

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

- from 39 countries
- in 22 high school schools and 25 elementary schools,
- and throughout the year, over 130 visiting educators from 8 countries

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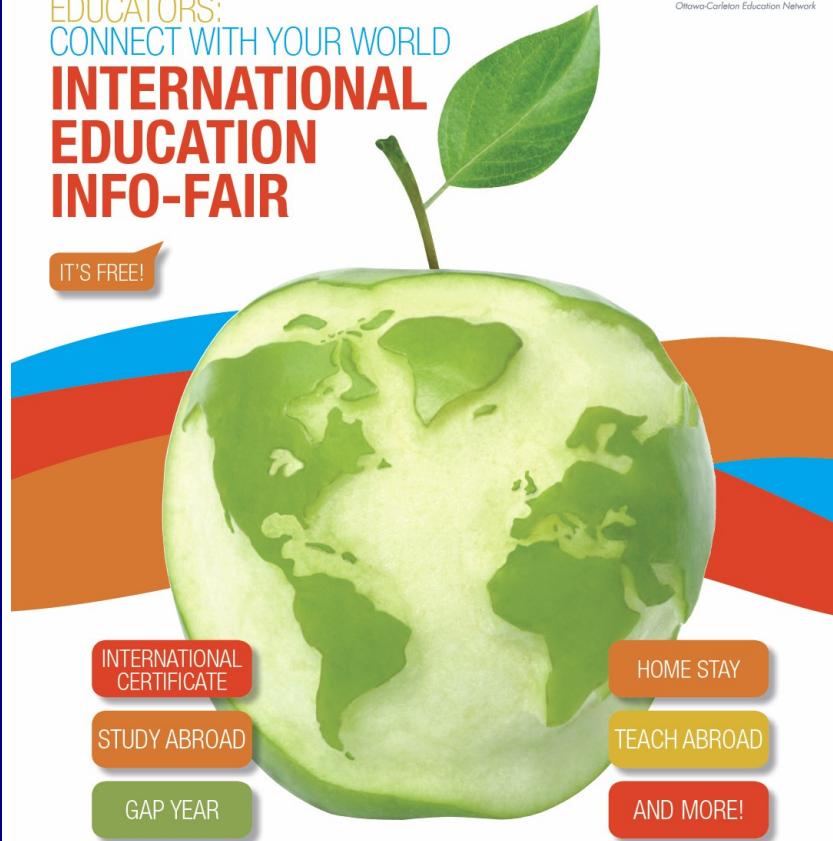
The Branches of OCENET

OCENET launches its first International Education Info-Fair

STUDENTS
PARENTS
EDUCATORS:
CONNECT WITH YOUR WORLD
**INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
INFO-FAIR**



IT'S FREE!



INTERNATIONAL
CERTIFICATE

HOME STAY

STUDY ABROAD

TEACH ABROAD

GAP YEAR

AND MORE!

Interested in learning about the benefits of international education?

The Ottawa-Carleton Education Network is hosting an informational fair for students, parents and educators. Drop by any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. It's FREE!

ALBERT STREET EDUCATION CENTRE, 440 Albert St., Ottawa

APRIL 12, 2014 • 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Register online at ocenet.ca

An open invitation to all students, parents and educators!

The upcoming International Education Info-Fair on Saturday, April 12 at 440 Albert Street will introduce students, parents and educators to many facets of international education. The theme of this event is "Connect With Your World." Attendees will be able to visit information booths from over 20 organizations, including representation from Ottawa-based embassies. In addition, registrants can select seminars throughout the day on a wide range of topics of particular interest. There will be student and teacher panel discussions, as well as presentations by industry experts and international education business representatives.

"There will be something for everyone at the Info-Fair" according to Geoff Best, OCENET's Executive Director. Students and parents can learn about the many opportunities available for students to study overseas from the educational exchange organizations participating at the Info-Fair. Parents and their families can learn about the benefits of hosting an international student in their home. Educators can find out about the many innovative international education initiatives taking place in the OCDSB and learn about opportunities for teaching overseas. Mark April 12th on your calendar!

Poster sized copies of the image above will be distributed to all OCDSB schools and various other locations in February. Be sure to register at www.ocenet.ca and see the schedule of seminars and presenters. Check out the list of organizations attending the OCENET International Education Info-Fair. There is no cost to register and attend the info-fair. Free parking and refreshments will be available throughout the event.

Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges (OIPE) is one of the three branches of OCENET



Members of the Swedish delegation with Kari Hanes, Project Lead, Teacher Training Program

“In a different educational system you realize that there are many other ways of teaching and learning, so you can observe and absorb methodologies completely new to you.”

- OIPE Teacher Training participant, July 2013

by Kari Hanes
Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges (OIPE) is a division of OCENET that promotes personal development through cross-cultural education. Our programs for Canadian and overseas students and teachers are creating a virtual network of learning around the world.

Teacher Training with OIPE Teacher training offers customized programs for international educators. OIPE teacher training courses emphasize the teaching of English as a Foreign Language for elementary, secondary or adult learners. Recently the teacher training program has focused more on CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) where English is used to deliver other subjects (i.e. English Immersion), recognizing this important trend in language education globally. According to Program Director, Constantine Ioannou: “It is important as a teacher training centre that OIPE keeps very current with global changes in education.”

Tailored Programs
 The length of programs varies



The CLIL Teacher Training program welcomes teachers from Spain and elsewhere, who attend a course that focuses on exemplary pedagogical techniques for teaching in English Immersion classrooms.



Teacher training workshops on a wide variety of educational topics are tailored to the needs of visiting educators and delivered by OIPE trainers, as well as expert teachers, principals and senior staff of the OCDSB in the learning centre at 440 Albert Street.

from one week to five months. The team, working in conjunction with the OCBSB and individual schools, analyzes each request and crafts a program or curriculum that is right for each group and ultimately provides an enriching, fruitful experience that addresses all requested topics. Study tours to the OCDSB are usually a week long and have included topics such as :

- “Inclusiveness”
- “Educational Leadership Training”
- “Strategic Planning for Student Achievement”
- “Instructional Coaching Model”
- and the OCDSB’s “Strategic Plan and District Review Process”.

In recent years, OIPE has hosted study groups from Costa Rica, Spain, Sweden, Kenya, South Korea, China, Nigeria, Ukraine and Finland.

CLIL Training
 Training programs for international teachers of English and CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) provide an integrated balance of Language

Development and Methodology training. The language development component includes such features as:

- confidence building
- content specific language
- understanding euphemisms
- cultural enrichment.

The Methodology component of the program includes topics and workshops that focus on:

- communicative approaches
- content-based strategies
- planning, assessment and evaluation
- materials development
- literacy and critical thinking skills.

With full understanding of the connection between language and culture, the program incorporates as much cultural enrichment as possible through visits and excursions in and around our nation’s capital.

Placements in OCDSB Schools
 Training programs include close collaboration with OCDSB educators in local Ottawa schools. OCDSB teachers are invited to share their ideas on panels, in

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OCENET professional development focuses on cultural competency



OCENET's Geoff Best with IDI workshop facilitator Hamelin Grange

On January 17 all OCENET staff participated in a professional development workshop on the topic of intercultural competence. As an organization that works with students, parents, and organizations from

many other cultures, it is important that each member of the OCENET staff be aware of his or her own orientation towards cultural differences and works towards developing intercultural competence.

The Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) is a unique method in assessing an individual's primary orientation towards intercultural differences and involves completing a questionnaire of 50 questions including some anecdotal responses. Based on the results, an individual profile can be determined using empirically valid and reliable methods. This profile identifies where the individual's orientation lies along an intercultural development continuum. In addition, each respondent is provided with a personal plan to develop intercultural competence.

The IDI assessment is a powerful tool for assisting staff to respond to diversity and to enhance intercultural competence throughout a school or workplace.

Intercultural Competence:
"The individual and organizational ability to have and utilize policies, appropriately trained and skilled employees and specialized resources, to systematically anticipate, recognize and respond to the varying expectations of clients, volunteers, and co-workers of diverse backgrounds."

- Hamelin Grange, DiversiPro



OCENET staff in group discussion at the IDI Professional Development workshop

OIPE continued from page 2

workshops and by partnering with an international colleague placed in their schools for an extended period of time. OIPE communicates with host schools and the international teachers are placed in schools to observe English instructional practices in a Canadian school.

Visiting teachers are encouraged to visit as many classrooms as possible in order to improve non-content vocabulary. School placements allow teachers to communicate with Canadian colleagues and gain insights into English language instruction and practices used in OCDSB schools and classrooms. In turn, Canadian teachers also learn about other pedagogical techniques from their international colleagues. It is a mutually enriching experience!

OIPE offers a three week program for teachers of CLIL in July. This program is focused on both methodology and language development, and in-

cludes OCDSB teachers who share their ideas in workshops and through participating in social events. Visits to educational and cultural points of interest are included throughout the stay of the visiting educators. These teachers also live with a Canadian host family in order to have an additional opportunity to fully experience Canadian culture.

OIPE is very fortunate to welcome colleagues from all over the world into our training programs and OCDSB schools.

Reflections from Participants:

"...is well summarized in one word: AMAZING...as all my mates, I was very impressed with diversity, harmony and respect of all the classes."

"Canada is far away but it's worth the effort of coming here because of the beauty of the country. I've just been 2 days and all I can say is...MY OH MY!!! Today I was in class with students from 9 different countries, and they were just 12 in the room...amazing how they manage with such diverse audience. This experience can be very valuable for us."

"I am learning classroom language, and I see it in the real context."



It is not all work, work, work! While in Ottawa, visiting teachers are provided with many opportunities to explore the rich cultural and historical heritage of the Ottawa region, and to enjoy the unique outdoor activities available from canoeing on the Ottawa River in voyageur canoes to zip-lining in the Gatineau Hills

OCDSB International Certificate gains recognition



Students who complete the ICP receive a special certificate that is increasingly being recognized by post-secondary institutions

“...Algonquin College is pleased to recognize the ICP’s value in preparing high school graduates with life skills that concurrently strive to develop global citizens....”

- Jo-Ann Aubut,
Dean, Academic Development,
Algonquin College

The new *OCDSB International Certificate*, which was piloted successfully in six local high schools last year, is now expanding to three more high schools each semester in a gradual “roll out” to secondary schools as indicated in the chart below. There are now close to 150 students enrolled in the program across the OCDSB.

Overview of the ICP
The purpose of this certificate is to recognize students who have demonstrated a commitment to being motivated, engaged and active global citizens. Students must have obtained at least one high school credit in an international language besides English or French, completed at least four designated courses that have a specific international or cultural focus, and participated in an international experience and engagement opportunity through a student exchange or study tour, or through local activities with an international NGO or with school or community involvement. The last requirement involves

students preparing a comprehensive portfolio which requires students to address the topic of why it is important to be a globally informed citizen in today’s world.

Growing Recognition
There has been a great deal of interest in the ICP. Many students and parents are inquiring about the program. Principals and teachers are very interested. Local media has highlighted the *OCDSB International Certificate* in recent articles appearing in *The Ottawa Citizen* and *Centretown News*. OCDSB Director of Education Jennifer Adams was recently invited to present the program to all Ontario Directors of Education. In addition, International Education Coordinator Kathy Scheepers and OCENET Executive Director Geoff Best will be meeting with Governor General His Excellency David Johnston to outline the *OCDSB International Certificate Program*. The ICP will also be presented at three national conferences, in upcoming months.

Universities, colleges and embassies are strongly endorsing

the ICP:

From Alison Cummings, Queen’s University International Centre: *“The OCDSB International Certificate Program seems to recognize the key elements of becoming internationally-minded — language learning, internationally focussed course work, intercultural engagement that can happen at home or abroad. Students who complete the program should see their worlds expand in exhilarating ways.”*

From Heon-jun Kim, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Canada: *“The OCDSB International Certificate Program is an exceptionally innovative program...In the age of globalization, multiculturalism and interconnectedness, we are reminded that fostering global citizenship is not a matter of choice, but of necessity.”*

Details on the *OCDSB International Certificate Program* are available online: <http://www.ocdsb.ca/programs/int/Pages/ICP.aspx>

OCDSB staff: Check out the new “International Education” folder on BEAM!

September 2013 (Semester 1)	February 2014 (Semester 2)	September 2014 (Semester 1)
Longfields-Davidson H SS	Merivale HS	Earl of March SS
Woodroffe HS	Glebe CI	Canterbury HS
Nepean HS	Sir Robert Borden SS	Osgoode THS

“The ICP is the perfect complement to our already internationally focused curriculum and extra-curricular activities. It gives the students recognition for their curiosity about the greater world outside of Canada’s borders.”

- Bob Barter,
ICP Teacher Advisor, A.Y.
Jackson

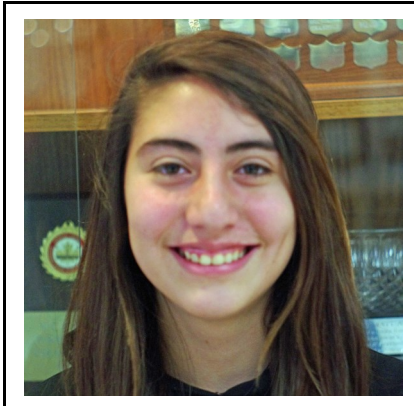


Students enrolled in the *OCDSB International Certificate Program* from A.Y. Jackson S.S. recently visited the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to learn about various diplomatic and historical connections between Canada and South Korea including trade, immigration, and the Korean War. Students toured the embassy, visited the language school and participated in a demonstration on how to write using the Korean alphabet.

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.

Fernanda @Brookfield High School



One of several students from Chile in the OCDSB, Fernanda won a scholarship to study in Canada. This has been her first time out of Chile and away from her close-knit family for an extended period. She is glad that she was placed in Ottawa, and especially happy to be at Brookfield High School where she has made friends from over the world. She enjoyed the opportunity to participate in all of the excursions that OCENET offers to its international students, such as the trip to visit Toronto and Niagara Falls and another trip to Montreal. She is in Grade 11 and enjoys all her subjects, but especially biology as she aims to be a doctor in the future. A major goal in coming to Canada was to improve her English language skills; now Fernanda no longer needs her translation dictionary and even dreams in English!

“At first I was nervous about coming to study in Canada, but now I feel confident and stronger from the experience.”

- Fernanda, international student from Chile

Alex @Bell High School



From Mexico City, Alex is enjoying being in his second year as an international student at Bell High School. He is now in Grade 12 and feels his whole educational experience in Ottawa has been extremely positive. With the support of his parents, Alex chose Canada as the place to study as an international student in order to improve his English skills and to live in a different part of the world. His spoken English has improved immensely and he has become proficient in essay writing. Alex notes that the teachers at Bell HS are very supportive. He thinks Ottawa is “very beautiful” even when it’s cold in winter. Alex finds Canadians to be friendly and he also appreciates how all of the international students help each other while they are studying here. He might continue post-secondary education in Canada and intends to pursue a career in architecture.

“One of my best experiences in Ottawa has been making many new friends from Canada and lots of other countries.”

- Alex, international student from Mexico

Nina @Merivale High School



Nina is from Hamburg, Germany, and has spent the past semester at Merivale High School. At first she was nervous about attending her new school because she thought she would be lonely and have few friends, but she was pleasantly surprised, as she has made lots of new Canadian friends. She likes that Merivale has lots of sports teams and clubs, and thinks these extra-curricular activities add a positive spirit to the whole school. Nina knows that her experience has helped her to significantly improve her English language skills and made her more independent and confident. Her advice to other students considering an international student exchange: “Expect the unexpected” and “Don’t bring too many clothes!” She will soon be returning home but will miss her new Canadian friends at Merivale High School.

“...Ottawa is such a great city because it’s not too big, the people are super friendly, and it’s very multicultural .”

- Nina, international student from Germany

Meet OCENET: Minsook Kang



Minsook Kang standing beside a poster promoting international student programs available in OCDSB schools at a specialized high school seminar in Shanghai, China, November 2013

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

What are some of your roles at OCENET?

I work on Marketing and Communications at OCENET. I support our agents in Asian countries who recruit students who choose to attend local OCDSB schools as international students. I always think about what I can do to assist the international students, their parents, and the agents. I am also in charge of maintaining our online application system and public websites. Keeping all of our websites up-to-date and user friendly is one of my most important roles.

What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy helping international students who want to come to study in Ottawa regardless of the length of their study period and assisting them to settle in

our schools as smoothly as possible. I am also very happy that I can contribute to improving our websites.

What countries have you visited to attend student recruitment fairs?

I have visited Korea and China to participate in recruitment fairs and to meet with agents.

What have been some of your accomplishments at OCENET that you are most proud of?

We have a website which thoroughly explains our international student programs in 7 different languages including English, Korean, Spanish, Chinese, Turkish, Japanese and Vietnamese. I was in charge of translating the Korean language web information myself and coordinating the translation of the other language sites as well. I truly believe these websites are one of the strongest marketing tools at the global level,

and I always try my best to keep it current and easy to navigate. It makes me so happy when students, parents and agents say our websites are so helpful when they are looking for any information.

What new projects are you working on at OCENET?

While we recruit students from many countries, the number of Korean students has decreased in the past few years; we are focusing on creating programs to attract more students from Korea. We also promote our online application system to help people apply online and make our office more automated and an increasingly paperless environment.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I love to play golf and enjoy group fitness classes. My favorite classes are Hot Yoga and Zumba.

Global Village Fest celebrates cultures at Adult High School



Students and staff at Adult High School get involved to share a taste of foods, music, dance and culture from around the world

On November 6 the gym at Adult High School transformed into a global village with all of the students and staff participating in a huge celebration of each other's cultural heritage.

Throughout an afternoon of music, dance, and foods from across the globe, the students at AHS celebrated each other. Traditional clothes were worn and cultural traditions were shared. Over 50 languages were represented. As one of the key organizers of Global Village Fest for many years, Student Services counsellor May Saadeh says, "By attending this event, you can spare yourself the cost of an around-the-

world plane ticket."

Students prepare for weeks in advance of the event. Planning and organizing takes place at lunchtime meetings, performances are practiced throughout the term, flags and artifacts are brought from home, and foods are carefully prepared from traditional family recipes. When the event day arrives, it is evident from the pride in everyone's eyes that all participants are very proud to share their cultural background and to learn about each other's cultures too.

Students build new understandings of each other which helps to develop the strong sense of community that exists at AHS.

In the words of Principal Rene Bibaud: "Global Village Fest is a celebration of what Adult High School is all about. It's a heartfelt event that celebrates the school community that we serve, and is a reflection of multiculturalism in Ottawa."



Adult High School students from Ethiopia enjoy sharing their cultural background at the annual Global Village Fest

OCENET Tip Sheet #4:

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & TEACHER EXCHANGES/ TEACH ABROAD



An international student exchange provides opportunities for students to visit another country as much more than a tourist. Students live with a host family from 2 months to one year and attend a local school in the host country. OCDSB students can find out more information by visiting the websites of the non-profit student exchange organizations listed below or by contacting Constantine Ioannou, Program Director, Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges (constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca).

Speak in person with representatives of the student exchange organizations at the **OCENET International Education Info-Fair** on April 12 at 440 Albert Street. Register at www.ocenet.ca after February 15.

Canadian Education Exchange Foundation: <http://www.ceef.ca/new-site/students/students-idx.html>

International Student Exchange - Ontario: <http://www.iseontario.on.ca/>

STS - Student Travel Schools: <http://www.sts-education.com/>

Kaitlyn in Sweden, Fall 2013

"Being able to have gone on my exchange to Sweden not only let me have an awesome experience, but opens doors to so many other opportunities going forward. Meeting new people, staying with a host family, going new places and learning so much, both independently and with others, made this experience so valuable to me."



Kaitlyn (far right) with her Swedish host family

Susanna in Austria, Fall 2013

"Even though I am in Grade 10, I applied for this special scholarship because I wanted to see what another part of the world is like. My experience in Austria showed me an environment very different than what I first expected. It was so peaceful and the people were so friendly and kind. I felt safe, well looked after, and the whole time was fun."



Susanna (second from right) with Austrian friends

An international teaching exchange or a teach abroad experience can be a highlight of a teaching career. Many OCDSB teachers have taught overseas at various stages of their teaching careers and will be glad to share their stories. Attend a presentation on teaching abroad at the **OCENET International Education Info-Fair** on April 12 at 440 Albert Street. Register at www.ocenet.ca after February 15.

Information on international teaching exchanges and teach abroad opportunities are available at the following links:

OCENET Teach Abroad: http://www.ocenet.ca/ocenet_cms/teach-abroad/page/show/teaching-positions

Canadian Education Exchange Foundation: <http://www.ceef.ca/new-site/teachers/destinations/destinations-idx.html>

Teachers' Overseas Recruiting Fair (TORF): <http://educ.queensu.ca/services/careers>



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email: ocenet@ocdsb.ca

Did you know? Student scholarships available to OCDSB students through OCENET

OCDSB students should keep the following link on their radar to check for upcoming information about the Lynch-Getty Global Student Award which is presented to six deserving students, including two international students attending an OCDSB school. Information on this scholarship will be available in **March 2014** at <http://www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/lynch-getty>



Grade 12 graduate Emma Maclean was presented with the Lynch-Getty Global Student Award by Vice-Principal Rob Anderson at commencement ceremonies in June 2013



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

The Branches of OCENET



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Elementary School
High School
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OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL
PROJECTS AND EXCHANGES

GROUP PROJECTS

English Immersion
Teacher Training
Summer Programs



YOUNG PEOPLE'S
LANGUAGE SCHOOL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Academic English
Leadership and
Outdoor Education Programs
Summer Study



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EDUCATION NETWORK



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Please direct any comments,
questions, or suggestions to:
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