

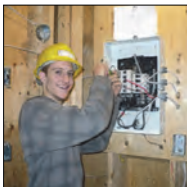
# JUMP START

# .....A CAREER



## CO-OP NEWS

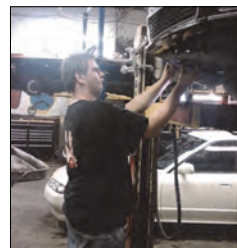
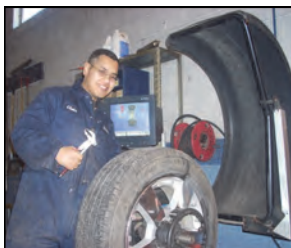
Spring/Summer 2013



Each day, students from all YRDSB secondary schools participate in Cooperative Education and other forms of experiential learning with thousands of community partners (local companies and organizations) across York Region and the GTA. Schools continually build upon existing partnerships with the local community, and forge new partnerships with local companies and organizations to facilitate authentic experiential learning opportunities for students. These mutually beneficial relationships can enable community partners to benefit from the refreshing energy, creativity, and employability skills which our Co-op students can bring to the workplace setting. As students 'test drive' a potential career opportunity through participation in a Co-op placement, they develop transferable skills, build and apply their knowledge to meaningful learning experiences, and establish connections which often transcend the placement term.

On behalf of the thousands of YRDSB students who have benefited from Co-op, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), reach ahead activities, and other forms of experiential learning, we would like to thank all of our community partners for the valuable learning opportunities they provide.

For information on how your workplace can get involved as a community partner and/or host a Co-op student, please contact the Community Based Education department at the secondary school nearest you or call 905-727-0022, ext. 3859.



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# STUDENT VOICES



By Jamie Munro, Co-op Student, Bill Crothers Secondary School

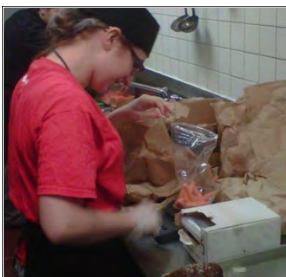
Health Care  
Physiotherapist



**M**y Cooperative Education placement was in the **Fracture Clinic at Markham Stouffville Hospital**. In the fracture clinic, I was able to work with several different doctors and given the opportunity to identify the relationships between the professions. Particularly, how ortho-technicians, surgeons, as well as physiotherapists each act as a crucial puzzle piece in contributing to a patient's recovery. I found it captivating when I could observe patients arrive with an injury, leave with a cast or after surgery, and return later to regain their motion. Learning and observing the entire recovery process was a tremendous experience. Not only did I receive perspective on all the operations behind a person's recovery, but how satisfying it was to change their life in a positive way. Therefore, with the joy associated in providing a great service to individuals in need, I was able to assure myself I was making the right decision in pursuing physiotherapy in my post-secondary studies.

In addition, everything I learned and experienced were lessons a student simply could not receive in the classroom. I was given the opportunity to speak with physiotherapists and receive first-hand feedback about their life experiences. I am also more comfortable working and speaking with adults than I ever was before. Overall, Co-op was truly a great experience that I do not regret. I absolutely loved going

to my placement every day to the point where I would arrive early and even continue to work on my holidays to spend more time doing my job with everyone. The staff really made me feel a part of the family and made my experience all that much more enjoyable. Without Cooperative Education, I never would have been able to accomplish as much as I did. The knowledge and skills I gained, as well as the relationships made will guide me to becoming a successful physiotherapist in the future.



By **Kassandra Clermont**,  
Co-op/OYAP Student,  
Thornhill SS

Having experienced two different Cooperative Education placements while attending Thornhill Secondary School has allowed me to experiment with what I want to do for the rest of my

life. Last year I was at the **Markham Museum** and thoroughly enjoyed that experience, but this year, I have loved every minute of my time in the kitchen at **Kelsey's Richmond Hill**.

Being in the kitchen and doing both prep and line work has really opened my eyes to the world of Culinary Arts. My tasks began with prep work, portioning the food that is needed for that day and night. After the first few times I began to learn how much an item is supposed to be portioned, and was able to teach / remind others how much food to put into each bag. On days when extra help was needed I worked on line in the pantry section, helping by making salads, sandwiches and flatbreads. The days where I got to work on line were most definitely the hardest and the most fun. It takes a lot out of you to have everything prepared quickly and to the standards that are required to impress the guests.

I knew in advance that taking a Cooperative Education course would allow me to explore opportunities for the future. I took Co-op again because I wished to get some hands-on experience. By taking Co-op, I have realized that becoming a Chef is exactly what I want to do.

By **Musoddq Shariff**,  
Co-op Student,  
Woodbridge College



Musoddq (right)

Becoming involved in the Co-op program [as Tech Support at **Future Shop**] has helped me in several ways. The first thing it has done for me is take the knowledge that I already had about computers and pushed it to new levels which definitely exceeded my expectations. Before I actually started the program, I thought that I had most of the knowledge required to get myself hired as a computer technician, but now coming out of the program I realize how much I still had to learn.

The Co-op program has also been instrumental in helping me to decide what my future will be, and because of this experience I have decided to pursue Computer Engineering. I would definitely recommend this program to any student who is unsure of their career path. It allows you to not only gain experience in the field, but it also enables you to make decisions about your future career. The sense of direction it provides is so powerful. I have learned so many valuable skills that I can take with me along my journey of learning and apply in my future career.

I have learned so many valuable skills that I can take with me along my journey of learning and apply in my future career!

# STUDENT VOICES

## *What Co-op means to me* By Kayla Chau, Co-op Student, Maple High School

Choosing Co-op as one of my electives was a great decision. Co-op allowed me to work at my future career before heading off to university to pursue it. Co-op made me realize how much I really do want to pursue becoming an Illustrator. Wouldn't you rather test the product before buying it? I believe students should take Co-op, as a matter of fact - I recommend it! Co-op not only looks good on your résumé, it builds your skills and makes you more confident about your skills, and it will show you your future career and if it is actually what you want to do.

Let's face it - being in school for most of your young life will give you the academic requirements, but having experience is what people look for. Wouldn't you rather hire someone who knew how to cook rather than a person who read books about it? Co-op gives you hands-on experience that students can use to their advantage and make themselves a better candidate for future jobs.

Co-op also shows you the skills you use in school are the seeds to your success in the work field. Are you always on time? Being punctual is one of the keys for success, and it also makes a great first impression. Remember that group project you did with a group member you did not like? That shows your teamwork skills and your ability to communicate with difficult people and situations. From my Co-op experience, I've learned a lot about people and my communication with others has improved quite a lot. I am very grateful that Maple High School has this opportunity for students. I believe Co-op will open many future doors for others because it has for me.



*Kayla worked at **Human Endeavour** as an office assistant. She was mostly involved with their North Bridge Media enterprise, where she assisted in the graphic design field, creating album artwork for the company's artists songs. She also helped create and maintain their website and social media applications.*



### Catalina Maass, Co-op Student, Bill Crothers Secondary School, writes...



My Co-op experience was both memorable and highly rewarding. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a Registered Dietitian at **Loblaws**, at both the Markham and Richmond Hill locations.

During this unique hands-on opportunity, not only did I gain more knowledge about this career and how to get there, but I have grown and strengthened my employability skills such as creativity, organization and communication. My responsibilities included introducing healthier products and teaching clients how to read a nutrition label, as well as meeting with these clients to discuss their eating habits and encourage creative ways to get healthier and more nutritious foods into their diets. My chemistry course at school played a big part in helping me understand the way food reacts in our body and why certain amounts of nutrients are important. I was able to relate the knowledge I gained from school and connect it at my placement.

My unforgettable Co-op experience was fulfilled thanks to the support from my teachers and my supervisor. Thanks to the Co-op program, I have a better understanding of what my future holds and how I can get there. This is an opportunity no one should miss.



# Vaughan Secondary School Career Fair

By Vicky Essebag, Curriculum Consultant - Guidance / Pathways

On December 17, 2012, I was invited to visit the Vaughan Secondary School Career Fair. The Atrium was a hub of energy and infectious enthusiasm as Grade 11 and 12 students shared their projects and experiences from their Cooperative Education (Co-op) placements. Their peers were also asking compelling questions, and engaging in meaningful conversations. They browsed through and learned from the images and artifacts that student presenters had made available to them. I was impressed with student pride, presentation skills and confidence in speaking of their work experiences. Students shared key learning and made connections as to how these pathway opportunities could benefit them in choices for post-secondary destinations. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship) and SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) students were included in this event as these specialized programs have a Co-op component within them. Linda Alati, Head of Cooperative Education/ SHSM Coordinator at Vaughan S.S., introduced me to some of her students and as I roamed around, many of the students invited me to see their work.



**Eduardo Morales (Sisley Honda), Joy Kim (Mount Sinai Hospital - nursing-recovery), Daniella Baiocchi (Mount Sinai Hospital - nursing-geriatrics), Victoria Sipus (Vaughan Animal Services) and Maria Bourova (Louis-Honoré Fréchette P.S. - French Immersion Primary Classroom)** are all Co-op students. We talked about their commitment, their pride in learning the work, being entrusted with caring for others and handling complex equipment. They shared about the value of being responsible for a meaningful task that would have direct impact on others. Eduardo shared that this was his favourite course.



**Lanuel Krichely (PRG), Tal Shelef (Source) and Catherine Huynh (Crafting for a Cure)** are all Business SHSM students working as sales representatives and marketers. They would like to study Business after secondary school and understand that their Co-op placements are stepping-stones to career and post-secondary pathway opportunities. They spoke proudly as they described products, their price, how they're manufactured and distributed, engaging the customer and balancing workload.



**Gagan Singh (Too Fast Motors), Thabesa Kasinathan (Sobeys Bakery) and Daniel Levy (Seneca College Aviation Engineering Program - Buttonville Airport)** are OYAP students who have started their apprenticeships even before graduating from secondary school. They spoke of mass production, key products that intrigued them and the quest for continued development and refinement of skills in an environment of mentorship. Daniel showed me the engine of an airplane and taught me how it works. Gagan modelled a durable, rubberized spray that can be used on vehicles instead of paint.

I was exhilarated when I left the Fair. It was a bustling and active event where youth and adults alike engaged in meaningful conversations. Students, their peers, parents/guardians, Co-op placement supervisors, administrators and teachers were all interested and learning from each other. Even in all the activity, there was a sense of complete engagement. Students were doing more than exhibiting projects, they were sharing the evolution of their experience and skill in a particular work placement; a placement that they had been able to select based on their interests and learning style/s. In this capacity, they were able to explore their education beyond the school environment, the success of which was evident in student knowledge and enthusiasm. Through experiential learning, students have been able to solidify their interests and develop skill sets so that they can be better equipped to make choices for an initial post-secondary destination.

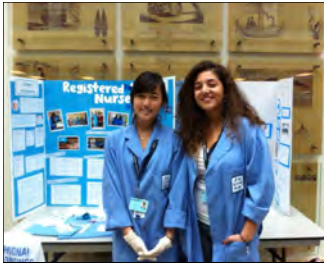
What a great afternoon ... Thanks Vaughan S.S.!



# Student Photos - Vaughan S.S. Career Fair



**Eduardo Morales**  
Co-op Student  
Sisley Honda



**Joy Kim & Daniella Baiocchi**  
Co-op Students  
Mount Sinai Hospital



**Victoria Sipus, Co-op Student & Supervisor, Susan Kelly**  
Vaughan Animal Services



**Maria Bourova**  
Co-op Student  
Louis-Honoré Fréchette P.S.



**Lanuel Krichely**  
Co-op/SHSM Student  
Promotional Resource Group (PRG)



**Tal Shelef**  
Co-op/SHSM Student  
Source



**Catherine Huynh, Co-op/SHSM Student & Linda Alati, Vaughan S.S. Co-op Head / SHSM Coordinator,**  
Crafting for a Cure



**Gagan Singh**  
Co-op/OYAP Student  
Too Fast Motors



**Thabesa Kasinathan**  
Co-op/OYAP Student  
Sobeys Bakery



**Daniel Levy**  
Co-op/OYAP Student  
Seneca College  
Aviation Engineering Program

## Dual Credit Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

*Accelerated OYAP programs combine the Co-op experience with instruction at the college/training institute. It is offered in semester two and is open to students in their graduating year.*

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

# Reflections from a Co-op Teacher

Felix Lo, Co-op / OYAP Student,  
Middlefield Collegiate Institute

*was awarded the*

**“Carpentry Local 27 Apprenticeship Award”**



**Walter Harvey, Teacher, Middlefield Collegiate Institute,**

*writes...*

Felix Lo was awarded for his work at Carpenters' Local 27. This award is given to one recipient in the Accelerated OYAP program at Carpenters' Local 27 (2011-12) demonstrating the highest level of in-school training and workplace excellence.

When Felix Lo first arrived at Middlefield Collegiate he was interested in becoming a carpenter. He sought advice from the construction teacher, Mr. Harvey, on what he should do to achieve that goal. He was encouraged to take the construction course and apply for the Accelerated OYAP Carpentry program.

His attitude, organizational skills and attention to detail made him an ideal candidate for achieving his goal of becoming a carpenter.

Before going to Carpenters' Local 27, he spent many lunch breaks working on the material that would prepare him for the time he was there. He spent many days at his workplace (even after others had left to go home) to keep up with the work that he was given. This work ethic was also observed over the years teaching him in class at Middlefield Collegiate. Felix has a great personality and gets along well with everyone he works with.

Since leaving Middlefield Collegiate he has been working and continues to learn the skills that he needs to be a successful carpenter. We wish him every success for the future and hope that he will eventually go on to establish his own company and perhaps mentor future Co-op/OYAP students.



The Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP students have plenty of insight to share with other students considering a future in the trades. If you are interested in or know a student interested in Accelerated OYAP programs (Automotive Service Technician, Carpentry, Child Development Practitioner, Cook, Electrical, Plumbing, Refrigeration & Air), please visit with the Cooperative Education Department in your high school for more information, open house dates and an application.

# International Co-op Education (ICE)

## Reflections by ICE Alumni Parents

### Parents of Lauren Ott, ICE alumni Sacred Heart CHS / Thornlea SS

*Our daughter came to us several times with requests to volunteer internationally. After attending the information session for ICE to Ecuador all of our family's questions were answered.*

*As parents, it was reassuring that our daughter had the support and guidance of the ICE Teacher here in Canada, as well as an on-site support system for when she was in Ecuador. It also helped that we had the support, understanding and friendship of the community of other ICE families who shared our feelings of fear of the unknown, and the wonderful feelings of excitement for the students. My husband and I know how important it is to have new experiences from which you learn and grow. Once our daughter was in Ecuador and we heard how happy she sounded, we felt reassured about our decision to let Lauren participate. Each one of her updates she sent us via e-mail or phone confirmed that we made the right decision.*

*Lauren now has a second family in Ecuador that is part of both her life and of ours. This ICE journey has changed her life forever and she has witnessed first-hand how people get by with very little. Lauren's role as teacher while in Ecuador, allowed her to explore her leadership abilities. Volunteering was always a big part of Lauren's life. Now she looks for as many opportunities as she can, to reach out and improve the lives of others. We are very proud of her!*



Lauren teaching high school English

### Parents of Kylea Shropshire, ICE alumni home-schooled / Thornlea SS

*As parents we saw ICE to Ecuador as a great opportunity for our daughter, Kylea, to see a far away part of the world and how that culture lives. Kylea was home-schooled up to this point and we hoped this program would challenge her and help her decide about her future education.*

*The ICE journey was nerve racking at first because we had never been involved in this big a project, and we worried that our daughter would change her mind part way through. We enjoyed the fact that as parents, we were invited to be active participants in the program through preparatory activities, at meetings and through fundraising, alongside Kylea. It was interesting to see the transition of our daughter to becoming a young adult upon her completion of the ICE program.*

*Kylea gained a new outlook on life and is now so grateful of what we, as Canadians, often take for granted. She realized how much she enjoys travelling and has continued to do so through school, Girl Guides, and on her own. Kylea realized she loves languages (is presently mastering Spanish and French), and that by working with organizations around the world she can make a difference.*

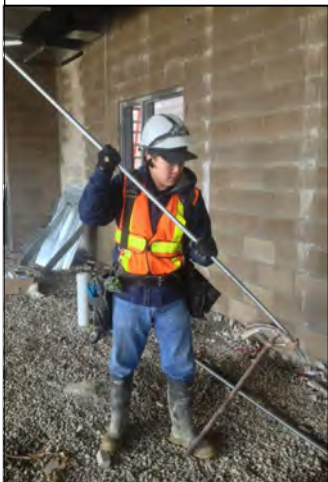


Kylea (second from left) & her health clinic work colleagues

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

# Where are they now?

By Dennis Luong, Past Co-op / OYAP Student  
Middlefield Collegiate Institute



After five years, I have successfully become a Licensed Electrician of Ontario. I must say that taking Co-op and participating in OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) was the greatest decision in my life. By taking Co-op, I learned valuable skills and knowledge that helped me find new and better jobs. OYAP gave me the opportunity of setting foot into a career before graduating from high school and having all the time and experience accounted for. Technically, I was already an Electrician by the time I graduated!

One exciting aspect about being an Electrician would be the fact that I can use my own hands to apply my skills and present my work as a piece of art. Since 2007, I have worked at building five different schools in the GTA, a golf course club house, and have done maintenance for a grocery store and retirement home. The best part about being an Electrician is the fact that it is such a high demand job. I can take everything I've learned and apply it just about anywhere.

Being so thankful for this opportunity, I voluntarily visit my high school to encourage and talk to students about what a life changing experience Co-op/OYAP was for me. I also participate and speak at Career Fairs. In February 2013, I was on Rogers TV "Spotlight" talking about my experience, in the hope that it may enlighten those who share my career path in Trades.

Thanks to Co-op/OYAP, I have found full time Electrical Construction jobs since I was 18 and have now earned my license at the age of 23 - nearly unheard of and not an easy journey, but definitely worth it. I love travelling all around the GTA, meeting dozens of new trades people in every job, and learning new skills every day.

*Thank you Co-op/OYAP!*

## The Community-Based Education Team:

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## WEBSITES:

Community-Based Education (WWW)  
[www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/community.based.education](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/community.based.education)

Community-Based Education (BWW)  
<https://bww.yrdsb.ca/services/cis/coop/Pages/default.aspx>

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