

This semester OCENET and OCDSB schools are hosting international students from 44 countries around the world...

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

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Nanjing educators attend OCENET's leadership program



In March 2018 a delegation from Nanjing, China, comprised of 24 members from 15 different schools and the Vice Director of the Education Research Department of Nanjing School Board, participated in a special program to learn about the Ontario educational system, visit OCDSB schools, and improve English language skills. Pictured in the back row are OCENET's Kari Hanes (center left) and OCDSB Principal Renald Cousineau (center right).

Educators from around the world travel to Ottawa to participate in OCENET's educational training programs. Teachers and educational administrators from countries such as China, South Korea, Japan, Colombia, Nigeria, Spain and Sweden, among others, recognize the value of the partnership between the OCDSB and OCENET for its instructional approach which provides intensive in-service customized to the visiting teachers, and is delivered in OCENET's classrooms at 440 Albert Street in conjunction with “hands-on” experience at OCDSB schools. These groups of educators may visit up to several months. In the process, Canadian teachers learn about educational practices in other countries. In addition, most of the international educators learn about Canadian culture by living with a Homestay family.



South Korean teachers enjoy learning in Ottawa

Pictured here is the fourth group of teachers from Jeju Province, South Korea, to visit Ottawa for an educational training program which includes English language training (Development & Pedagogy) as well as opportunities for shadow teaching with and learning from Canadian teachers in local OCDSB schools.



Partnerships amongst OCDSB schools provide a best practices model for international study tours

“...often the opportunity for a student to participate in an international study tour or student exchange has been limited to international excursions available at a particular school.”

- A Guide to Best Practices for Developing Global Competencies through Sustainable Partnership Schools Abroad, Grades 7-12, p. 44

One of the ideas outlined in OCENET’s report on sustainable partnerships with schools internationally, *A Guide to Best Practices for Developing Global Competencies through Sustainable Partnership Schools Abroad, Grades 7-12*, recommended that schools work collaboratively board-wide to organize international study tours. Many schools in the OCDSB are practicing this approach and working together to expand access to a broader range of students to various study tours outside of a student’s home school.

Japanese student exchange involves four OCDSB schools

In April, four OCDSB high schools - Bell HS, Earl of March SS, Sir Robert Borden HS and West Carleton SS - hosted more than 80 students from Yamate Gakuin School in Yokohama, Japan, on its second exchange to Ottawa. Students from OCDSB schools will have the opportunity to travel to Japan for the reciprocal part of this cultural exchange program this coming summer.



Earl of March Principal Jon Harris demonstrates his impressive skills in using chopsticks at the Japanese Cultural Showcase where the exchange students hosted games and cultural activities, including music and dance

Woodroffe works for inclusion on international study tours

Several innovative international initiatives that embody the spirit of collaboration are taking place at Woodroffe High School. For a decade now, Special Education teacher Mr. Jamie Hughson has taken students with cognitive challenges from the General Learning Program (GLP) on various study tours throughout North America. These travel experiences heighten student curiosity in the world and increase self-esteem in these students. As Jamie also pointed out, the OCENET bursaries are critical in supporting these students and “make the difference in some of these students going

or not going.” This May, the GLP students, along with Woodroffe students from other programs, will travel to Barbados and deliver backpacks of school supplies during part of their visit.

Next year Woodroffe teacher Ms. Holly Newsome along with Mr. Jamie Hughson will be leading a study tour to Costa Rica that will include GLP students, Sports Leadership SHSM students, and credit program students, along with students from other OCDSB schools, to experience many aspects of Costa Rican ecology and culture, including the Arenal Volcano, and visits to an animal rescue cen-

tre, a butterfly garden, chocolate production facility, and tree planting. By leading groups of students from different school programs and collaborating with other schools, these teachers are fulfilling their goals of supporting the values of “Equity, diversity, and experiential education.”



Woodroffe HS students including students in the GLP classes on a study tour to California in 2017



Woodroffe HS teacher Ms. Holly Newsome with students during a past trip to Costa Rica

Board-wide study tour set to travel to Iceland in June 2018

For the first time a board-wide study tour initiative has been organized for students in OCDSB secondary schools. A group of 40 OCDSB students and teachers from 10 different schools are heading to Iceland for a week of exploration in late June following the examinations. The trip is intended for students who are keen about Geography and Earth Sciences and was developed to promote interest in both the Grade 11 Physical Geography (Forces of Nature) course as well as the Grade 12 Earth and Space Science course. Students will have the opportunity to stand with a foot on two tectonic plates, hike up a glacier, visit volcanoes and see beautiful waterfalls and geothermal geysers. The study tour leaders are Mr. Barter of A.Y. Jackson SS and Ms. Hughes from Longfields-Davidson Heights SS. It is hoped that this study tour be the beginning of annual board-wide geography/geology themed trips.

OCDSB ICELAND 2018
GLACIERS, GEYSERS, VOLCANOES & TECTONIC PLATES

WHAT? June 23-29 2018 (the week after final exams)

WHO? This is a trip for all OCDSB students in grades 11-12 who are interested in geography (Earth Science/Geography, Mr. A. Barter (A.Y. Jackson S.S.) and Mrs. Hughes (Longfields-Davidson Heights S.S.) will be the trip supervisors.

WHY? Highlights include:

- Stand on the Blue Lagoon hot spring in Reykjavik
- Hike up Mt. Hekla National Park (see where the continental plates meet)
- Visit the Gullfoss & Stroghaus waterfalls
- Observe geothermal energy (geysers) and see how they work using the Earth's heat
- See the medieval town and the mighty Old Northern Lights
- Hike up a glacier in the Thorsmork
- Explore Iceland's active volcanoes
- Explore the village of Vik (learn about the Vikings)
- Hike in the Reykjadalur valley
- Walk under the Earth in the Reykjavik/Blue Lagoon Tunnel

Check out [@OCENET Ottawa](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzkS6i3xKl0kY0stRExnRIZUznjxQUhGTWIXZVdZVGJfb05V...) "A Guide to Best Practices for Developing Global Competencies through Sustainable Partnership Schools Abroad, Grades 7-12" [#globallyaware #global-competence #gloaled @OCDSB https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzkS6i3xKl0kY0stRExnRIZUznjxQUhGTWIXZVdZVGJfb05V...](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzkS6i3xKl0kY0stRExnRIZUznjxQUhGTWIXZVdZVGJfb05V...)

Academic Advisors support international student success

OCENET Academic Advisors Jill Doherty and Donna Bass serve an essential role at OCENET in supporting international students in OCDSB schools. Both educators are longtime ESL language specialists.

The role of the Academic Advisor is important in providing a liaison between OCDSB schools and OCENET. This partnership involves monitoring report card results and attendance, and generally assisting students to be successful. This process involves reporting to OCENET staff and to Canada Homestay as well as to teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and educational agents.

The Academic Advisors first meet with the international students shortly after they have arrived in Ottawa. Prospective students had already completed a comprehensive online language assessment before coming to Canada, but additional assessments are also conducted to ensure students are placed in appropriate programs in schools. Both written and spoken English assessments are

taken as well as an assessment of Math skills. These standardized assessments have been developed by the Ontario Ministry of Education and align with the Ontario Curriculum. Once all of this information is collated, then a determination of the most appropriate school assignment is made. According to Jill Doherty: "Our assessment process involves putting together several pieces of a 'puzzle' that is pretty accurate overall." Within a day or two of arrival in Ottawa, the new international student is ready to attend his or her new school.

In addition to these roles the Academic Advisors are called upon to write letters home to parents to update them on student progress, and they are constantly in contact with Guidance Counsellors and teachers to offer assistance when learning issues arise. Both are often called upon to serve as references for students who wish to apply for scholarships.

There are many success stories and the most memorable students are those who face and

overcome the challenges of being an international student. Both of OCENET's Academic Advisors are dedicated to "knowing students are making friends, learning about Canadian culture, and having a positive Homestay and school experience while studying in Ottawa."



Woodroffe HS ESL teacher Sandra Ross-Nguyen (left) with OCENET Academic Advisor Jill Doherty (right) and Grade 12 international student Lam (center) who aims to study hotel Management at Algonquin College next year

"Communication is the key — between the OCENET Academic Advisor and all the other partners involved in student integration and success."

- Donna Bass,
OCENET Academic
Advisor

"There are always unbelievable success stories."

- Jill Doherty
OCENET Academic
Advisor

Initiatives forge educational partnerships with South Korea

The OCDSB and OCENET have a long standing relationship with South Korea. Not only do many international students from South Korea come to Ottawa to study in OCDSB schools and many teachers come for professional development, but also there are numerous other connections which have evolved into a reciprocal and mutually beneficial educational partnership. OCENET is very appreciative of the generous support provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in hosting the International Certificate Program ICP Korea Forum at the Korea Cultural Centre.



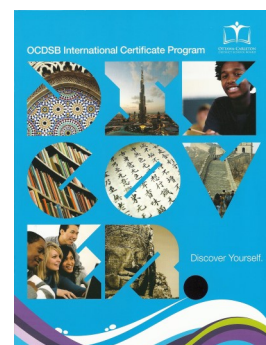
In November 2017 four OCDSB students were invited to the Jeju Youth Forum in South Korea



Over 80 students attended the ICP Korea Forum at the Korea Cultural Centre this past December



In December 2017 Director of Education Dr. Jennifer Adams was invited as guest presenter at the Jeju International Symposium on Education where she delivered a presentation on the topic of "Continuous Assessment in the Learning Process: Transforming Assessment Practices in the OCDSB"



**International
Certificate
Graduation
Ceremony**

**Thursday, June 21
@ 7p.m.**

**Aga Khan Global Centre
for Pluralism
330 Sussex Drive**

Student bursary program makes a significant difference

"This trip has opened a completely new door to my life."



Paige (right) with Chinese host

"This has been a life changing event for me."



Balancing an egg on the Equator!

"There is more to the world than just where I live."



Bethany (foreground) works on building a new classroom

Paige @ Castor Valley Elementary School

As part of an innovative cultural exchange at Castor Valley, Paige along with 10 other students and 3 teachers participated in a study tour to China in April 2018. Paige is in Grade 8 and enjoyed learning about Chinese culture during several days in both Beijing and in Chengdu. For Paige, the most interesting part of the study tour was living with a Chinese student of a similar age and her

family. Paige noted the long school hours and the amount of homework required of her Chinese friend. She found her host family "open-armed and welcoming" and she was adventurous in trying very different foods that were very spicy. Neither Paige nor her host family could communicate easily through a common language so there were some humorous interactions and

lots of hand gestures and pointing. Paige had never travelled outside of Canada before and noted that the OCENET Student Bursary program made a big difference in allowing her to participate in the trip to China. When she enters high school this September, Paige is definitely going to consider enrolling in the OCDSB International Certificate Program to pursue her interest in culture and global citizenship.

Kieran @ Osgoode Township High School

A Grade 11 student, Kieran along with 12 other students, 2 teacher chaperones, and a facilitator from Insight Global Education travelled to Ecuador during March Break 2018. The group visited several parts of Ecuador including the capital city, Quito, as well as a wildlife sanctuary in the Amazon basin and a rural community in the mountains. Even though Kieran has travelled internationally before, he views this

study tour a "life-changing" experience. One aspect of the trip he found fascinating was staying with an Ecuadorian host family. He noted that the culture seemed to work as a sustainable community where people bartered for goods and he perceived the people were less materialistic and happier in comparison to North American society. Kieran received an OCENET Student Bursary in the

amount of \$1000 and emphasized that this support helped a great deal. He learned about the bursary from the school's OCDSB International Certificate Advisor and trip leader Ms. Lafond; Kieran found the application process very straightforward. In part because of his international travel, Kieran is considering the possibility of a semester studying abroad or a gap year during his post-secondary learning.

Bethany @ Canterbury High School

Bethany heard about a "Me to We" study tour to India from her Ancient Civilizations teacher. Bethany is a Grade 12 Student in the Dance Program at Canterbury and she has a keen interest in being globally aware. Along with 10 other Canterbury students, 2 teacher chaperones and Me to We facilitators, Bethany travelled to India during March Break 2018 to participate in a combined cultural and service education experience. The students worked half-days on building the foundations for new classrooms destroyed by

monsoon floods and for the rest of the day participated in various cultural activities. One of the experiences that had the most impact on Bethany was spending a day following the daily routines of an Indian woman in a village community. The students assisted in preparing food for the family and doing a "water walk" to collect water from a well. Bethany commented that it was exhausting to carry the water and that she didn't have much water to show

for all the effort she put into collecting the daily water supply. Bethany received a \$500 OCENET Bursary to assist with expenses of the study tour. She indicated that the bursary application process was easy to complete and that she received a response within a couple of weeks. Along with other fundraising events, the bursary made a significant impact on her being able to participate. In the future, Bethany plans to attend York University and sees herself as being involved in international development.

STUDENTS: OCDSB/OCENET International Study Abroad Bursaries Application Forms, FAQ's, Application Deadlines, Contact Information, etc. Information is available at: www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/helping-students-2/bursary/ocdsbocenet-international-study-abroad-bursary

Life as an international teacher in Ottawa

For the first time this issue of *Global Connections* highlights the experiences of four teachers from Spain with the Fundación Amancio Ortega (FAO) Program who participated in OCENET Teacher Training and were in placements in OCDSB schools from January to June 2018.

Maria



Maria is from Madrid and finds Ottawa a bit quieter than her city in Spain. Maria has a background in Art History and taught for two years before coming to Ottawa. She was surprised to find Ottawa to be such a multicultural place and finds that having students from all parts of the world enriches the classroom. Maria has been placed at Gloucester HS and Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS where she has learned much about critical thinking strategies, questioning techniques and student centered learning, which she aims to share with teaching colleagues in Spain in the future. She likes seeing how the methodologies learned in the Teacher Training program are being actively applied in classrooms. In Ottawa, Maria started to learn how to play the guitar.

Sandra



Assigned to both Sir Robert Borden HS and Woodroffe HS, Sandra enthusiastically embraced many of the new teaching strategies she has learned. She sees the value of student-centered approaches and critical thinking skills. Sandra likes that emphasis is placed on the learning process and not just on the final product. She finds that Canadian teachers are hard-working, that they work collaboratively, and that they really seem to love their jobs. She is not such a big fan of Canadian winters! While in Ottawa, Sandra joined an evening dance group. In short, Sandra has greatly appreciated her time in Ottawa because it has "opened up a new world of educational possibilities."

Natalia



Natalia is from Valencia where she has worked as a Special Education teacher for 5 years. She saw the FAO program as a great way to improve her teaching practice and likes that the program offers a balance between educational theory and practical in-school placements. For the past four months she has been assigned to Nepean HS and Broadview PS, but has taken the opportunity to visit many other OCDSB schools to observe Special Education classes. She has been impressed by the way Ontario schools use technology and offer accommodations to students with special needs. She has enjoyed all of the new people she has met and found that living in a Homestay with students from three other countries has been a major highlight.

Emilio



In Spain, Emilio calls Granada home. One of the reasons he applied to the FAO Program was to have the opportunity to live and learn abroad. From his arrival in Canada, Emilio found the staff at OCENET extremely helpful in supporting all of the Spanish teachers adjust to life in Ottawa. Emilio has been at Merivale HS since January and appreciates how the whole school has made him feel included as a staff member. He has been observing classes and has assisted students in a Grade 9 Math class. During his time in Ottawa, Emilio joined a soccer team. Upon his return to Spain, Emilio will be preparing for the national teachers' examinations.

Meet OCENET: Kari Hanes



*Kari Hanes,
Project Lead,
International Teacher Training
(photo taken on the Camino
de Santiago)*

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?

I'm Project Lead for Teacher Training and also teach in our Summer English Explorer Program (SEE). I often provide an orientation workshop to the new students attending our programs.

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

I truly enjoy that my work is so varied every day. I have an opportunity to meet and work with teachers and students from around the world. We also coordinate visits with numerous educational delegations from all parts of the

world. It's all very interesting! I also really enjoy being part of a team that delivers intercultural competency workshops to teachers.

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

I am very pleased to be involved with the Student Ambassador Program with SEE where local Canadian students actively engage with international students and are credited with service hours towards obtaining the OCDSB International Certificate. I'm also proud of the work in developing Language Awareness Workshops which are shared with other educators. In addition, I've been active in enhancing the SEE Programs through developing language related tasks and

lessons that complement the afternoon activities of the international students when they visit museums, go biking, or make Canadian style pancakes with maple syrup!

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

This is our first year having a group of 50 teachers from Spain through the Fundación Amancio Ortega (FAO). It has been an exciting and rewarding experience to work with such enthusiastic and engaged young teachers.

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

Each year I spend several weeks walking the famous and lengthy Camino de Santiago across Northern Spain which sustains me mentally and physically. I also love to attend both music and writers' festivals.

Photo Gallery: Castor Valley ES student exchange to China

Grade 8 students from Castor Valley ES travelled to visit with its partner school, Chengdu University Affiliated Middle School in Chengdu and also visited Beijing during the study tour.



Castor Valley students and staff at The Great Wall outside Beijing

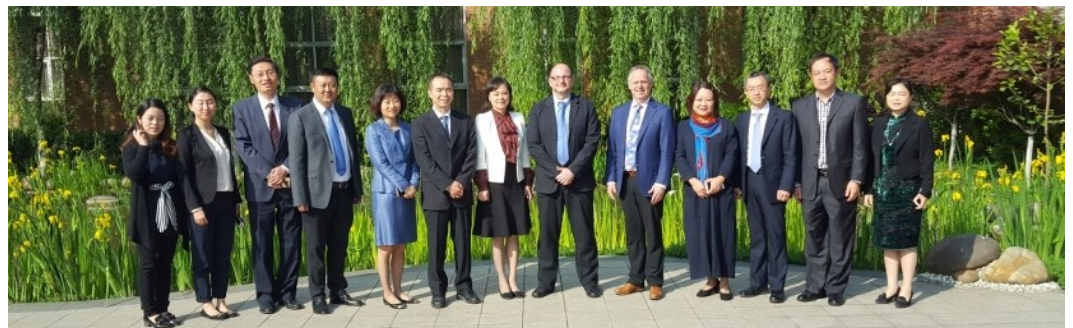


Castor Valley students enjoy the company of their Chinese exchange partners



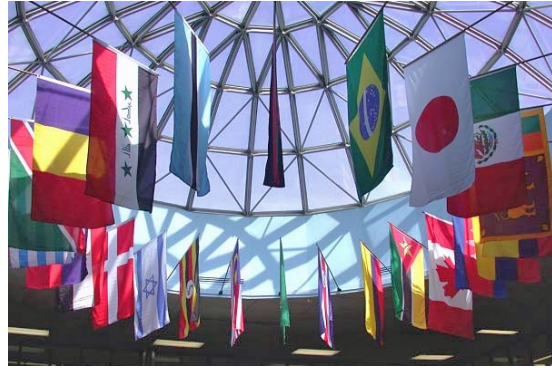
(Left) As is the Chinese tradition when welcoming guests, the staff and students at the Affiliated Middle School of Chengdu University welcomed the Castor Valley students and staff with a large banner.

(Below) The faculty at the university school with OCENET Executive Director Geoff Best (center right) and OCENET Program Director, Constantine Ioannou (center left)



OCENET Tip Sheet #11:

TEACHING USING THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



Teachers and students are discovering the world of resources that have been developed to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These resources support internationalization of the curriculum and can be used across all grade levels and subject areas.

OCENET International Education Coordinator, Kathy Scheepers, has provided several resources that teachers can access to explore the possibilities of using the SDGs in their classrooms:

- The Google+ Community created to support Global Ed in the OCDSB (K-12 focus) titled "Global & International Education Resources (K-12) : <https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/112970672271839632073>
- TEACH SDGs - www.teachsdgs.org
- THE WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON - <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>



@TeachSDGs @TheWorldsLesson #TeachSDGs #youthSDGs #GlobalGoals #SDGs #GlobalEdChat



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OCENET Bulletin Board

OCDSB STAFF:
OCENET International Education Bursary Program

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

Information is available at:
<http://www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/bursaries>

Check out the new OCENET You Tube video, *International Education at the OCDSB*, which profiles the roles OCENET and the OCDSB have in delivering high quality programs for international students and educators. Visit: www.studyottawa.ca/website/page/show/main?lang=en



What's going on at **OCENET?** Follow us @**OCENET**Ottawa



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

Divisions of OCENET



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Elementary School
High School
University Preparation



OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND EXCHANGES

GROUP PROJECTS
English Immersion
Teacher Training
Summer Programs



YOUNG PEOPLE'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL
Academic English
Leadership and Outdoor Education Programs
Summer Study

If you have an international education story that should be included in *Global Connections*, let us know.

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



OTTAWA-CARLETON EDUCATION NETWORK

