

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

- from 42 countries
- in 22 high school schools and 36 elementary schools,
- and throughout the year, over 150 visiting educators from 11 countries

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The Divisions of OCENET

OCENET and OCDSB selected by Ontario Ministry of Education to pilot unique cultural immersion program in China



OCDSB students, along with students from eight other countries, pose for a group photo along The Bund beside the Yangtze River in Shanghai during the International Youth Leaders in China Program during the last two weeks in July

During the last two weeks in July a group of 20 OCDSB students from various local high schools participated in an experience of a lifetime. The OCDSB and OCENET were selected by the Ministry of Education to champion an initiative to select Grade 10 students to learn about Chinese language and culture in Jiangsu Province near Shanghai. Busy days included Chinese language lessons followed by a wide variety of cultural activities, including Chinese calligraphy, Mongolian dance, Tai Chi, fencing, paper cutting, creating Beijing Opera masks, fencing, participating in a traditional tea ceremony, making dumplings, planting Bonsai trees, among many other iconic cultural experiences. The students visited historical and famous cultural sites such as The Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou, the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, and the Youth Olympic Museum in Nanjing. One unique aspect of the program was sharing the experience with not only Chinese students, but also other students from many other countries including Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain and the USA. Prior to departure the OCDSB students participated in numerous activities to develop cultural awareness and understand the importance of intercultural competence when experiencing a new and very different culture. The students kept a daily journal to record their experiences and reactions to Chinese culture; overwhelmingly, the students felt the trip was not only memorable, but also a transformative experience.



Students learn about the evolution and art of Chinese characters from a world renowned master calligrapher



OCDSB students enjoy learning about bonsai horticulture by pruning and planting trees

Glashan PS deeply involved in international collaboration

“One of the key goals of the Deep Learning project is to start connecting our students with other students in other parts of the world, but moving far beyond the ‘pen pal’ concept alone to inquiring together about ‘bigger’ questions”

- Jim Tayler,
Principal
Glashan Public School



Three of the Glashan PS students who presented the results of their research involving a survey and analysis about middle school students to an interested audience of student teachers at the University of Ottawa

‘real life’ problem solving.”

Part of the program includes an emphasis on the sharing of learning and knowledge. Last February, Glashan PS Skyped with NPDL educators in Uruguay. Grade 7 students developed a Heritage Fair. Students in Grade 8 conducted a deep learning research task related to the data management unit in their Math class and several students presented their findings to student teachers at the University of Ottawa.

Future plans include expanding the NDPL project at Glashan to involve more students and staff, as well as parents. Details on this exciting initiative can be found under “Glashan’s Deep Learning Journey” at the school website:

www.glashanps.ocdsb.ca



Mr. Jim Tayler introduces the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning initiative at a student assembly

Glashan PS has long had a strong commitment to international education initiatives, but the school is taking things to another level with the inception of the New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL) project, which began last year at Glashan PS and five other OCDSB schools.

To date, approximately 1,000 schools from 10 different nations are using the NPDL, an educational framework developed by noted Canadian educator Michael Fullan, with the 6 C’s at its core: collaboration;

character education; critical thinking and problem solving; creativity and imagination; communication; and citizenship. Some of the main principles of the program include a strong *partnership* approach to education whereby the teacher and student work as a team to solve deep learning tasks based on probing questions. This approach promotes experiential learning and is relevant to learners because the questions are generated together. In the words of Principal Jim Tayler: “The NPDL approach makes learning irresistibly engaging because it involves



A main aspect of the NPDL learning tasks is not merely reproducing existing knowledge, but creating “new” knowledge through asking profound questions explored within a collaborative learning environment

Graduating students receive OCDSB International Studies Certificates at June Awards Ceremony



Robert Barter (center), Dept. Head of Canadian & World Studies, with his students from A.Y. Jackson S.S. awarded the OCDSB International Certificate

At the ICP Awards Ceremony on June 18th in the auditorium at Sir Robert Borden H.S., thirty-three students from thirteen OCDSB schools were presented with the OCDSB International Studies Certificate. Several hundred students are now enrolled in this innovative international education program from across our school district.

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

Hosting international students enriches family life for everyone



Homestay parents Andréanne and Bruce with their own children and several international students who enjoy family life in their home

Andréanne provided *Global Connections* with answers to some questions about her experiences as a Homestay parent

What interested you in becoming a Homestay host parent?

To become a host family you need 3 things: room in your house, room in your schedule, but most importantly, room in your heart. Bruce and I both have graduate degrees in Education; we very much love kids and value lifelong learning. We thought hosting international students would allow us to learn about other cultures while ensuring that these kids receive the best Canadian experience possible. I was an international student myself for a year in Valencia, Spain, back in 1992 (when there were no internet, Skype or emails!). I loved every minute of it and made long-lasting friendships. This experience allowed me to understand what our international children are going through and how to meet their needs and expectations.

What was involved in the process of becoming a host parent to international students?

When we decided to host, we researched what options were available. We made a few calls, sent a few emails, filled a few questionnaires, met a few amazing people, got a Police Check, and not long after we welcomed our first Chinese son, Peter.

How long have you been a host parent?

We started hosting in 2010.

How many international students has your family hosted?

Peter (China), Minh Ahn (Vietnam), David (Spain), Maria Paula (Colombia), Camila (Colombia), Nura (Germany), Zoe (China), Patricia (Spain), Coco (China), Boya (China), Sofia (Colombia), Andreza (Brazil), Laura (Colombia), Catalina (Chile), Sofia (Colombia), Nagi (Japan), Jocelyn (Mexico), and Lydia (China)... and we welcomed a few international parents too!

What is the most interesting or enriching aspect about being a host parent?

We benefit so much from having our international children that we don't think we could pick just one interesting and enriching aspect. Since we started hosting, our family increased significantly as we became parents of triplets in December of 2011 (yes, we moved to a bigger house!). Our own children certainly gain very much from having older sisters. At the young age of 3.5 years old, they already know how to locate the birth countries of all their international siblings on the map. Having young kids in the house allows our students to practice their English without any inhibitions... they quickly become familiar with Dr. Seuss!

Bruce and I treat our students the way we would like our own children to be treated if they were in a foreign country. We have lots of fun/silly times and

some more serious conversations. As a homestay mom to teenage girls, I've had to have conversations on interesting topics such as: boys, tampons, self-esteem, bullying, narcissism and hygiene, to only name a few.

The main indicator that learning has taken place is change in behaviour, right? Well, we get to witness our international children learning and growing every day. It doesn't matter if they are with us for a month or a year, the connection doesn't end the day we drive them to the airport. We have built lifelong relationships that keep on giving (we plan on being proud grandparents of all our international grand-babies!).

The most rewarding thing you ask... we get to see them grow into amazing successful young adults and hope that we played a little part in it.



OCCENET international students Nura (Germany), Laura (Colombia), and Zoe (China) happily show off a Canadian flag signed by many of their Canadian friends they made while studying in Canada

New bursary program helps “internationalize” teaching

“I believe that this experience has provided me with a better insight into the challenges faced by my language students as well as by my OCDSB colleagues and students for whom English is not a first language.”

- Carolle Coulombe,
Nepean High School



Nancy Dlouhy, Vice Principal at Bell High School, tries out the traditional Chinese musical instrument, the erhu, while participating in a special cultural immersion program in China (see story on page 1)

Several recipients of the new OCENET Staff Bursary Program have provided “testimonials” about how the funds they received from the program have assisted them with a wide variety of worthy international educational initiatives.

**Diana Hall,
Physics Teacher, Bell
High School:**

“Do Science Tanzania is my personal project, now in its fifth year. The objective is to support science teachers in their efforts to provide quality hands-on activities for their students in Moshi, Tanzania. This program includes workshops for teachers which provide opportunities to practice with equipment while conducting lab activities, and supplying equipment for teachers to access and use in their classes. The bursary I received is being used to support the Tanzanian teachers’ workshop expenses and to purchase consumables for science activities. All involved in the program are extremely grateful for this generous gift.”

**David Ward, OCDSB
teacher on exchange in
Australia:**

“The OCENET teacher bursary has allowed me to expand my pedagogical perspective while I am an exchange science teacher in rural New South Wales, Australia. I have used the

bursary to cover travel and related costs to meet with educational support networks that service students in remote areas with special needs. I am thankful for the bursary provided by OCENET as it has greatly increased my ability to effectively investigate teaching in Australia and to share my experiences with students and colleagues.”

**Lorna Lashley,
Principal, Dunning-
Foubert:**

“This year I became a LEAP’ER.... Leaders in Education Across the Planet. Through this program I was able to combine my professional passion and my passion for travel on a trip to Sydney, Australia and spend time in their schools while being billeted with an Australian principal. This is a fabulous opportunity to engage in learning from the educational systems ‘Down Under.’ Thanks for the bursary to support this experience.”

**Nancy Dlouhy,
Vice Principal, Bell High
School:**

“Over a two-week period this summer in Jiangsu Province as part of the Discover Jiangsu 2015 International Youth Leaders to China Cultural Immersion Program, I had the opportunity to study Mandarin, and to learn about the history and

culture of China. I was immersed in everything from basic greetings in Mandarin, to tea pouring ceremonies, to visiting with Chinese educators. As an administrator in a high school with over 100 International Students here in Ottawa, many of whom come from China, my understanding about the life and experiences of a student from another country living and studying abroad grew enormously. I have learned more about the values, cultural norms, school system, and day-to-day life of China, and understand more about how that background affects the thinking, learning, and development of students in my school.”

**Carolle Coulombe,
Language Teacher
Nepean High School:**

“I am very grateful for the opportunity I was granted through the OCENET International Educational Bursary to study Galician language and culture at the University of Santiago de Compostela in July. By putting myself in the position of a second language learner in a foreign country, I believe that this experience has provided me with a better insight into the challenges faced by my language students as well as by my OCDSB colleagues and students for whom English is not a first language.”

Application Forms, FAQ's, Application Deadlines, Contact Information, etc.

STAFF Bursaries: Information is available at the OCENET website under "Scholarships & Bursaries": www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/main

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 profiles international students from Germany, South Korea, and Vietnam.

Ricarda@ Sir Robert Borden High School

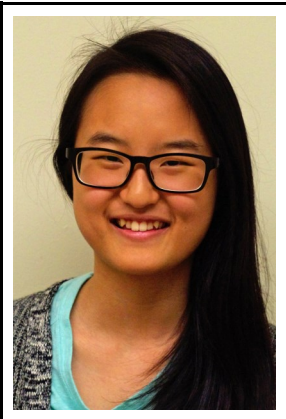


From the city of Hanover in Germany, Grade 11 student Ricarda wanted to experience an education away from home. While arriving in Canada with excellent English language skills, she feels she has greatly improved her spoken and written English as she now speaks with more confidence and has an expanded vocabulary. She enjoys her Homestay and did not find adapting to the Canadian lifestyle too challenging. In fact, she has been teaching German to her Homestay family. Ricarda thinks the key to success as an international student is getting involved in school life, and she has certainly followed her own advice by joining school teams including rugby, tennis, cross-country running, cross-country skiing, and Ski Club. She even went winter camping in -35°C with her Outdoor Education classmates. Ricarda also participates in OCENET trips and social events. In the future, Ricarda intends to study medicine or engineering.

“One of the best ways to avoid being homesick is to get fully involved in school life and make lots of new friends.”

- Ricarda, international student from Germany

Sunny@ Glebe Collegiate Institute



Having attended Glebe Collegiate Institute for the past 1.5 years, Sunny really likes her school and the city of Ottawa. She chose to study in Canada because of its multicultural and diverse population and the opportunity to learn about different languages and cultures. Upon first arriving in Ottawa, Sunny faced many challenges. She worried about making mistakes when speaking and writing in English, found it difficult to deal with Ottawa’s winter, and had some trouble adapting to being away from home in Homestay. While Sunny acknowledges that being an international student can be difficult at first, Sunny successfully overcame those challenges and feels the benefits of her success have made her more independent and mature. She frequently uses Skype to communicate with family and friends, and appreciates the free time she feels she has compared to many of her peers in Korea who are constantly stressed by pressures to study all of the time. After graduation, Sunny plans to attend a Canadian university to pursue a Business degree.

“I like that I can make many choices in choosing my own educational path, unlike many of my friends in South Korea.”

- Sunny, international student from South Korea

Summer@ Sir Robert Borden High School



Summer is now in Grade 12, having been an international student in OCDSB schools for the last 3 years. From Vietnam, Summer wanted to study in Ottawa because it is a capital city, and its public schools were highly recommended by other friends who had studied here. She really enjoys school in Canada and finds Ottawa to be a very peaceful and safe city. She also likes that Ottawa is bilingual which enabled her to continue her study of French. When she arrived in Grade 10 she struggled with communicating in English, but by listening carefully to everyone she met, she improved immensely and now is very confident with English language skills. Summer has played on a SRB sports team and is co-president of two school clubs, the Interact and Multicultural Clubs. During her time as an international student, she has lived in two different homes and has enjoyed being a part of both Homestays. Summer will be attending the University of Ottawa to study Biotechnology.

“In Canada, the teachers give students lots of respect and treat you in an adult way with high expectations. Students learn to take responsibility.”

- Summer international student from Vietnam

Meet OCENET: Eunyoung Shin



*Eunyoung Shin,
International Admissions and
Enrolment Administrator,
Ottawa International Student
Program (OISP)*

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

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

In my role as Admissions Coordinator, I work with foreign agents who place students in OCDSB schools and with school administrators in both the elementary and secondary panels. To ensure that students coming to our schools are placed in the most appropriate school, program and grade level, I review their academic records, English language capabilities and goals.

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

I enjoy meeting so many different people from around the world and learn-

ing about their cultures. It is always a pleasure to work with the OCENET team and all of our school contacts.

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

When the students that I have helped are enjoying their placement and learning experience, I am happy and proud that I was involved. I also help organize and chaperone OCENET extra curricular trips and activities which gives me a wonderful opportunity to get to know our students.

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

Last year a colleague and I organized an information

session for Korean students needing extra assistance in understanding the Ontario school system. We have continued to provide this service and have received very positive feedback. I also initiated visits to our elementary and secondary schools to gain firsthand knowledge of their programs to better help our agents and students applying to OISP.

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

I studied fashion design in Korea and really enjoy the creative process. I keep fit by working out two to three times a week and doing yoga. My husband and I participate in many outdoor activities with our daughters.

SRB High School's InterWeb Club celebrates cultural diversity

“For its very first year, InterWeb Club has been a huge success. From learning about different cultures to starting new friendships, InterWeb has brought students from SRB HS together.”

*- Asma,
Co-President of
Sir Robert Borden High School
InterWeb Club*



*InterWeb Club leaders Malika,
Summer and Asma*

Every Tuesday at lunch 20-30 students in Sir Robert Borden High School's InterWeb Club meet to organize activities to bring together students from different backgrounds. Some events include guest speakers from embassies and the United Nations, seminars by international students about their home countries, Q&A infor-

mation sessions on study abroad and exchange programs, “Language Cafés”, and extracurricular activities such as origami, African dance, field trips and fundraisers. The aim of the club is to help everyone in the SRB school community be aware of cultural diversity and become more interculturally competent.

The unique name of the club comes from the idea that the club connects everyone in a “web,” just like the Internet. The club's slogan: *“InterWeb — connecting everyone better than the Internet.”*

Prompted by a request from SRB students enrolled in the OCDSB International Certificate Program, SRB teacher

Xiaoxiao Zhao launched the InterWeb Club in September 2014 and serves as the school club's teacher advisor.

Future plans include organizing activities that encourage international students to be involved in school life, and starting a Model United Nations event.



Interweb Club students chat with Superintendent of Curriculum Services, Pino Buffone, at OCENET's International Education Info-Fair



Members of the SRB InterWeb Club meet weekly to organize events encouraging the school community to participate in global education initiatives

OCENET Tip Sheet #7:

TEDX TALKS & CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION



TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world (*excerpted from TED website).

Everything you always wanted to know about culture | Saba Safdar | TEDxGuelphU

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaOJ7IczAGO Published on Dec 30, 2012: SABA F. SAFDAR is an Iranian-born Canadian-educated Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Guelph in Ontario. She moved to Canada in the 1980s after the Islamic revolution in Iran. She completed her undergraduate honours degree at McMaster University in Hamilton and her MA and PhD at York University in Toronto.

A cross culture and communication specialist: Isabelle Min at TEDxItaewon

www.youtube.com/watch?v=olvQh0G2vpl Published on Jun 18, 2012: She is a cross culture and communication specialist, an associate professor at Sungkyun Kwan University, CEO of TCK. At TCK institute, she combines her cross cultural upbringing with 25 year career that includes marketing, broadcasting, public relations, training, writing, simultaneous interpreting and coaching. She spent her formative years living in five continents and speaks five languages.

Cross cultural communication | Pellegrino Riccardi | TEDxBergen

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMvofREc5Jk Published on Oct 21, 2014: This talk was given at a local TEDx event, produced independently of the TED Conferences. Pellegrino, being a cross cultural expert, he is sharing with us his personal and professional experience about how very different cultures can successfully coexist next to each other. Is it difficult to live in Norway, being an expat? Do you know how to establish the mutual understanding between Italian and Norwegian?

International Education and the Promotion of Intercultural Understanding: Mary Hayden at

TEDxBathUniversity www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cbn08FYEU Published on Mar 28, 2013: Dr Mary Hayden is Director of the Centre for the study of Education in an International Context (CEIC) and Head of the Department of Education at the University of Bath, where her teaching, publishing and research supervision focus particularly on international schools and international education.

The World Citizenship Project: Carlo Strenger at TEDxJaffa

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mArgTetQzd8 Published on Sep 28, 2012: In his TEDxJaffa talk, Carlo discusses his process of leaving a religious community as a child and discovering a broader "tribe" of world citizens. Stressing open world views over closed world views, Carlo discusses the important work of the World Citizenship Project and the mission of the New Cosmopolitans.

*N.B. All overviews are taken from TEDx talk descriptions accompanying each video.



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OCENET Bulletin Board

LYNCH-GETTY GLOBAL STUDENT AWARDS: Congratulations to the following students who received the Lynch-Getty Award at their Graduation Ceremony in June 2015: **Azana Fatima Hyder** (Colonel By S.S.); **Holly Helen Ruth Laurenzio** (A.Y. Jackson S.S.); **Malika Abdurahimova** (Sir Robert Borden H.S.); and **Mikaela Radmila Capeling** (A.Y. Jackson S.S.). Four OCDSB high school students, two Canadian and two international students, receive an award of \$1,000 each. Application information for the current academic year will be posted in early March 2016. Go to www.ocenet.ca, click on “Scholarships & Bursaries” and then “Lynch-Getty Award.”



CHANGES ANNOUNCED FOR 3rd ANNUAL OCENET INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INFO-FAIR : Some new additions to the popular info-fair include a change of location to the Confederation Education Centre and moving the date to a weekday in order to facilitate more students attending from more schools. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 26, 2016, from 10am-2pm**. Admission is free. More details will be published in the Spring 2016 edition of Global Connections. Look for the new promotional posters in schools soon. Registration information will be available starting in February at www.ocenet.ca



What’s going on at OCENET? Follow us @OCENETottawa

Divisions of OCENET



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