STORIES from the Journey:

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KCS Head of Senior School Update



Grade 9 students conducting water tests in Lake Ontario.

Thanks to our students and the opportunities given them by their teachers, the KCS Senior School is a place where an unlimited array of learning and leadership take root. This update includes stories of that learning, where it's happening, and the difference it's making within and beyond our community.

PLACE-BASED LEARNING

Much of our program would look familiar. Our students learn in classrooms, are assigned homework, write tests, and benefit from many of the other longstanding features of school. All the worthy ones. We also have some things that would be less familiar. Place-based learning, where students learn about the world by regularly leaving the classroom to experience it, is one example where we go beyond to make learning more memorable, rich, and relevant.

The <u>October edition of Stories</u> from the Journey shared our placebased learning 'kick-off' with the inaugural Great Toronto Citywide Scavenger Hunt – a great success that set the foundation for the independence and maturity this learning reinforces. Here is the place-based learning that has happened since that orientation, often in partnership with external experts:

- High Park Nature Centre for community-building (whole school)
- Multiple days of urban learning at the Centre for Social Innovation – Spadina (all courses)
- Four days of Outdoor Education at Camp Arowhon in Algonquin Park (whole school)
- Regular classes at the Boulevard Club, Argonaut Rowing Club, and Grand Avenue Sports Field (Grade 9 P.E.)

- Nathan Philipps Square for the Indigenous Legacy Gathering (whole school)
- City Hall and Queen's Park (gr 10 Civics)
- Water testing in Lake Ontario (gr 9 science)
- Specimen collection from the silt of Mimico Creek (gr 9 science)
- Nurdle (microplastics) hunting and data collection along the shores of Lake Ontario (gr 9 science)
- Colonel Sam Smith Park (gr 9 science)
- Attending the One of a Kind Craft Show to interview artisans and collect feedback on their experience as entrepreneurs; also visiting a downtown grocery store (gr 10 business)
- Practicing French at the St. Lawrence Food Market and while observing the Philip Cote murals under the Old Mill Bridge (gr 9 French)
- Learning from our school architectural blueprints, then practicing scale by measuring local buildings or sites of choice, and finally drawing them on paper based on their calculations (gr 9 math)
- A trip to Casa Loma for our grade 10 History and English students where they completed a scavenger hunt through an app called "Goose Chase".
- Pickleball in High Park

KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS







 Guitar club;
Rowing;
Service club;
DECA participants at regional qualifier;
Place-Based Science at Humber Bay Shores.





KCS LEARNING PARTNERS

Part of place-based learning is the regular opportunity for students to meet and learn from external experts, whether 1:1, in small groups, as a class or for the whole school.

These Learning Partners collectively bring knowledge, experience, and perspectives that no school alone can match. Here are the Learning Partners who have contributed to enriched learning this fall:

- Centre for Social Innovation
- <u>The Boulevard Club</u>
- Argonaut Rowing Club
- <u>Swim Drink Fish</u>
- <u>A Greener Future</u>
- John McGraw entrepreneur, President of <u>Spratley Advisors</u>
- Nicky Cesta and Savannah Stephen – non-profit founders <u>The Wasteland Plan</u>
- Erica Zissis and Nikki Wisener global health

- <u>Ecospark</u>
- <u>Relay Education</u>
- Kristen Gale entrepreneur, founder of <u>THE TEN SPOT</u>
- Elliot Bay entrepreneur, founder of <u>RP4K</u>
- Tami Zuckerman entrepreneur, founder of <u>Varagesale</u> plus
 President and Founder of <u>The</u> <u>Little Campus</u>
- Julie Hartley author, founder, director and arts educator, <u>Centauri Arts</u>
- Henry Greenburg entrepreneur, founder of <u>SOAR</u>
- Rick McGraw entrepreneur in the transportation sector



Students join Erica Zissis for a global health workshop



Green Energy workshop with Relay Education

CLUBS AND TEAMS

The Senior School is committed to offering a rich array of clubs and teams that represent all Four Doors. To date, here are the clubs offered since September:

- Cross-country team
- Rowing team
- Basketball club
- Fitness club
- Swim team
- Ski team
- DECA (an international business case competition)

- Reach for the Top (a national trivia competition)
- Service Club
- Book Club
- Guitar Club
- Environment Club
- Board Games club
- Musical Theatre



KCS BY DESIGN

KCS By Design is a distinct leadership program that all students will engage in each week over their four years at the Senior School. In September, students joined one of five committees that would play a role in shaping the school experience. In each committee they are following a design thinking process that has roots in industry and proven exceptionally effective in addressing complex challenges and opportunities in a thoughtful, disciplined way. It introduces them to the hard work, learning, empathy, and flexible thinking that are the hallmark of good leadership.

Here is what each group has thus far chosen to pursue:

• Our Academic Committee has identified the topic of school design and a desire to engage in the upcoming phase 2 planning for the KCS Senior School; they are currently preparing to interview Greg Dunn, architect and chair of the Design and Construction Committee

- Our Arts Committee is planning a mid-winter Arts Week
- Our Athletics Committee is pursuing an idea to make first aid more readily available in public skate and bike parks; they will soon interview a senior executive with our municipal government
- Our Citizenship Committee has three sub-groups researching health care, human rights, and civic literacy as areas where they want to make a difference
- Our Spirit Committee planned and led our Halloween fun and are now planning for Christmas; they are also serving as our House Captains and will help us determine how to align Spirit activities from JK-12

Here's an article sharing the story of <u>last year's KCS By Design</u> <u>experience</u>, when our founding students chose to help address water pollution.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The Phase 1 fit-out of our facility is nearing completion. We've enjoyed our growing access to the full 22,000 sq.ft. and currently have full use of the following:

- Four classrooms
- Most of our Market Place and Reception
- The Fitness Room
- Breakout spaces
- Staff area
- Three Meeting Rooms

By the end of December, we expect to have our Science Lab, Art Room, Change Rooms, Food Vendor/Student-Led Café, 3rd Floor Learning Commons, Media Wall, and our striking central staircase ready for use upon our return.

It has been a pleasure to witness the response from visitors when they see the light, space, flow, and features. You can learn more about the building project from <u>this link</u> <u>in our architect's website</u>.





Student Path Project: Video game map

Progress continues with each student's Path Project.

By the end of the year, students are expected to exercise leadership in learning, from a variety of perspectives, on the topic of their choosing. Here's a sample of what a number of students are working on or have completed already:

- Two students, with Path topics in mechanical engineering and woodworking, are working with administration to develop, equip, and help lead our Makerspace offering
- Two students, with Path topics in entrepreneurship and charity, recently announced a fundraiser for Sick Kids cancer support
- Two students, with Path topics in filmmaking and storytelling, have partnered up to create a video on KCS By Design to share how design thinking can be used in secondary education
- Two students are completing the creation of a videogame to support the recent KCS Brand launch
- Multiple grade 9 students combined their "Take Your Kids to Work Day" with their Path topics, which will count as their required offsite learning

- One student has created a survey related to their Path topics of 2SLGBTQI+ and neurology
- Another student is working to launch a business in the food sector

Work is underway to identify Path Mentors for each student, external experts who can give tips, resources, and feedback. Anyone wishing to learn more about KCS Learning Partners and who might consider becoming one can <u>learn</u> <u>more here</u> and is invited to email Rick Kunc, Assistant Head of Senior School, at <u>rkunc@kcs.on.ca</u>.



OPEN HOUSES

We have more Open Houses scheduled for this winter, including one on Saturday January 21st, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the Senior School.

Please visit the KCS website to find details on all upcoming Open Houses plus a link to our recording from this fall's virtual Open House.

We're now accepting applications for Grades 9 to 11 for September 2024. Thank you for your interest and for letting others know about us. I hope you've found this collection of updates as interesting as we've found the journey. Please email if you have any questions.

Kind regards,



ANDREA Head of Senior School afanjoy@kcs.on.ca



KCS Junior School:

4600 Dundas St. W. Etobicoke, ON M9A 1A5

KCS Senior School:

2183 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Etobicoke, ON M8V 0J2

kcs.on.ca/senior-school