

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

- from 39 countries
- in 22 high school schools and 34 elementary schools,
- and throughout the year, 169 visiting educators from 9 countries

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## Governor General David Johnston recognizes OCENET and OCDSB leadership in international education



*OCENET Executive Director Geoff Best (right) met with His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, to discuss the OCDSB International Certificate Program and the many other international education initiatives in the OCDSB*

His Excellency David Johnston is well known as a strong and tireless advocate for educational innovation, and he was extremely interested in and supportive of the new *OCDSB International Certificate Program* during a meeting in February at Rideau Hall with Geoff Best, OCENET Executive Director, and Kathy Scheepers, OCENET International Education Coordinator. A meeting that was initially scheduled for 20 minutes extended well beyond an hour. At the recent ceremony for students receiving the *OCDSB International Certificate*, the Governor General sent a letter to this year's recipients acknowledging the benefits of the program: *"The International Certificate Program you are graduating from today is a shining example of what I like to call the 'diplomacy of knowledge.' Unencumbered by borders, language barriers or social restrictions, this approach to global thinking will shape the smarter and more caring Canada of which we dream. Moreover, it will lead to a brighter tomorrow for all of humanity."*

## OCENET international students share special opportunities

***“It was a great experience for us to get to know our students in person and make connections with them on this trip. Also, it was so inspiring to see them making friends with each other, creating unforgettable memories, and learning more about Canada.”***

*- Eunyong Shin,  
OCENET International  
Admissions and Enrolment  
Administrator, and  
chaperone on the  
2014 excursion to  
Toronto and Niagara Falls*

The Ottawa International Student Program prides itself on providing opportunities for its students in Ottawa to get to know each other outside of the school setting and share in memorable experiences during their time in Canada. Throughout the school year there are several trips which students can participate in, including skiing trips and a visit to Montreal.

One of the most popular trips is the cultural tour to Niagara Falls and Toronto. During the weekend of May 30 to June 1, forty-two international students and five chaperones boarded a luxury bus coach and enjoyed three jam-packed days by visiting iconic locations in southern Ontario. The trip included a stop enroute to the historic city Kingston,



*Even though they may have got wet, it is obvious from the beaming smiles that the Ottawa international students enjoyed their visit to Niagara Falls*

and upon arrival in Toronto, a ride up to the top of the CN Tower followed by a banquet dinner and jousting tournament show at Medieval Times. The tour also included a trip to Canada’s Wonderland followed by a long anticipated visit to the remarkable Horseshoe Falls,

and a chance to explore the many attractions around Niagara Falls.

An exhausted group of students (and chaperones!) returned to Ottawa having made new friends and sharing memories of visiting iconic sites in the Toronto area.

## Student agencies visit OCDSB schools



*Many parents from overseas recognize the benefits of their children studying in Canada, and use the services of recruiting agents to find excellent schools for international students. Pictured above is a group of agents, many visiting Ottawa for the first time, from World Study to tour OCDSB schools and explore the city along with OCENET’s Anne-marie Bereza*

## Lynch-Getty Global Student Awards

*Congratulations to the award recipients for 2013-2014:*

**Jing Xuan (Kingsong) Chen**  
Colonel By S.S.

**Dyuman Lionnel Das**  
West Carleton S.S.

**Anna Daina Hou**  
Lisgar Collegiate Institute

**Samantha Ruckenstein**  
Sir Robert Borden H.S.

For more information on the Lynch-Getty awards visit the following link:  
<http://www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/lynch-getty>

## OCENET hosts its 1st Annual International Education Info-Fair



Key organizer of the International Education Info-Fair, Kathy Scheepers (left), OCENET International Education Coordinator, with presenter Elspeth Morgan (right), Coordinator, Career Services at Queen's University.

On Saturday, April 12, more than 250 people - students, parents, educators and exhibitors - participated in OCENET's inaugural International Education Info-Fair. The event was held at the Albert Street Education Centre and clearly showed that there is a keen interest in international education initiatives in Ottawa.

There was something of interest for everyone at the info-fair. More than 30 exhibitors hosted information booths from a wide variety of organizations, including foreign embassies, student exchange organizations, student homestay, international NGOs, student tour companies, universities, the Government of Canada, and students from OCDSB schools involved in the International Certificate Pro-

gram. In addition, a series of informative seminar presentations covered a diverse range of topics of particular interest to various target audiences throughout the info-fair.

OCENET appreciated the generous support and sponsorship from numerous local, national, and international organizations

For students there were opportunities to learn about the many international exchange and study abroad programs available throughout both the regular school year and during summer months. There were also presentations on language learning overseas and details about an upcoming trip to South Korea exclusively for OCDSB students enrolled in the International Certificate Program.

Parents appreciated the opportunities to learn more about the benefits of hosting international students through presentations by Canada Homestay International. Also, parents could hear from experts about their children taking part in international study abroad and student exchange programs.

Many local educators attended to learn about ways to engage their students and schools in international education. Others went to sessions which shared information about teaching overseas on an educational exchange. Yet other teachers were updated on proposed revisions to procedures for conducting international trips and exchanges.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of the info-fair!

**An open invitation is extended to all students, parents and educators to attend next year's Info-Fair on Saturday, April 25, 2015.**

***"The International Education Info-Fair was a great success. Workshops were well attended and the exhibitors in the Hall of International Opportunities were kept busy with a steady flow of interested student and adult delegates."***

- Kathy Scheepers,  
OCENET International  
Education Coordinator



OCDSB Director of Education Jennifer Adams in conversation with representatives from the Embassy of Turkey.



City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson shares a laugh with Beth Keogan of Canada Homestay International

## OCDSB International Certificate Program is growing



Mr. Manfred Auster, Deputy Head of Mission, European Union Delegation to Canada delivering the keynote address to the ICP recipients

On June 19, The *OCDSB International Certificate* was awarded to students from local high schools who successfully completed the requirements of the program.

The *OCDSB International Certificate Program (ICP)* has grown to an enrollment of over 250 students since its pilot year in 2012-13 when six schools launched the ICP.

The program is now firmly rooted in 12 high schools

and five more schools are coming on board for the 2014-2015 school year, including Brookfield HS, Canterbury HS, Earl of March SS, Elizabeth Wyn Wood Alternate, and Rideau HS.

This year has also brought greater recognition of the *OCDSB International certificate Program*. His Excellency Governor General David Johnston has expressed support for the goals of the ICP. Also universities and colleges have

acknowledged the merits of the ICP, along with numerous other agencies from foreign embassies to national institutes. In addition, other school boards in Ontario are now developing their own international certificate programs.

Additional information on the *OCDSB International Certificate Program* is available online: <http://www.ocdsb.ca/programs/int/Pages/ICP.aspx>

**“The ICP is actively supporting our 21st century students to not only THINK globally, but also to ACT globally.”**

- Kathy Scheepers, International Education Coordinator



Many of this year's 31 recipients proudly display their OCDSB International Certificates on the stage at a special awards ceremony held at Sir Robert Borden High School on June 19

## Safety is a priority for international student travel

The safety of international students is paramount as they travel from their home countries to attend school in Ottawa, and also while they are studying in Ottawa.

On May 7 several members of the OCENET staff were invited to participate in an emergency preparedness exercise at DFATD headquarters at 125 Sussex Drive where they participated in

risk management simulation exercises with counterparts from Ontario colleges and universities.

Participants had the opportunity to discuss general student safety in the context of a series of emergency situations involving student scenarios. The objective of the exercise was to share information collaboratively about proven strategies of risk man-

agement and best practices for responding to an emergency situation.

**Note for Canadians travelling abroad.....besides checking for travel safety advisories, be sure to register with DFATD at the following link before your trip:**

<http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>

## 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 South Korea, Spain and Japan.

### Jennifer (Chaeun) @ Glashan Public School



An international student from South Korea who has attended Glashan Public School for the past two years, Jennifer loves being in Grade 8 in her Canadian school. She was excited to come to study in Ottawa and finds learning here ‘fun’ while appreciating the chance to improve her English. One of the initial challenges was making friends with students from Ottawa who had grown up together from kindergarten, but with her outgoing personality, she soon made Canadian friends and felt welcome and very comfortable at her new school. She describes her Grade 8 class and her home-room teacher as being “great.” Jennifer is very involved in school life at Glashan, and joined the dance club, the volleyball team and participated in a multicultural fashion show. She misses her family in South Korea and regularly stays in contact with her old friends. Jennifer looks forward to continuing her education in Ottawa in Grade 9.

**“Ottawa is quiet and peaceful, and the people are really friendly. I especially like that you can walk out your door and you are in ‘nature’.”**

- Jennifer, international student from South Korea

### Maria @ A.Y. Jackson Secondary School



Maria is from the city of Zaragoza in northeastern Spain. She arrived in Canada in time to start the second semester in Grade 9 at A.Y. Jackson in Kanata. Her subjects this semester included English, science, math and gym, and she really liked just having four courses to focus upon as in Spain she would have had 11 subjects throughout the whole school year. Maria saw the opportunity to come to Canada as a great way for her to improve her English speaking skills. While she was anxious at first about being away from family and friends, Maria feels that she is a much more independent and confident person as a result of studying in Ottawa. She found the staff and students at A.Y. Jackson to be friendly and helpful with making the adjustment to life in Canada. She really liked the Canadian winter and took advantage of the opportunity to try a variety of winter sports. Some of her most memorable experiences included trips to Toronto and Montreal. Maria highly recommends the international student experience!

**“I knew things would be very different...the key is to be open to new experiences.”**

- Maria, international student from Spain

### Nana @ Bell High School



From the coastal city of Nagoya in Japan, Nana enjoys being an international student at Bell High School. She especially appreciates the opportunities available at Bell High school to pursue her keen interest in the arts. Initially she wanted to learn English to assist with becoming a radio DJ in Japan, but her experience in Ottawa has led her to consider exploring a career in set design. Nana is appreciative that she has made friends from around the world. She has become close friends with Canadian students and enjoys the company of her Ottawa host family. As an international student, Nana knows that she has, in her words: “a bigger view of the world.” While improving her English has been a challenge, she feels she has made significant improvements with her English language skills. She enjoys winter in Canada and likes snowboarding and skating. Her advice to other international students is to take every opportunity to connect with Canadians.

**“...my parents and I chose Ottawa because there are not as many international students here as there are in Toronto or Vancouver.”**

- Nana, international student from Japan

## Meet OCENET: Vicente Conte



Vicente Conte, Office Administrator, greets everyone who enters the OCENET offices at the Albert Street Education Centre with a welcoming smile

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 main roles at OCENET include attending the front desk, answering inquiries from students and individuals, helping our students complete their visa and study permit applications, assisting returning students, as well as organizing the international student activities such as special trips and events, and much more!

### What aspects of your job do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy providing our international students with op-

portunities to enhance their experience in Ottawa through organizing numerous events and excursions. I appreciate knowing that our students have succeeded academically and had an unforgettable stay in Ottawa through their OCDSB schools, living with their Homestay families, and the participating in activities and trips that OCENET has put together.

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

I'm proud of being able to maintain up-to-date student contact information and assisting with the development

of an online process for payment for trips and events.

### What new projects are you working on at OCENET?

We are organizing study permit and visa application workshops to help students to gather the required documents and forms. In addition, we are always looking for new activities and attractions for our students including trips, sports events and social activities.

### What are some of your interests outside of work-life?

I love to travel, spend quality time with friends, and cooking.

## Woodroffe High School encourages global citizenship



Several members of the WHS Band participated in a Latin percussion workshop in Cuba, where they also visited a community centre and volunteered at an orphanage

Woodroffe High School is a leader in providing students with opportunities to participate in internationally focussed experiences.

There is a culture within the school which recognizes the benefits of being internationally engaged. For example, a group of students in the International Affairs Club meets weekly and invites guest speakers from DFATD, views and discusses documentary films on world issues, and hosts a model United Nations. Earlier this year, a 24 hour Stay Awake event raised over \$9,000 to support the building of two schools in Kenya.

During the 2013-2014 school year, there were five international excursions, many involving the students

making significant contributions to the local communities they visited, whether on a house building project in Nicaragua, or in Costa Rica investigating eco-tourism, or the school band volunteering at an orphanage in Cuba.

According to Jaden Lairson, Department Head of Canadian and World Studies: "A key goal is to encourage critical thinking young people to experience the world beyond Ottawa and Canada's borders."



Students and teachers from the GLP Life Skills Class pose for a group shot during their trip to Southern California



Woodroffe High School students, local community members, and WHS teacher Ian Eskritt on the Habitat for Humanity project in Nicaragua

## OCENET Tip Sheet #5:

# ENGAGING YOUR SCHOOL IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



International education initiatives are directly or indirectly linked to the 4 Key Priority Areas of the 2011-2015 OCDSB Strategy Map, and specifically to the following priority areas:

- ◆ **Well-Being #3:** “In collaboration with community partners, **develop specific strategies to further the cultural proficiency of the school district** in terms of inclusive and accessible practices and a workplace representative of the workplace we serve”
- ◆ **Engagement #2:** “Develop a framework for and **initiate effective partnerships with organizations that enrich our schools** as community hubs”
- ◆ **Engagement #4:** “Develop a strategy that supports and encourages **engagement in provincial, national and international initiatives** to encourage organizational learning and **global citizenship**”
- ◆ **Leadership #4:** “Encourage and support **student leadership and citizenship to promote global competencies**”

While many local OCDSB schools are already very involved with international education initiatives, here are a few suggestions of ways to promote the goals of international education and the OCDSB Strategic Plan:

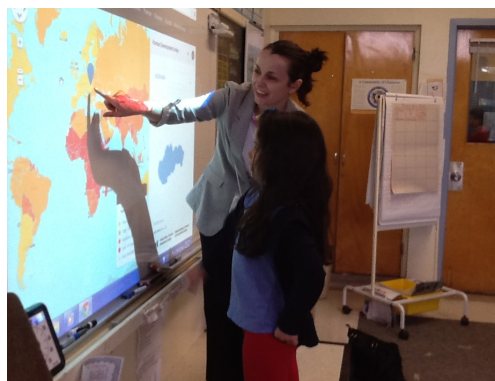
1. Host an international teacher in your school (OCENET contact: [constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca](mailto:constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca))
2. Invite a local international NGO or embassy representatives to your classroom (for example, many foreign embassies, such as the South Korean embassy and the European Union have developed special programs specifically for students (OCENET contact: [kathy.scheepers@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kathy.scheepers@ocdsb.ca))
3. Read back issues of *Global Connections* and find other *OCENET Tip Sheets* (visit: <http://www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/news-updates5> )
4. Host an international student in your school (OCENET contact: [geoff.best@ocdsb.ca](mailto:geoff.best@ocdsb.ca) OR [constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca](mailto:constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca))
5. Learn about teaching abroad at the next International Education Info Fair to be held on April 25, 2014 (OCENET contacts: [kathy.scheepers@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kathy.scheepers@ocdsb.ca) OR [greg.duggan@ocdsb.ca](mailto:greg.duggan@ocdsb.ca))
6. Consider starting an international education committee of staff members to promote international education in your school (OCENET contact: [ross.laing@ocdsb.ca](mailto:ross.laing@ocdsb.ca))
7. Encourage high school students to apply for a Lynch-Getty Global Student Scholarship (OCENET contact: [constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca](mailto:constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca))
8. Encourage families in your school community to consider hosting an international student in their home (visit: <http://www.canadahomestayinternational.com/becomingahost.html>)
9. Inform high school students about scholarship opportunities to study abroad (OCENET contact: [constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca](mailto:constantine.ioannou@ocdsb.ca) OR visit: <http://www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/study-abroad-scholarships>)
10. For high schools not yet a part of the program, ask your principal to consider enrolling your school in the *OCDSB International Certificate Program* (OCENET contact: [kathy.scheepers@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kathy.scheepers@ocdsb.ca))



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Phone: 613-239-0277  
 Fax: 613-239-0608  
 email: [ocenet@ocdsb.ca](mailto:ocenet@ocdsb.ca)

### European Union *Back to School* Program visits Riverview Alternative School



During the spring, Diodora Bucar, Press Information Officer from the Political and Public Affairs Section of the EU Delegation to Canada, visited the students of Riverview Alternative teacher Anuka Dey to share information about the geography, history and culture of the European Union



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](http://www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca)

### The Branches of OCENET



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**  
 Elementary School  
 High School  
 University Preparation



**GROUP PROJECTS**  
 English Immersion  
 Teacher Training  
 Summer Programs



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



Please direct any comments, questions, or suggestions to:  
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