

This semester OCENET and OCDSB schools are hosting international students from around the world...

- The “Top 5” countries sending students (in order of the most students) ...
- China, South Korea, Brazil, Vietnam, and Japan

What's Inside

YPLS and OCDSB Continuing Education partnership offers new summer credit program 2

YPLS welcomes students from Japan

3rd Annual OCENET International education Info-Fair 3

Glashan PS students visit China 4

English Explorer and Global Classroom Photo Gallery

Life as an international student 5

Meet OCENET: Alejandra Guidi 6

Castor Valley ES and the “Largest Painting in the World” project

Tip Sheet #8: International Field Trips with Students 7

OCENET Bulletin Board 8

The Divisions of OCENET

OCDSB high schools host Japanese exchange students



Several students from Yamate Gakuin school in Japan proudly display their calligraphy at the Japanese Cultural Showcase event held at Earl of March. Host families and members of the local community participated in a variety of cultural activities.

On April 15th, students from four local high schools. —A.Y. Jackson, Earl of March, Sir Robert Borden and West Carleton — and their families hosted 83 students from Yamate-Gakuin School in Yokohama, Japan. In order to prepare for the arrival of the Japanese students, OCDSB students and teachers prepared by taking a series of Japanese language lessons and learned about Japanese culture. The schools also prepared with outreach programs from the Japanese Embassy, as well as judo and sushi workshops, among other activities. The majority of the host families had never hosted an international student before, so in order to welcome their guests, host families attended information meetings and organized special outings for the visitors. While in Ottawa the Japanese students attended classes in the host schools as well as visiting Ottawa area landmarks and Montreal. One of the many highlights of the exchange was the Japanese Cultural Showcase held at Earl of March on April 21st where the Japanese students organized cultural games and activities such as origami, karuta, and koma in the cafeteria, followed by music and dance performances in the auditorium. When the Japanese students departed from the Ottawa Airport on April 29th, there were many long goodbyes. As part of the exchange program 40 OCDSB students and 5 chaperones will be travelling to Japan this summer to re-unite with their new friends.



Students were able to try on traditional Japanese dress at the cultural showcase event



(L-r) Geoff Best and Kathy Scheepers of OCENET, with John-Patrick Healey, Yamate-Gakuin teacher chaperone

YPLS partners with OCDSB to offer summer ESL credit courses

“The new OCDSB/ YPLS Summer Credit Program enables new international students to get a “jump start” on their high school careers through an ESL credit.”

- Greg Duggan,
Director,
Young People’s Language
School

OCENET’s Young People’s Language School (YPLS) prepares international students to enter OCDSB high schools by focusing on English language skills and school orientation programs.

This summer will see an innovative new initiative involving the partnership of YPLS with OCDSB’s Continuing Education to deliver a summer credit program. This is a pilot project for this year which will be offered to a total of 40 students in two classes.

The program consists of three components: (1) Ontario ESL curriculum credit courses for international

students taught by experienced OCDSB language teachers; (2) Content-Based Language Learning focusing on the kinds of subject specific vocabulary the students will encounter in high school courses such as math, science, art and history courses; and (3) the YPLS High School Foundation Program which provides an orientation to Ottawa high schools and places an emphasis upon developing writing, reading, speaking and math skills.

Throughout the 9 week program the credit component runs for 6 weeks from July 4th until August 12th in the mornings. Afternoons consist of the content-based language learning classes as

well as a variety of activity sessions that encourage language usage through active participation in games and outdoor excursions.

There are numerous advantages to students in taking this program. New international students will have an opportunity to earn either an ESLBO or ESLCO credit prior to starting school in September. This program also serves as a introduction to the Ontario school system and will assist with placing students at the appropriate level based on English language proficiency. In short, the primary aim of the program is to help students with a smooth transition to high school in Ottawa.

YPLS welcomes 24 students from Osaka to study in Ottawa



The Japanese students are enjoying the Canadian winter during their study in Ottawa



Students of Osaka Gakugei School and YPLS staff Greg Duggan and Petryna Venuta admire the many ice sculptures while celebrating Winterlude, Ottawa’s winter festival, before going skating on the Rideau Canal. The students from Japan will be in Ottawa for one year, studying at YPLS and in OCDSB high schools.

3rd Annual OCENET International Education Info Fair “changes it up”

STUDENTS
EDUCATORS:
CONNECT WITH YOUR WORLD

THIRD ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
INFO-FAIR

ocenet.ca
Ottawa-Carleton Education Network

INTERNATIONAL
CERTIFICATE
PROGRAM

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(SUMMER &
ACADEMIC TERMS)

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EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING

WORKSHOPS &
INFO BOOTHS!

Global awareness at the local level.

The Ottawa-Carleton Education Network is hosting an informative fair for students and educators.
It's FREE!

CONFEDERATION EDUCATION CENTRE
1845 WOODROFFE AVENUE, OTTAWA
THURSDAY MAY 26, 2016 — 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Registration details available February at
www.ocenet.ca

Look for this poster promoting this year's edition of the OCENET International Education Info Fair in schools, noting the change in format and location for this unique and special event to be held on May 26th

OCENET's 3rd Annual International Education Info-Fair is changing up its format at a new location on a different day of the week. The event will be held on Thursday, May 26th, at the Confederation Education Centre from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. According to Kathy Scheepers, OCENET's International Education Coordinator, and lead organizer, "the Info-Fair has been re-structured to maximize student and teacher engagement." The event is open to all OCDSB schools participating in the

International Certificate Program and up to 270 students are anticipated to attend.

This year's event has been re-formatted to begin with a keynote speaker from the Aga Khan Foundation, followed by opportunities for attendees to visit information booths. Students will be able to pre-register online and choose from a diverse selection of workshops on topics that have an international focus of interest to youth and educators, ranging from student exchange programs,

intercultural learning, university programs, student forums, and safety issues while travelling abroad, among many others. All of the presenters from the various NGO's, non-profits and businesses have demonstrated a commitment to international education, and they will share their experiences with the students and teachers in order to open up avenues of interest and opportunity to their audiences.

One traditional feature of the Info-Fair that has been retained is the very popular "Hall of International Opportunities" which is comprised of booths hosted by representatives from various participant organizations and sponsors. This year over 30 groups will have info booths set up in the foyer and halls of the Confederation Education Centre. Info-Fair attendees will have the chance to ask questions and get answers firsthand, as well as obtain informational materials and brochures about all of the international programs and opportunities that are available.

Registered attendees can choose from workshops presented by the following organizations:

- National Student Commonwealth Forum
- Aga Khan Foundation
- Carleton University Global Academy
- Canadian Education Exchange Foundation
- Explorica
- Ingle Insurance
- Ryan's Well
- SOS Children's Villages
- STS Foundation (International Student Exchange)
- YMCA Youth Exchange
- Global Vision
- Homestay
- Korean Embassy
- EF Tours
- Confucius Institute
- Global Insight Education

This diverse, exciting program is bound to inspire OCDSB students to think about becoming more involved as global citizens.



Students enrolled in the OCDSB International Certificate Program (ICP) at Gloucester High School attended workshops with SOS Children's Villages who will be presenting at the OCENET Info-Fair

Glashan PS pioneers Grade 8 international trip to China

“The trip was incredible; it was amazing to experience such a different culture. I don’t mean just ‘viewing’ the culture, but rather ‘experiencing’ what daily life is like.”

- Joya,
Grade 8 student
Glashan PS



Students and staff from Quzhou Experimental School, Zhejiang, China and Glashan PS pose to celebrate the signing of a Friendship Agreement

During the trip the students visited several schools and also participated in many activities, including calligraphy, paper cutting, playing traditional musical instruments and making dumplings.

The students stayed in the homes of host families which provided a rich glimpse into life in China. The Glashan students were impressed by the warm hospitality and friendliness of the Chinese people. The trip organizer, Principal Jim Tayler, commented: “The students were like a delegation representing Canada and rose to the occasion by dealing successfully with situations very different than what they were used to at home.”

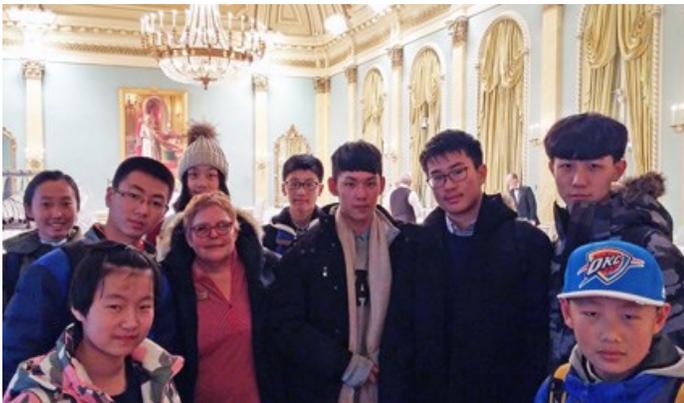


City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson addressed a special assembly that was held prior to the departure of the students and accompanying staff from Glashan PS

What are the odds of a group of twelve Grade 8 Glashan PS students and their chaperones “bumping” into a Glashan alumnus while visiting the Forbidden City?

That is exactly what happened, and the chance encounter was symbolic of the unique trip that was in store for 10 remarkable days in China during March Break.

Winter 2015 English Explorer & Global Classroom Photo Gallery



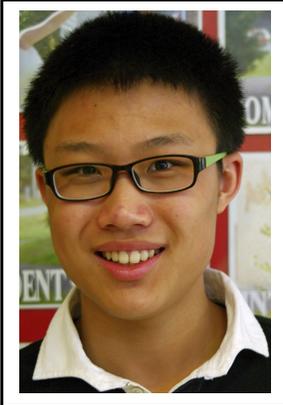
Each summer and winter numerous student groups from across the globe participate in the educational programs offered by OCENET’s Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges (OIPE). Students receive language instruction as well as opportunities to attend OCDSB schools. Activities and excursions which introduce the students to the Ottawa area and Canadian culture are a key feature of OIPE programs. This photo gallery shows visits by students from Peru, Germany, Colombia and China to the Governor General’s residence at Rideau Hall and to the Museum of History, as well as some students showing off their sealskin bracelets made at a special Aboriginal Workshop, and others enjoying decorating a gingerbread house.



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 China, Turkey and Italy.

Bill@Bell High School



Bill is in Grade 11 and has been an international student at Bell High School since Grade 9. He comes from the city of Jiamusi in north-eastern China where the winter weather is similar to the climate in Ottawa. Some challenges when first arriving in Canada included language, food choices, and culture shock because “the way people think is different in Canada.” One of the important reasons for choosing Ottawa for school is that the city is peaceful, multicultural, and it has all the advantages of being the capital of Canada. He has made lots of friends at Bell High School and finds all the students and teachers very kind and supportive. He likes that he has choice in selecting his course options and is impressed by the wide number of courses available. Bill is very involved as a volunteer and thinks it is really important for international students to join in extra-curricular activities, and he aims to participate in the Student Council at Bell next year. He anticipates post-secondary studies in engineering or programming.

“I came to Ottawa to study in order to improve my English, but most importantly to learn how different people and cultures in the world think.”

- Bill, international student from China

Sophie@John McCrae Secondary School



Grade 9 international student Sophie is from the southern Mediterranean city of Antalya, Turkey. Sophie was inspired to come to study in Canada after she read a newspaper story when she was in Grade 6 about a Turkish student who went to study in British Columbia. She has previously studied in Montreal during a summer program. She already speaks several languages fluently and one of the reasons Sophie has come to Ottawa is to improve her English language skills. Upon reflecting about Canadian culture, Sophie is surprised at how multicultural Canada is, as well being impressed that Canada seems to have a relaxed lifestyle. She finds the school system in Ottawa very different, and appreciates the extra help, understanding and friendliness of her new teachers, as well as liking the interactive teaching approaches and the semester system with only four different courses at one time. In her free time she has participated in the Multicultural Club at school and she volunteers at a local Turkish school assisting young children.

“I really like the semester system because I only have four different courses at one time.”

- Sophie, international student from Turkey

Michelangelo@Bell High School



From northern Italy, Michelangelo is in Grade 12 and has attended Bell HS as well as Sir Robert Borden HS. His decision to study in Canada was motivated by his love of ice hockey, and his interest in hockey prompted him to become proficient in English. He is not only interested in watching hockey, but also played on the hockey team while at Sir Robert Borden last semester. Believing it's important to get involved, he also played as a goalie on the soccer team. Michelangelo is impressed by the excellent school facilities in Ottawa. He acknowledges that it is sometimes difficult to cope with a different country, a new school system, and living in homestay at first, but once these challenges are faced and overcome, then a student develops and changes to be more independent, and in his words: “It makes you stronger; you become a better person.” He has enjoyed the opportunity to make lots of Canadian friends and views his experience in Canada as an amazing opportunity.

“Being an international student makes you stronger; you become a better person.”

- Michelangelo, international student from Italy

Meet OCENET: Alejandra Guidi

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



*Alejandra Guidi,
International Admissions and
Enrolment Administrator,
Ottawa International Student
Program (OISP)*

1. What are some of your main roles at OCENET?
As an Admissions Administrator in the International Student Program Office, I receive applications from foreign students who wish to study in OCDSB elementary or secondary schools. I review applications, academic records and other important documents. Based on this information and consideration of the student's expectations, wishes and capabilities, I assist in placing the students in the appropriate school and grade in which the student can be successful.

2. What aspects of your job do you enjoy most?
As a former educator, what I

really enjoy the most is getting to meet the students for the first time when they arrive in Ottawa, and later on, seeing them grow, change and mature after a few months of being here. I also enjoy working and interacting with my colleagues at OCENET and with all of our school contacts.

3. What have been some of your accomplishments at OCENET that you are most proud of?
I feel very happy and rewarded when I learn that the students I have helped are having a very good academic and personal experience here, and also feel grateful that I have been a part of their experience and have helped them achieve their educational and personal goals.

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

I have started developing a closer communication with our school contacts to keep myself updated regarding the numerous programs, clubs and sports the schools offer. In this way I can better promote our schools to the agents, parents and students who wish to attend OCDSB schools.

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

I keep myself busy sharing time with my husband and daughters, walking and practising aqua fitness, listening to music, going to concerts, watching movies and playing cards with a group friends who all come from different countries.

Castor Valley artwork in "The Biggest Painting in the World"



Grade 4 students (r-l) Sophie, Navah, Lauren, Campbell, and Carsen, along with teacher Mr. James Smith, show off Castor Valley's artwork

"Being a part of this international collaborative project has been an exciting experience for all involved."

*- James Smith,
Grade 4 teacher,
Castor Valley ES*

Imagine a painting over 100x100 metres in size created by thousands of students from around the world! This painting will be a reality in part because students at Castor Valley ES are contributing to this special artwork which will become "The Largest Painting in the World" and on display at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

With the support of local artists and teachers at the school, students in Grade 4 and Grade 8 classes collaborated to design and paint a 1x5 metre cloth with a repeating Canada maple leaf motif. Each of the 20 maple leaves includes iconic Canadian symbols ranging from an inukshuk to a loonie coin.

Principal Chris Toivonen attributes much of the excitement generated by this artwork project being related to the fact that "a great deal of student communication beyond the classroom is computer based; this project resonates with the students because it is really tangible, and lets them feel part of something much bigger." This idea is in keeping with stated aim of the Japanese organizers of the art project: "We hope to nurture a peace-loving spirit in the children of the world, regardless of countries, religions or ethnicities, to widen their views of the world, and

to foster momentum to preserve the beautiful environment of Planet Earth."

Following the 2020 Olympic Summer Games, "The Biggest Painting in the World" will be permanently displayed in Hiroshima in the library of a rebuilt primary school that was A-bombed in 1945. As Navah, a Grade 4 Castor Valley ES student, commented: "Doing this was special because it's unique."



Detail of a Trillium flower inside a maple leaf from one of the 20 panels of the large artwork

OCENET Tip Sheet #8:

INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIPS WITH STUDENTS



The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board recently released revised procedures, accompanying forms, and supporting documents for teachers taking students on international field trips.

Ask any educator who has been leader of a group of students on an international educational trip: it is both a rewarding experience and a huge responsibility. An international trip with students requires months of planning and involves considerable time commitments prior to, during, and after the trip. The newly revised international trip procedures (PR683.SCO) have been developed in order to reflect the chronological stages in the process of organizing and conducting a safe and successful international field trip with students.

The revised procedures focus on:

- safety of students and staff
- clear articulation of curriculum expectations for the trip
- guidelines and support for educators in organizing and leading international trips
- addressing consistency, accountability and liability on international trips
- efficiency, clarity and ease of use of supporting documents.

Among the many major revisions made to the procedures (PR683.SCO) and documents, some changes include:

- a requirement to complete a trip pre-approval form (OCDSB Form 640) in advance of advertising or recruiting students for the trip
- a new parental consent form for international trips (OCDSB Form 638)
- a *Trip Cancellation and Refund Policy* form (OCDSB Form 906)
- inclusion of designated trip leader roles, such as the *Lead Trip Supervisor*
- sub-categorization of the procedures under headings, such as *Risk Management and Safety Planning, Documentation, Trip Promotion, Communication Process*, etc.
- specific guidelines for stages of the trip process, such as (1) *Pre-trip Review*, (2) *Upon Arrival and During the Trip*, and (3) *Post-trip Review*
- With over 10 students, the trip must be registered with *Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA)*
- a newly developed FAQ section
- detailed checklists to assist trip supervisors in emergencies and completing documentation requirements
- additional support documents in an extensive appendix to PR683.SCO including a series of Emergency Protocol Checklists

Please see the procedures (PR683.SCO) for international travel at the OCDSB website under “About OCDSB” and search under the list for “Policies, Procedures and Forms.” Click on “Subject Area: Schools Operations” and find “PR.683.SCO Field Trips-International.” Alternatively, use the following link:

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/p-n-p/Policies%20and%20Procedures/Forms/AllItems.aspx>



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OCENET Bulletin Board

STAFF Bursaries for international PD
Application Forms, FAQ's, Application
Deadlines, Contact Information, etc.
Information is available at the
OCENET website under
"Scholarships & Bursaries":
www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/main

Check out the new OCENET You Tube video,
International Education at the OCDSB, which pro-
files the leadership that OCENET and the
OCDSB has in delivering high quality programs
for international students and educators. Visit:
[http://www.studyottawa.ca/en/page/show/
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- share Canadian culture and life in Ottawa
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