

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

- from 36 countries
- in 22 high school schools and 28 elementary schools,
- and throughout the year, over 150 visiting educators from 10 countries

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Homestay

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Canadian Bureau for International Education awards OCENET and OCDSB for leadership in international education



CBIE President and CEO Karen McBride (far right) and CBIE Board of Directors member David Ross (far left) presented the CBIE Excellence Award to OCENET Executive Director Geoff Best and OCENET International Education Coordinator Kathy Scheepers at the CBIE Annual Conference.

At a gala dinner in Ottawa on Friday, November 21, at the Canadian Bureau of International Education Conference 2014, OCENET and the OCDSB received the **CBIE Board of Directors Award for Comprehensive Internationalization** based on the following criteria: "Awarded to institutions or school districts that are executing well-planned, creative and purposeful strategies toward comprehensive internationalization." OCENET and the OCDSB have long been known for their innovative leadership in international education. The OCDSB International Certificate Program (ICP) has enabled both students and staff a unique opportunity to explore global issues and develop cultural competencies. The ICP has become popular amongst students with almost 400 high school students now enrolled, and the ICP has become a "launching pad" for several other international initiatives, such as study abroad scholarships, a newly unveiled student and teacher bursary program, as well as online language learning opportunities.



The new CBIE Excellence Award on display in the OCENET offices in the Albert St. Education Centre

OCENET Bursary launches international learning opportunities

“Thanks to the leadership of OCENET, when a student has committed to an international learning experience, but their family has limited resources, that student can reach out and apply to the EFO for help with a \$1,000 bursary.”

**- Chris McGarvey,
Executive Director,
Education Foundation of
Ottawa (EFO)**



At a special presentation in December, the Education Foundation of Ottawa (EFO) received \$100,000 from the Ottawa-Carleton Education Network (OCENET) to support OCDSB students pursuing **international** learning experiences abroad. Pictured above are (l-r) Chris McGarvey, EFO Executive Director; Jennifer Adams, OCDSB Director of Education; and Geoff Best, OCENET Executive Director

While OCENET is primarily involved in recruiting international students to attend OCDSB schools, an increasingly important part of its role is encouraging local OCDSB students and staff to participate in international learning, intercultural exchanges and developing global competencies. To support these goals, an innovative new bursary program was launched as a pilot project in December to assist students and educators in funding these types of inter-

national learning experiences. Bursaries for students are awarded in the amount of \$1,000; for educators the amount is either \$500 or \$1,000. There are very specific eligibility criteria and timelines which are outlined in detail as part of the application process, and not all applicants will qualify. Some experiences which may qualify for a student bursary include a study abroad program, summer credit courses overseas, cultural exchanges, or an international school

trip. Educators may apply for a bursary to assist with deferring some of the costs of attending an international education conference or overseas professional development courses, noting that the bursary will not be granted to cover supply teacher costs or school sanctioned travel.

Please refer to the application info below. To date, sixteen students and five teachers have been awarded bursaries.

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

STUDENT Bursaries: Information is available at the Education Foundation of Ottawa website: www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/

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

OCENET to host its 2nd Annual International Education Info-Fair

STUDENTS
PARENTS
EDUCATORS:
CONNECT WITH YOUR WORLD

SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INFO-FAIR

IT'S FREE!

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE

STUDY ABROAD

GAP YEAR

HOME STAY

TEACH ABROAD

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
SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2015 • 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
Register online at ocenet.ca

Yes, everyone is invited! You are invited - students, parents, educators and exhibitors - to participate in OCENET's Second Annual International Education Info-Fair, taking place at the Albert Street Education Centre, 440 Albert St. from 10 a.m.-2 p.m on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Last year's inaugural event was a huge success with over 250 attendees, and this year aims to be even bigger with a larger number of exhibitors and a wider range of presentations...and it's all free of charge.

According to OCENET International Education Coordinator and lead organizer of the Info-Fair, Kathy Scheepers, this year's event will again include over 30 exhibitors in the "Hall of International Opportunities" and 12 information packed workshops on international education topics, and will also include the following:

- More focus on pathways, including postsecondary
- More emphasis upon all students from K-12
- More teacher engagement with many local

educators sharing their expertise and personal experience

- More expert panel discussions

There will be time to speak one-on-one with representatives from various international education organizations. For example, The Education Foundation of Ottawa will be there to provide information about the new student and teacher bursaries for international learning. Carleton University will be there to inform everyone about their new and popular Bachelor of Global and International Studies degree program.

Canadian government agencies, foreign embassies and NGOs will be on hand and many will have informational materials to distribute, such as maps and brochures. Several different panel discussions and presentations on student exchanges, summer study abroad and Homestay will let both students and parents know what to expect. Educators can learn about teaching overseas, and following a panel discussion, they can meet individually with teachers who have taught internationally. In addition, there will be panel discussions on practical ways in which schools can initiate exciting and innovative international experiential learning in their classrooms.

This year's Info-Fair is not to be missed as there is something of interest for everyone in the educational community.

"The Info-Fair is a 'one-stop shop' for everything related to international education, whether it's a student thinking about studying abroad or a teacher contemplating a teaching exchange."

- Kathy Scheepers,
OCENET International
Education Coordinator

AN OPEN INVITATION

An invitation is extended to all students, parents and educators to attend this year's OCENET International Education Info-Fair Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

DOORS are open at 9:30 a.m.

It's all FREE!

Be sure you get a seat at your choice of workshops.

RSVP

View the program guide and register online by clicking on the image of the Info-Fair poster at the OCENET website:
www.ocenet.ca

OCDSB International Certificate Program is growing



His Excellency, Philippe Zeller, Ambassador of France to Canada, addressed both French Immersion and International Certificate Program students on December 8 at Merivale High School

There continues to be great interest in the *OCDSB International Certificate Program*. Eighteen OCDSB secondary schools are now part of the ICP. The ICP has recently been launched at Rideau High School and will be introduced at both West Carleton SS and South Carleton HS in September 2015. International Education Coordinator Kathy Scheepers has recently made presentations at many Grade 8 parent meetings and indicates: *"The Grade 8 parents have heard about the ICP and are really excited about the program because it offers their children something different that they value and see as important."*

The program has been designed to be accessible and inclusive, and has become a catalyst for numerous other internationally focussed initiatives. For example, in order to be able to fulfill the international language component, students have access to a wide variety of online language courses. Teaching staff have also benefitted and currently over 40 OCDSB

staff are enrolled in these online language courses.

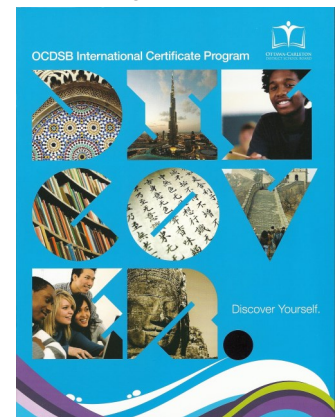
Teachers in OCDSB schools have been receptive to the ICP and many have looked at ways to "internationalize" curriculum to assist students in developing summative tasks with a more international perspective.

Other "extensions" related to the ICP have been the new bursary program, and the increased opportunities for students to study abroad through special scholarship programs. In addition, the OCDSB international trip procedures are in the process of being revised and a comprehensive online checklist to assist teachers in the organization of field trips is currently being piloted in two high schools. In part, the OCENET International Info-Fair also grew out of the ICP.

This year the increasing imprint of the ICP is notable in the attention it is receiving from post-secondary institutions. The ICP has been rec-

ognized by representatives of both local universities, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, and also Algonquin College. Other post-secondary institutions and foreign embassies have also acknowledged the ICP.

Increasingly the ICP is being recognized as a means to develop global-mindedness and intercultural competencies amongst students.



Additional information on the *OCDSB International Certificate Program* is available on the OCDSB website under Programs/International/International Certificate Program.

OCENET Bulletin Board

LYNCH-GETTY GLOBAL STUDENT AWARDS: Four OCDSB high school students, two Canadian and two international students, will receive an award of \$1,000 each. Application information will be posted in early March 2015. Go to www.ocenet.ca and click on "Scholarships & Bursaries" and then "Lynch-Getty Award."

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS: Up to 50 scholarships are available and offer the opportunity for students to go on an international exchange. Study overseas for a couple of months or a whole semester. Go to www.ocenet.ca and click on "Scholarships & Bursaries" and then "Study Abroad Scholarships."



What's going on at OCENET! Follow us @OCENETOttawa

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 Taiwan, Mexico and China. Thanks to Ms. Turner for the GHS student photos.

Miao@ Gloucester High School



A Grade 11 international student originally from Taipei, Taiwan, who grew up in northern China, Miao has attended OCDSB schools for almost 5 years. She adores her Homestay family and participates in many social activities with them, such as skating, taking art classes, and learning how to cook. One of the things that surprised her most upon first arriving in Canada was the large number of Chinese-Canadians in Ottawa. Miao loves Gloucester High School and enjoys group work projects and making presentations to her classmates. After studying in Ottawa for many years, she is a proficient, confident English speaker. Her passion is art, especially acrylic painting, and she is an accomplished artist who sells her artwork online. A large display case in the foyer of GHS (she is standing in front of some of her art in her photo) is filled with examples of her paintings. Miao is considering post-secondary studies in fashion design.

“I love Canada...I live with the best Homestay family I could imagine.”

- Miao, international student originally from Taiwan

Maria @ Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School

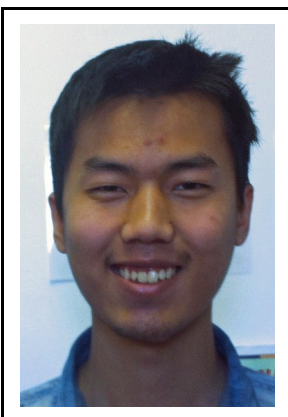


Maria is from Mexico City and is currently in Grade 8 at Longfields Davidson Heights SS. She is studying in Ottawa to enhance her English language skills and to learn about living in another culture. After the initial challenges of arriving in Canada last fall and not knowing anybody and not feeling confident with her spoken English, Maria now has many new Canadian friends and feels very comfortable with her Homestay family and her new school. She finds the teachers at LDHSS to be very knowledgeable and friendly. She participates in school life as a member of the Better World Projects Club, and she tried out for the basketball team. One thing she didn't expect was to find at her new Canadian school was so many students from so many different cultures. Another surprise was learning that it is not always cold in Canada! On weekends she enjoys going with friends to the movies. Maria keeps in touch with her friends in Mexico and usually Skypes with family on weekends. In the future, Maria thinks that she might be interested in studying law.

“I know that this experience will be a memory I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

- Maria, international student from Mexico

Zixiang @ Gloucester High School

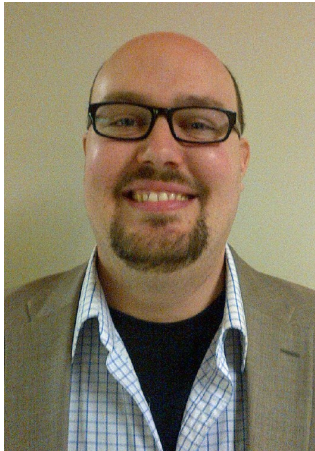


From northwest China, Zixiang has attended Gloucester HS for three years. As a child, his family business put him in contact with people from many countries, and both he and his family saw the opportunity to study in Canada as a beneficial experience. Initially there were many challenges from adapting to living in Homestay to trying new foods to adjusting to a very different style of teaching. Zixiang listened to YouTube and the radio to practice his English and now is a fluent and articulate English speaker. He was most pleasantly surprised by the wide variety of classes he could take in Ontario, and has completed courses ranging from technological design to philosophy. Zixiang is enrolled in the OCDSB International Certificate Program and spent last summer in South Africa volunteering as an assistant “ranger” focused on wildlife protection. He is passionate about landscape photography and plans to continue post-secondary studies at an Ontario art college.

“...the best part about studying here is the education system itself because I have lots of choices which enable me to explore my own interests.”

- Zixiang, international student from China

Meet OCENET: Kevin Orange



Kevin Orange,
Supervisor of Finance
and
Operations Coordinator

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

What are some of your main roles at OCENET?
My role at OCENET is multi-faceted. As the Supervisor of Finance and Operations Coordinator, I'm primarily involved with preparing financial statements, as well as interacting on a daily basis with students, agents, Homestay personnel, OCDSB administration and many other stakeholders on a wide variety of matters related to OCENET's operations.

What aspects of your job do you enjoy the most?
I enjoy the benefits of working with a fantastic team of

professionals. Each member of our team brings unique skills, personalities, and insights to the organization, making the office an efficient and friendly place to work. Additionally, the OCENET team is made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds, allowing me to continuously develop my own intercultural competencies.

What have been some of your accomplishments at OCENET that you are most proud of?
Working at OCENET has given me the opportunity to work with colleagues on a variety of different projects. My favourites thus far have been enrolling OCENET employees in either the

OMERS or OTPP pension plans, administering employee benefits and lending a helping hand with the transition to Google and other technological problem solving issues.

What new projects are you working on at OCENET?
The second half of the year is generally the time to prepare reports for our stakeholders and begin planning the next year at OCENET.

What are some of your interests outside of work?
I have three sons to keep me busy, but I also volunteer my time running the youth boxing program at the Beaver Boxing Club in Ottawa.

Riverview and Hillcrest partner on global learning project

“Global issues need to be at the forefront for all of us. It’s important for us as teachers to initiate these conversations about global issues with our students — and why we should care — whether or not the students are in Grade 2 or Grade 12.”

- Kritine Klassen,
Hillcrest HS teacher and
International Certificate
Advisor



Students from Riverview and Hillcrest work together to point out the location of the countries being researched on a large world map

Teachers Anuka Dey and Kristine Klassen are always looking for ways to encourage active global citizenship amongst their students.

A chance meeting between these two teachers at last year's OCENET International Education Info-Fair resulted in an inspired collaboration between elementary students at Riverview Alternative School and secondary students enrolled in the OCDSB International Certificate Program at Hillcrest HS.

Around International Education Week last November, the Hillcrest students travelled to nearby Riverview on three consecutive Thursday mornings to work with Grade 2/3 classes on a student led project which in-



One of the Hillcrest High School students enrolled in the OCDSB International Certificate Program mentors some of the Grade 2/3 students from Riverview Alternative School

involved choosing a particular country, selecting an issue such as girls' education or clean drinking water, doing research, and then presenting their learning to their classmates by using a large wall map as well as cardboard models and posters.

Other Riverview teachers involved in the project included Brenda Whalen and Steve Evans. All of the educators involved noted the value of the secondary students serving as great role models for the younger students.

OCENET Tip Sheet #6:

TEDX TALKS & GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP



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)

Hans and Ola Rosling: How not to be ignorant about the world at TEDSalon Berlin

www.ted.com/talks/hans_and_ola_rosling_how_not_to_be_ignorant_about_the_world **Published June 2014:** How much do you know about the world? Hans Rosling, with his famous charts of global population, health and income data (and an extra-extra-long pointer), demonstrates that you have a high statistical chance of being quite wrong about what you think you know. Play along with his audience quiz — then, from Hans' son Ola, learn 4 ways to quickly get less ignorant.

How does one become a Global Citizen?: Tanja Schulze at TEDxBMS

www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4XF8GCXYtM **Published on May 21, 2012:** An exploration of the concept of Global Citizenship, a search for a definition and a quest to find the conditions needed to form Global Citizens -- interwoven with personal stories by the presenter.

Global Citizenship in the Classroom: Jenny Buccos at TEDxCincinnati

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jllHmyBs7o **Published on Oct 26, 2012:** Jenny is an agent of global citizenship who was recognized as a 2012 White House Champion of Change. Her talk shares her passion about educating primary and secondary school students about global cultures and histories by the use of multimedia.

Education for Global Citizenship: Seth Leighton at TEDxBKK

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdtY9sW0lBk **Published on Aug 12, 2013:** Seth Leighton is the CEO and co-founder of Envoys. In this talk, Seth discusses how educators can develop global citizenship in students through high-quality experiential learning programs.

Turning urban youth into global citizens : Angela Jackson at TEDxProvidence

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMwPTI54rqQ **Published on Jun 29, 2013:** Angela Jackson is the founder and executive director of the Global Language Project, an educational movement that seeks to equip disadvantaged public-school students with the skills to compete in a globalized world and work force by helping them to develop functional proficiency in a language other than English.

Cultivating Citizen Diplomats: Bob Herring at TEDxCincinnati

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxHdZvT7rbk **Published on Oct 26, 2012:** It's never too early to begin cultivating Citizen Diplomats. Learn why one school believes that Global Education is an essential part of a Kindergarten - Grade 8 program and how they provide students opportunities to be Citizen Diplomats

The World Citizenship Project: Carlo Strenger at TEDxJaffa

www.youtube.com/watch?v=mArgTerOzd8 **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 to join. 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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Discounted Hotel Rates at the Radisson Hotel for “Friends of OCENET”

If you have friends or family who are looking to stay at a downtown hotel in Ottawa, visit the link below to access special pricing at the newly renovated Radisson Hotel.

<http://www.radisson.com/ocenet>

**Radisson Hotel Ottawa
(Parliament Hill)
402 Queen Street
Ottawa**

*Rates start at \$132 plus taxes



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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questions, or suggestions to:
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