

# STORIES

from the Journey:



## KCS Head of Senior School Update

05. 04. 2024



Group Photo in Amsterdam

Our first international trip is now in the books, winter athletics recently wrapped up, and student learning and leadership continue to mount. It's a pleasure to share how our growing community embraces opportunity and shows what's possible when school is designed to realize potential. Here's an update since our [December issue of Stories from the Journey](#).

### PLACE-BASED LEARNING GOES INTERNATIONAL

KCS students learn about the world by regularly being in it. Our school has had a legacy of leading a March Break European Battlefields Trip for interested students for twenty years. After an interruption from the pandemic, we were delighted to bring this trip back for Senior School students.

This year's trip has impacted all of our students and created many memories that will last a lifetime. Memorable stops included the Berlin Wall and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp in Berlin; Groesbeek War Cemetery and the Freedom Museum in the Netherlands; Essex Farm Cemetery and the Menin Gates in Ypres; and of course, Vimy Ridge and Juno Beach.

Each of our stops along the way not only taught us about these historic events, but also made us ask why they occurred and challenged us to see where the events of the past impact us today.



Touring France



Lunch in Berlin



# KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS



- 1: DECA Provincials Competition
- 2: Grade 10 Biodiversity Workshop
- 3: First ski meet at Alpine Ski Resort
- 4: Cross Campus Collaboration - Pink Shirt Day Initiative
- 5: Grade 9 Math Financial Literacy Presentation





Grade 9 Sample Lecture Series hosted by the TMU Creative School

## EXPERIENCING POST-SECONDARY LIFE AND LEARNING

Thanks to our faculty and their determination to introduce students to the world beyond school, our students enjoyed twelve learning experiences with post-secondary professors, and usually at their institutions, between October and April this year. Here's a sample:

- Grade 10 Careers students visited University of Toronto for a tour and introduction to programs and the student life they offer.
- Grade 11 Biology and Food and Culture students spent a day learning at Guelph University's GRIPP (Gosling Research Institute for Plant Preservation) Institute as well as their Food Science's Laboratory.
- Grade 9 Math students are engaged in an extended financial literacy project with a professor at TMU, which will soon include the students presenting their projects at TMU.
- Grade 9 and one student taking Grade 12 Communications Tech had a workshop on filmmaking at York University's Motion Media Studio at Cinespace Studios.

**Institutions our students will have visited, learned in, or enjoyed guest speakers from this year include:**



- University of King's College
- University of Victoria
- St. Francis Xavier (StFX) University
- Carleton University
- Humber College
- York University
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- University of Guelph
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- University of Toronto
- Dalhousie University

**A trip to east-coast universities for interested grade 10 and 11 students, including accommodation in a StFX residence, is taking place this spring.**

# THANKS TO OUR KCS LEARNING PARTNERS



Grade 9 P.E. at High Park Curling Club



The learning experience for students and faculty is regularly enriched by the added perspectives and expertise of our Learning Partners and the facilities many of them make available.

In addition to the post-secondary institutions and experts met there, here are some of the individuals and organizations who added to student learning since our last update in December:

- All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church to support their Out of the Cold Program
- Amazon Fulfillment Centre
- Argonaut Rowing Club
- Art Gallery of Ontario
- Eurostep Basketball
- GLE Powerhouse Recreation Centre
- High Park Curling Club
- Humber Bay Shores greenspace
- Nathan Phillips Square
- Ontario Court of Justice
- Royal Ontario Museum
- TMU Creative School's Red Bull Gaming Hub Manager Geoffrey Lachapelle
- TMU Professor and Ed-tech entrepreneur Michael McCarthy



Grade 9 Visual Arts class at the Keith Haring and KAWS exhibit.

## CLUBS AND TEAMS

The Senior School is committed to offering a rich array of clubs and teams. The spring term includes the following clubs and teams:

- Art Skills and Murals Club
- Assembly and Announcements Club
- Coding/Programming/Virtual Robotics
- DECA
- Math Contest Club
- Gaming
- House Captains
- Ladder Ball and Ping Pong
- Makerspace, 3D Printing
- Reach for the Top
- Library Committee
- Student-led Café
- Tennis Club
- Track and Field
- Yoga and Service



CISAA Swim Meet





## THE KCS PATH PROGRAM

### EXPANDING WHAT'S POSSIBLE BY LETTING STUDENTS LEAD LEARNING

All students continue to build their portfolios with artifacts of learning related to their Path topics. Here's a sample of some impressive student-driven learning:

- A Grade 9 student prepared and delivered a class on the Python coding language to our Grade 6 classes for his topic on video game development
- A Grade 9 student has joined higher grade Biology classes to participate in three dissections as part of her interest in animal science
- A Grade 10 student is organizing an English field trip for her class to the [FOLD Literary Festival](#)
- A Grade 10 student is working with senior administrators to establish a steering committee that will support efficiency, communication, and effectiveness of student leadership
- A Grade 11 student is applying his interest in architecture to assist the design of our growing library
- A Grade 11 student is planning to help mall-walking seniors by offering workshops in movement and dance that may help spark emotion and engagement with others

### ONE STUDENT'S JOURNEY

It's remarkable to see what unfolds when conditions support student leadership in learning. One of our students chose dermatology as her Path topic when she joined our school last year, then changed her topic to law for Grade 11. Here is what she has initiated in Path, just because she chose to:

- Wrote a research essay on the interaction between genetic and environmental factors on skin disorders
- Created a 3D model of the three layers of skin
- Organized a full-day field placement at a Medcan dermatology clinic, shadowing the dermatologist during appointments and interviewing staff
- Led a fundraiser to support skin cancer research and to raise awareness about moles that are potentially cancerous
- Created an infographic to help educate peers on how to protect skin while working out
- Played a lead role in establishing the Senior School library, meeting regularly with the Head of Senior School to learn, ideate, and plan, plus chairing the newly established student-led library committee
- Engaged in an orientation to the Junior School library, related policies, procedures, and our school's online platform under the guidance of a KCS Teacher Librarian





KCS by Design partnered with Corporate Canine Therapy

## OPEN HOUSES

We have many **Open Houses** scheduled this year, including one on **Tuesday April 23, 2024 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at the **Senior School.**

Please visit

[www.kcs.on.ca/academics/senior-school](http://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](mailto:nward@kcs.on.ca).

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

Kind regards,



**ANDREA**

Head of Senior School

[afanjoy@kcs.on.ca](mailto: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](http://kcs.on.ca/senior-school)

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP BY DESIGN

The **KCS By Design** program immerses all students in a **design thinking process** to help build the school experience. Every student joins a **weekly committee meeting** to focus on one of five areas: **academics, arts, athletics, citizenship, DEI/social event planning.**

**Here are some of this year's initiatives that are either now complete or nearing conclusion:**

- helping to establish the Senior School library
- recommending changes to next year's timetable
- students working with the Boulevard Club to introduce a sailing club at KCS
- starting an announcement Committee for live morning announcements once per week
- designing and making 'pizza' cushions
- adding new physical activity opportunities
- creating a storage solution for student sneakers
- initiated a visit from therapy dogs before winter exams
- establishing a student leadership steering Committee
- introducing new in-school snack options
- helped organize the Remembrance Day ceremony and the inaugural Winter Wonders event
- preparing for a spring spirit event and our end-of-year KCS Fest

## **Expanding What's Possible: A White Paper on Kingsway College School**

A white paper that shares the academic details of the "what" and the "why" of the Senior School model was written in response to the evident interest of parents, educators, and other professionals who care about youth and how they can be supported in thriving at school and beyond.

To learn more about our story, we hope you enjoy [Expanding What's Possible: Kingsway College School](#).