

STORIES

from the Journey:



KCS Head of Senior School Update

12 . 19 . 2023



The first term has been a whirlwind of student learning and leadership. Our strong start was shared in the [October Stories from the Journey](#). Here's an update on some of the distinct new ways learning and leadership have happened since then.

ENRICHING CURRICULUM WITH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The KCS Senior School challenges students to apply their learning in ways that make an authentic difference. Here's a sample of what that looks like when our community of students, teachers, and Learning Partners work together on that mission.

Grade 11 Entrepreneurship

Students recently completed a three-session workshop led by the [Longo Centre for Entrepreneurship](#) (CfE) at Humber College. Our students have now each prepared a venture and pitch that has been entered into a Longo CfE contest to win up to \$5000. Also as part of this course, students organized our first-ever school dance – a tremendous success.

Grade 11 Food and Culture

Students earned industry-standard Food Preparation Certificates (thanks to partner [A Poetic Health](#))

and have since been cooking, baking, and diving into the role of food in cultures around the world. A new partnership between these students and the student-led café means we now have 'specials' available for sale every Friday at lunch, contributing to triple-digit café profits already this fall.

Grade 9 Art

Students partnered with the KCS Grade 4s to co-design T-shirts for [Pink Shirt Day](#), happening across Canada on February 28. A student vote will select the winning shirt design, which will then be made into shirts available for purchase.

Grade 10 Careers and Path

Students in Grade 10 were challenged to “relaunch” our student-led café. They are learning about the traits of an entrepreneur, corporate social responsibility, value propositions, market research, and more. They learned about the café from their market research survey and by interviewing the student executives who currently lead it. Each Grade 10 cohort will engage in this relaunch exercise each year.

KCS

SENIOR SCHOOL

MOMENTS



1



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- 1: Pin and Tie Ceremony
- 2: Trip to William White TechLab
- 3: Student-led event: Lakeshore Lights
- 4: Movember Activities
- 5: Cereal Drive Initiative and Basketball Tournament

LEARNING WITH LEARNING PARTNERS

In every course, students meet external experts who add field-related experience to student learning. Sometimes, students meet these experts offsite; other times, the Learning Partners come to the school.



The list of all Learning Partners engaged since early October is too long to include in this update. For a generous sample, here are some of the people who have helped our students see their courses with new eyes:

- Argonaut Rowing Club
- Boulderz Climbing Centre
- Collège Jules Michelet, Guadeloupe
- Dr. John McGraw, entrepreneur and neuroscientist
- Dr. Neil Robertson, University of King's College professor
- Eurostep Basketball
- It Gets Better Canada
- Legislative Assembly of Ontario
- Longo Centre for Entrepreneurship, Humber College
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Museum of Illusions
- Roy Thompson Hall
- The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
- The Boulevard Club
- The Four Villages Community Health Centre
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- University of Guelph
- William White Virtual Production Tech Lab



Here is a sample of the topics being explored by this year's students:

- Adolescent psychology
- Aviation
- Animal cognition
- Architecture
- Car design
- Engineering
- Entrepreneurship
- Filmmaking
- Geopolitics
- Human Rights Law
- Neurosurgery
- Psychology of music
- Robotics
- Sports analytics
- Sports psychology
- Storytelling
- Technology
- Videogame design

The KCS Path Program

It's fascinating what students choose to learn about when given the choice. The new year in our signature Path Program has started with many students continuing topics from last year, some changing it up, and new students taking their first steps in their topic of choice. I get as much pleasure hearing about student topics as I do seeing how veteran students are maturing as learners and leaders through this program.

Every student has the support of their Faculty Advisor and dedicated time to work on their Path Project. Each student also has an external expert in a related field. Our students recently wrote a professional email introducing themselves to their new Mentor (or reconnecting with the Mentor from last year) and booking an online meeting that the student will lead.

One Student's Journey

One of our grade 11 students chose technology and entrepreneurship for his Path topics. Here is what school can include when you make room for student passions, strengths, and agency.

This student:

- Played a lead role launching and running our student-led cafe.
- Created a fully functioning point-of-sale system in Google Sheets.
- Is overseeing the financials of the cafe, working with our Business Office, and helping facilitate the introduction to entrepreneurship that all grade 10s engage in.
- Applied and was accepted to join KCS Learning Partner The Knowledge Society (TKS), a year-long incubator to learn, network, and develop a solution to a global problem with leading edge technology (these are specific expectations of TKS).
- Joined an online meeting with Google executives to learn about and brainstorm a corporate challenge around employee training.
- Shared a possible solution with an expert in machine learning and has now been offered an internship to co-develop the idea for the employee-training market.
- Is writing a chapter on his experience as a student entrepreneur for a soon-to-be-published book, edited by a leader in education and author of multiple books, on the value of schools connecting student learning with authentic responsibilities.

All of the above is invited, supported, recognized and qualifies as part of his KCS Path project.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP BY DESIGN



Students in KBD sewing pillow prototypes.

One way in which every student at the Senior School engages in authentic leadership is our [KCS By Design program](#). Each week, students meet in committees of their choosing where they follow a design thinking process to help build the school experience in one of the following areas: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Citizenship, DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), and Social and Event Planning.

Academics:

Leading a Path audit to bolster student autonomy towards a successful project.

Arts:

Place making - adding life to KCS! Inspired by the "uncomfortable" pillows in the Learning Commons, the Arts Kbd group will be making pillows. Starting with the design phase, followed by sourcing materials, and finally creating the pillows. The sewing machine is ready and waiting!

Athletics:

Increasing promotion and engagement in physical activity, including new lunchtime offerings.

Citizenship:

Improving belonging at KCS during downtime and events outside of class time; and improving belonging/school experience within classes and timetable structure.

DEI/Social & Event Planning:

Improving school spirit by increasing participation in clubs and athletics.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

OPEN HOUSES

We have many [Open Houses](#) scheduled this year, including one on Thursday, January 11, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Senior School.

Please visit

www.kcs.on.ca/academics/senior-school to learn more about the KCS Senior School and how it allows students to thrive at school and beyond. Even better, [sign up for an Open House](#) so you can see for yourself!

If you have questions or wish to book a personal tour, please reach out to Nichola Ward, Office Manager, at nward@kcs.on.ca.

I hope you've enjoyed this update as much as we're enjoying the journey.

Kind regards,



ANDREA

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FACILITY UPDATE

Our facility has now won two architecture awards. The October issue shared news of [the Metamorphosis Award](#) awarded over the summer. More recently we learned that the KCS Senior School project (work done by Wood Logix) won first place in the category of Institutional Projects from Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada (AWMAC) Ontario.

The design for the final phase of construction is almost complete. Construction is planned to begin early in the new year. More details will follow in the next Stories from the Journey.



KCS ATHLETICS

One of our athletes represented the KCS Senior School at this year's [Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations \(OFSAA\)](#) cross-country championships, placing 29th out of 265 of the province's fastest runners in his cohort. An exciting first for the school!

- We're currently offering 15 clubs and teams, including the new winter offerings of basketball, swimming, skiing, and Reach for the Top.
- Our Investment Team created a portfolio that performed in the top 10% of all teams in the [Wharton Global Youth Investment Challenge](#).



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