

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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The Divisions of OCENET

Spanish foundation partners with OCENET and OCDSB for an intensive yearlong professional development program in Ottawa



The Spanish teachers sponsored by the Fundación Amancio Ortega (FAO) upon their arrival at the Ottawa International Airport. These recent graduate teachers will be participating in a wide range of teacher development programs throughout this academic year.

OCENET has gained international recognition for its teacher training programs because they feature practical pedagogical learning and professional development focused on a variety of targeted training modules combined with in-school practicum experience in an OCDSB school. Close to 50 Spanish teachers recently arrived in Ottawa through the Fundación Amancio Ortega (FAO) and will be studying in Ottawa throughout the 2017-2018 academic year. These teachers are recent graduates from Spanish universities and are in Ottawa to enhance their training before they assume full time teaching positions in Spanish schools.

For the first half of the academic year these educators will participate in workshops and presentations related to best teaching practices, and learn from educators in the OCDSB, the Ontario College of Teachers, and several universities including the University of Ottawa, OISE, Queen's, and Brock. The training modules that the Spanish teachers will participate in include topics of particular relevance to pre-service teachers, such as Classroom Management and Differentiation, Technology for Learning Enhancement, Assessment and Evaluation, and Professional Development and Leadership, among others.

The Spanish teachers will also be studying two education courses offered at the University of Ottawa.

Throughout the second half of the academic year the teachers will have a placement in an OCDSB school to work with mentor teachers and actively share in the life of their assigned school. During the time in schools, the Spanish teachers will observe and assist OCDSB teachers by following a schedule as agreed upon by both the Spanish and Canadian teachers.

- see “Teacher Training Programs” continued on page 2



All OCDSB international students participate in a bus tour of Ottawa as part of their orientation. Pictured here are 33 new students from the Canary Islands at Parliament Hill.

Teacher Training Programs *(continued from page 1)*

“The teacher training programs are mutually beneficial for both the educators from other countries and for local OCDSB teachers and students.”

- Constantine Ioannou,
Program Director,
Short-Term/Group Projects
OCENET

FAO and the OCDSB are very excited about this educational partnership. As stated in the Program Summary for this initiative: “The experience in Ottawa will offer Spanish teachers many additional ideas to implement into their teaching upon their return home, and the Canadian teachers and their students will be further enriched and inspired by the inclusion of a Spanish educator within their classrooms.”

Many groups of educators, both large and small, come from many countries throughout the school year to attend the teacher training programs offered by OCENET and OCDSB. This school year, including the 50 FAO teachers, several other groups will be participating in OCENET Teacher Training and Study Tours, including educators from South Korea, Sweden, China, and other groups from Spain.



OCENET Executive Director Geoff Best, Amancio Ortega, OCDSB Director of Education Dr. Jennifer Adams, and OCENET Program Director Constantine Ioannou (l-r) at the signing of the teacher training program partnership agreement between Fundación Amancio Ortega Gaona (Spain), the OCDSB, and OCENET.

It is clear that there is a reciprocal benefit from hosting visiting educators because local teachers share and learn about the educational practices in other parts of the world, and

they often adopt these ideas for teaching their students in Ottawa schools. In addition, several long term friendships develop which continue these educational collaborations over time.



FAO teachers participate in a learning carousel where they worked in groups focused on a series of practical classroom activities in various subject areas including Math, Science, Social Studies and Language. These workshops are designed and delivered by OCDSB educators to demonstrate best teaching practices to the Spanish teachers.

Swedish Principals’ Study Tour learns from the OCDSB



Principals and superintendents from Trollhättan, Sweden, attend an introductory presentation led by OCDSB Director of Education Dr. Jennifer Adams. The Swedish educators learned about the Ontario educational system and best practices in the OCDSB, and then will share this knowledge with colleagues upon returning home. As part of the study tour they will shadow an OCDSB principal for one week, and will live with a local Homestay family while in Ottawa.

OCENET initiatives encourage global citizenship for OCDSB students

During International Education Week (Nov. 13-17) several global citizenship events organized by OCENET for OCDSB students took place at the Confederation Education Centre on Woodroffe Ave.

OCDSB International Certificate Information Evening



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
WHEN: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Confederation Education Centre Cafeteria
1645 Woodroffe Avenue

Now in its 6th year, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's International Certificate Program (ICP) continues to grow. This global citizenship initiative gives students direct access to intercultural opportunities at the local, national and international levels.

For more information visit our website: <https://open.ocdsb.ca>

Global Citizenship Intercultural Competency Global Mindset
@OCENETottawa
Email: kathyschepers@ocdsb.ca
Phone: 613-239-0592

This info evening gave students and parents an opportunity to learn about the OCDSB International Certificate Program (ICP) which now has an enroll-

ment approaching 450 students in 26 OCDSB high schools. This innovative program promotes global citizenship by requiring students to complete a series of learning activities focused on developing global competencies.

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).

Information about the ICP is available on the OCDSB website at: <http://ocdsb.ss13.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=1744015>



Graduates show off their new ICP Certificates at the June 2017 ceremony

Fourth Annual OCENET International Education Info-Fair



STUDENTS!

ocenet.ca
Ottawa-Carleton Education Network

FOURTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INFO-FAIR

Global awareness at the local level, for students!

Featuring:

- International Certificate Program
- Workshops & Info Booths
- Experiential Learning
- Local & Global Opportunities
- International Languages
- Study Abroad

Registration is FREE!
SIGN UP AT www.ocenet.ca

Confederation Education Centre
1645 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa
Thursday November 16, 2017 — 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

OCENET's Fourth Annual International Education Info-Fair

was held on Thursday, November 16, at the Confederation Education Centre during school hours.

The annual event attracted over two hundred OCDSB students and their teachers. Following the keynote address, students had a wide selection of workshops to choose from during three workshop blocks. These workshops focussed on global issues, cultural understanding, the United Nations' SDGs, as well as student exchanges and travel opportunities. There was information on how to become an OCENET Student Ambassador and the OCDSB ICP program. There were even two introductory language workshops on speaking Mandarin and German.

In addition, throughout the day, students could speak with the many exhibitors about information on international education initiatives in the "Hall of International Opportunities."

OCENET Staff Bursary supports IE opportunities

During March Break in 2017, Dan Martin, VP at Manor Park PS, participated in a Principal Exchange to Sweden. Dan learned much about the educational system in Sweden and took note of the differences between the Swedish and Canadian systems as well as the shared pedagogies applied in both countries. In Dan's words, "the days in Sweden were the best professional development I have ever had." He greatly appreciated receiving an OCENET International Education Bursary to assist with the trip expenses.

Information on eligibility and the application process for the OCENET International Education Bursary can be found at www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/bursaries



Some of the differences in curriculum focus and facilities are evident in this wood and metal working classroom (for students aged 8-years and older) in Linköping.

Lynch-Getty Awards

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.

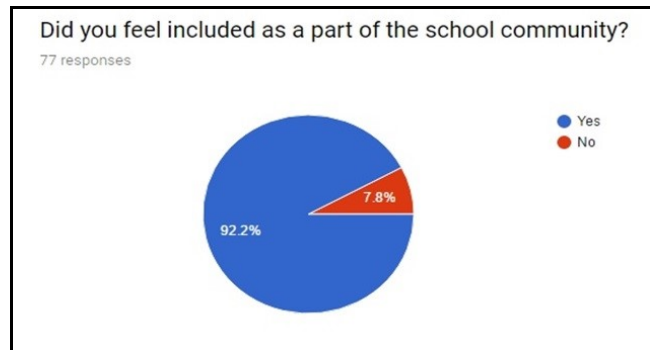
The Lynch-Getty Award is presented to four graduating students annually to acknowledge their significant contributions to their community through active global citizenship. Two of the award recipients are international students who are attending OCDSB schools through the Ottawa Carleton Education Network.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

Recipients for 2016-2017

- **Adelaide Strickland** - West Carleton Secondary School
- **Amir Challal** - Lisgar Collegiate Institute
- **Omar Garcia Flores** - Bell High School
- **Yolanda Chow** - Lisgar Collegiate Institute

Look for application information in early March 2018 at www.ocenet.ca/en/page/show/lynch-getty

Positive feedback on survey of OCDSB international students



In most areas, the results indicate that OCDSB schools and OCENET programs are meeting the needs of the international students, and in several areas, schools are performing exceptionally well in accommodating our international students.

The results show that efforts can be made to encourage more international students to get involved in school life by participating in sports and clubs. These extra-curricular activities help students to make friendships beyond the classroom and to adapt to Canadian culture.

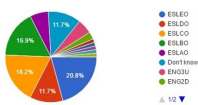
The survey results have been shared with international student advisors in schools as well as with Homestay. In addition, the survey results can be used as baseline data for comparison with any future surveys.

OCENET received a funding grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education to conduct an online exit survey of graduating OCDSB international students. All international students who were in Grade 12 were contacted and had an opportunity to respond to a series of 25 questions based on their experiences in school, both inside and outside of the classroom, along with other

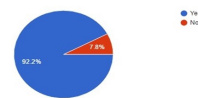
questions related to levels of support and their Homestay experience while attending an OCDSB school.

Some students had been in Ottawa for several years and for others, they had attended OCDSB schools for only one year. Seventy-seven students responded to the survey during a two week period in June 2016.

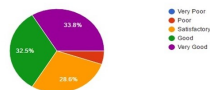
What level of English were you assessed at when you first arrived in Ottawa?
77 responses



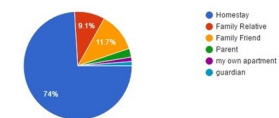
Did you feel welcomed by your school when you first arrived in Ottawa?
77 responses



How would you rate the level of support you received at your school as an international student?
77 responses



Who are you living with now?
77 responses



A sample of the data collected from the graduating international students:

- 56% of the respondents surveyed indicated that a main goal in attending a Canadian high school was to gain entrance to a Canadian university or college
- 92% of students felt they were welcomed to their new school
- 74% of students lived with Homestay family
- 61% of students got involved in extra-curricular school activities
- 92% of students felt they were included as part of the school community
- 91% of students would recommend their high school to others
- 49% of the graduating students planned to attend a Canadian university; 12% planned to attend a Canadian college

Greenbank MS completes student exchange to South Korea



Students and staff from Greenbank Middle School during their student exchange to South Korea

In April 2017, 16 students from Greenbank Middle School, along with Principal Dennis Paré and staff members Kathryn Ferris and Heather Carmichael, travelled to Changwon, South Korea, as part of an international student exchange. The study tour was a real reunion since the students and staff from Changwon had visited Greenbank MS during the fall of 2016.

From the moment the Greenbank students and staff arrived

they were treated like “rock stars” by the host school and the students’ families. The Canadian students shadowed their South Korean counterparts for two school days but also spent time visiting the Changwon area. After 6 days, the group travelled to Seoul for the final leg of the trip. In the words of Principal Dennis Paré: “the whole experience was overwhelmingly positive for all involved.” One of the

Greenbank students, Aaron, described the student exchange as “a magical experience re-connecting with a friend face-to-face halfway around the world.”

Even though Greenbank MS closed its doors in June and each of the staff members who participated in the South Korea exchange have moved on to different schools, they each plan to initiate efforts to repeat the success of the Korean exchange at their new schools at some point in the future.

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 four Spanish students from the Canary Islands who are attending Grade 10 classes in OCDSB schools from September to December 2017.

Christina @ Lisgar CI



One of Christina's English teachers from the Canary Islands encouraged her to apply to study in Ottawa. For Christina, the whole experience has been a dream come true; she had been eager to visit Canada since she was 11 years old. She is not only busy with her studies, but also is an active member of Lisgar's cross-country team and has participated in several races. She describes her host family as "Fantastic!" and she has gone on trips to Toronto and Kingston with them. She has noticed a significant improvement in her English fluency and vocabulary development while in Ottawa. Christina has found the experience so enriching that she is looking into returning to Canada again as an international student.

Oscar @ AY Jackson SS



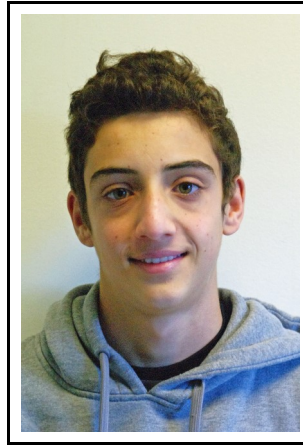
A friend of Oscar told him about the scholarship opportunity sponsored by the government of the Canary Islands. The more he researched about Ottawa, the more excited he became about coming to Canada. This was a big step for him since he had never travelled outside the Canary Islands. He finds the teachers and students at his school very friendly and helpful. His Homestay family hosts other international students as well, and along with his Canadian "brother" they often play basketball. One of his best experiences so far was going on the OCENET trip to Niagara Falls. He feels he has improved his English skills and also learned to be successful in a new situation.

Flavia @ Hillcrest HS



Flavia has travelled widely and visited both Africa and South America. As for Canada, Flavia finds it is a place where it is "very easy to fit in." She likes that her school provides lots of course options and that students get an opportunity to discover the ways they learn best. Flavia loves anything to do with science and really enjoys the experiential activities in her Environmental Science course where she gets to learn outside of the classroom. She plans to participate in the OCENET organized trip to Montreal later this semester. In the future, Flavia has her aim set on studying paleontology at the University of Alberta. With the return home only a few weeks away, Flavia is finding her 3.5 months here far too short.

Jose @ Glebe CI



Jose is known to friends and family by his nickname "Pepe." His parents were pleased that he showed the initiative to come to Ottawa to study in order to improve his English and to learn to be more independent. Jose has found adapting to a Canadian school and culture a fairly easy transition. He has made many Canadian friends and spends some of his social time with them. His Homestay family has been great and they introduced him to camping several weekends ago. He loves Ottawa and is especially impressed by the downtown area and the amount of green space throughout the city. Jose's educational pathway will probably involve science and technology.

Meet OCENET: Katherine Noble



Katherine Noble,
Program Administrator,
Short-Term/Group Programs

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 communicate with and respond to agents, school group leaders/chaperones, homestay coordinators, school staff and OCENET staff regarding the placement and operations of our programs. This includes admissions, immunization information, course interests, activities, custodian information, and transportation arrangements (especially for elementary school bus requirements). I also input, process and update data for the Short-term and Group Program Management database.

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

OCENET gives us the opportunity to meet people from around the world. I love talking with our clients, both the students and adults, and learning about their countries, language and culture.

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

I have been fortunate enough to work in all three of OCENET's departments. I began my career at Young People's Language School, and then moved over to Ottawa International Projects and Exchanges for short-term student and teacher training projects. Last Fall, I had the opportunity to work in Ottawa International Student Program for one semester and worked on processing applications from full-time stu-

dents. We have an amazing, talented staff and I'm proud to be part of this organization.

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

We have begun piloting a new registration spreadsheet for groups. The goal is to make the application process more efficient for agents and their clients by reducing the number of forms they need to fill out. So far, the feedback from our clients has been very positive.

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

I really enjoy the outdoors, so walking, hiking and spending time at our (rustic) cottage are favourite pastimes. Reading and listening to music are my "couch-potato" activities, and I have been known to binge-watch Netflix on occasion!

OCENET active in international education associations



Canadian Association of
Public Schools-International
logo



Ontario Association of School
Districts International
logo

OCENET has memberships in several international education organizations and makes active contributions to those organizations.

The Canadian Association of Public Schools-International (CAPS-I) provides support to its 128 school board members that recruit international students to Canadian schools. CAPS-I is a key source of information for parents, students and educational agents who choose Canada as a study destination. In addition, CAPS-I is involved in organizing student recruitment fairs overseas.

At the annual CAPS-I Conference all of the member school boards convene at a different location within Canada to share best practices. At the most recent CAPS-I Conference, OCENET's Executive Director Geoff Best received recognition

for his many leadership roles and being a founding member of the organization. More information can be found at www.caps-i.ca.

Geoff Best also serves as the current President of Ontario Association of School Dis-

tricts International. OCENET was well represented at the inaugural conference of OASDI held in Toronto in June, as Geoff Best, Constantine Ioannou, Kathy Scheepers and Ross Laing were among the workshop leaders. More information is available at www.oasdi.ca



At the annual CAPS-I Conference held this past May in Calgary, Paul Millman, OCENET Executive Director Geoff Best, and Brent Poole received special recognition for 10 years of leadership in CAPS-I

OCENET Tip Sheet #10:

BEST PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND STUDENT EXCHANGES ABROAD



In early 2017 OCENET received a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education to research best practices related to sustainable partnerships and student exchanges with schools overseas. As part of this project, 14 OCDSB educators with extensive experience in international education participated in extensive one-to-one interviews to discuss issues around sustaining school partnerships internationally and to offer advice in establishing and maintaining student exchanges with schools abroad.

This research project produced a report entitled *A Guide to Best Practices for Developing Global Competencies through Sustainable Partnership Schools Abroad, Grades 7-12* which includes a synopsis of current research, ways to establish partnership schools, a concise guide to establishing a sustainable partnership school, a checklist for successful international student exchanges, a detailed catalogue of challenges and strategic solutions, best practices for initiating and maintaining sustainable school partnerships and student exchanges, and several general recommendations.

The report addresses Ontario educators from those who are beginning to consider starting an international school partnership or student exchange to those educators who are experienced in sustaining a partnership or exchange internationally. The report is comprehensive and offers practical information and advice, along with explanations of the following best practices:

- Consistent support for international experiential education by school board senior staff
- Develop a curriculum focus that extends beyond one school year
- Advertise a four year plan for international study tours and exchanges for high school students
- Maintain a consistent message when many schools are involved in an international student exchange
- Seek innovative ways to financially support student exchanges
- Make global awareness part of the “culture” of a school
- Sustainable partnerships and exchanges are about building strong relationships
- Use technology to build relationships
- Offer an International Certificate Program
- Find a strong intermediary or educational agent that can help facilitate an international exchange
- Organize board-wide opportunities for international study tours and exchanges with students
- Select students for international student exchanges based on merit and commitment to developing global competency
- Have students be ambassadors for promoting the value of global educational experiences
- Profile international students attending local schools
- Ensure students are aware of cultural differences before travelling overseas
- Cultivate a school board reputation that demonstrates commitment to international partnerships

Check out [@OCENETottawa](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzkS6i3xKl0kY0stRExnRIZUZnjxQUhGTWIXZVdZVGjfb05V...) "Guide to Best Practices for Developing Global Competencies through Sustainable Partnership Schools Abroad, Grades 7-12" [#globallyaware](#) [#globalcompetence](#) [#gloaled](#) [@OCDSB](#) <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzkS6i3xKl0kY0stRExnRIZUZnjxQUhGTWIXZVdZVGjfb05V...>



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OCENET Bulletin Board

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

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
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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
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Visit "Hosts" at www.canadahomestaynetwork.ca

Divisions of OCENET



OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Elementary School
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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



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