



# Newsletter

February 2020



## 1 YEAR OF OGCIS

As we approach the completion of Grade 10 at OGCIS, it is gratifying, even inspiring to consider the **growth our students have experienced in the BC Program.** "Grade 10 Reflections" inside this edition is testament to the learning experiences which have brought our students to this remarkable stage in their development as persons and students who are developing a unique perspective both Japanese and international. Living and learning in British Columbia last summer was not only a journey abroad but also a passage into early adulthood as the students learned to be more self-sufficient and interdependent upon their Canadian host families, teachers and each other.

The dedication and skill of their teachers facilitated significant student growth in their curriculum competencies in Math, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies. Students have also shown increased competence and confidence in their use of English in all subjects and are able to understand nuances of English that were not accessible to them nearly one year ago.

OGCIS students have experienced multiple teaching strategies in their daily lessons which has made their **learning intellectually stimulating.** Plato said, "Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness but direct them to it by what amuses their minds so they may be better able to discover with accuracy the **peculiar genius of each."** Teachers have designed their programs to include processes of creative and critical thinking which has made learning fun, varietal, challenging and responsive to various learning styles at the same time.

In Career and Life Education 10, students are exploring future career options according to their current strengths and interests which are flexible and subject to change over time. Students are developing skill in identifying what is needed to attain a goal which in turn is necessary to match with the college or university application of their choice, a focus in Grade 11.

Our final term is not yet complete, but in my opinion, OGCIS has been a great success in its first year. We look forward to our 2020-21 expansion into Grade 11 and a growing student body.

Many thanks to parents, staff, administration and the Osaka Gakugei Foundation for making this an exceptionally good year for our students.

Yours truly,  
Douglas Ibbott  
OGCIS Principal

# Grade 10 Reflections

My English skill have improved a lot in this year. My thinking about not only study but also lifestyle was also changed. When I entered this school, I did not have my opinion so much, but in the classes, I always had to think "why" or "how," so now I can have my opinion. It was only 40 days we went to Canada, but I learned a lot of things. The most I felt is value of my family in Japan. My mom makes my breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day. I made my lunch there only 40days, but it was so hard for me, so I felt importance of my family. I learned many things in this year, so I could grew up a lot.

Compare to last year, of course I have improved my English ability. Through reading practice, I could read the sentence faster and more accurate. Because we use English in our class, many words become familiar to us, so when I read or hear the English text at out of the class, it's not so hard to define the meaning or understand the text. Also, my personality has changed. I didn't have my strength before I entered this course, but I gained English ability a little, so that become my confidence.

In the beginning of the year, I felt nervous because our class had only few more than 10 people. Actually, the number of students was advantage for me, however. We cooperate at the class, school event, and at Sooke. Thus, I am enjoying my school life currently.

During the summer vacation, we went to Sooke to get social study degree. During this program, we learned about First Nations in Canada. I didn't know about their existence and they were discriminated. If I hadn't been to Sooke, I wouldn't know it now.

When I entered this program, I felt only nervous. I didn't learn English from childhood like my classmates, so I thought I would not do well in this program because of my English. I think I could change for 3 major points. At first, of course I improved my English a lot. Before entering to this program, I didn't learn English as the same as the other students, so I was very nervous to be here. However, thanks to the 11 my classmates and teachers, my English improved a lot, and I can watch English videos or movies without subtitles. I could get high scores on tests like Eiken, so I can realize that I improved my English so much. Also, my speaking level such as how express my feeling or opinion went up dramatically. I can feel it when I write some essay, speak in front of people, or just talk with my friends. Furthermore, I became stronger than when I've just entered to this program. In Canada as a study abroad, I lost my phone. My teachers, classmates, directors, host family and my own family helped me a lot, so I got over the situation. Through this experience and study abroad made me stronger. Now, I think to enter this program is not so bad because my teachers helped me decide my way to the future carefully. Also, I can know what the conflict of the world is from different perspectives, so I am sure what I have to do to solve these problem. This year, sometimes I got in trouble with friends, my club, or my future, but I think to enter this program is not wrong. For next year, I will be stronger for many things and do my best with my junior! Also I will keep my score for the next year. Thank you for your support. I appreciate to you to lead me to this program, and change me. Please support me the next year too!

When I entered this course, I was worried about class in English because I can't speak English, but now I can take a class with fun. I learned the importance of brave. I couldn't participate a class but I'm challenging even if I don't know the answer. I will study hard to improve my English ability.

This year was the busiest year for me. Joining the new school with new people, going to Canada in the summer and learning things in English. These new things made me improve my English more than I had before in many ways like reading, writing essays in English. At the first day I had class I was really uncomfortable with it because I was nervous and I thought I can't do this every day, but learning things in English started to get fun and now I enjoy this program and because of that I'm worried about my future. Now that there is a possibility to go to university abroad, it is hard for me to decide what I want to do in the future.

# "Looking back on one year at OGCIS, how have you changed or improved?"

I changed the way to use time. First term, I had difficulties to spend time to each subject. Also I couldn't get how I study BC subjects, but now I can use more efficiently than first term. It's still difficult to get high score on BC test, but now I can get how I should study so I will keep to try hard. When I enter this course, I couldn't say my own opinion in English even it's Japanese. I didn't aggressive to have my own opinion and participate it. Now I am still challenging but I can participate more and I can having more opinion and deeper than first term. Of course my speaking English and the amount of vocabulary are improve. Especially, my writing essay skills are most improved. When topics are given, I could write only a half-page, but now I can write two pages at least. I felt nervous and worry about this course at first, but now I am confidence and I can enjoy my school life. Also I can get along with classmates more and we can cooperate much more than first term.

When I entered DD program, I felt nervous a lot because I didn't have confidence to take the class by using English. However, I can take the class to have fun and confidence. Through the classes, my acting changed. I could say my opinion based on the evidence, and if I have some troubles, I asked my teacher aggressively. I can't believe that I grew up a lot!! Everything was new for me. If I go to other school, I wouldn't who I am today. I want to thank to my teacher to teach me such a great classes. I'll do my best from now on too!!

Throughout this year, I feel like my thoughts about languages changed. Before I entered this course, I thought that languages, especially English, are subjects that I have to learn. However, after I started learning English in this course, I soon realized that English is not only a subject but also a tool to communicate. I also noticed that it is important to try to say something in English even though I don't come up with words that match what I want to say. This is the biggest thing I noticed and what changed me the most. Regarding this, what I found through in this course is that I didn't try speaking English actively. Because there are few opportunities to speak English for communication, I feel embarrassed about myself speaking it; however, I found it is not the right action to take here. I learned that it is important for me to pretend to be fluent in English. This gave and still gives me confidence. If I could restart this year, I would make more conversation with my classmates and be more active in every class; therefore, I'd like students who will enter this course next year to be enthusiastic to communicate in English.

One year retrospective, it was the fastest year in my life. At first I thought it was difficult to live in the class for me, but everyone in the 10A is kind. In this class, everyone is different and smart. They make me feel happy, I love them. I think this class can make us to be more smart and fun, and teach us what is the world, how you should to be, who are you? This year is very important for me. Next year, I'll do better than last year.

Through my experience in Sooke and in the classroom, I feel like I became more active and motivated. In the beginning of this year, I was very shy about speaking in front of everyone. My friends in class are all very polite and friendly, therefore I was able to talk a lot during group work projects and even raise my hand in class. With the help of the warm atmosphere of OGCIS and the help of my friends and teachers, I was able to overcome my shyness. I am very happy with my improvement!



# 2019/2020 Timeline



Orientation



**April**



Entrance Ceremony



**May**



**July**

Study Abroad in Sooke



**June**

**August**

Sports Festival

OGCIS Library Opens

Sports Day

**September**



School Culture Festival

BC Literacy Test

**October**



Certification Ceremony

**December**

BC Numeracy Test

**November**



Student-led Conferences

Field Trip to Osaka Science Museum

**January**

Career Ed Interviews

**February**

