed in designated areas. This work was done from June 2021 to February 2022 and some finishing upgrades will continue as needed to improve the safety and functionality of 440 Albert St.



New alarm systems enhance safety throughout the building



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Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1R 5B5

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Fax: 613-239-0608
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OCENET Bulletin Board

International Exchanges

Opportunities for students to participate in group or individual exchanges

Opportunities for a teacher exchange with an OCDSB partner school district in France

Visit:
<https://ocenet.ocdsb.ca/exchanges>

Contact:
Mr Sean Oussoren
International Education Coordinator
613-239-0314, Ext. 2108



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If you have an international education story that should be included in *Global Connections*, let us know.

Please direct any comments, questions, or suggestions to:
ross.laing@ocdsb.ca

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