

# JUMP START

# .....A CAREER

Fall 2008

## CO-OP NEWS



### **“Reaching Ahead” with the Dual Credit Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)**

*By Sheila Nayler, Special Projects, Community-Based Education, and Salim Jamal, OYAP Coordinator, Curriculum Consultant, Community-Based Education*

The Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP is an exciting new Ministry approved initiative that enables senior students to participate in apprenticeship training, earning dual credits that count towards both their high school diploma and apprenticeship certification.

Students in this program participate in experiential learning and receive on-the-job hands-on training through a full-day Cooperative Education placement in their chosen trade, earning up to 4 high school Co-op credits. They also spend 8 weeks in class at the training delivery agent (the approved college or apprenticeship training centre) where they earn part or all of their Level One apprenticeship certification while concurrently earning up to 2 additional high school credits. They will also earn hours/demonstrate competencies towards their apprenticeship certification, and be formally registered with the MTCU as an OYAP apprentice. Various financial incentives and Federal grants are available for these students to assist with their apprenticeship journey and transition into the workforce.

Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP opportunities are available in seven different skilled trades: Automotive Service Technician at Centennial College; Cook, Plumber and Electrician at Humber College; Early Childhood Educator at Seneca College, King Campus; General Carpenter at the Carpenters’ Union, Local 27; and Residential Air Conditioning Mechanic at George Brown College.

This pathway’s “reach ahead” provides engaging learning and another route to graduation, while also providing students with a head start on apprenticeship training and the transition to a rewarding career. These programs also integrate with SHSMs (Specialist High Skills Majors) offered in YRDSB. Collaboration amongst the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, York Region District School Board and our Community Partners are vital to the continued success of these programs.



*For more information about the application process and timelines for the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP Programs, please contact the Community-Based Education Department at your local High School.*



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# 2007/2008 Outstanding Co-op Students

## Cooperative Education/OYAP Recognitions

Congratulations!

### Alexander Mackenzie HS

Hailey Huels  
Samantha Lamarche  
Alexandra Ritson  
Jessica Sharpless

### Aurora HS

Tim Beckner  
David Dawe  
Frans Hattingh  
Katie Hill  
Tanya Kinnarinen

### Bayview SS

Kateryna Antonenko  
Ashley Raven John  
Stacey Paterson-Colasanti  
Tyler Petrovich  
Andre Razi  
Jacob Simpson

### Dr. G. W. Williams SS

Ryan Bainbridge  
Michael Englehutt  
Jeremy Newman  
Brittany Sibley-Simmonds

### Dr. John M. Denison SS

April DiZio  
James Holmes  
Paul Miller  
Derek Waugh

### Emily Carr SS

Amanda Capobianco  
Janice Rupram  
Patrick Tallon  
Johnny To

### Huron Heights SS

David Burnett  
Robert Curran  
Lindsay Hastings  
Ryan Lee-Kilgour  
Sara Mercer  
Amir Mlivic  
Brittany Shuter  
Erin Wagner

### King City SS

Adeeba Alam  
Jordan Bell  
Ashley Chindamath  
Sabrina Emili  
Stephanie Erdos  
Derek Moore  
Nika Solovjova  
Clinton Tracey  
Jamie Upiter

### Langstaff SS

Rabia Sajun  
Glassa Siu

### Maple HS

Mishal Awan  
Sara Best  
Vanessa Hassan  
Karmon Lam  
Judy Lee  
Saptha Navaratnam  
Tharani Prapaharan  
Laura Presutto  
Sarah Reyes  
Liane Sacdalan  
Shaliny Srikantharajah  
Jabee Wu

### Markham District HS

Emily Carter  
Scott Nageleisen  
Maitry Patel  
Ivan Wu  
Herman Yeung

### Markville SS

Mandy Eschle  
Kimi Lee  
Trevor Nelles

### Middlefield CI

Stephanie Chiu  
Paige DeSuze  
Crystal Lee  
Ashlinder Pelia  
Roshanth Rajachandrakumar  
Hani Raza  
Nirosha Selvakumaran  
Yesha Shah  
Bikram Modi Singh  
Jasinthan Thavakumar

### Milliken Mills HS

Stephanie Charikar  
Eric Chim  
Michael Ly  
Harry Patel  
Zeba Tayabee  
Anicka Vijayanathan  
Vinusah Yogeewaran

### Newmarket HS

Meagan Bowden  
Rebecca Harper  
Jade Irvine

### Pierre Elliott Trudeau HS

Alicia Bharwani  
Carman Chan  
Ayushi Dhingra  
Ashan Fernando  
Wilson Lo  
Alexandre Prevost

### Richmond Green SS

Akhil Agrawal  
Karen Li  
Matt MacDuff  
Christopher Pong  
Negin Pourmokhtar  
Greg Pyke  
Ericson Wu

### Richmond Hill HS

Alana McCulloch-Auld  
Justin Robertson  
Zain Serali

### Sir William Mulock SS

Ashleigh Bonang  
Stephanie Cochrane

### Stephen Lewis SS

Aria Bassiri

### Stouffville District SS

Sarah Altmann  
Jamie Jackson  
Chantelle Kelly  
Ryan Lodge  
Candice McKean

### Thornhill SS

Spencer Brown  
Ryan Goldberg  
Dustin Herberman  
Noushin Koulana

### Thornlea SS

Jillian Doyle  
Michelle Lee

### Unionville HS

Jasmine Chung  
Geordie Hill

### Westmount CI

Steven Britt  
Stacey Danis  
Giho Park

### Woodbridge College

Josie Buscemi  
Arthi Velupillai



# STUDENT VOICES

**“Co-op has helped me get a great start in the electrical field”...**

*writes James Holmes, Co-op Student, Dr. John M. Denison S. S.*



**I** completed a Cooperative Education placement as an **Electrical Apprentice** at **New Electric** in Vaughan. Before starting at New Electric I was lucky enough to get a seat in the *Accelerated Electrical Program* at *Humber College*. I learned the basics about electricity and residential wiring, while also earning my basic (level one) certification at trade school. After completing the program in April, I started at New Electric where I was training to become a licenced Industrial Electrician.



I observed, assisted and performed tasks that will help me in the field, such as bending pipe and wiring control panels. Every day was different, though I usually cleaned the shop and stocked/loaded the trucks. My favourite part about working there was when I was able to work in actual factories helping the journeymen. For the times I was in the shop, I was taught how to make control circuits and motor starters - practical knowledge for the field.

Co-op has helped me get a great start in the electrical field. I have also made a professional portfolio that I am very proud of. In the future, I plan on continuing to work at New Electric as an apprentice, then complete the two remaining trade school semesters required to get my licence.

**“My Co-op experience at Blue Willow Public School was phenomenal”...**

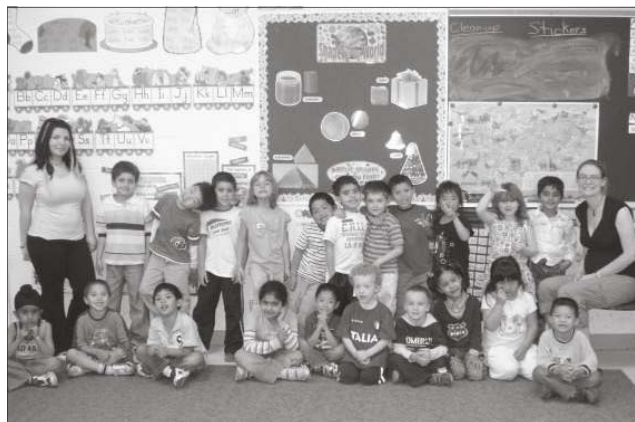
*writes Amanda Capobianco, Co-op Student, Emily Carr S. S.*



**I** took the Co-op placement hoping to learn about the **Child & Youth Care** field of work, but I gained much more than that. I learned how to be a professional over my five-month work period. I learned how important it was to follow a dress code. I had firsthand interaction with parents and other staff members and this taught me that communication skills are a key part of any field of work. On a day-to-day basis I learned how to become flexible with different situations and students. It was a very big challenge for me because I was given my own individual cases to work with. It was extremely rewarding to see the progress that occurred during my time at **Blue Willow Public School**.

Through group working sessions I learned that teamwork, communication, and cooperation skills are key for success in the Child and Youth Care field. I attended meetings and gave input on situations, and received constructive criticism on many of my work habits or different ways to handle situations. Plenty of good advice was also shared with me about my future goals and how I should never shut any doors for there is potential to do anything.

Over all, I had a great semester and would recommend Cooperative Education to any student who would like to gain real life experiences in any field of work. You do not only leave with experience but a new outlook on your future goals!



## STUDENT VOICES

### *Growing and Learning through Co-op*

By Michelle Lee, Co-op Student,  
Thornlea S. S.



I enjoyed taking Co-op because I am a typical hands-on person. I need to experience things for myself in order for me to know whether I like it or not. I've taken Co-op three times and they were all very different experiences.

I was first placed at an elementary school with a teacher who used to teach me. I loved it there! I was really honoured too because they offered me a chance to go on the Grade 8 graduation trip. I felt that through this trip I grew as a person as I started to see things from an adult's perspective.

For my second placement, I was placed at a make-up studio. I chose the studio because I personally was interested in make-up, colour, art and design. Through that placement I realized that it was only an interest and it wasn't something that I would like to pursue as a career.

My third experience was the result of an in-class session where the teachers invited guest speakers to come to the school to talk about their industry and experiences. A lady who worked in a hotel as a sales and marketing manager really captured my attention. So, I decided to work for a hotel in the sales and marketing department. It was a very enjoyable experience as I got to see all the aspects from the different departments I was placed in.

I really enjoyed taking Co-op. I learned many important lessons and skills that I can carry with me for the rest of my life.

*I just wanted to say a special thanks to Mrs. Joan Walker [Co-op Teacher] for everything that she has done for me and for her time and effort in all three semesters. Once again...thank you Thornlea S. S. Co-op Team.*

**"I enrolled myself in the Cooperative Education Program to gain firsthand practical experience in the Engineering Field"...**

*writes Bikram Modi Singh, Co-op Student,  
Middlefield C. I.*

**Honeywell** gave me an opportunity to work with highly professional staff and to explore my abilities in the position of **Production Engineer Assistant.**

For the initial weeks at the placement, my task was to observe my

supervisor and get familiar with the work environment. As time passed by, I was given some independent tasks to accomplish. Within a few weeks, almost everyone knew me for my work performance and willingness to learn.

Predominantly, I was assigned to work with the Production Engineers, but eventually I ended up working with most of the Engineers in the building. Some of the prominent tasks I worked on were quality testing along with computer-aided mechanical designing of various machines using Pro-Engineering Software. For quality testing, I tested various actuators, water valves, wires and gauges. But, the most valuable experience I had was learning the Pro-Engineering Software, which I would have learned to use in third year of University.

I believe my hard work has paid off, as I have been offered a summer employment opportunity for the position of Production Engineer Assistant. This brought me amazing recognition for being Honeywell's youngest paid employee while still being at High School.



### *From Co-op to Career in Culinary Arts...*

By Steven Britt, Co-op Student, Westmount C. I.



When I had the option to take Co-op I felt it would be a great way to learn about the **Culinary Arts** career that I was interested in, and to see if this is what I wanted to continue learning at College. For my Co-op placement I worked at **Steeles Deli**. I learned how to cook and use knives in a safe way, along with making and trying new foods. My time in Co-op has helped to increase my passion for the Culinary Arts. When I completed the last week of the Co-op program, my supervisor offered me a full-time job for the summer and part-time while I am in College. I am now working as an apprentice which will help me next year when I will be attending Humber College for the two-year Culinary Management Program.



## STUDENT VOICES

### *What Cooperative Education Means To Me...* By Liane Sacdalan, Co-op Student, Maple H. S.

Through my position as a **Marketing/Administrative Assistant** at **TREK-IT INC.**, I have been able to obtain firsthand experience in the marketing industry. I have acquired a great amount of practical business knowledge with regard to ethical behaviour, as well as successfully fostering positive relationships with clients and other business affiliates. I have gained leadership skills, background knowledge in graphic design, communication skills, initiative, teamwork and the ability to work productively under pressure. The Cooperative Education Program has allowed me to gain a greater understanding of how to effectively implement marketing strategies to achieve the business objectives of clients, motivating me to continue to strive to be successful in this industry.

I would highly recommend the Cooperative Education Program to other students as it provides excellent rewards such as experience in their desired field of work, and the opportunity to develop employability skills. As my employment at TREK-IT INC. concludes, I am confident in my aspiration to become a Marketing Director in my future career.



### *Junior Production Assistant*

### By Ashleigh Bonang, Co-op Student, Sir William Mulock S. S.

This semester, I completed a Co-op placement at **SNAP Newspaper Group Inc.** as a **Junior Production Assistant**. SNAP Newmarket offered a very energetic and exciting learning experience filled with creative design opportunities and exposure to the world of media publication. Arriving at 8:30 a.m. every morning, I begin my day by logging onto the anonymous FTP website and search through every franchise, looking for new images that have been uploaded. After downloading these images, I run them through a batch that creates the proper size, colour and format for each image. During training, I received my own personal login that I use to

log into Exposure, the SNAP Newspaper website that contains all events, advertisements and calendar information for every franchise. Using a combination of copying, pasting, uploading and design, I combine all aspects to create a variety of layouts of different size. Throughout the semester I worked in the Head Office, Creative Department as well as the Administrative Office and was therefore exposed to different environments. The ultimate experience was taking the camera and acting as the SNAP photographer for a professional business dinner. Being exposed to the professional world of journalism has allowed me to prove to myself that this is what I want to do with my life, and I am very excited to continue my training in College and University. Someday I'll be travelling the world!



### **Placement: York Region Court Services - Prosecutor's Office**

### *By Alicia Bharwani, Co-op Student, Pierre Elliott Trudeau H. S.*

My name is Alicia Bharwani from Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School. My Cooperative Education placement was at the **York Region Court Services Prosecutor's Office**. My day usually ran from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and included sorting trial notices, preparing and sending letters to and for defendants and spending plenty of time in court. In court, I got chances to sit up front which was especially interesting when trials took place and Police Officers came up to the stand to give their respective testimonies.

This placement helped me finalize the career I want to pursue which is becoming a Police Officer. I got the opportunity to interview a Police Officer as part of my placement and this gave me a better understanding of their duties and jobs. The interview was a great learning experience and a chance for me to see the job satisfaction of a Police Officer in such a difficult and dangerous field. After this interview, my desire to become a Police Officer doubled because I also want to experience that same satisfaction.



When I think of the skills and talents I have acquired at my workplace, a few things come to mind. I have overcome my fear of meeting new people that are older and more knowledgeable than I am. I also learned to work quickly and how to cope professionally in a variety of situations. I greatly enjoyed the four months I spent at my placement. Taking Cooperative Education has made me more independent and knowledgeable. I met many new people and saw and experienced numerous situations that I would not have seen or experienced by sitting in a classroom.

Cooperative Education teaches students to experience reality, gain independence and make more sound decisions for our futures. It has been an extremely rewarding experience and I hope that all future students enjoy this placement as much as I have.

# SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM) PROGRAM

Shirin Rashid, SHSM Student, Richmond Green S. S. *writes...*

Congratulations to Shirin Rashid, one of the **first** Construction Specialist High Skills Major graduates from Richmond Green Secondary School.

Shirin is currently at Ryerson University studying Interior Design, and has provided future SHSM graduates with her insights about the opportunities that SHSM has provided her.

I am very proud to be part of such a great opportunity - Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program. The experiences that I have acquired through this program include site-training and hands-on opportunities. Mandatory courses are required to enroll in the SHSM program and I was very fortunate to have completed most of the mandatory courses beforehand. The experience that I have gained in this program so far has been very significant. This program is helping me achieve my future goals in the fields of Engineering, Designing, and Construction. The training that I have received through this program are as follows: Emergency First Aid, CPR, WHMIS, Basics of Fall Protection, Habitat for Humanity, Scaffold Users' Safety Awareness and Confined Spaces Hazard Awareness. This training has furthered my knowledge and understanding of my future career path.

Since middle school, I have always had a passion for Architecture. Throughout my four years of high school, the road to Architecture has shifted to a more creative career path which is Interior Designing, although I never planned on it. I applied to Ryerson University to major in the profession of Architectural Science and/or Interior Designing. I received admission for both of my choices, and I decided to accept the Interior Design offer at Ryerson University.

I am greatly honoured to be in the Specialist High Skills Major Program and to be the first to graduate with a certificate makes me proud. I appreciate all the hard work and dedication that Ms. Cristillo [Community-Based Education Department Head, Richmond Green S. S.] has put into the program. *I thank you Ms. Cristillo and all my teachers for helping me achieve my goals.*



**By Gail Gotter  
Co-op Teacher  
King City S. S.**

## TEACHER REFLECTIONS

**By John Vander Kooij  
CBE Dept. Head  
Dr. G. W. Williams S. S.**

Derek Moore, a grade 12 Co-op Student at King City S. S., has completed a semester at **The Kingbridge Conference Centre as a Security Officer.**

Derek's career goal is in the area of investigative policing and the experience at the Centre has enabled him to feel confident about his policing future. This Co-op has been a vehicle to gain information about the workplace and link his academic knowledge with meaningful experiential learning.

Derek exemplifies the qualities of a Co-op student in that he has developed a collaborative relationship with the employer and the education system. He is a mature young man who has improved his interpersonal skills working with other employees as well as guests at the centre. Derek has assisted in securing the 5 km trail site and the 200,000 sq foot building ensuring fire extinguishers, first-aid kits and other safety items are available and in proper working order. He has demonstrated professional time management skills using his initiative to arrive early, seek out extra tasks or stay late as needed. His judgment and quick reaction to difficult situations has encouraged the employer to offer Derek a position upon completion of grade 12 in June 2008.



Brittany Sibley-Simmonds, Top Co-op Student of the year at Dr. G. W. Williams S. S., was placed in a grade one/two split class at **Regency Acres Public School as a Teaching Assistant.**

Students interested in a teaching career come into Co-op excited and eager to educate. Brittany's emotions were a mix of excitement and apprehension regarding her ability to be successful. She was anticipating her duties would be a combination of classroom helper, running errands, and one-on-one student assistance. Her supervisor and I had other plans.

Being shy, Brittany needed some encouragement to come out of her shell and take on a leadership role. She quickly learned all the names of the students, the classroom procedures and what it took to be a teacher. Brittany rose to the occasion by preparing and effectively delivering meaningful lessons before completing her placement.

Through this experience, she developed confidence in herself and is eagerly looking forward to University in September and ultimately to her own class in the not too distant future.



## International Cooperative Education Program (ICE) to Ecuador

### International Co-op... "What do I walk away with?"

As a summative assignment, after one year in the program including 3 months living and working in Ecuador, International Co-op to Ecuador (ICE) students are asked to write, "What are the most important things I have learned during ICE and why?"

Here is what some 2007-08 ICE students value most about their experience:

ICE as a program has given me the opportunity to do something different with my life and to dare to question the things that are seldom brought to the attention in average middle-class high schools. I am more concerned about the issues that affect our world, and I am disturbed by how some countries cannot provide even basic human necessities. After ICE, I see myself as an open door, ready to take on new ideas and perspectives, and a **seeker of positive solutions** to the many problems that still threaten the livelihood of mankind.

**Tam Duong,**  
Pierre Elliott Trudeau H. S.

I learned to try and experience as many things as I can and continually ask questions so that I can keep learning and make the most of opportunities. I learned to have courage and step into the unknown; **we can only find our limits by going beyond them.** ICE has solidified in me that I want to live my life with an open mind, try new things, and experience as much of the world around me as I can.

**Kaylah Lewis,**  
King City S. S.

This ability to **go out of my comfort zone** without fear is my most amazing learning to date. With this I feel like I can accomplish most anything, or even if I can't, I can at least try, then try again and again, learning each time.

**Kevin Fadalti,**  
Markham District H.S. /  
Markville S. S.



Hannah teaching an ESL student



Kaylah harvesting avocados



Kevin with his Ecuadorian host family

My most important learning is the realization of **consciously living your every day life.** During my time in Ecuador I tried really hard to milk the most out of the short time I had in order to truly embrace the Ecuadorian culture and lifestyle. In doing so, I realized I had little knowledge of my Korean/Canadian cultures to account for my 16 years of living in Richmond Hill, Canada. I felt as if I had extracted more value from the every day things in Ecuador in the 98 days I was there, than I ever had in Canada and it made me question, with no appropriate answer...*why I hadn't approached my life in Canada with the same curiosity and zeal for questioning and learning about my surroundings, rather than simply taking things as they were.*

I have now returned from Ecuador with eagerness to really take control and get involved with my life. By discovering and recognizing the treasures of my life and cultures, I can live each 'regular day' with the same enthusiasm that I approached my days in Ecuador which would put me one step closer to **living each day to the fullest.**

**Hannah Lee,**  
Unionville H. S.

For more information on seeing what you might walk away with via International Co-op, access the website at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice)

# Where are they now?

By Jessica Messina,  
Former King City S. S. Co-op Student



How Co-op benefitted me in my Nursing Career:  
 ☆ first a Co-op Placement  
 ☆ then a Nursing Student  
 ☆ finally a Graduate Nurse

When I was in grade 11 at King City Secondary School, I was not sure what I wanted to pursue for a career. I knew that I was interested in **Health Care**, but I was not sure which area would be best for me to pursue. I approached Mr. Shepherd [Community-Based Education Department Head, King City S. S.] after he presented what Co-op was all about in my grade 11 biology class. He sat down with me and explored my various interests and academic strengths. We concluded that I was most suitable for a Co-op position at **Mount Sinai Hospital**.

I was placed in Maternity and Radiology/Special Procedures. I enjoyed these two placements very much, as I was able to work with two very different patient populations and various healthcare teams and professions. After working closely with Registered Nurses and Physicians who were very interested in teaching me, I was greatly inspired and I felt that I had found my calling. After successfully completing my Co-op placements, I applied for the Nursing Programs at various Toronto Universities.

Finally, I have completed four years of the Nursing Degree Program at Ryerson University. Although I was offered six different positions from five different hospitals/agencies, I have found myself back at Mount Sinai. The Nursing Administrator of the hospital reviewed my résumé and portfolio, and was impressed by my Co-op and volunteer experiences. *I was offered a position in April 2008, beginning my career where my dream first began!*

To conclude, I am very grateful that I decided to take Co-op at Mount Sinai Hospital, as it had a great influence in my decision to become a Registered Nurse, and greatly contributed to my success in my nursing career. To any student who is thinking about Co-op, I greatly encourage you to consider the endless possibilities that Co-op may offer you; and, when you are ready to dive into your 'full-time' career, you too might be offered employment through your Co-op placement!

## The Community-Based Education Team:

- Gale Harild, *Administrator, Community-Based Education*  
 Salim Jamal, *Community-Based Education Consultant / OYAP Coordinator*  
 Steve Poste, *School-Work Transition / Technological Consultant*  
 Linda Alati, *Pathways / Alt. Ed. Consultant*  
 David Peacock, *International Co-op Education Teacher / Coordinator*  
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## WEBSITES:



### Community-Based Education

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/community.based.education](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/community.based.education)

### Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/oyap](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/oyap)

### International Cooperative Education Program (ICE)

[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice)

*This issue of Jump Start/Co-op News is posted to the following websites:*

YRDSB/Schools/Community Based Education/Cooperative Education/Newsletter-Jump Start a Career:

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/cbe/JumpstartNews.pdf>

YRDSB/Schools/Programs/Guidance Services/High School/Cooperative Education:

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/cbe/JumpstartNews.pdf>

YRDSB Board Wide Web (bww):

<https://bww.yrdsb.ca/C9/CBE/default.aspx>