

STORIES

from the Journey:



KCS Head of Senior School Update

10 . 03 . 2022



This has been an exceptional school start. We've grown from last year's founding class of seven students to 32 in Grades 9 and 10.

Our staff have grown from four to 12 and include our new Director of Guidance, Director of Athletics, Student Life Coordinator, and specialists in a wide array of subjects. Our enriched experiential program began immediately with students learning at City Hall, Queen's Park, the Argonaut Rowing Club, the Boulevard Club, High Park, the Centre for Social Innovation and more. And, momentarily, we finally moved into the new KCS Senior School facility. KCS now has two campuses for one growing community that expands what's possible for all within.

KCS students visit Queen's Park for grade 10 Civics and Citizenship course

KCS SENIOR SCHOOL CITYWIDE SCAVENGER HUNT 2022

High school is an exciting age where capacity for independence, resourcefulness, and challenge are honoured and strengthened. The start of the year is also when students need to learn about the responsibility that comes with exercising those traits, whether in our place-based learning or as youth who increasingly enjoy independence outside of school hours. This year's orientation set the stage with our inaugural KCS Senior School Citywide Scavenger Hunt.

In cross-grade groups of five or six students, students were dropped off at Rogers Centre and given a list of Toronto landmarks they needed to get to, whether on foot or TTC. At each one, there was a related task, such as finding out how long it takes the elevator to go up the CN Tower by timing it. Part of the challenge included making sure each group was in High Park to meet Ms. Lillie by no later than 12:30 p.m. That gave

them two hours to complete as many tasks as possible. Before starting, it was agreed that success included the following:

- Ensuring teams moved at a pace that was comfortable for each of its members
- All were involved in navigating, strategizing, and completing tasks
- Being thoughtful pedestrians, not running, and behaving according to what's appropriate at each location (note that entering The Royal York Hotel was part of the experience)
- Being respectful of what they were likely to see, knowing that Toronto is a city that includes a wide array of sights, sounds, and situations, including people who carry heavy burdens that our students will learn more about over their high school years
- Time management – being in High Park by 12:30 was required

Our students made us proud. Universal praise for the Hunt means this will likely become a tradition enjoyed for years to come.

KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS



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- 1: The new facility;
- 2: Students at Boulevard club;
- 3: Students downtown on Citywide Scavenger Hunt;
- 4: Grade 10s in classroom;
- 5: Gr 9s at High Park for Ecosystem Assessment;
- 6: The main stairway in the new facility



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OUR NEW FACILITY

We're in! The KCS Senior School has been a dream in the making since the earliest days of KCS.

Last year's Bridge Year and home in Bloor West Village allowed the dream to become real. Moving into our new campus in Humber Bay Shores allows us to grow and bring our whole community together in a stunning new facility. The construction sector around the

world is under exceptional strain since the pandemic, and it means our timeline for completing the full Phase 1 is stretched later into the fall. That said, students and staff were thrilled to walk into our partial occupancy space. The design and quality of work inspired great reviews.

Enjoy some photos from the early weeks plus a recent vlog by Rick Kunc, Assistant Head of Senior School, that shares a [brief tour of the space](#).



WELCOME TO NEW LEARNING PARTNERS

The KCS Senior School model was developed over many years, allowing a large, diverse group to research, reflect on and, where merited, redesign for the better a few high school practices.

Among our areas of focus, we have embraced the value of increased learning outside the school. While impactful learning will happen within our walls, learning about the world by being in it is optimal for enrichment, relevance, and unforgettable learning. This is especially valuable for high school students whose next steps include making significant post-secondary decisions, including the roles they wish to play beyond school. Our students will regularly engage with external experts and go offsite to learn in the greenspaces and facilities beyond our walls. This year marks the beginning of four significant partnerships:

- The Boulevard Club, for occasional use of its gym, badminton courts, pool and more
- The Argonaut Rowing Club, allowing us to offer the only P.E.

course with a rowing focus east of British Columbia

- The Centre for Social Innovation, where students and staff can use a downtown facility for classroom space and where we have access to a community of thousands of social innovators
- Attridge Transportation, allowing KCS to offer a bus shuttle between the Junior and Senior School as well as transportation to support place-based learning

Beyond these four partners are limitless opportunities, formal and informal, where we look forward to connecting students with external experts. To learn more about this feature of the Senior School, please visit our [KCS Learning Community webpages](#). Readers interested in becoming a Learning Partner can learn more [here](#).



The Centre for Social Innovation



Argonaut Rowing Club

YEAR 2 OF OUR SIGNATURE KCS PATH PROGRAM

Last year's students have begun their second year of Path.

Like last year, they'll add artifacts to their Path e-portfolio that reflect learning about their topics of greatest interest from an academic, artistic, athletic, and citizenship perspective, as well as an offsite experience. Every artifact must reflect evident growth from what was learned and demonstrated last year. As their knowledge and skills grow, they are increasingly recognized as experts within our school who can support other students and staff in their various projects. Thanks to these founding students, the following remain special areas of student and staff experience at

our school: filmmaking, graphic design, technology, music composition, digital art, Highland Dance, car design, and flight.

New students were introduced to the program and are now adding their compelling topics to our school: architecture, psychology, mechanical engineering, tennis, basketball, politics, LGBTQ2+ youth and much more. Completion of artifacts has begun, Path Mentors will soon be identified with expertise in related fields, and students have been invited to start weaving their topics into school assignments where relevant.

Path mentor and what I've learned

My Path mentor, Scott Dibble, is a music writer, song writer, solo performer, and band performer who has co-composed with many professional artists. He taught me quite a bit about the creative process that he goes through for songwriting and composing, and I have been really inspired by him ever since we met.

Next steps and future plans

I would like to start a small business creating logos for customers online

I will develop a website and build a social media presence to promote my work.

I will also reach out and offer to redesign logos

Academic Artifact

Comment faire un film

Il y a beaucoup d'étapes pour planifier un film

Étape pour créer un film

- Écrire le script et le choisir. Créer une présentation des plans et scènes.
- Tu peux planifier ton film par storyboard
- Dessiner tes plans dans le storyboard

Il y a beaucoup d'étapes pour planifier un film

KCS



"I am interested in exploring why humans make the decisions they do and what causes them to act in certain ways. If I had the time, resources, location, and access to expertise to pursue it in depth, I would run psychological experiments, and start my own tv-show about it."

(Student response when asked about their Path topic)

LEARNING LEADERSHIP

Youth care, have ideas, and want to make a difference.



Students addressing water pollution

The KCS Senior School is designed to honour this fact and help all students grow as leaders. In our distinct KCS By Design Program, students and staff meet each week in self-selected groups to help build the school experience in academics, arts, athletics, citizenship, and spirit by following a design thinking process.

Design thinking originated in industry and is increasingly leveraged in more sectors,

including education, as a process proven to be exceptionally effective in solving complex challenges. Meeting each week over their four years, our students will leave with a legacy of impact and a mindset that is notably prepared to bring value in whatever they pursue in life.

Here's an article sharing the story of last year's [KCS By Design experience](#), when students chose to help address water pollution.



OPEN HOUSES

We have many Open Houses scheduled for this year, including some taking place at the Senior School, others at our Junior School, and two that are virtual for those who find that option convenient.

Please visit the KCS website to find details on all [Open Houses this fall](#).

We're now accepting applications for Grades 9 to 11 for September 2023. 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,

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