

## KCS Head of Senior School Update

12 . 09 . 2022



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 October edition of Stories from the Journey shared our place-based 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



1



2



3



5



4

- 1: Guitar club;
- 2: Rowing;
- 3: Service club;
- 4: DECA participants at regional qualifier;
- 5: 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](#)
- [The Boulevard Club](#)
- [Argonaut Rowing Club](#)
- [Swim Drink Fish](#)
- [A Greener Future](#)
- John McGraw – entrepreneur, President of [Spratley Advisors](#)
- Nicky Cesta and Savannah Stephen – non-profit founders [The Wasteland Plan](#)
- Erica Zissis and Nikki Wisener – global health
- [Ecospark](#)
- [Relay Education](#)
- Kristen Gale – entrepreneur, founder of [THE TEN SPOT](#)
- Elliot Bay – entrepreneur, founder of [RP4K](#)
- Tami Zuckerman – entrepreneur, founder of [Varagesale](#) plus President and Founder of [The Little Campus](#)
- Julie Hartley – author, founder, director and arts educator, [Centauri Arts](#)
- Henry Greenburg – entrepreneur, founder of [SOAR](#)
- 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



Fitness Club

## 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 [last year's KCS By Design experience](#), 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [this link](#) in our architect's website.



