

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

- from 42 countries
- in 22 high school schools and 29 elementary schools,
- and throughout the year over 125 visiting educators from 7 countries

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The Branches of OCENET

OCENET celebrates first recipients of OCDSB International Certificate



On Monday, June 17, the first recipients of the new OCDSB International Certificate Program celebrated together at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. International Certificates were presented to 23 students from six pilot schools. Teacher Advisors and Principals from the pilot schools were also recognized for their contributions at the event. Attendees included Jennifer McKenzie, Chair of the Board; Jennifer Adams, OCDSB Director of Education; Pino Buffone, Superintendent of Curriculum Services; Geoff Best, Executive Director of OCENET; and His Excellency Ambassador Cho Hee-yong.

OCDSB students prepare to study in Europe

One of the most enriching opportunities a student can have in high school is a study abroad experience. Living in another country and using another language is a challenge that develops valuable life skills, broadens cultural horizons and fosters lifelong friendships. Through OCENET's affiliation with STS Student Travel Schools Inc., OCDSB high school students will be travelling to one of seven different countries in Europe to live with a host family and attend a local high school for two months this coming fall. Bon voyage!



Several recipients of STS Student Exchange bursaries recently attended a Saturday morning orientation workshop with STS representatives Kim Paquette and Yannick Bécu (kneeling) in preparation for their upcoming study abroad experience

The OCDSB and OCENET are recognized around the globe



Superintendent of Curriculum Services, Pino Buffone addressing a delegation of Swedish administrators about the OCDSB's Strategic Plan

“Through dialogue with visiting delegates, we also benefit from learning about educational systems from an international perspective.”

- Barry Bickerton
System Principal,
Curriculum Services, OCDSB



OCDSB Director of Education Jennifer Adams and Kenya Teachers' Service Commission Secretary/CEO/Head of Delegation Mr. Gabriel K. Lengoiboni (seated), Mr. Geoff Best, Mrs. Lucy W Njeru, His Excellency Simon Nabukwesi, High Commissioner, Kenya High Commission (Ottawa), Mrs. Josephine Maundu, Mr. Abdirizak H. Faram, and Mrs. Nancy N. Macharia (standing, l-r)
(photo: John MacKinnon)



Hillcrest High School Principal Reg Lavergne signing an MOU friendship agreement with the Vice-Principal of Chongqing Railway High School, China, in April 2013

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is a common way for school boards to establish agreements for joint collaboration on education related initiatives.

Over the past few months OCENET has helped to facilitate MOUs with Kenya and China. These agreements range from being very general to being very specific in terms of their conditions. All of the agreements have predetermined time limits and outline

general goals over the term of the MOU.

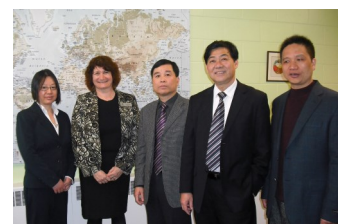
Most of the agreements seek cooperation in the areas of instruction, educational research, information sharing, and curriculum development, as well as teacher and student training. In most instances there is an emphasis in the MOUs upon opening lines of communication and sharing resources through encouraging reciprocal visits among administrators and principals. The

majority of the MOUs focus upon the mutual benefits of cooperating in areas of professional development and promoting teacher and student exchanges.

The keen interest of many educational jurisdictions in forming friendship and partnership agreements with the OCDSB and OCENET is a testament to the value other educators in many different parts of the world place on our local public educational system.



Mr. Wing Xiang Wang, Deputy Director of Education, Changle City, China, signing an MOU agreement with OCDSB Associate Director Walter Piovesan (photo: John MacKinnon)



Principal Carol Gage (second from left) hosting the delegation from Fujian Province, China, during its visit and tour of Greenbank Middle School

23 students receive the *OCDSB International Certificate*

The new *OCDSB International Certificate* was piloted in six local high schools this past school year. Close to 100 students have enrolled in the program and a group of 23 exceptional graduating Grade 12 students received their certificates at a special award ceremony at the Korean Embassy on June 17th.

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.

Each pilot school has a teacher volunteer who serves as the International Certificate Advisor to assist students in achieving the certificate and in tracking student progress. Many students and parents have requested that this program be extended to other schools.

There is a growing interest throughout Canada in this type of program which supports global citizenship initiative amongst students. It is anticipated that several more OCDSB high schools will offer this certificate next year. In addition, other school boards across Ontario are adopting the model being piloted in the OCDSB, and several post-secondary institutions have endorsed the *OCDSB International Certificate*.

Information about the *OCDSB International Certificate Program* is available by contacting the International Education Coordinator or visiting the OCDSB website:
<http://www.ocdsb.ca/program/intl/Pages/ICP.aspx>



The first group of students received the OCDSB International Certificate at a special ceremony

OCDSB International Certificate pilot schools, 2012-13:

AY Jackson SS
 Bell HS
 Gloucester HS
 Hillcrest HS
 Lisgar CI
 Ridgemont HS

The OCDSB and the “Year of Korea in Canada”

This is a special year in the relationship between the Republic of Korea and Canada as it marks both the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between each country and the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. Prime Minister Harper has named 2013 as “The Year of Korea in Canada.”

In recognition of these anniversaries and the special friendship between Canada and Korea, the Embassy in Ottawa has begun a special School Visitation Program which introduces OCDSB students to many aspects of Korean culture, which includes learning about the symbolism of the Korean flag as well as the country's history and geography. The students enjoy learning the Korean Hangul alphabet and about Korean customs and lifestyles. Students share their new knowledge by competing in a jeopardy style quiz game.

The increasing popularity of Korean cuisine and the recent enthusiasm for K-Pop (Hallyu)

music has attracted the interest of local students in Korea. The students have been very receptive to the school visits by the Korean Embassy staff.

Thus far, the Korean outreach program has visited three local schools: York Street Public School, Churchill Alternative School, and North Gower/Marlborough Public School.



His Excellency Cho Hee-yong enjoys sharing Korean culture with the students at York Street PS

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Canada, His Excellency Cho Hee-yong meets with the students in their classrooms and always emphasizes the strong partnership between our respective countries. He notes that there are many more similarities than differences between our peoples. His Excellency encourages the students to appreciate the rich and diverse multiculturalism that Canada fosters amongst its citizens.

In addition to the School Visit Program, the Korean Embassy has extended an invitation to all OCDSB staff to attend monthly screenings of a recent Korean film with English subtitles. Each of these movie evenings provides further insight into Korean culture and lifestyle, and most importantly, helps to build relationships and understanding between the local public school board and the Korean community in Ottawa.

“To see such a level of participation from the students, enthusiasm for learning, and their keen interest in Korean culture, I can say that it was an amazing experience for us as well.”

*- Jung Joon Rhee,
 Cultural and Public Affairs
 Coordinator,
 Embassy of the Republic of
 Korea to Canada*



Many OCDSB staff attend the Korean movie nights held each month

International Co-operative Education launches in Costa Rica

“Unlike touring a country or staying at a resort, the International Co-op experience with Canada World Youth offered me a more “realistic” international trip. Hands down... this was by far THE MOST AMAZING TRIP!”

- Marika Buzza
Longfields-Davidson
Heights S.S.
student

“I cannot express enough how much this trip has changed my life. This includes my values, acceptance of other cultures, and growing as a person.”

- Jasmine Kherani
Longfields-Davidson
Heights S.S.
student

In April, students from Longfields-Davidson Heights S.S. enrolled in the International Business class participated in an innovative International Co-op pilot project to Costa Rica. Students earned two credits, and learned Spanish over the course of the school year.

Throughout the past year and a half, business teacher Mrs. C. Belanger, co-operative education teacher Mrs. V. Dowd, and Mrs. S. Hem-

street, Curriculum Services Instructional Coach, worked in collaboration with Canada World Youth and 18 students to develop this new International Co-op program. In preparation for the trip, both students and staff took Spanish lessons and applied business skills through many fund-raising initiatives such as selling Costa Rican coffee.

During their two weeks in Costa Rica, the students worked on several different

projects in the community of San Ignacio, including at a women's centre, schools, and an aqueduct. Tasks ranged from organizing documents, creating brochures, setting up a library and painting buildings to digging holes and mixing cement.

While in Costa Rica, the students and teachers became part of the community by living with local host families. Everyone benefitted from a genuine cross-cultural experience of “learning while doing.”

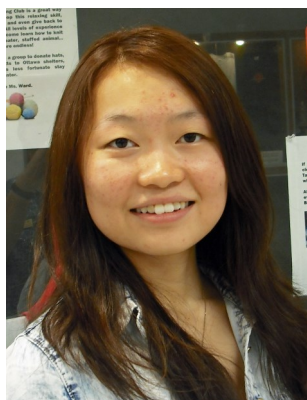


Costa Rica - Canada, 2013

¡Muchas Gracias por todo!

Carlos, Alex, Sabrina, Hudson, Jasmine, Brad, Ramisa, Cathy, Nathaniel, Suyoun, Tim, Thomas Nancy, Bailey, Pooja, Marika, Wassim, Mustafa, Edwin, Valerie, Caleb, Justin

OCENET international student wins prestigious scholarship



Brookfield High School international student, Xiang Gu

Congratulations go to Xiang Gu who is one of three international students to be offered a full 4-year scholarship from the University of Western Ontario!

Xiang started school in Canada two years ago. In order to enhance her English skills she enrolled in the Young Peoples Language School at the Albert Street Education Centre prior to attending Brookfield High School. She truly appreciates Canadian culture and has felt

welcomed by all the Canadians she has met.

Her advice for all international students is to get involved in both school and the community. Xiang loves Brookfield HS. Starting as a percussionist in the school band, she later became a lead flute player. She also is involved with a youth group and fencing at the RA Centre. Her scholarship was based not only on her excellent marks, but also because of her active participation in Canadian life.

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.

Haruo@Woodroffe High School



Haruo comes from the Japanese city of Kanagawa, near Tokyo. He came to study in Ottawa to improve his English skills and because of the high reputation of Ontario’s educational system. He finds his Canadian host family to be very friendly and describes Ottawa as “one of the best places in the world.” He was surprised to be in a school with Canadian students who come from so many different cultures. Haruo has made close friends with Canadian students and also spends time getting to know his fellow international students, with whom he has experienced skating, skiing, hockey games and a trip to Quebec City. Overall, Haruo is very happy here!

“... one of the great benefits is that I am friends with both Canadian students and the other international students.”

- Haruo, international student from Japan

Cecelia@Bell High School



According to Cecelia, who is from Mexico, one of the best parts about studying in Ottawa is getting to know people from all over the world. Cecelia finds the students at Bell HS to be very friendly, and any initial apprehensions she had quickly disappeared from her first day at the school. She is impressed at how her teachers make her feel respected and have supported her learning. She knows her English has improved significantly, and feels that because she has had to take on new responsibilities by being away from home, she has matured and become more independent since arriving in Ottawa. Cecelia enjoys soccer, and has a particular passion for dramatic arts and musical theatre.

“...I really love it here. There’s so much to see and do, and I would recommend anyone to come and study in Ottawa.”

- Cecelia, international student from Mexico

Felix@Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School



Felix comes from Berlin, Germany. He is attending school in Ottawa to improve his English skills, and he finds the educational system here allows students time to learn course knowledge and apply skills. He is fascinated by some of the differences between German and Canadian culture, such as meal times and larger cars, but says he has adjusted easily to these differences. Felix believes in getting involved and taking advantage of opportunities to get to know both Canadian students and the other international students. He has gone on the OCENET excursion to Niagara Falls and on the skiing trip. One of his regular activities is Friday afternoon soccer with international students from across the city.

“...I have a great Homestay family, and I’m always busy with new friends, so I think those are reasons I’ve never really felt very homesick.”

- Felix, international student from Germany

Meet OCENET: Anne-marie Bereza



Anne-marie Bereza (left), OCENET Marketing and Program Coordinator, with Mexican agent, Rosemaria Uribe (right), at the OCDSB booth (photo taken at a student recruitment fair in Mexico)

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

What are some of your roles at OCENET?

The main part of my position is the promotion of our programs. I have been with OCENET for 10 years and I have carried out many different roles during that time.

What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

My favorite part of my job is meeting students from all over the world.

What have been some of your accomplishments this school year?

In September we welcomed 35 scholarship students from Brazil. The students were funded by the Government in the state of Pernambuco. Without the scholarships these kids would not have had the opportunity to come to Canada, and, in fact, most have never been outside of the city they live in. These students were amazing and I will never forget meeting them.

In September 2012, I arranged extra-curricular activities for the

international students. The activities included a boy's soccer team, discounted YMCA memberships, and an open gym every Friday night at Merivale High School.

It is great to see the students out having a good time and I got to know many of them very well during the activities. Some of my best memories are of students from different countries having a great time being active or playing sports, such as a Korean boy teaching a German boy to snowboard.

What new projects are you working on at OCENET?

My focus is always shifting from working with agents, to students and to travel. I like to tour our schools regularly, and I enjoy learning new things about our great schools and what they can offer our international students.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I enjoy being active in sports, and some of my favourite activities include soccer, spinning and running.



Anne-marie (front right) with her team the Polar Bear Soccer League Coed Division 1 Champions, following their Spring League Championship game.

Photo Gallery



International students from Colombia enjoying their Canadian experience at Glashan Public School



While visiting Ottawa to attend an OCENET teacher training program and observe teaching practices in OCDSB schools, a group of 15 educators from Costa Rica took time out of their schedule to experience an evening visit to Parliament Hill



Colombian teacher Javier Cucalon visiting one of his students at W. Erskine Johnston PS

OCENET Tip Sheet #3:

WHAT ARE “GLOBAL COMPETENCIES”?

“the broad competencies – the skills, knowledge and attitudes – and the more specific behavioural traits possessed by an interculturally effective person.” (from *A Profile of the Interculturally Effective Person*, p.5)



#1: Adaptation Skills

cope with culture shock and challenges of a new culture
beyond coping, enjoy enriching experiences in the host culture
without abandoning core principles, behave somewhat differently in the host culture than at home in order to gain more acceptance in the new culture

#2: An attitude of modesty and respect

show respect in attitude and behaviour towards the local culture
avoid drawing attention to themselves
demonstrate self-confidence to take initiative and promote change where called for

#3: An understanding of the concept of culture

aware of how culture affects all people and societies
understand how the influence of one’s own cultural conditioning and how those values may cause problems in the host culture

#4: Knowledge of the host country and culture

show desire to learn about the host culture
possess knowledge of the history, geography, social mores, customs and socio-economic conditions, etc., of the host country
demonstrate knowledge of political processes of the country and understanding of organizational and management practices

#5: Relationship Building

socialize harmoniously with host nationals
help people of diverse cultures work together productively

#6: Self-knowledge

understand one’s own culture and how it has shaped thinking, feeling and reacting to people and events
know personal strengths and weaknesses about adjusting to a new culture overseas
recognize and manage personal reactions to ambiguity
understand personal work styles

#7: Intercultural Communication

communicate thoughts, opinions and expectations in an understandable yet culturally sensitive way
participate in the local culture and language without fear of making mistakes
establish shared meanings with local people so both foreigners and the local people understand what is said in the same way
possess sufficient knowledge of the local language to show interest towards the local people
develop empathy, not just an intellectual understanding, of how the local people view the world

#8: Organizational Skills

strive for balance between the need to adapt behaviour to local norms (“when in Rome...”) and the need to maintain one’s own cultural identity and values (avoiding “going native...”)

develop professional networks locally, nationally, and internationally

build consensus to reconcile the perspectives of differing cultures to mutually share cultures in achieving a goal

#9: Personal and Professional Commitment

desire to contribute to the local community
awareness of the purpose, motivations, and expectations of being overseas

**adapted from A Profile of the Interculturally Effective Person, The Centre for Intercultural Learning, Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade*



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OCENET introduces new International Education Coordinator



Kathy Scheepers,
International Education Coordinator

OCENET's first International Education Coordinator, Ross Laing, is retiring from the OCDSB, and Kathy Scheepers will be assuming the role in coordinating the *OCDSB International Certificate Program*, the International Education Info Fair, and many other international education initiatives throughout the next school year.



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

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