

NOVEMBER 2015  
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# CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE ~ LA VOIX DES ÉLÈVES

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### "CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE"

is an electronic journal that includes success stories written by students from across Ontario, who participate in Experiential Learning programs such as Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM, etc., in their high school. These stories describe their placement experience, the tasks they had to complete, challenges overcome and the benefits they derived. Thank you for taking the time to read these inspiring stories and maybe even share yours!

### « LA VOIX DES ÉLÈVES »

est un journal électronique qui regroupe des histoires de succès écrites par des élèves de partout en Ontario qui ont participé aux programmes d'apprentissage par l'expérience, tels que l'éducation coopérative, le PAJO, la MHS, etc., dans leur école secondaire. Ces histoires décrivent leur expérience de stage, les tâches qu'ils ont eues à compléter, les défis surmontés ainsi que les avantages qu'ils en ont retirés. Merci de prendre quelques minutes pour lire ces histoires inspirantes et même peut-être de nous partager la vôtre!

## MY CO-OP IN THE CULINARY INDUSTRY

Submitted by: Max Blair, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB

Before I started in my Co-op placement, I had aspirations to become a chef and work in the culinary industry, with intentions to expand upon it later on.

When I began my Co-op placement, I found the work environment suited me incredibly and more often than not I'd stay extra hours because I wanted to, and they enjoyed my company. As I continued into my Co-op, placement I found my idea of following through and working in the culinary industry is by far the best option for me.

Working at my Co-op placement showed me how much I can truly enjoy my job, and how it's a job that I could find employment anywhere in the world, with the skill set I learned at my placement.



Co-op has helped me learn everything I need to work in the culinary industry. It has taught me many of the skills needed to keep up with the ever-changing world.

Moving forward, my plan is to take a year off and work, possibly under an apprenticeship, and then I want to go off to school and get my Chef Papers.

## MON COURS D'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE

Par : Adèle Houle, ÉSC Champlain, CSC du Nouvel-Ontario

Je m'appelle Adèle Houle. Je suis actuellement en douzième année à l'école secondaire catholique Champlain. Cette année, j'ai pris un cours d'éducation coopérative dans la classe distincte de Mme Bobbie, à l'école secondaire catholique l'Horizon, comme aide-enseignante. Mes tâches consistent à jouer des jeux dans le gymnase avec les élèves, de superviser l'heure du dîner, d'offrir de l'appui individualisé pour plusieurs différents sujets avec divers élèves ayant des besoins particuliers, de faire de la correction, de laver les tableaux, de changer la date et d'aider les éducatrices, Mme Carole et Mme Francine avec d'autres tâches connexes.



Ce placement m'a aidé avec ma calligraphie, mon français et mon sens d'organisation. De plus, ce stage m'a confirmé que j'adore travailler avec les jeunes qui ont des déficiences intellectuelles et m'a éclairé sur ce que j'aimerais étudier l'année prochaine. Mon cours d'éducation coopérative m'a aussi aidé à développer des compétences comme adopter de nouvelles solutions, gérer et résoudre de petits conflits, organiser mes buts et mes priorités, planifier et gérer mon temps et placer et préciser mes objectifs professionnels.

En terminant, j'aimerais remercier Mme Bobbie pour m'avoir acceptée et appuyée comme stagiaire dans sa salle de classe. J'aimerais aussi remercier les deux éducatrices et tous les élèves pour m'avoir tellement bien acceptée. Cette expérience m'a aidé à décider que j'aimerais vraiment travailler avec les jeunes qui ont des défis intellectuels.

***Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.***  
**- Robert Louis Stevenson**

## FARMING FOR MY CO-OP

Submitted by: Jonathan Wilhelm - Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB

From a young age, I grew up learning the importance of natural organic farming and growing fresh organic food. I grew up on a farm where the care of the cattle and crops was extremely important. As I grew and progressed in my schooling, I became more involved with the farming side of the operation, but did not have the time to spend learning about growing organic fruits and vegetables. This was where Cooperative Education became extremely helpful. With a Co-op placement that allowed me to focus on vegetable growing as well as dairy, I was able to expand my knowledge in both fields.



My Co-op placement allowed me the time to choose what I wanted to learn and to expand my knowledge in those areas. Within the dairy part of the business, I expanded my knowledge of different procedures and equipment that I had not necessarily used before. This spring for example, I learned how to operate two different types of planters and sowed hay seed over a field for next year's hay crop. When I worked in the greenhouse, I learned the process of growing a plant up to maturity, from starting the seeds in foam boxes all the way to transplanting the plants to their final destination in the garden.

In the coming year, I plan to take a year off and work on the farm in order to gain more experience. At this point, I really have no idea as to what I want to do with my life. I do not want to head right off to any post-secondary education and change my mind later and so my hope is that the year off will give me some extra time to decide. Regardless of what I do, I have learned some valuable lessons from my Co-op placement.

## UN APPRENTISSAGE ÉDUCATIF À L'HÔPITAL LADY DUNN DE WAWA

Par : Darian Lacroix et Courtney Proulx, ÉS Saint-Joseph, CSC du Nouvel-Ontario

Depuis déjà quelques années, l'éducation coopérative fait partie intégrante des choix de cours pour les élèves de l'École secondaire Saint-Joseph de Wawa. Selon les aspirations des élèves, Mme Valérie Lévesque, enseignante, fait toutes les démarches pour assurer un stage profitable aux intéressés.

Au début du deuxième semestre 2015, deux élèves de l'école, Darian Lacroix et Courtney Proulx, se sont présentés pour un enseignement hors pair. Le placement se divise en 2 parties : le centre de laboratoire et le centre des radiologies. Ces deux élèves ont chevauché entre certains départements pour finalement choisir leur passion et obtenir leur choix de carrière.

Courtney, élève de 11<sup>e</sup> année, travaille avec 2 technologistes en laboratoire médical. Elle apprend comment utiliser les microscopes et elle observe des échantillons de sang et des échantillons d'urine. Courtney nous a mentionné : « Ce que je préfère, c'est de savoir comment tester les types de groupes sanguins, A, B, AB et O. »



Darian, élève qui graduera en cette fin d'année scolaire, s'enrichit plutôt d'expériences avec le département de la radiologie. Elle peut lire certaines images diagnostiques, regarder et faire des comparaisons suite à un « x-ray ». Darian nous a révélé : « Ce que j'aime faire le plus durant mon stage d'éducation coopérative, c'est d'assister aux échographies. »

En conclusion, voici un commentaire de Mme Valérie Lévesque : « En tant qu'enseignante en éducation coopérative, je suis choyée d'avoir la collaboration des partenaires afin de permettre une éducation vivante pour mes élèves. »

## MY CO-OP EXPERIENCE IN THE CARPENTRY TRADE

Submitted by: Tristan Marques, Loyola Catholic SS, Dufferin-Peel CDSB

My Co-op placement has been very beneficial. My Co-op teacher offered me a placement with a small business owner in the carpentry trade. During my Co-op placement I was able to gain knowledge in the trade, and I was also able to gain hands-on skills with various tools.

By being enrolled in the Co-op course, I learned how to build things such as a pergola, car port, screens, fences, pool houses, decks, cabinets as well as basement renovations. I was able to enjoy so much about the trade and it gave me direction for my future by spending so much one-on-one time with this licensed carpenter.

There was never a time when I regretted taking the course and there was never a time that my placement put me in a negative mood. I was always allowed to participate in the projects being done and I was constantly learning new things every day on the jobsite.

My Co-op placement was a very pleasant experience and I am very happy and thankful that I was hired by my Co-op supervisor for a full-time job after high school. As an OYAP student, I was able to get started on my apprenticeship during high school and I am now registered in the College of Trades.

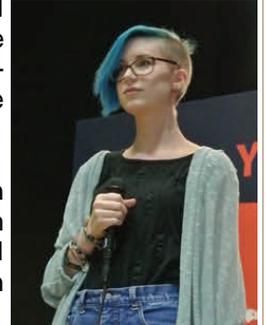


## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND MUSIC

*Submitted by: Juli Vanderbaan, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB*

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted a career in music. Music is my first love, so when I heard about the opportunity to earn credits directly related to my passion by working mostly outside of the classroom, I signed up for Cooperative Education. It only made sense for me to pursue a Co-op placement in my chosen field, music that is based on religion, as opposed to taking some classes that do not directly relate to my interests.

I first met Ali Matthews through the Stratford Star singing competition which I have been a part of in the past. Ali is a Christian independent singer/songwriter, which is almost exactly the career I am hoping to pursue. I had some connections to Ali through a girl's leadership group that I attend. I asked one of my connections if Ali was open to having a Co-op student, and she was. I began working with Ali shortly after March break, and it has been a wonderful opportunity for me.



Ali has given me many tasks that relate directly to what I want to be doing in the future. Some of these tasks include contacting churches, arranging and organizing performances, as well as accompanying her when she performs at churches. I will have the amazing opportunity to perform with Ali at my church on Mother's Day, as well as during a concert at Revel Caffe in Stratford near the end of May. I could not have asked for a better placement, I have learned more about what it is actually like to be in the music industry, and I have learned what skills it takes. My Co-op placement has helped me to confirm that I really do wish to pursue music as a career, and I hope to continue to correspond with Ali even after my Co-op placement is finished.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**2016 OCEA SPRING CONFERENCE**  
***40 Years of Achieving Excellence: Celebrating in the Capital!***  
**April 24th, 25th and 26th, 2016**  
**The Westin Ottawa, 11 Colonel By Drive**  
**Ottawa, ON K1N 9H4**

## RÉSERVEZ CES DATES DANS VOTRE CALENDRIER!

**CONFÉRENCE DU PRINTEMPS DE L'AÉCO 2016**  
***40 ans d'excellence : célébrons dans la capitale!***  
**24, 25 et 26 avril 2016**  
**Le Westin Ottawa, 11 prom. Colonel By**  
**Ottawa (Ontario) K1N 9H4**



## LE PROGRAMME D'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE À L'ALLIANCE ST-JOSEPH

Par: Katarina Parent, ÉSC Champlain, CSDC du Nouvel-Ontario



Je me nomme Katarina Parent. Je suis une élève de la 11e année, à l'école secondaire catholique Champlain. Je participe au programme d'éducation coopérative à l'Alliance St-Joseph comme aide-enseignante, avec Mme Branconnier en 4e année. Il y a aussi une stagiaire de l'école des sciences de l'éducation, qui se nomme Mme Stéphanie dans sa classe. Je me rends à mon placement les mercredis, jeudis et vendredis, car je suis un cours DRC offert au Collège Boréal les lundis et les mardis.

Je me suis inscrite au cours d'éducation coopérative pour explorer mon futur plan de carrière. De plus, je fais partie de la Majeure Haute Spécialisation en santé et bien-être de mon école, ce qui m'a aussi mené à ce stage. Mes tâches consistent à faire de la supervision, du travail individuel avec les élèves et de la correction. De plus, j'imprime des pages, je nettoie des feuilles de multiplication laminées et je fais des activités avec les élèves.

Cette expérience m'a permis de reconnaître que j'aime travailler avec les jeunes en difficulté d'apprentissage. Au début du stage, j'avais très peur de communiquer avec le personnel. Je me sens maintenant très à l'aise pour poser des questions ou pour répondre aux différentes questions des élèves. J'ai appris à travailler en équipe. Maintenant, je me sens plus confiante pour m'exprimer devant les autres.

J'aimerais beaucoup remercier Mme Branconnier, qui m'a permis de m'épanouir durant ce stage. Ce stage d'éducation coopérative a été un atout pour moi dans mon cheminement d'étude.

***You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives. - Clay P. Bedford***

## MY CO-OP: A DIRECT ROUTE TO A POTENTIAL JOB AND APPRENTICESHIP!

Submitted by: Travis Miles, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB

I have always enjoyed working on automobiles ever since I could remember. So when I started Co-op class I knew exactly where I wanted to go or at least what trade I wanted to focus on. I have been working since I was 14 years old as a dishwasher in a restaurant and a diner. My current job is actually in fast food until the end of this semester and then I can start my apprenticeship.

Co-op has really helped me to achieve my goal of becoming a mechanic. I have more experience now, more than I ever thought I would at this age. Getting involved with the trade was easy and fun. I have learned a great deal through my Co-op experience. For example, I have been taught about safety in the workplace, rights as an employee, first aid, and other skills helping me achieve my goal to becoming a mechanic, not to mention the skills and knowledge I have gained at the workplace.

My Co-op placement has given me a direct route to a potential job and apprenticeship. Without this experience, I would be leaving high school without a clear path. Now, I am on a path, and I am that much closer to becoming a mechanic!



## MY CO-OP WITH THE STRATFORD POLICE

*Submitted by: Lauren Eastman, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB*

In my final year of high school, I had the opportunity to do a Co-op placement. At the beginning of the semester, I was interested in doing a placement with the Stratford Police. I was able to get an interview with Dave Stewart, the community services officer in Stratford, and was chosen for the placement. During my time with him, I got to see what his job was like and learned some useful information about policing.

In the ten weeks I spent with Dave, I got to see the different areas of policing. Most of the time I was with Dave going into elementary schools doing presentations, but there were other times where I got the chance to go with a different officer who had a different job than Dave. I got the chance to ride in the cruiser, and go to the courthouse to watch a trial. We went to car accidents when we heard calls on the radio. After doing this Co-op, I discovered that it was the kind of job I would like to have in the future and I could see myself working in this particular field.



After high school, I plan on going to Fanshawe College in the fall to take their Police Foundations course and Advanced Police Studies. After my three years of college, I plan to apply to police stations or try to find a job working border patrol or court security until I am old enough to work as a police officer. If and when I am hired onto a police force, I will attend Police College in order to be a certified police officer. There are many different pathways I could take by having Police Foundations. I am interested in the science side of policing; working in the area of forensics would be something I would like.

I was fortunate to be with the Stratford Police for my placement because before I started my placement, I thought I wanted to pursue a career in police work and now that I've experienced it, I know it is what I want to do. I am looking forward to attending Fanshawe this fall.

***Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced.  
- John Keats***

Listen to your teachers  
when they tell you  
WHAT to do.  
But more importantly,  
think about it later  
and ask yourself  
WHY they told you to do it...

## BREAKING THE STIGMA - TURNING A PASSION INTO A CAREER

*Submitted by: Sarah O'Hagan, North Lambton SS, Lambton Kent DSB*

My fingernails are dirty 24-7, my arms are constantly stained black, and I have more scars on my hands alone than I have combined on my entire body. My mom hates washing all of my clothes, and while my friends complain of customers that they serve at the local Foodland, I return home covered in dirt, oil, and sweat, and I love every second of it! I'm eighteen years old now and in September 2014 my entire future changed in the course of a single day.

I never knew what I wanted to do with my life. I had an interest in cars for as long as I could remember, and when I took my placement at Bluewater Ford I imagined I'd just be furthering my knowledge, but when I stepped into the shop, I never wanted to leave. I was there for about a month when the owners approached me about an apprenticeship with them as a mechanic. I'm the first female to ever work in their shop, and I'm honoured to have been given the opportunities I have, and work with the people I have.

The most challenging obstacle I've had is the stigma of women in skilled trades. I grew up working with my hands. My dad is a contractor; I've been a bricklayer, labourer, done electrical, plumbing, carpentry and learned lots of other skills I've picked up over the years. I was raised in the trades, but as a girl and a mechanic, it's difficult sometimes to ignore the comments - people that don't believe I belong in that trade, or doing 'man's work'. I know I'm good at what I do, and I love my job.

That being said, the good far outweighs the bad. I've been called a role model, and congratulated on my work choice more times than I can count. People believe that I'm "breaking the stigma", when in reality, I wake up everyday, and consider myself lucky I've had the opportunity of turning a passion into a career, no matter what anyone thinks.



**THERE IS NO  
ELEVATOR  
TO SUCCESS.  
YOU HAVE TO  
TAKE THE  
STAIRS**

Why fit in  
when you were born to  
**STAND OUT!**  
--Dr. Seuss

A person who never made  
a mistake never tried  
anything new.  
-Albert Einstein

**DREAMS  
Don't  
Work  
Unless  
YOU Do.**

## CO-OP HELPED ME PICK MY CAREER FIELD OF STUDY

*Submitted by: Sierra Savelle, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB*

Throughout my life, I've had many different career ideas in my mind, but there wasn't one that stuck out to me. I went into Cooperative Education thinking that I wanted to be an ultrasound technician, however, I soon realized that it was not what I expected. That same year my Co-op teacher found me another placement working with seniors who have dementia, Alzheimer's, etc. She thought this was a good fit because of my experience working at a retirement home. She was right, it opened my eyes to the things that seniors need.



My next year of Co-op, I stuck to careers working with seniors. I went to OneCare and found out that I am not a 'sit behind the desk type of person.' Some desk work is okay, but I really like to be active with the clients. I knew that I wanted to plan activities for seniors. The career I was looking into, was working with seniors and children with special needs. I had no experience working with children who had special needs. This year I decided to go to a public school and am currently working with a student who has behavioral problems and another student who has unilateral hearing, meaning that he only has one ear.

Co-op has helped me pick the career field I want to study by opening up my options and narrowing it down. I found out many different skills that I didn't even know I had, for example patience. It has also helped me improve some of my skills like problem-solving, and computer skills. Co-op helped me see what working environment works best for me and which ones I didn't like so much. It has really shown me careers out in the community that I didn't even know were out there.

I will be attending college in the fall for recreation therapy. Cooperative Education played a major role in helping me make this important decision.

## MY CO-OP AT MERDELL DAIRY FARMS SOUTH

*Submitted by: Cory Nafziger, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB*



I have been a student at Stratford Northwestern since I was in Grade 9. I have always enjoyed being a part of school, whether as part of extracurricular teams, or being involved in any school activities. After high school I want to be a dairy farmer but the classes that school provides don't really apply directly to my career interests in agriculture. Cooperative Education however, did help me learn how farming works in the real world, which for me is more valuable than just reading books.

My Co-op placement was at Merdell Dairy Farms South in Listowel. The farms are owned by Kevin and Sandy Riddell. In my Co-op experience I learned what it's really like to operate a dairy farm on a daily basis, instead of what people think. Co-op helped me decide if a career in agriculture is something I can picture myself doing in the future. It gave me the experience of a full time job and

helped me decide if this career is right for me. In the next couple years I am hoping to get accepted to a college or university that has a program for a dairy herdsman.

Co-op has taught me the skills I need to work effectively in this environment. It has improved my work ethic and overall working strengths. I recommend that students take a Cooperative Education course as it will surely change your perspective on where you see yourself in the future!

## ARIA BISTRO APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS

*Submitted by: Taijah Smith, St Augustine SS, Dufferin-Peel CDSB*

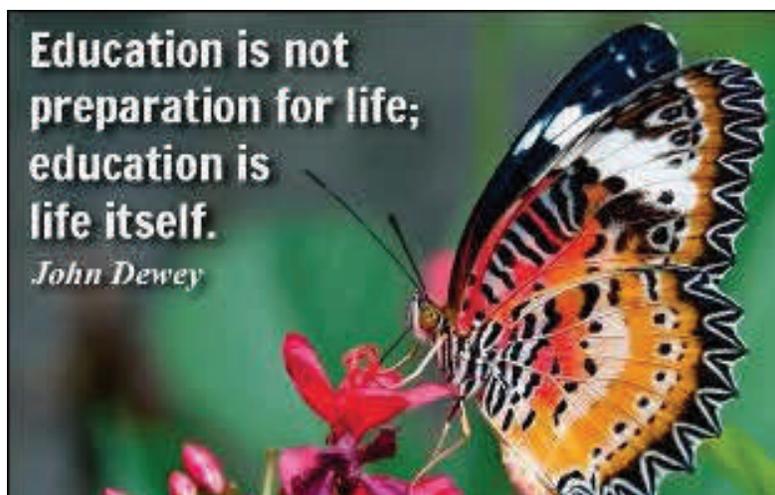
This semester as a Co-op student I worked at Aria Bistro and Lounge for four months. It was a new experience for me and I absolutely loved working for one of the most highly regarded restaurants in the Brampton area. During my Co-op placement I got to work with a great team of staff that supported and pushed me to do my best. It was a very exciting experience, where I got to learn how to make proper vegetable cuts and creating different types of vinaigrettes to go with different types of unique salads. Not only did I get to learn about the restaurant business from the owner and chef's eyes but I also got to be a part of a wonderful team and family, making the most cosmopolitan and exotic foods.



My Co-op placement took place Monday-Thursday as I assisted Chef Anthony and pastry Chef Jackie. I learned a lot of different techniques from both of them. With Anthony I was taught the different ways of cutting and how to work with small items making the taste melt in your mouth. Not only did Anthony teach me the right way how to plate a meal, but he encouraged me to start plating meals by my second day. Chef Jackie is the one I spent the majority of my time with every day, as she was a Co-op student once herself, so she understood all the new information and exciting things I was experiencing. I learned a lot from her like making different desserts and ways to make designs on a plate and garnish spectacular cuisines to make them look better. Not only did she teach me to make dressings and took me out of my comfort zone by letting me handle all the appetizers and desserts that were ordered by parties or walk-ins, but she believed in me that I could do it and be very successful in this industry.

On Fridays I enrolled as a Co-op student in the level 1 Cook Apprenticeship Program at Humber College which has been a great experience for me and would be for anyone else too. I have two amazing teachers that support and encourage me to reach my full potential. Through their support I have excelled and showed my true colours at Humber as a student, and I have made a lot of friends with the same interest as me.

As a Co-op student I feel confident and happy that I have made it this far and Aria Bistro and Humber College have really helped me. This is a great program to take for any student in the future. My placement, Aria Bistro and Lounge offers so many opportunities to acquire skills and knowledge that every day you learn something new, which puts me one step closer to my dreams and it could be a step closer to yours too.



## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION: IMPOSSIBLE TO GO WRONG

Submitted by: *Tristan Tiburcio, Chaminade College School, Toronto CDSB*

*“The high destiny of the individual is to serve rather than to rule.” ~ Albert Einstein.*

To assist my fellow man, in my opinion, is one of the greatest pleasures that can be felt to this day. The sheer satisfaction of seeing a smile on another’s face brings me the most joy. I made no mistake the day I signed up for Cooperative Education; in fact I think it is the best choice that I have made in my life. As somebody who is vastly intrigued in the study of the medical field, I chose to do my Co-op service at none other than Humber River Hospital.



I love my Co-op placement, and I would not want to volunteer elsewhere. The staff is absolutely phenomenal, courteous and willing to put up with me constantly asking questions about telemetry practices, and other cardio-logical terminology. Thanks to my Environmental SHSM participation, I am placed in two departments: a nursing unit for cardiac patients and the Dialysis Unit. My Co-op placement in these departments has been enjoyable as well as educational.

During my placement at the hospital, I have learned enough of cardiology that the nurses frequently joke about me being able to teach the coronary care nursing class. It is going to be difficult having to end my placement at Humber River, but I will undoubtedly be volunteering again soon. I cannot wait until the new hospital opens its doors!

## MY CO-OP PLACEMENT AT TECHNICAL TRAINING GROUP

Submitted by: *Felicia Neeb - Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB*

Ever since Mr. Johnstone’s grade 9 business class at Stratford Northwestern, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in business. In grade 11, I took an accounting course and immediately knew I wanted to pursue financial business. With my love of math and new love of accounting, I began to search possible occupations for after high school. The most valuable research into this career occurred when I registered for the Cooperative Education program.



Before I started the Co-op placement, I knew I wanted to work in business, either as an accountant or in a bank. My Co-op placement is at Technical Training Group (TTG) in their office, and I am getting experience in different fields of business. Working at my placement I have gained new skills to help me move forward in my future. I have learned the proper formats for business letters, mailing addresses, contracts and proposals.

These skills will continue to build as I continue into post-secondary school. Tabworks does the bookkeeping for TTG and I was able to go in one day to job shadow Amy. This was exactly the experience I was looking for when I registered for Co-op. It reassured me that down the road I would love to be working in a bank or as a chartered accountant.

Next year I plan on going McMaster University in their Business program with Co-op. With the skills I have learned through my Co-op placement, I will be able to see a great future with my dream job.

## MY CO-OP PLACEMENT AT THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

*Submitted by: Ally Strasser, Stratford Northwestern SS, Avon Maitland DSB*

My Cooperative Education placement at the Alzheimer's Society in Stratford was not my first choice. In fact, I didn't really want to have anything to do with the elderly and dementia. Instead I wanted to get into the police field. Unfortunately it is very hard to get into a placement with a police officer. After most positions were filled, I was directed to the Alzheimer's Society as a possible placement.

At first I was nervous to start my placement because I knew nothing about dementia or what Alzheimer's disease even was. A few weeks went by and I learned how to deal with people dealing with such a scary disease. From clients to co-workers, everyone welcomed me with open arms and this made me feel so comfortable at the office. I went to several conferences learning about the effects Alzheimer's disease has on our community.

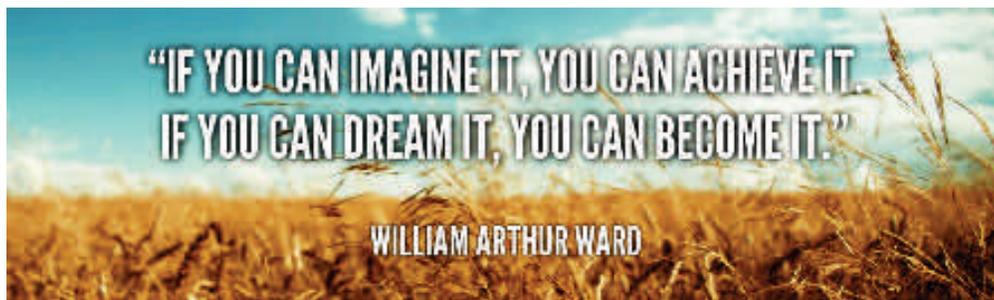


This was very eye opening for me, because I soon realized that dementia wasn't really what I thought it was. To be honest I thought dementia was just a disease where you forget things frequently. I soon learned that Alzheimer's disease rips your family apart, and changes your perspective on life. This placement made me realize what I actually wanted to go to university for. I want to learn more about the brain, I want to be able to help find a cure for dementia. This Co-op placement has also helped me get a job at a nursing home in the dementia unit.

From not knowing anything about dementia to learning so much about this disease and wanting to pursue a career in this field is amazing. I know for sure if I didn't have this Co-op opportunity, I wouldn't have even thought about taking up a career in this field.

The Alzheimer's society has taught me how to handle stressful situations, handle several losses, and how to relate to people dealing with such a disease. My plan for the future is to go to Western University and study the brain and how it operates. I am so happy with the way my Co-op placement has turned out!

*I've learned... that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person. - Andy Rooney*



*Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. - G.K. Chesterton*

## CO-OP: THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE A CAREER OF YOUR CHOICE!

*Submitted by: Sankavi Naguleswaran, Middlefield Collegiate Institute, York Region DSB*

The first time I realized I had a passion for writing I was in my Grade 11 English class writing a paper about Mary Lawson's "Crow Lake". As the class progressed, I wrote poetry, articles, short stories and a variety of essays. By the end, I just knew that writing was for me. I loved writing.

That new found knowledge left me wondering: Would I like to pursue writing as a future career? The answer came to me in the form of "Cooperative Education".

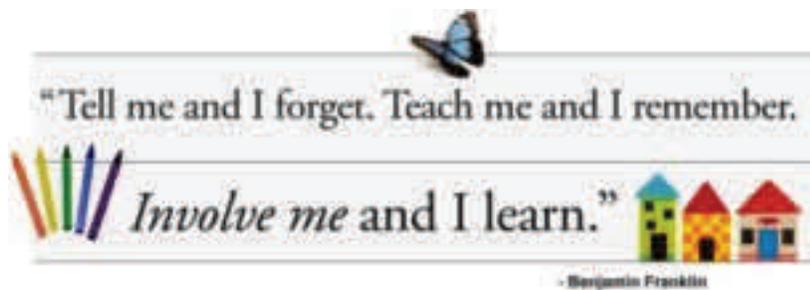
The following year, with the support of my Co-op teacher, I was able to pursue a journalism Co-op placement at the Markham Economist and Sun. This Co-op placement was definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made.

At the Markham Economist and Sun, I had the opportunity to complete a variety of tasks related to journalism. The tasks included conducting phone and on-line interviews, taking efficient notes, attending Markham events with the Markham Economist and Sun reporter, and writing a variety of articles about different Markham events.

Not only was I able to experience the journalism career, but I also able to develop my personal skills, and benefit from the expertise of the professionals (i.e. editors, reporters, photographers, etc.) around me. Over the course of my Co-op placement I was able to develop my writing, oral communication, and independent working skills. I learned to write concise articles containing key points, to interact with new people with confidence, and to meet deadlines by managing my working habits.

My time at the Markham Economist and Sun is a time in my life that I will truly cherish. Thanks to the Co-op program, I had the opportunity to test drive the career of a journalist in a positive workplace environment, surrounded by welcoming and supportive co-workers and editors.

The Cooperative Education program is a course that every student should take during their high school years. Cooperative Education has many benefits including, but not limited to, the opportunity to explore a career of your choice, the chance to gain potential references in the form of employers and co-workers, and the extremely valuable opportunity to discover yourself!



## MY OWN LEADER - SHSM PROGRAM HELPED ME REALIZE IT!

*Submitted by: Nicole Dingle, Father Henry Carr CSS, Toronto CDSB*

After four long years of secondary school, I've come to know my classrooms as well as I know my own home. The traditional learning environment has a way of boring itself into one's mind, and objectively speaking, this may instill a work ethic that will come to good use in the not-so-distant future. But productivity is not limited to the classroom. In fact, a considerable amount of my most priceless experiences have grown out of the Specialist High Skills Major program.

On the 14th of April, I attended the 2015 Student Success Conference with a team of Arts and Culture SHSM participants. Our job was to film and document the event on a professional level; my job was to become a journalist and produce an article that summarized the event and its success. Before this event, my knowledge of journalism was very limited, and I was unsure of how to approach my assignment.

The conference consisted of workshops run by representatives from across the school board, and each addressed common classroom problems with innovative solutions. I attended as many of these workshops as I could and observed the many discussions. Ron Berger, a veteran classroom teacher and Chief Academic Officer of the Expeditionary Learning program, spoke to the attending teachers of the Toronto CDSB about the importance of collaboration and cooperation, not only among the students, but among the school faculty. Needless to say, this event was highly educational for the educators; teachers were presented with the idea of their students becoming leaders of their own learning.

This idea resonated with me, and funnily enough, mirrored the very circumstance that I was in. Participating in the event as a SHSM student allowed me to become a leader of my own learning. I was given instructions, provided with exceptional resources, and offered the opportunity to learn something new at my own speed. I completed my article to the best of my ability and submitted it to the Toronto CDSB website, knowing that I grew a little bit more as a student and as an aspiring writer. I am a leader of my own learning, and the SHSM program helped me realize it!



**I hear and I forget.**

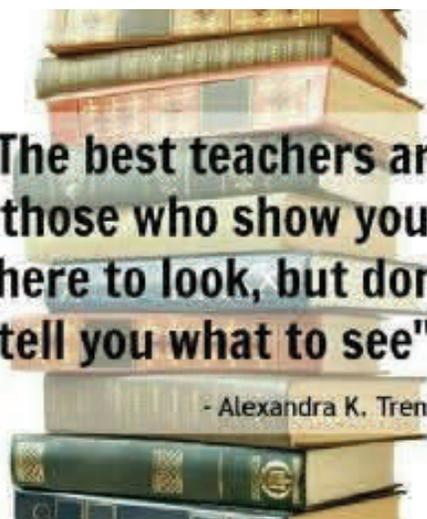
**I see and I remember.**

**I do and I understand.**

**Confucius**

**"The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see"**

**- Alexandra K. Trenfor**



## CRITERIA: CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE

**Do you have a student who would like to share their success at a placement? We are looking for stories in the following areas:**

- ⇒ Dual-Credit and Co-op
- ⇒ Successful OYAP/Co-op
- ⇒ Successful SHSM/Co-op
- ⇒ Successful Special Ed. Co-op (non-earning credits)
- ⇒ Successful Co-op

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### **Criteria:**

1. Submit student(s) story(ies) by May 31st (annually) via email to [OCEA@rogers.com](mailto:OCEA@rogers.com) by using this [template](#);
2. Ensure the article is no more than 350 words in length;
3. Teachers' are asked to edit students' article(s) for grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc.
4. Submit one picture of the student at their placement (high-resolution (300 dpi) jpg format)
5. Complete and submit the Photo and Model Release Agreement Form provided.



## CRITÈRES : LA VOIX DES ÉLÈVES

**Avez-vous un ou une élève qui veut partager son histoire de réussite? Nous sommes à la recherche d'articles dans les domaines suivants:**

- ⇒ Double reconnaissance de crédit et Coop
- ⇒ Stage d'éducation coopérative/PAJO réussi
- ⇒ MHS/Coop réussi
- ⇒ Expérience de travail (EED) réussie
- ⇒ Stage d'éducation coopérative réussi

L'esprit de  
COOPération



### **Critères :**

1. Soumettre annuellement l'article ou les articles de l'élève ou des élèves par courriel à [OCEA@rogers.com](mailto:OCEA@rogers.com) en utilisant ce [gabarit](#) et par au plus tard le 31 mai;
2. S'assurer que l'article ait une longueur maximale de 350 mots;
3. Les enseignantes et les enseignants sont priés de réviser les articles de leur(s) élève(s) pour assurer une grammaire, une orthographe une structure de phrase correctes;
4. Soumettre une image de l'élève ou des élèves au stage (en haute résolution (300 dpi) format .jpg);
5. Remplir et soumettre le formulaire d'autorisation de publier des photographies et le formulaire de renonciation au droit à l'image.

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**CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE®**  
A newsletter published for the  
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Education Association

**LA VOIX DES ÉLÈVES®**  
Un bulletin d'information pour les  
membres de l'Association de  
l'éducation coopérative de l'Ontario

**OCEA MISSION STATEMENT**  
*"Facilitating and supporting the exchange of ideas among  
Experiential Learning Professionals"*

The Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) is a not-for-profit professional organization of Ontario Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning Professionals. It strives to provide the leadership and vision needed for optimal professional development of its members. The Association also develops and facilitates access to information, resources and other supports relevant to OCEA members and other Experiential Learning Professionals in the province of Ontario, while supporting excellence in the education of all students in Ontario.

**ÉNONCÉ DE MISSION DE L'AÉCO**  
*« Aider et encourager l'échange d'idées entre les  
professionnels de l'apprentissage par l'expérience »*

L'Association de l'éducation coopérative de l'Ontario (AÉCO) est une association professionnelle, sans but lucratif, qui regroupe des professionnels de l'éducation coopérative et autres formes d'apprentissage par l'expérience. Elle s'efforce de fournir un leadership et une vision nécessaires au développement professionnel optimal de ses membres. De plus, l'association contribue au développement de ressources, en facilite l'accès, et fournit des renseignements actuels et pratiques à ses membres et aux autres professionnels de l'apprentissage par l'expérience en Ontario, tout en soutenant l'excellence en éducation de tous les élèves de la province.

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