

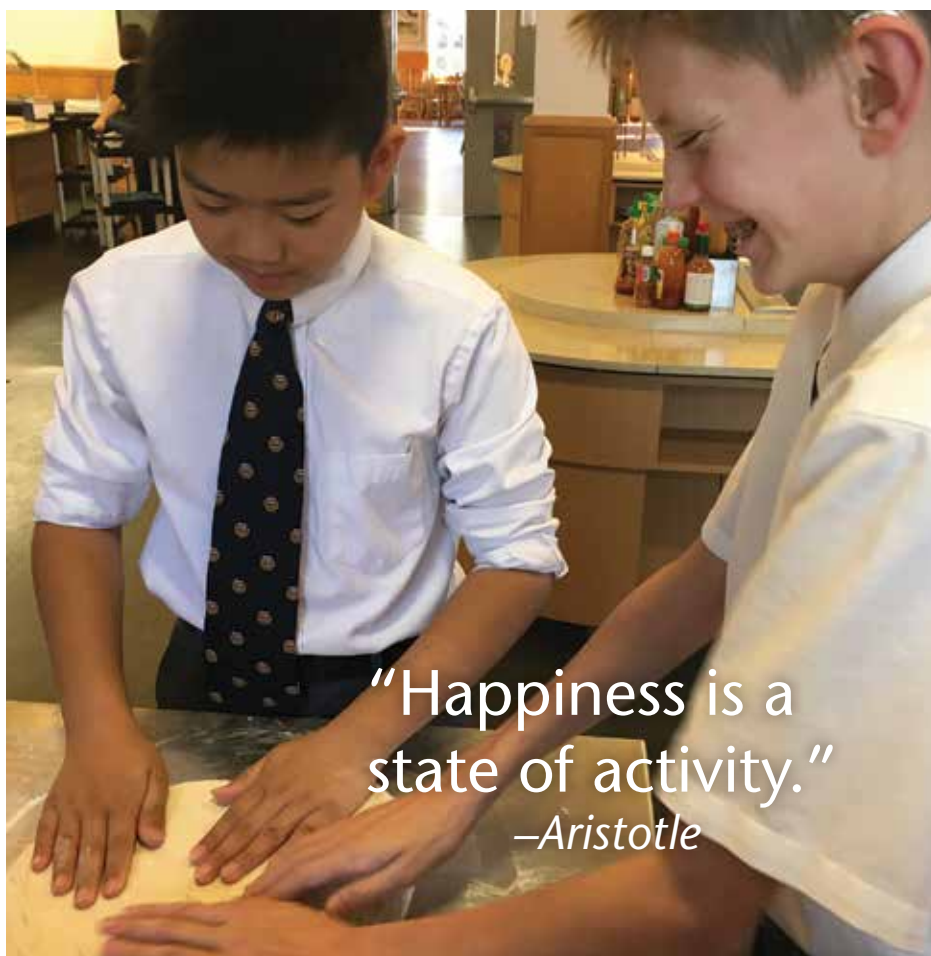
CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

AT PICKERING COLLEGE

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2 2019

Graduates of the Pickering College Global Leadership Program are creative, innovative and courageous agents of ethical and positive change, true to Quaker values.

Co-Curricular Programming at Pickering College



“Happiness is a state of activity.”

—Aristotle

Since 1842, Pickering College has been a pioneer in educational theory and teaching. Our focus has always been on developing the “whole child”—mind, body and spirit—so that our students can explore and develop their talents in different areas. A wonderful way we encourage students to learn outside of the typical classroom setting is through our diverse co-curricular program. From Kindergarten to Grade 12, Pickering College students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in activities ranging from competitive or recreational athletics, arts, clubs and community service depending on their age and interests.

Experts have proven that having a rich co-curricular program for students benefits their development in many ways. In Sir Ken Robinson’s book, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything* (2009), Robinson stresses the importance of “finding the meeting point between natural aptitude and personal passion,” (p.21). Students in school need to attempt new activities to determine what they are capable of and to find what they truly love. Co-curricular activities are critical in this voyage of self-discovery as children are given the freedom to choose what they want to do and to focus their time on the activity. *continued on back page*



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Grade 8 Students Hone STEAM Skills Through Electives

In Grade 8, students have the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of STEAM concepts through the electives program which engages students in three different courses throughout the year. The Grade 8 Electives Program is tailored to specifically support two Global Leadership Program Core Competencies: *Design and Build* and *Create and Perform*.

In Art, students create a visual art piece using the creative process and a variety of materials and techniques. They develop an understanding of the elements and principles of art, focusing on the design principle, movement, which students show through wire-figure sculptures showing actual action or implied action.

The *Design and Innovation* elective teaches students to explore various types of circuits and tinker with reverse engineering through activities such as the toy take apart. By the end of the course students are able to produce prototypes and take away models, which demonstrate key learning.

Joining these two concepts together is the STEAM Elective, which is a collaborative Design and Art course. In this elective, students create a project incorporating design with art. An example is the 2019 project, the wall sculpture inspired by the artist Louise Nevelson. Each student was responsible for a section using symbols to represent Pickering College's 175th anniversary, and incorporated an electric wall circuit.

In addition to the electives program, Middle School students participate in Pillar Pursuit days where they have choice in various skills they would like to develop. Topics include 3D printing, outdoor design and build, podcasting, mindfulness, coding, equestrian skills and drones. Our students love choosing their own activity and developing skills that are important to them.

Spotlight On the GLP in the Senior School Co-Curricular Program

Our Global Leadership Program core competencies are supported in our co-curricular program. *Lead and Collaborate* is seen in every co-curricular and club with student leaders. *Think Globally* is a thread that runs through many co-curriculars, but the clearest example is the international excursion preparation. In this co-curricular, students work on language skills, consider their cultural context and how they can positively contribute to the community they are visiting. Students also plan finances and logistics for the country they are travelling to and work on their fitness level to support trekking and other activities. Opportunities to *Discover and Connect* are very popular with our students, especially activities like canoe and kayak, yoga and wellness, field to fork and winter adventure. *Create and Perform* activities allow our students to show their passion for performance, notably in the debate, drama and radio co-curriculars. *Enact Change* is central to our Quaker roots and identity at PC, and many of our clubs reflect this, especially the Youth Action Organization and the Green Team.





Junior School Co-Curricular Electives Engage Students in Exciting Opportunities to Develop Their Personal Interests

The Pickering College Junior School Elective Program provides new opportunities for our students with the purposeful intention of offering choice, building skills in high-interest activities, increasing physical movement, adding academic competition, and introducing life-skill activities. This year, the program offered students five choices: culinary arts, woodworking, fencing, historic dance and sewing. These popular options support the Core Competencies of our Global Leadership Program. Historic Dance offered students the opportunity to consider the cultural and historic importance of dance in society. Some of the dance styles students learned included Irish, First Nations, Italian, Scottish Highland, Medieval, Bavarian and Japanese. Our fencing co-curricular allowed students the chance to use proper Olympic-style fencing equipment and to learn a sport that has been part of military training for many years and is still taught today. In woodworking, students had the opportunity to address a design brief, building something fun that they can play with while teaching critical thinking and problem-solving skills through construction techniques. Healthy eating and wellness were central to the culinary arts elective, where students worked towards creating an entire meal. Finally, in sewing students combined practical skills with creativity to produce interesting versions of common items.

The Senior School Co-Curricular Program: A World of Countless Opportunities

Pickering College students are active, passionate leaders in all areas of the co-curricular program, participating in a wide variety of activities that support their learning. As a Gold-Certified Ontario Healthy School, Pickering College has a diverse program that encompasses both competitive and recreational athletics. Sports teach skills such as fundamental movement, cooperation, and fair play. Our distinctive High Performance Athlete Program has yielded tremendous results by assisting in the development of champions in diverse sports such as short-track speed skating, gymnastics, synchronized skating, soccer and hockey. Several students have received scholarships to university based on their athletic accomplishments.

Senior School students also engage in the arts, including visual, drama and music. In addition, our communications program includes our radio station, 102.7 CHOP FM, where students produce and host live shows that are broadcast to the local community.

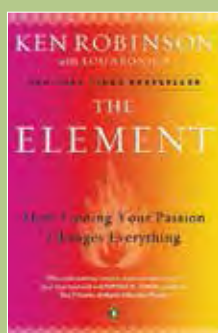
In addition, there are co-curricular clubs that develop leadership and communication skills, such as the Polikon Debate Club. This is a popular club, and many join in an effort to improve their speaking skills, while others compete. In 2017 and 2019, a Pickering College student earned a place on Team Canada, competing at the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship.

Pickering College has also been a member of the unique Global Ideas Institute, at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. Each year, a team of students attends lectures, meets with mentors and completes research to solve a global issue. The program culminates in a pitch to an expert panel where they present their innovative solution to solve the problem.

Senior School students are engaged in social action, with student-driven clubs that focus on environmental and social justice action. The Green Team and Youth Action Organization lead their peers in activities that enrich the local and global communities.



RECOMMENDED READING



The Element is the point at which natural talent meets personal passion. When people arrive at the Element, they feel most themselves and most inspired and achieve at

their highest levels. With a wry sense of humour, Ken Robinson looks at the conditions that enable us to find ourselves in the Element and those that stifle that possibility. Drawing on the stories of a wide range of people, including Paul McCartney, Matt Groening, Richard Branson, Arianna Huffington, and Bart Conner, he shows that age and occupation are no barrier and that this is the essential strategy for transforming education, business, and communities in the twenty-first century.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM OPTIONS AT PICKERING COLLEGE:

A Cappella (Singing)	Fitness
After Care	Hockey
Alpine Skiing	Indoor Soccer
Animation	Jazz Band
Arts Plus	Mountain Biking
Badminton	Power Skating
Band Club	Rock Climbing
Band	Running
Basketball	Scorekeeping
Choir	Slowpitch
CHOP FM Radio Club	Softball
Cooking Classes	Soccer
Cross Country	Table Tennis
Debate	Tennis
Drama Production	Track & Field
Equestrian	Ultimate Frisbee
E-Sports	Volleyball
Field to Fork	Yearbook
Fine Arts & Crafts	Yoga/Wellness



KIMBERLY BARTLETT is Senior Director of Teaching, Learning & Strategic Partnerships. She has a BA from McGill, a BEd and MEd from the University of Toronto and her Principal's qualifications. Her responsibilities include teaching, curriculum, faculty development, and advising the school's Global Ideas Institute Team. She has worked as an instructor at OISE/U of T, a consultant and has also developed textbooks. In 2011, she was a Finalist for the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.



JULIA HUNT is Senior Director, Strategic Innovation, and is responsible for developing the Global Leadership Program for all students, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. Some of Julia's responsibilities include diploma design, program framework, research, training and professional development, communications, outreach, local and international excursions, student life and leadership activities and speakers. Julia holds her BA and her BEd as well as her MA in Education and Development.

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In addition to finding one's personal passion, there are a host of other benefits to participating in a selection of activities. Research has highlighted that students who have a variety of interests tend to be more motivated in school and perform better on assessments. They also have higher self-esteem, as their confidence grows when they experience success in multiple areas. This helps affirm their belief that they are capable of learning and they are resilient when facing unusual challenges. Finally, co-curricular activities help children in building community, providing them with a distinct setting to make friends and bond with others, students and teachers alike. The relationships built during co-curricular time are invaluable to a child's growth and development. The outcomes of life-long learning and well-being are priceless.

As future leaders, Pickering College students participate in a primarily mandatory program that enriches the five core competencies of the Global Leadership Program. Activities such as LEGO and robotics support *Design and Build*, the arts, debate and sports all develop our students' ability to *Create and Perform*, while the students who participate in outdoor education adventures and trips learn how to *Discover and Connect* with the world around them. When students join the Student Committee, social justice clubs and participate in service, they learn how to *Lead and Collaborate* with others while they *Enact Change* in their community. Ultimately, Pickering College students leave the school with the mindset to *Think Globally* by demonstrating empathy and understanding towards others in all situations. The co-curricular program, working in tandem with the academic program, ensures that our students build these competencies, all while having fun. What better way to have a child discover their personal passion in life?



If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback, please contact:

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