

This past semester OCENET and OCDSB schools hosted international students from **45** countries around the world...with international students attending **20** high schools and **13** elementary schools throughout the OCDSB.

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The Divisions of OCENET

OCENET resumes excursions for international students



OCENET introduced 35 of its new international students to Canadian wildlife with a trip to the Parc Omega nature park near Montebello, Quebec, in October. The students were fascinated by all of the animals including wolves, bears, elk, bison, and many other species. At first the students were a bit wary of the strange animals but then thrilled to be able to handfeed carrots to the deer wandering within the park grounds. With the lifting of some pandemic restrictions, the team at OCENET has planned numerous excursions and activities for its international students to enjoy, appreciate, and learn from all that the Ottawa area offers.

Orientation for new international students adapts for the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated many changes in the ways OCENET welcomes our international students to OCDSB schools and to the Ottawa area.

In response to the pandemic, OCENET developed a new *International Students Arrival Guide* to assist students become informed and

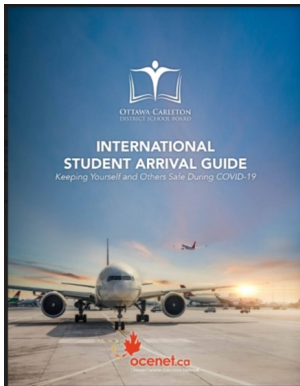
adjust to school life and Homestay in Ottawa. In addition, OCENET prepared an online *Assessment and Orientation* program to assist with the appropriate placement of new students based on proficiencies in English and mathematics. These documents provide comprehensive resources which include basic information from public

transportation and Canadian currency to essential information about how the school day is organized to ways to adjust to living in Homestay with a Canadian family.

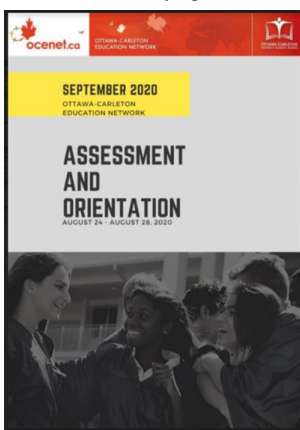
OCENET staff organized a two week long arrival orientation program delivered online prior to the beginning of school clas-

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Orientation programs adapt to support new students (cont'd)



OCENET developed a comprehensive online resource to assist new international students get to know their new school and home while studying in Ottawa



OCENET's new online Assessment and Orientation program helps students be successful in their learning

ses in September. The program was designed to be informative and engaging, and at all times the focus was on supporting new international students. Topics emphasized practicalities such as the role of Student Services counsellors and how the students could access their health insurance.

Students attended presentations about school life in Canada and ways to get involved in school sponsored activities such as sports and clubs as well as the International Certificate Program (ICP).

One of the most important features of the orientation program was the role current OCDSB students enrolled in the ICP had in partnering with new international students to tell the new students about their new school and to answer specific questions. This peer-to-peer approach developed a relationship with another student from their

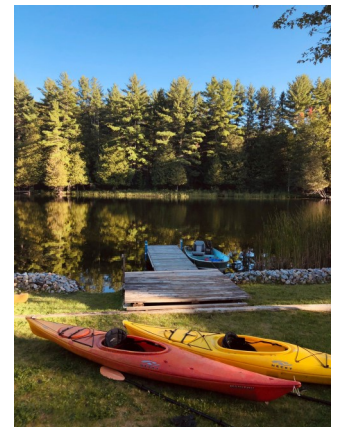
school and helped the new students overcome some anxieties they may have had about attending their new school. In addition, near the end of the two week orientation program, returning international students mentored the new students about ways they adjusted to life in Ottawa when they first came here to study.

Many guest speakers delivered sessions ranging from an introduction to Ottawa's many national museums, to pointing out local landmarks and attractions, to a trivia quiz about Canadian culture and history. ICP students along with International Education Coordinator, Sean Oussoren, led a lively and informative discussion on cultural awareness.

There were other presentations on Anishinaabe art, world music, and photography techniques including an OCENET photo contest for new students. Ottawa's Poet Laureate, Albert Dumont, delivered a session on Indigenous poetry, stories

and traditions. During the orientation program there was even a virtually delivered workshop on kick boxing with OCENET's Kevin Orange live from the Beaver Boxing Club!

All of these activities were designed to help our new international students feel at ease and be prepared to confidently begin and enjoy their new learning experience in Ottawa.



International student at Nepean High School, Marianna Stancher, won first prize in the "Around Ottawa" category of OCENET's September Photo Contest. Boyi Zhang from Glebe CI was also recognized for his photography.

Daily Schedule

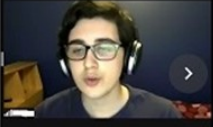
- There are 4 quadmesters, each quadmester you have 2 classes
- You will be entering into quadmester 3
- There are 2 cohorts (A and B)

Glebe Daily Schedule: January 5th - January 22nd	
Monday to Friday - All Students Cohort A & B	
9:05 am - 10:57 am	Subject 1 (Day 1 Class on Student Timetable)
10:57 am - 11:08 am	Transition/Break
11:08 am - 1:00 pm	Subject 2 (Day 2 Class on Student Timetable)
1:00 pm - 1:40 pm	Lunch/Break
1:45 - 3:00 pm	Virtual Resource Centre

Cohort A day 1
8:50: School doors open for students to enter
9:05am: Subject 1 Starts
1:00pm Subject 1 Ends

Cohort A day 2
9:05am: Subject 1 Starts at home
1:00pm Subject 1 Ends at home

Gr 9 students - Door D (First Ave side)
Gr 10 students - Door C (First Ave side, accessible door)
Gr 11 students - Door H (Glebe Ave side)
Gr 12 students - Door G (Glebe Ave side)



During an online orientation meeting, an OCDSB student explains how the school schedule works to new international students. This student-to student approach was very successful in supporting new international students.

International students create art learning about Indigenous culture



One of two Anishinaabe inspired artworks by student Marit Erbrink

In April and May of 2021 all international students were invited to participate in a series of four online Anishinaabe art classes delivered by the Wabano Centre. First Nations inspired artworks by OCDSB international student Marit Erbrink from The Netherlands was selected to be printed on T-shirts to be given to all

new international students.

As Marit explains: “the art classes were so much more than just drawing since our passionate teacher explained about the First Nations of Canada... and the significance what we were drawing.” Marit incorporated many symbolic elements of First Nations’ culture and art in her drawings.



T-shirts with the artwork of international student Marit Erbrink modeled by Marit (far left) with OCENET staff members (l-r), Kari Hanes (Manager, Programs), Geoff Best (Executive Director) and Kevin Orange (Operations Manager).

2020-2021 Lynch-Getty Global Student Award winners

Alex Getty and Ron Lynch, both former Ottawa-Carleton Education Network (OCENET) board members and active supporters of international education, believed that learning to communicate and act globally was important to creating a world where people strive to understand and help those near and far. To recognize Ron and Alex’s contribution to the Ottawa-Carleton Education Network and commitment to international learning and cooperation, OCENET established the **Lynch-Getty Global Student Award** in 2010.



One of the four 2020-2021 recipients of the Lynch-Getty Global Student Award, Aria Mann, with her award plaque

Each year OCENET presents awards to four OCDSB Grade 12 graduates, with two students being international students and two being Canadian residents. Each recipient is awarded \$1,000 and a plaque recognizing their commitment to global citizenship and involvement in groups, events and activities that foster cross cultural learning and understanding in school and within the community.

2020-2021 Lynch-Getty Global Student Award recipients:

- Hayat Chasso** – Lisgar Collegiate Institute
- Natan Goldberg** – Sir Robert Borden High School
- Aria Mann** – Ottawa-Carleton Virtual Secondary School
- Mashkura Tassum Tathoye** – Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Apply for the Lynch-Getty Global Student Award

APPLICATION DEADLINE
April 2022

Go to:
https://ocenet.ocdsb.ca/bursaries_awards/lynch_getty_award

International Certificate Program continues to grow



Cover of the ICP information brochure



Graduates from the International Certificate Program at Gloucester High School in June 2021

The [International Certificate Program](#) (ICP) is administered by OCENET's International Education Coordinator, Sean Oussoren, along with the assistance of ICP teacher advisors in each OCDSB high school. The ICP is

very popular amongst students and continues to grow in numbers. The ICP grew in size during the 2020-2021 academic year as almost 500 students are presently enrolled in the ICP, now accessible in all

OCDSB secondary schools.

In June, 83 students were awarded the OCDSB International Certificate making it just under 500 OCDSB students who have received certificates since the ICP's inaugural year in 2013.

Four local students attend the Jeju Youth Forum online

For over six years four local International Certificate Program students have attended the annual Jeju Youth Forum which is held on Jeju Island, South Korea.

Oussoren, and four ICP students participated in the Jeju Youth Forum over three days during the weekend of November 12th (and not getting

much sleep because of the time zone differences) and found the opportunity to share and learn from other students from around the world to be empowering.

The Jeju Youth Forum brings together more than 150 students from over 40 cities to discuss global issues and promote intercultural awareness.

Given the pandemic, OCDSB students have only been able to attend virtually for the past two years. International Education Coordinator, Sean



In spite of the challenges of the pandemic keeping most of the student delegates in their home countries, the Jeju Youth Forum continued to be a success in demonstrating youth leadership

Use the QR code below to view a video report about the 2021 Jeju Youth Forum and the ICP that was produced by the students at Colonel By S.S. and recently aired by Rogers TV on High School Happenings



Virtual connections lead to meeting in person with Japanese students



OCDSB students enrolled in the International Certificate Program (ICP) showed themselves to be excellent hosts and were pleased to escort students from Japan to discover and explore many of Ottawa's capital city landmarks in August 2021

For four months, more than 50 International Certificate (ICP) students and 25 Osaka-Gakugei students participated in a virtual exchange with videos, Padlets, Zoom meetings,

and email communication. This partnership culminated in the students meeting face to face in August 2021 in Ottawa with the ICP

students taking on the role of intercultural tour guides by showing the Osaka-Gakugei students around various parts of Ottawa, including visits

to the Byward Market, Parliament Hill, and Lansdowne Park, as well as participating in fun activities such as mini-golf and bowling.

International student trip to Montreal the first in two years

by Dahlia Liwsze
OCENET Admin. Assistant

Over 70 international and International Certificate Program students took part in day trip to Montreal on Saturday, October 30th.

It was the first student trip since 2019. All the students, OCENET staff, and ISX tour guides had to be fully vaccinated to participate.

One of the highlights was walking around downtown on Sainte-Catherine Street

and doing some shopping at the Eaton Centre.

The students enjoyed the view of Montreal from the Mount Royal lookout and La Grande Roue de Montreal at the Old Port, which is the tallest Ferris wheel in Canada at a height of 60 metres or the equivalent of a 20-story building. They also followed their tour guides for a walk to see the beautiful Notre-Dame Basilica in Old Montreal before ventur-

ing off in pursuit of souvenirs.

And what trip to Montreal could be complete without tasting one of the foods that the city is best known for? The students had smoked meat sandwiches at Dunn's Restaurant.

Chelsea Chapman, one of the chaperones, said, "The students ... seemed to have enjoyed themselves a lot ...and to make friends."



A candid shot of some of the students who participated in OCENET's October bus trip to Montreal

Meet OCENET: Jill Doherty



- Jill Doherty,
Academic Advisor

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

I believe my main role is that of an academic advisor to international students at 10 of our secondary schools and a liaison between OCENET and the students and staff at those schools. Through reviewing report cards I can keep track of how students are doing and speak to or email counselors and teachers on how to support these students. I also communicate with other colleagues at OCENET about our students and respond to requests from agents, parents and prospective students.

Another role is developing and refining our procedures for initial assessment. Donna Bass and I are especially proud of how we have developed an effective online assessment tool for use during the pandemic. Our students find the process to be a comfortable experience and our assessors like the fact there are no inter-

ruptions and they can focus on getting to know the student. A win-win for both.

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

I enjoy interacting with all my colleagues at OCENET, my teacher contacts at the schools and the students I meet with. It is always satisfying and fulfilling.

3. What have been some of your OCENET accomplishments?

Donna and I have been able to attract and keep a special group of retired teachers to help us with assessments during our busy intake periods. They are so dependable and professional and we all get along famously.

I am also proud of the connections I have made with our school contact teachers whom I can call at a moment's notice and receive help or direction.

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

Donna and I have been developing and adapting assessment materials for a changing student population.

More and more students are coming with higher levels of English while others are coming for Grade 12 with a stated goal of graduation from the Ontario school system.

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

I love being physically active and am fortunate to still be able to hike, golf, cycle and x-country ski. Literacy is a passion for me and during the pandemic I have spent time reading with my grandchildren in person and on Zoom.

I am also a long time member of the Grassroot Grannies connected to the Stephen Lewis Foundation which supports African grandmothers raising their orphaned grandchildren.

OCENET staff member Kari Hanes charts new path



Kari snowshoeing near Kuujjuaq

Kari Hanes worked for many years at OCENET and has been instrumental in the success of many of its programs.

She worked primarily with Short-Term Programs on special projects and exchanges and endeared herself to many international groups of teachers and students who benefitted from her teaching expertise and

engaging personality. She was involved with developing and delivering innovative teacher development programs to groups of educators from Spain, Nigeria, Sweden, and many other countries.

Kari has an adventurous spirit. During the 2014-15 school year Kari chose to teach in Kuujjuaq, an Inuit commu-

nity in Nunavik, northern Quebec, and decided to return to teach there.

Kari is greatly missed by her friends and colleagues at OCENET. She is a great team builder who organized trivia nights, Throwback Thursdays, and cookie exchanges, among many other fun activities around the office. Best wishes to Kari from all at OCENET.

Global Explorer Program focuses on language learning & global issues

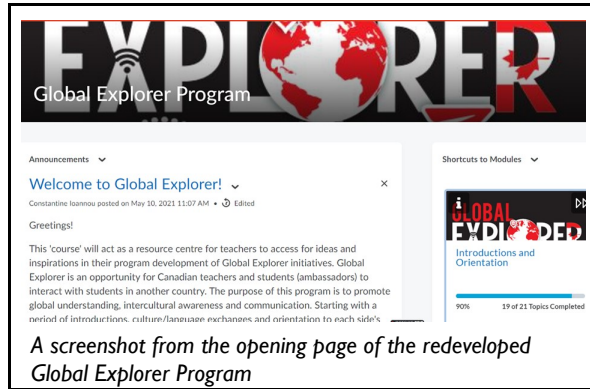
OCENET's *Global Explorer* engages international students and their Canadian peers in a program that promotes intercultural sharing and collaborative thinking centered around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Topics of global interest and relevance are discussed through cooperative tasks and group learning opportunities in English.

The pandemic had a considerable impact upon the usual programs, but in the 2021 program 13 students from Chengdu, China, participated in one of two groups with the SDG topics ranging from bees (junior division) to cocoa (senior division). There were also 7 Canadian student ambassadors who volunteered to participate in the program. This was

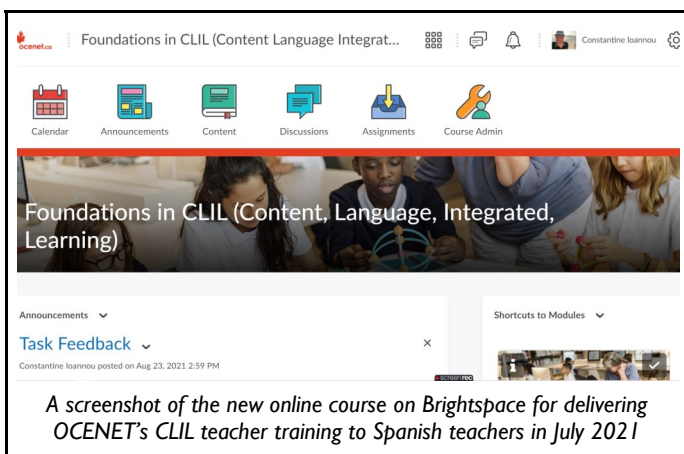
held on ClassIn for daily live sessions, Padlet for student work and prepa-

ration, and Brightspace for teachers' materials and orientation.



A screenshot from the opening page of the redeveloped Global Explorer Program

OCENET pioneers two new online teacher training programs



A screenshot of the new online course on Brightspace for delivering OCENET's CLIL teacher training to Spanish teachers in July 2021

At the beginning of the pandemic OCENET's Program Director, Constanine Ioannou, and Program Manager, Kari Hanes, developed a training program for secondary teachers on CLIL

(Content and Language Integrated Learning) and delivered the program to educators from Madrid, Spain, throughout July 2021. The program was offered online and was the first OCENET teacher development and training

program involving educators from the Spanish capital. There were 16 Spanish teachers who completed the 100-hour program. The teachers from Madrid participated in online sharing sessions with three OCDSB teachers as group work facilitators and presenters, along with two former OCDSB employees. It is anticipated that these teachers from Madrid will visit OCDSB schools in the Fall 2022.

About the same time, OCENET developed a comprehensive teacher training program around various topics and

themes for teachers and principals with a particular focus on task-based learning. OCENET delivered a program to educators in Chengdu, China, throughout November 2020 on current practices in teaching strategies and assessment.

This program with Chinese educators was supported by OCDSB contact teachers who led discussion groups to share ideas and best practices with the Chinese educators.

OCENET works with partners to support language learning

OCENET is a strong advocate for language learning and is a leader in promoting the annual Day of Languages designated on September 26th. OCENET works closely with ILEA Ontario (International Language Educators' Association) and the

OCDSB's International and Indigenous Languages Program (Continuing Education) to support the Day of Languages.

Some of the objectives of the Day of Languages include the following:

1. Awareness of the benefits of language learning;
2. Broaden understanding and knowledge of various languages used worldwide;
3. Increase plurilingualism;
4. Deepen intercultural understanding;
5. Encourage ongoing commitment to language development and learning throughout life.



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OCENET Bulletin Board



Many OCENET staff members along with several colleagues from Canada Homestay Network had fun dressing in 1960s retro style and gathering for a backyard potluck lunch to celebrate successfully managing a very challenging school year because of the pandemic.



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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Academic English
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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

