

STORIES

from the Journey:

KCS Head of Senior School Update

02 . 10 . 2023



Students of the Senior School in the newly built entrance hall.

A tremendous amount has happened since our December 'Stories from the Journey' report. Here's how the KCS Senior School experience continues to grow thanks to dedicated staff, students, Learning Partners, and Toronto as our campus.

OUR GRAND OPENING

At long last, Phase one is done.

Those following our story for the past few years have likely seen the renderings of what our school would look like when construction was done. On January 19th, at our Grand Opening, our community saw those renderings made real. It's a jaw-dropping space, both warm and modern, student-friendly and inspiring.

> [See how beautiful a high school can be.](#)

None of this would have been possible without the generous donations of time and money offered by many. On behalf of the staff and students who get to meet, learn, and make a difference each day at the Senior School, please accept our deepest thanks.

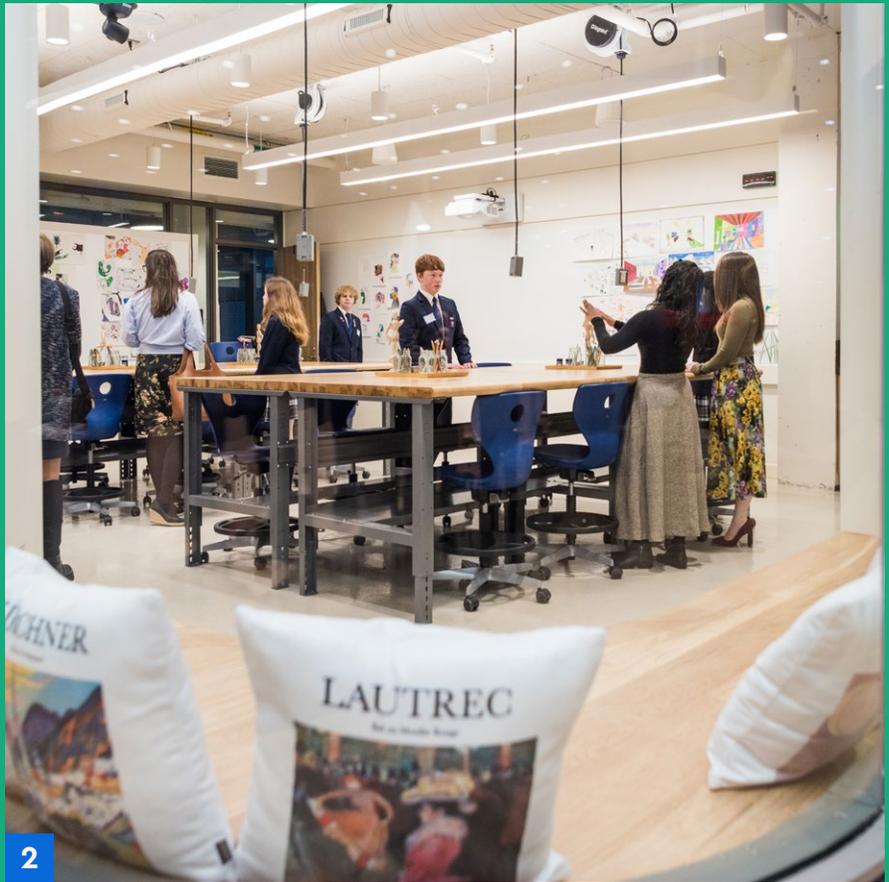
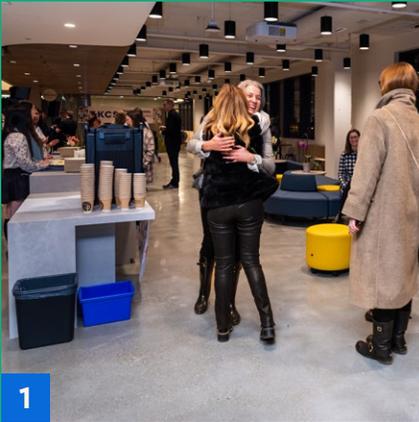
PLACE-BASED LEARNING AND THE EXPERTS FOUND OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

Our students continue to learn within our walls. Our new Science Lab, P.E. Lab, Art Room, classrooms,

and generous collaboration spaces are now fully embraced for learning. Our students also continue to go offsite when doing so helps them see their subjects in action. Most of the time, this offsite learning includes the inspiring opportunity to learn from external experts. Here are the locations visited since the December update:

- [Boulevard Club](#) (Grade 9 and 10 P.E.)
- [Argonaut Rowing Club](#) (Grade 9 P.E.)
- [Colonel Sam Smith Park](#) (Grade 9 P.E.)
- [Moss Park](#) neighbourhood, downtown Toronto (grade 10 Civics)
- [Four Villages Community Health Centre](#) (Grade 9 math and geography)
- [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) (Grade 9 and 10 Art)
- [Power House Recreation Centre](#) (Grade 9 Learning Strategies)
- [Sherway Gardens](#) (Grade 10 Business)
- [Apple Sherway](#) (Grade 9 and 10 Art)
- [Huron University College](#) (whole school introduction to post-secondary life and entrepreneurship)
- [Second City](#) (Grade 10 English)
- [Humber Bay Public Library](#) (Grade 9 Learning Strategies)
- [Boulderz](#) (Grade 10 P.E.)
- [DesignTO](#) (Grade 9 and 10 Communications Technology)

KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS



- 1: Grand Opening guests in the café;
- 2: New Art Studio;
- 3: Holiday social event;
- 4: Families touring the new Fitness Centre;
- 5: Skating skills development.



KCS PATH MENTORS AND OTHER LEARNING PARTNERS

Adults lead lives full of learning value for students. The KCS Path Program includes each student being assigned an adult Path Mentor with expertise in the topic of the student's choosing.

In addition to the experts met as part of place-based learning, teachers also invited speakers to connect with our students, whether virtually or in person, at the Senior School. Here are those that connected with our students, whether as Path Mentors or guest speakers, in school:

- Elly Gotz, a Holocaust survivor and author of [Flights of Spirit](#), speaking with our grade 10 history students
- James Noronha, Jordan Shanlin, and Samantha Jarvis-Cohen (KCS alum '13), from [Street Patrol](#), who spoke with our grade 10 Civics students about food insecurity
- Two senior staff from the City of Toronto and an EMS professional, who helped our Athletics' Committee learn about the process to have first aid made available in public skate parks
- Lucas Chang of [Y2 Entrepreneurship Labs](#), who spoke with grade 10 Careers' students

- Path Mentors:
 - Derek Poon, tennis
 - Gord Rife, mechanical engineering
 - Derek Logan, Canadian military history
 - Katie Jessop, nutrition
 - Pearce Perkins, digital artist and animator
 - Julie Hartley (Centauri Arts), storytelling
 - Alex Strain (RP4K), computer programming
 - Allen Rae, yachts
 - Pam Fanjoy, 2SLGBTQ+ and mental health
 - Jessica McIntyre, charitable business leadership
 - Ruth Linsky, primatology
 - Noel Morgan, fitness entrepreneurship
 - Alisa Jacobs, German language and life experience
 - Amanda Hatch, psychology

- Christine Hogarth, politics
- Jennifer Kennedy, dance and fitness
- Brandon Riddell, urban design
- Jeffrey Gryguc, car design
- Kate Kesikyla, information technology
- Shawn Cadeau, entrepreneurship
- Stacy McLellan, interior design
- Scott Dibble, music
- Kristen Gale, entrepreneurship
- Lisa Mina, nutrition
- John McGraw, neuroscience
- Scott Posno, architect
- Cindy Hu, music



STUDENT-LED CAFÉ LAUNCH

(Introduction to entrepreneurship)



Food service is a welcome addition to the KCS Senior School. Among all the benefits, one that might come as a surprise is student entrepreneurship.

Thanks to the mindset and life skills it exercises, entrepreneurship is part of what all students will experience at the KCS Senior School. It is also officially underway in our student-led café.

All grade 10s were challenged to launch the café. In Path and their Careers course, they:

- were introduced to entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, and the various elements of a thoughtful venture: value proposition, customer segments, key resources, key partners, cost structure, revenue streams, and more.
- helped create a customer research survey and analyzed the results to create a menu, determine café hours, and make choices regarding pricing and other customer preferences.

- held a soft launch for the grades 9s and staff, serving homemade crepes, cookies, chicken nuggets, chocolate milk, and lemonade.
- had a workshop with Lucas Chang of [Y2 Entrepreneurship Labs](#) to reflect on the launch, make adjustments, and engage in price modelling that would calculate per-unit cost.

With the addition of the Café Club, interested grade 9 and 10 students have signed up to staff the café, currently every Friday at lunch. The grade 10s will continue to oversee the business, monitoring revenue and costs, and making adjustments as needed. We all get to enjoy the buzz of a café, mouth-watering aromas, and a convenient availability of delicious food and drink in our Market Place.



KCS By Design is a distinct leadership program that all students engage in each week.

In September, students joined committees where they would play a role in shaping the school experience in one of the following areas: academics, arts, athletics, citizenship, and spirit.

While the process can vary by group, here's how their leadership generally unfolds:

- brainstorming big ideas on a challenge or opportunity that members within each committee want to address
- deciding as a group if they wish to work together on one idea or subdivide to work on more than one
- beginning research on the idea(s), including the possibility of interviewing experts to learn more
- engaging in an [8-in-8 brainstorming exercise](#) to generate a large number of potential ways to address the chosen challenge
- sharing the top ideas from the 8-in-8 and engage in a multi-voting exercise to see where interest and support among the group land
- identifying, figuring out, and executing on the chosen idea(s)

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. This year's students have identified several worthy areas of leadership to explore, including the design of our unfinished space, introducing Arts Week, and taking steps to address human rights, health care, and civic literacy. We look forward to sharing progress in future updates.

OPEN HOUSES

We have a few more [Open Houses](#) scheduled this year, including one on Monday, April 3rd, from 8 to 10:00 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 still 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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