

This past semester OCENET and OCDSB schools hosted international students from 44 countries around the world...

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

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Japanese students appreciate one year learning experience at OCDSB



Brookfield High School Principal Krista McNamara with four of the students from Osaka Gakugei School who attended OCDSB schools throughout 2016. Read more about these students and their experience in Ottawa on page 5.

Last January saw the arrival of students from Osaka, Japan, for a yearlong educational excursion to Ottawa. For the first few weeks the 23 students attended OCENET's Young People's Language School (YPLS) for its High School Foundation Program before moving in groups of 4-5 to one of five local high schools: Bell, Brookfield, Gloucester, Ridgemont, or Woodroffe. At their new schools, the Japanese students enrolled in a variety of subject areas and focussed on improving English language skills. The Japanese students found their Canadian classmates to be welcoming and friendly, and appreciated the their Canadian teachers using humour and story-telling in teaching. Not used to speaking up in class or making presentations to fellow classmates, the Japanese students were shy at first, but soon came to be more confident and outgoing. Many of the Japanese students participated in school clubs and on sports teams which helped them to make new friendships and to feel connected to the school community.



On January 10th, just a few days before their return home to Osaka, the Japanese students organized a special farewell celebration at OCENET's Young People's Language School (YPLS) to express their appreciation to YPLS Director of Studies Greg Duggan (front, centre right) and school liaison Chikae-san (front, centre left) for their support throughout the students' year in Canada. There were numerous games and activities as well as a gift presentation. There were also many mixed emotions as the students looked forward to reuniting with their family combined with having to bid farewell to new Canadian friends.

"It was with great pride that I shared many Ontario and OCDSB educational resources throughout the LEAP Program. Thank you OCENET for this learning opportunity of a lifetime!"

*- Heather Graham,
Principal,
W.O Mitchell ES*



Principal Heather Graham (right) of W.O. Mitchell E.S. and Principal Shelly Fitness (left), St. Michaels Catholic School, Rotorua, New Zealand

OCENET staff bursary promotes international experiences

OCENET's Staff Bursary Program is now in its second year, and 16 OCDSB staff received bursaries in the amount of \$500 to \$1,000 to assist international learning and PD initiatives between January and the fall of 2016.

Here are some of the bursary recipients' experiences:

**Kent Van Dyk
Culinary Arts Teacher
Longfields-Davidson
Heights S.S.**

The OCENET Bursary allowed me to travel to Copenhagen and present a "Break-Out Session" at the MAD5 Conference (MAD is the Danish word for Food). MAD is an International Symposium hosted by Rene Redzepi of internationally acclaimed Restaurant Noma in Copenhagen. The symposium brings together chefs, food activists, writers, academics and those involved in our food system to discuss the issues surrounding food. This year's theme was *Tomorrow's Kitchen* and I led a discussion on Food Literacy framed within the context of our Culinary Arts Program at Longfields-Davidson Heights S.S. OCENET helped me get to Copenhagen, present the session and network with people from around the world who are working to help secure our food system and educate

the next generation of chefs and consumers.

**Anne-Marie Robinson-Sisk
LST/Immersion Teacher
Cairine Wilson S.S.**

The OCENET/Educational Foundation Staff Bursary enabled me to travel to Philadelphia from October 13-15th to attend the Global Education Forum. This forum was an opportunity to see what others are doing in the realm of global education. With representatives from 28 states and 9 other countries, we were given the opportunity to attend workshops, learn from keynote speakers and panels, network and collect valuable resources to bring back to our colleagues and classrooms. It was such a stimulating and invigorating experience, one I would recommend to anyone and everyone looking to work in global education and with 21st century learners.

**Heather Graham
Principal
WO Mitchell E.S.**

This spring I was awarded the 2016 OCENET International Education Bursary to travel with the Ontario Principal's Council Leading Educators Around the Planet (LEAP) Program. This is a program where Ontario Principals are paired

with overseas partners for a two-week period in the summer and then the partner comes to Ontario in the fall. I went to Rotorua, New Zealand, in July/August 2016 and had the great pleasure of doing my action research project on student voice. Principal Shelly Fitness from New Zealand came to Ontario to examine teacher collaborative learning networks, more specifically, the OCDSB School Learning Plan process. I learned a great deal from the innovative learning environments in New Zealand and their work on student voice.

I would also say that my school learning plan was much stronger due to this collaboration with my principal partner this October. It was with great pride that I shared many Ontario and OCDSB educational resources throughout the LEAP Program. Thank you OCENET for this learning opportunity of a lifetime!

OCENET STAFF Bursaries for international PD
Application Forms, FAQ's, Application Deadlines, Contact Information, etc.

See "**Scholarships & Bursaries**" at www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/main

South Korean teachers study at OCENET and OCDSB



South Korean teachers celebrate the completion of four months as part of OIPE's Teacher Training program with OCENET's Constantine Ioannou, Program Director, Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges (center left), and Kari Hanes, Project Lead, International Teacher Training (center right): (l-r) Eun-ok Jeong, Min Ji Kim, Eunhye Kim, and Mi hyeon Oh

International Education Certificate Program impacts OCDSB students



At the OCDSB International Certificate Program Information Session held at the Confederation Education Centre during the evening of November 16th, these seven students enrolled in the International Certificate Program from several different OCDSB schools, provided moving and impassioned testimonials about how the OCDSB International Certificate Program emphasis on active global citizenship is not only affecting them in a positive way today, but also influencing both post-secondary and career choices in the future.

During International Education Week (Nov. 14-18) a new format for an information night was introduced at the Confederation Education Centre in order to showcase the International Certificate Program (ICP) and introduce students and their parents to the innovative program. Numerous organizations which support the international experience focus of the ICP were also present in order to provide information and network with students and parents. Many Grade 8 students about to enter high school in 2017 were in attendance to learn about the ICP. With over 450 secondary stu-

dents now enrolled in the popular OCDSB International Certificate Program, this information evening provided a way to reach a large group of people interested in the ICP. Another ICP information night is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22nd.

A highlight of the evening was a series of presentations by seven students who have found the ICP to be a valuable and rewarding experience. Completion of the three main components and the Summative Portfolio in the program has the following purpose: *“To recognize and honour students who demonstrate a commitment to being*

motivated, engaged and active global citizens.”

In June 2017, it is anticipated that over 130 Grade 12 students will meet the criteria to receive the ICP Certificate. The ICP is becoming more widely recognized by Ontario universities; for example, Carleton University now offers two ICP student scholarships in its Bachelor of Global and International Studies Program (BGInS).

More information about the ICP can be found on the OCDSB website at: <http://www.ocdsb.ca/programs/int/Pages/icp.aspx>

OCDSB INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
DISCOVER YOUR WORLD
 JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS GRADE 8-12

WHO: OCDSB Students Grade 8-12 and Parents/Guardians
WHAT: International Certificate Program Overview
WHERE: Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 Confederation Education Centre Cafetorium
 1645 Woodroffe Avenue

Now in its 5th year, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's International Certificate Program (ICP) continues to grow. The global citizenship initiative gives students direct access to intercultural opportunities at the local, national and international levels.

Global Citizenship | Intercultural Competency | Global Mindset

@OCENETottawa
 Email: kathy.schepers@ocdsb.ca
 Phone: 613-239-0592

For more information visit our website:
<https://goo.gl/FXx0ba>

Look for this poster in schools advertising the second ICP information evening.

Join us for the next OCDSB International Certificate information session Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Confederation Education Centre in the Cafetorium - 1645 Woodroffe Avenue

Educational agents support international students

With contacts around the world, OCENET works with educational agents in over 40 countries to assist international students. These agents serve important roles in recruiting students, assisting with required documentation, and acting as an important liaison with parents and educational authorities in a student's home country.



Students from China, through the CIMEX Center agency, experience many Canadian cultural and outdoor activities while in Ottawa

Lynch-Getty Award deadline for applications

The Lynch-Getty Award honours students who value the importance of creating a world where people strive to understand and help others near and far.

The Lynch-Getty Award is presented to four graduating students annually to acknowledge their significant contributions to their community through active global citizenship. Two of the award recipients are international students who are attending OCDSB schools through the Ottawa Carleton Education Network. Each award recipient receives a certificate along with \$1,000 towards supporting post-secondary studies.

Look for application information in early March 2017 at <http://www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/lynch-getty>

Greenbank MS Grade 8's prepare for exchange to South Korea

“A primary goal is to start the students thinking about global awareness....This experience is equipping our kids with what they will need down the road.”

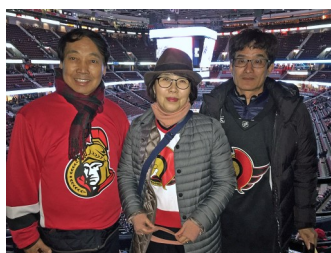
- Dennis Paré
Principal
Greenbank Middle School



In keeping with the cross-cultural and educational focus of the student exchange, the South Korean students were introduced to the Canadian system of government with a special visit to the Parliament of Canada hosted by both Senator Yonah Martin and MP Chandra Arya (both pictured in photo) who co-chair the Canada-Korea Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group. Greenbank MS students and their Korean student exchange partners pose in front of the Speaker's dias in “the Red Chamber” along with Principal Dennis Paré (center) and the and the teacher chaperones.



Upon arrival at the Ottawa International Airport, the South Korean students and their chaperones were welcomed by the students of Greenbank Middle School with Principal Dennis Paré (back row, centre) and Trustee Donna Blackburn (front row, right) holding an OCSD flag



The South Korean teacher chaperones enjoyed an evening watching a Senators game

Students, staff and host families welcomed a group of students from Changwon, South Korea, last autumn, and now 16 students and 2 staff members and the principal from Greenbank Middle School are busy preparing for the reciprocal part of the student exchange, taking place for 10 days during the first half of April.

The key initiator of the South Korean student exchange is Greenbank MS Principal Dennis Paré who participated in a similar type of exchange in the early 1990's when he was a high school student at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School . Mr. Paré describes his high school exchange to South Korea as a “life-changing” event, and seeks to foster a similar experience in the students from Greenbank MS though organizing this trip with the purpose of developing “global awareness and the importance of international exposure for students and the seed it plants in them.” In part, the educational excursion to South Korea was also inspired by the educational exchange that Glashan PS took to China last year.

When the South Korean students visited Canada last year, the school community rallied to

provide many opportunities for the Korean students to participate in Canadian culture. Host families were excited to have the opportunity to get to know the Korean students and teacher chaperones. Efforts were made to provide a balance between time spent with the Canadian families and time when the whole group of students would go on excursions around the Ottawa area. The host parents used a Facebook page to coordinate activities and ensure that the Korean students had a rich and engaging cultural exchange.

By partnering each of the 16 Greenbank students with a Korean exchange student, many friendships were made through families hosting the Korean students in their homes. In April, when the Greenbank MS students travel to South Korea, these same Grade 8 students will be reunited with their South Korean partners. By staying with a host family, the Canadian students will learn about Korean family life and culture in a way that is not possible if the students stayed in a hotel as a group.

In preparation for the trip the students and their parents, and the staff chaperones, have

learned about Korean culture and language, reviewed safety protocols, and been assisted with cultural awareness opportunities by representatives from the Korean Embassy in Ottawa, as well as support from OCNET's Executive Director Geoff Best and International Education Co-ordinator Kathy Scheepers.

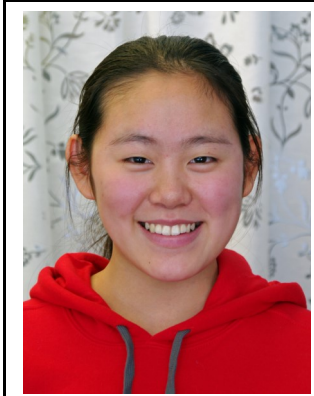
The Grade 8 students from Greenbank MS will attend the host Korean school for some of their stay, and visit local landmarks and historic sites. The itinerary potentially includes a visit to a Buddhist temple and to a Korean baseball game, among many other activities. Near the end of the educational tour, the Greenbank students and chaperones will have a couple of days to explore Seoul, with visits to Mt. Namsan's Seoul Tower, historic Hanok Village, and Lotte World Park.

While there are always challenges and significant time commitments required in organizing a trip of this nature, Principal Denis Paré thinks it is all more than worth the effort for its value in enhancing global awareness by “equipping our students with what they'll need down the road.”

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 the four Japanese students from Osaka Gakugei School who attended Brookfield High School for one year throughout 2016.

Kamiyu



Kamiyu wanted to study abroad and chose Canada because she thinks it is one of the most interesting countries in the world. Initially she was a little homesick, but now feels “at home” in Ottawa. She talks to a family member at least once a week and is looking forward to returning to Japan after being away for one full year, but she will also greatly miss her Canadian host family and her new friends. Kamiyu enjoyed trying lots of different Canadian foods. She was active on the Badminton Team at Brookfield and competed against other local school teams. One of her best experiences has been meeting and making friends with other international students from so many different countries.

Makana



Makana surprised her parents when she asked if she could study in Canada for a year. She wanted to come to Canada because “its people are known to be friendly and nature is always close by.” She loves her Homestay. She found communicating in English difficult at first and her classes very challenging, but now her English skills are much stronger and she feels independent, happy and strong because of her learning experience in Ottawa. She likes how everyone participates in classes at Brookfield. She especially enjoyed cooking class and discovered poutine, which she plans to make for her friends in Japan. Makana loves Ottawa’s weather, especially the snow.

Shunsuke



Shunsuke says: “Ottawa is a great place to come to study.” His family was very supportive of him coming to Canada, and an older brother also studied overseas. He did extensive research about Ottawa before coming to attend Brookfield. He has found the teachers and students very kind and helpful. Even though he had never played the game before, he got involved in extra-curriculars by joining the Rugby Team, and thinks it’s a great sport. Also, he really enjoyed being at his Homestay and his fellow roommates, and feels more independent. He made many friends amongst the international students as well as Canadian students, and anticipates that he “might be homesick for Canada” upon his return to Japan.

Mayu



Inspired and encouraged by her English teacher in Japan who happens to be Canadian, Mayu studied about the history and weather in Ottawa before beginning her study abroad experience. She finds Ottawa an extremely safe city where it is easy to get around. She likes the staff at Brookfield because they are so friendly and enjoys their style of teaching; all the students are friendly too. Though homesickness was never a challenge for her, Mayu says that her biggest hurdle was English communication, but she has improved greatly and now is no longer shy, but confident in speaking English. She really appreciated all that her Homestay family did to welcome her to Canada.

Meet OCENET: Chau Hoang

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



Chau Hoang,
School Administrator,
Young People's Language
School
(YPLS)

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

As school administrator at OCENET's Young People's Language School (YPLS), I am primarily responsible for making sure the day-to-day operation of school goes well by registering new students, communicating with teachers, students' families, host families and agents, as well as planning school activities. Also, I am involved in reviewing, processing and placing long term international students when they move from YPLS to OCDSB schools.

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

I enjoy the opportunities to meet people from around the world everyday. I enjoy welcoming our international students from their first day of school here, and supporting them during their studies in Ottawa. I watch them transform from being shy to happy,

confident and independent students who have great experiences in the school. The students work hard to become proficient in English language skills. Most of all, I feel very lucky to work with a great team of people at OCENET whom I consider both my colleagues and part of my family.

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

I once read: "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try." I can't agree more. I remember there was a student who felt studying abroad was not a good fit for her after arriving in Ottawa. She wanted to give up and go home. However, I provided her with encouragement, gave her some strategies for success, supported her as needed, and asked her to not give up, but just to try. She is now in the university program that she aimed for and appreciated my encouragement

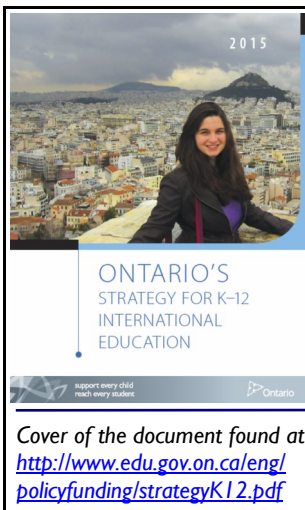
4. What new projects are you working on at OCENET?

This is our second year to welcome a group of 33 students from Osaka, Japan, who will be attending OCDSB secondary schools for a year, which is very exciting for us and for them. We hope this new project will continue to bring a great group of international students to OCENET and the OCDSB annually. In addition, the OCDSB, in partnership with the Young People's Language School, is offering the second year of its popular Summer Credit Program for newly-arriving international ESL students.

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

My son and I participate in many activities, including skating, soccer, swimming, zumba, piano, and cooking. We love trying out new cuisines, so we will pick one country each month to learn about their customs, culture and their food, and then cook one dish from that country. Hopefully, someday soon, we will be able to travel to those countries that we have been learning about in this special way.

OCENET awarded Ontario Ministry of Education grants to support international education initiatives



Cover of the document found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/strategyK12.pdf>

In 2015 the Ontario Ministry of Education released *Ontario's Strategy for K-12 International Education*. This important document is a comprehensive overview that defines what international education encompasses, provides a rationale for Ontario being involved in international education and outlines four main goals of fulfilling this strategy:

1. Future-oriented learning for Ontario students;
2. High-quality programs and services for K-12 international students studying in Ontario;

3. Opportunities for sharing and developing Ontario education expertise;
4. Pathways to post-secondary education, work, and living in Ontario.

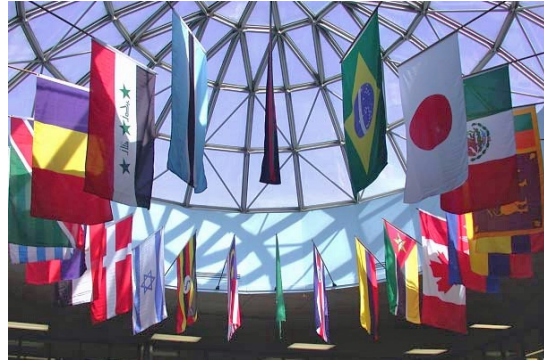
Last year OCENET received two grants to develop two separate projects which align with the MOE international education strategy goals. These projects were entitled "Developing Intercultural Competencies amongst Staff in Schools Hosting International Students" and "OCDSB International Student Exit Survey". Reports were prepared and submitted to the MOE and

the results of the projects will be shared with other school boards across the province. An overview of the nature and results of these projects will appear in a future edition of *Global Connections*.

This year OCENET was awarded a grant from the Ontario MOE on "Best Practices for Developing Global Competencies through Sustainable Partnership Schools Abroad, Grades 7-12." This project not only supports the MOE goals, but also reinforces the Exit Outcomes stated in the OCDSB Strategic Plan 2015-2019.

OCENET Tip Sheet #9:

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Study Abroad Organizations

There are both non-profit and for-profit organizations which arrange Study Abroad experiences for students. These organizations are well established and are very experienced making the arrangements for a student trip or exchange. Most offer and require pre-orientation sessions for both students and parents and have procedures in place to ensure student safety and to support students throughout their educational experience overseas.

Visiting the websites of the organizations below will provide an overview of the various programs, the possible destinations, the duration of the Study Abroad student exchange, as well as details about applying and the cost of the program. Most of the websites provide student testimonials about the overseas experience. In addition, Guidance Counsellors and Student Services offices in OCDSB schools have additional information on these types of Study Abroad experiences.

- **CEEF (The Canadian Education Exchange Foundation):** www.ceef.ca
- **EF (Education First) High School Exchange Year:** www.efexchangeyear.org/about-us
- **Global Journeys:** <http://www.global-journeys.com/>
- **ISE (International Student Exchange- Ontario):** www.iseontario.on.ca
- **Nacel Educational Travel:** www.nacel.org
- **OSEF (Organisme de Séjours Éducatifs Francophones) :** www.osef.ca/about-osef
- **Projects Abroad :** www.projects-abroad.ca/how-it-works/high-school-volunteers
- **Rotary Youth Exchanges:** www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/exchange-ideas/youth-exchanges
- **Students on Ice:** www.studentsonice.com
- **West Island College international:** www.classafloat.com
- **STS (Student Travel Schools Foundation):**
English website www.stsfoundation.ca/en
French website - www.stsfoundation.ca/fr
- **YES Canada (Youth Educational Services Canada):** www.youthedservices.ca
- **YFU Canada (Youth for Understanding Canada) :** www.yfu.ca

The following webpage entitled “*Other Opportunities – Canada and beyond!*” provides a comprehensive list of international opportunities for secondary and university students, as well as educators:

Government of Canada: “Other Opportunities...Canada and Beyond!”: www.canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1462548439594



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email: ocenet@ocdsb.ca

OCENET Bulletin Board

STUDENTS: OCDSB/OCENET International Study Abroad Bursaries

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

Information is available at: <http://www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/helping-students-2/bursary/ocdsbocenet-international-study-abroad-bursary/>

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: <http://www.studyottawa.ca/en/page/show/district-profile>



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



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



OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

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



OTTAWA-CARLETON EDUCATION NETWORK



OTTAWA-CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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