

This fall OCENET and OCDSB schools are hosting international students...

- from 32 countries
- in 22 high school schools and 21 elementary schools,
- and over 112 visiting educators from 7 countries

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## OCENET welcomes teachers from around the world: CHINA



*In October, a delegation of educational leaders from Sichuan Province in China attended presentations at the OCDSB offices and toured Sir Robert Borden HS as part of a cross-Canada tour to learn about exemplary educational practices*

## International student groups enjoy learning in Ottawa

Each fall groups of international students come to Ottawa to experience Canadian culture, develop their English skills, attend classes at OCDSB schools and experience all that Ottawa and area has to offer these visitors. In September a group of 15 scholarship students from Navarra, Spain, arrived for one month, and in October, nine students from Germany attended local public high schools for four weeks. The OCDSB is also hosting scholarship students from Brazil who would not normally have had the resources to attend schools abroad. In future months, international student groups will be visiting from China, Colombia, South Korea and Spain with an emphasis on building English language proficiency.



*About to enjoy a picnic on the beach at Mooney's Bay, students from Germany enjoy their time in Ottawa*

## The OCDSB is a “destination” for professional development



Principal Wendy Verreault welcomes a delegation of Chinese educators to Sir Robert Borden HS

**“Our team is extremely proud to have opportunities to share our vision as a district with educators from around the world. Most importantly, international educators are able to see the impact of our collective efforts firsthand during school visits.”**

- Barry Bickerton,  
System Principal,  
Curriculum Services,  
OCDSB

**“I now have a precise idea about how French Immersion instruction can be successful and how students with diverse cultural backgrounds can be integrated”**

- Carmela Garcia Gonzalez,  
from Galicia, Spain,  
2012 participant



Teachers from Costa Rica brave the elements on Parliament Hill

Each year more educators from more countries are selecting OCENET and the OCDSB to provide professional development for international superintendents, principals and teachers.

Throughout the fall months of 2012, OCENET and the OCDSB have already hosted groups of educators from the following countries: Costa Rica, China, South Korea, Spain and Sweden. Thus far, 112 visiting educators from seven different delegations have visited the OCDSB and more are on their way. These visits are arranged through the Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges office at OCENET.

Most visitors are initially welcomed at OCDSB headquarters by senior staff and are provided with information about the OCDSB by system principals and instructional coaches from Curriculum Ser-

vices. The groups attend a series of workshops tailored to the specific interests and purposes of the visiting delegations. Some groups want to learn about the system of education in Ontario, others wish to learn about Assessment and Evaluation practices, and many are here to learn about techniques of delivering bilingual education and teaching English as a second language. The majority of groups learn about the OCDSB Strategic Plan, our board vision, its exemplary educational practices and unique programs.

Following these workshops, which provide a thorough understanding of the OCDSB, nearly all delegations visit our elementary and secondary schools to witness what they have heard about demonstrated in practice in our classrooms. For some international groups on longer term visits, teachers are assigned to a school to observe and participate in classes for up to several weeks, as with recent visits from Spanish and Costa Rican educators. International teachers on longer term placements become part of the school culture and live in the community at Homestay accommodations with Canadian families.

It is a credit to the entire OCDSB educational community that so many international educators want to learn about and experience our school system, and to learn from our successes and adapt them to the challenges in their schools. Our local educational philosophy and practice is leading to innovation in many other parts of the world. These groups of international educators not only provide significant revenues that support the OCDSB, but also global perspectives on education and culture are exchanged with every visit.

The increase in the number of international visitors is a testament to the internationally recognized high standards of education delivered at OCDSB schools and in Ontario.



Two teachers from Galicia, Spain, enjoy a cup of tea with the statues of the Famous Five while exploring on Parliament Hill

## OCENET/OCDSB attracts students from across the globe



**By the numbers...**  
OCENET international students attending OCDSB schools

2002	218
2003	267
2004	301
2005	316
2006	382
2007	401
2008	398
2009	413
2010	473
2011	596
2012	685
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,450</b>

OCENET and the OCDSB now welcome more than 300 new international students each year, and that number has grown at approximately 10% per year over the past decade. OCENET has made concerted efforts to grow gradually and sustainably by recruiting students from all corners of the world, as indicated by the pinpoints on the world map for this year's students.

OCENET attends recruiting fairs and has accredited close to

200 agents worldwide to recruit students to attend OCDSB schools. The public school board is a preferred destination for international students because of our system's excellent reputation and the city of Ottawa being Canada's capital in a safe and multi-cultural environment.

As of November, 91% of our international students attended 19 high schools and the remaining 9% attended a total of 21 elementary schools.

Some international students stay for one semester or a year, while many graduate from OCDSB schools and continue their post-secondary education in Canada.

The students bring an inter-cultural dimension that enriches our schools and adds valuable revenues to the OCDSB which are used to enhance facilities, support student learning, hire teachers, and provide professional development opportunities.

***"We are looking forward to welcoming our first student from Kyrgyzstan this year."***

- Geoff Best,  
OCENET Executive Director

### Where OCENET international students are from this year...



**UNITED NATIONS  
MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- End Poverty and Hunger
- Universal Education
- Gender Equality
- Child Health
- Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS
- Sustainable Environment
- Global Partnership

*“I have developed a passion for taking action in my local and global community through awareness groups in both elementary and high school; I have learned that everyone has the power to make a difference.”*

- Emma Maclean,  
AY Jackson student

**International initiative at AY Jackson SS engages the whole school**

The students and staff took a very simple approach to address very complex issues. In May of 2012, groups of students involved in the many clubs that support global citizenship such as the Global Action Club and Ubuntu Club conceived a superb and innovative way to engage the whole school in addressing world issues.

Using the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as a starting point, students and staff worked together to organize a whole school assembly to assist in deciding which goal the school would focus upon for the 2012-13 academic year.

With some guidance from teachers, the list of millennium goals was narrowed to four, and then groups of students planned to “sell” the idea of their chosen millennium goal to the whole school with presentations at a school assembly. Following the presentations on each of the four selected goals, the entire student body voted on which goal they wanted to support for the 2012-13 school year, and the decision was to support Universal Primary Education.

Fast forward to October and students organized a kick-off to “Brick by Brick” with a goal of building a schoolhouse in Haiti through a fund raising goal of \$8,500 during the current school year. Two representatives from Free the Children spoke about the importance of the project in Haiti.

Recent fundraising initiatives included a Chapters Night whereby a percentage of sales

was directed to the project. Other fundraising events, such as an “Auction of Promises” where the talents of staff and students (such as making a gourmet lunch) are auctioned, will be held throughout the year to reach the goal of building a classroom in Haiti.

This project is notable for its simplicity in raising awareness about world issues and in motivating the whole school.



*Student organizers of AY Jackson’s “Brick by Brick” assembly include (back row, l-r) Emma Maclean, Caleb Scheel, Mikayla Young (kneeling), Doan-Nghi Dam-Le, Alena McFaul-Freeman, Holly Arscott, Alexandra Vallieres, (front row, l-r) Melanie Downs, Nicole Hutchinson, Fiona Hart, Megan Holzhter, Natalie Selles (FTC), Chelsea Prophet, Sarah Mercer*

**Stephen Leacock PS “climbs” Kilimanjaro**



*Canadian climbers on WaterCan’s Kilimanjaro Climb for Life display the Water Wishes banner*

Through a cross-curricular approach that focussed on global water resource issues, the students and staff at Stephen Leacock PS began a series of classroom activities that evolved into an international project. As part of the initiative, representatives from Engineers without Borders spoke to a science class and the art classes created a water-themed art gallery.

With the support of WaterCan, the Canadian non-profit organization that promotes

clean water and basic sanitation, teachers Devinder Trehan and Gaynor Kondric inspired students to create a “Water Wishes” banner which was unfurled at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro by 22 Canadian climbers, including CTV personality and WaterCan Ambassador Ben Mulroney, who participated in Watercan’s recent “Kilimanjaro Climb for Life.”

On October 15, in collaboration with Technology Instructional Coaches Jane Smith and Alexis Kemp, thirty Grade 7

and 8 students had an opportunity to skype with students from a school in Tanzania to ask questions about daily life in each country and issues related to the importance of clean and accessible water.



*A class in Tanzania skypes with students at Stephen Leacock PS*

## Life as an “international student” in high school

Each issue of *Global Connections* highlights the experiences of OCENET international students studying in OCDSB schools. This issue focuses on three secondary school students.

### Nick@ Hillcrest High School



A Grade 11 student, Nick comes from a village outside of Mexico City. He has been impressed by his whole learning experience in Ottawa and appreciates that the Canadians he has met are friendly and open-minded to people of different cultures. He is very proud of the rapid improvements he has made in his English communication skills. Outside of school, Nick is very involved in sports and often gets together with other international students from all over the world to play soccer and basketball... and recently he enjoyed his first try at skating. His advice to any international student is not to be shy and to get involved at school and with the Homestay family.

**“...from the first day I arrived here it has been just like magic!”**

- Nick, international student from Mexico

### Diane@ Young People’s Language School, Albert Street Education Centre



Diane is from Cameroon and newly arrived in Canada, having been in Ottawa for six weeks. Coming from an equatorial country, she finds the climate cold, but she quickly notes that the people are friendly and warm. She is attending YPLS to improve her English skills before attending a local high school. She has made lots of friends already and enjoys shopping or going to movies with them. Until a few days ago she had never seen snow, and eagerly looks forward to making a snowman. Diane likes that students in Ontario can select course options. She aims to finish high school in Ottawa and hopes to attend university here to pursue studies in biology.

**“...I feel that everyone should try to live and experience life in another country.”**

- Diane, international student from Cameroon

### Ben@ John McCrae Secondary School



Ben appreciates the opportunity to study away from home in Brazil in order to meet new people and experience a new culture in Canada. He came to Ottawa because it is multicultural and has a solid reputation as a safe city. Ben has adjusted to the routines of his new environment and finds the different approaches to learning here are very interesting. Ben feels that his English is much more fluent and his vocabulary has expanded through his efforts to interact with Canadians. He loves playing soccer, and thinks that sports is a shared culture worldwide. Inquisitive by nature, Ben enjoys meeting new people with totally different life experiences.

**“...you mature by having the experience of studying in another country.”**

- Ben international student from Brazil

## Meet OCENET: Program Director, Constantine Ioannou



Constantine Ioannou Program Director, Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges— OIPE (photo taken at an international conference on multilingualism in Barcelona)

Each issue of *Global Connections* will include a feature interview with one of the OCENET team

**What is your role at OIPE?**  
I work as the Program Director for the centre of Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges (OIPE). There are three main program areas within OIPE: teacher training programs, summer English programs, group or customized programs.

- ◇ OIPE creates, coordinates and delivers **training programs for educators** from overseas particularly in the area of language teaching. Recent programs have focused on immersion teaching. Spain sends about 100 teachers a year for programs that take place in our centre along with placements in schools.
- ◇ **Summer Explorer** is a popular program for students or student groups accompanied by teachers from around the world that involves English, local activities, and a homestay experience. These programs follow the levels of the Common European Framework .

- ◇ The **Global Classroom** program caters to the needs of short term international student groups accompanied by a teacher. Students are integrated into our schools and OIPE works with schools to develop international partners.

In addition to the program areas mentioned, OIPE is the OCDSB liaison to **exchange** organizations that offer programs to Ontario students. We also coordinate delegations and visits to the OCDSB from overseas, including focused week-long **study tours** that have been frequently requested by Sweden.

**What is the purpose of OIPE?**

OIPE is one bridge between OCDSB schools and global partners. We assist schools in developing international relations and we bring a focused international experience to our schools by welcoming groups of students from overseas or inviting educators to observe our schools for short or long term visits.

**Which of your accomplishments at OCENET gives you the most satisfaction?**  
As a former language teacher I am particularly happy to work in a job that is involved with language teaching and global learning. I enjoy this work and the opportunity to deliver classes and workshops to a variety of clients.

**What are some of your personal interests and pastimes?**

I am very involved with language teaching associations worldwide, particularly with ILEA (International Languages Educators' Association).

**What new projects are you working on with OCENET?**

There is always a new project! At the moment my team and I are developing learning objects for elementary learners of English and I am in regular communication with researchers from Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Belgium to find ways for Canadian teachers and international teachers of English to become involved with instructional coaching via the Internet, and hopefully one day in person!

## HOMESTAY update by Jennifer Mackie



International students sharing their new culinary skills

On November 17th, many international homestay student participated in a cooking class aimed to assist them become more comfortable in a Canadian kitchen. The students were divided into teams and coached by a chef

to create a variety of dishes, including tuna and rice wraps, a Frittata, and chicken soup made from scratch. Throughout the cooking class students had a chance to practice teamwork and their English language skills. In addition, a holiday baking class for Homestay students and their hosts will be held on December 8th.

From November 7th to 11th, Canada Homestay International, OCENET's homestay provider, met with colleagues from across Canada to collaborate, train and discuss client and host support for international students.

## International Education Info-Fair

As a consequence of the recent labour issues that affected the originally scheduled date, the International Education Info-Fair will now take place on **Saturday, April 20, 2013, from 10AM-2PM** at the **Albert Street Education Centre** (440 Albert St.). There will be over 30 information booths and seminars throughout the day on topics from gap year opportunities for students, to info sessions for parents, to teach abroad opportunities for educators. Look for the poster, check out the schedule, and register on the [ocenet.ca](http://ocenet.ca) website starting in February.

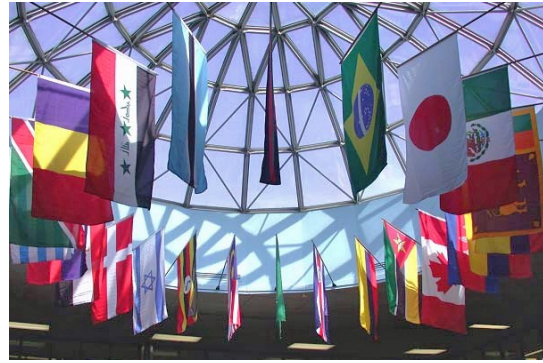
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## OCENET Tip Sheet #2:

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# ‘INTERNATIONALIZING THE CURRICULUM’ AT YOUR SCHOOL

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Many teachers have been active proponents in introducing their students to international perspectives through their teaching. These teachers now have a new “educational buzz phrase” for what they have been and are doing — “Internationalizing the Curriculum.” It is a pedagogical direction which is widespread in many national school curricula throughout Europe, and increasingly at Canadian universities and colleges. More elementary and high schools are also adopting the approach to encourage global citizenship and to develop cultural competencies.

Tip Sheet #2 provides teachers with some background, places to start, and links to both Canadian and international resources for “internationalizing the curriculum” in their classrooms.

### **Definition**

“A curriculum which gives international and intercultural knowledge and abilities, aimed at preparing students for performing (professionally, socially, emotionally) in an international and multicultural context.” (Nilsson, 2000)

### **Characteristics of Internationalized Learning Experiences (\*adapted from Paige, 2009)**

#### **The instructor provides:**

- Cross-cultural and cross-national comparisons
- Readings or research on other countries
- Books and articles written by authors from other countries
- Texts that have an international perspective
- Encouragement to read foreign newspapers and listen to foreign broadcasts
- Opportunities for local students and foreign students to work together on projects
- Opportunities for foreign students to exchange opinions with local students in class
- Writing assignments requiring demonstration of a cross-cultural perspective
- Inviting guest speakers who have an international perspective to address students

\*quoted in *Internationalization of the Curriculum: Introduction and Resource Guide* [http://library.queensu.ca/webedu/grad/Internationalization\\_of\\_the\\_Curriculum.pdf](http://library.queensu.ca/webedu/grad/Internationalization_of_the_Curriculum.pdf)

### **Need a starting point?**

*Global Dimension* provides a wealth of ideas by typing in a subject area and using a series of filters as required (ex. Subject, Topic, Age) with tons of free resources. <http://www.globaldimension.org.uk/resources/search/?kw=&asmSelect0=Add+filter&sub=32&asmSelect1=Add+filter&asmSelect2=Add+filter&age=6&asmSelect3=Add+filter&asmSelect4=Add+filter&asmSelect5=Add+filter&for=13&asmSelect6=Add+filter&asmSelect7=Add+filter&asmSelect8=Add+filter&origin=all&advSearch=1&submit=Search>

*Educating for Global Citizenship in a Changing World: A Teacher’s Resource Handbook* (see Chapter 10 for numerous website resources for teachers): [http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/cidec/Research/Global\\_Citizenship\\_Education.html](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/cidec/Research/Global_Citizenship_Education.html)

OSSTF Socially-based Curriculum Units: <http://www.osstf.on.ca/SBCU>

OSSTF Teaching Resources: <http://www.osstf.on.ca/teachingresources>

ETFO Resource: <http://etfo.net/globaled/Educating4GlobalCitizenship.pdf>

UN: <http://www.unicef.ca/en/teachers/article/secondary-resources>

CIDA: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/FRA-81112596-MWZ>

Oxfam: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/?coolplanet/teachers/globciti/>

**Top Tips to develop the global dimension in schools:** [http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/global/documents/gobal\\_dimension\\_top\\_tips.pdf](http://clients.squareeye.net/uploads/global/documents/gobal_dimension_top_tips.pdf)



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## OCDSB international student wins Canada Homestay International Poetry Contest



*Bianca enjoying a night at the movies with her Homestay hosts, the Sampson family*

OCENET congratulates German exchange student, Bianca Hüls for her award winning poem entitled "Canada-You're Welcome."



**Canada Homestay Network**  
*Incorporating Canada Homestay International*  
Serving Canada from Coast to Coast



## Thinking About Becoming A Homestay Host?

**Among the many benefits of being a Homestay host:**

- make a significant difference to the life of a student from another country
- learn about people from other cultures
- make friends across the world
- introduce your children to an intercultural experience
- share Canadian culture and life in Ottawa
- Host Support 24/7
- receive an honorarium to cover expenses

**Visit "Hosts" at  
[www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca](http://www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca)**

## The Branches of OCENET



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