

STORIES

from the Journey:



KCS Head of Senior School Update

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Student leadership in learning

makes each day at our Senior School as interesting as high school should be. Enjoy this update, the first since our November 2024 issue of Stories from the Journey.

OUR GRADS ARE GOING PLACES

We're delighted to share that our eleven graduating students have already received 37 early offers and six scholarships to universities from coast to coast. Programs of interest include Computer Science, Engineering, the Arts, Commerce, and Human Kinetics. We look forward to sharing updates after the usual offer season begins in March.

The KCS Senior School was intentionally designed to prepare students for their post-secondary plans. Specifically:

1. Our students receive individualized guidance in their academic journey from Grade 9 to Grade 12, thanks to Director of Guidance Jen Lillie, their dedicated Faculty Advisor, and teachers who weave career exploration into their courses.
2. Our enriched experiential program is designed for optimal academic growth, so students can earn their best marks while also learning well beyond the curriculum, about the world and themselves.
3. Every student is building a differentiating record of learning and leadership that competitive programs seek, thanks to our KCS Path Program and our KCS By Design student leadership program.



All readers wishing to understand the details of what we do and why are encouraged to read our white paper [Expanding What's Possible in Education: Kingsway College School.](#)

KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS



- 1: Skiing at Devils Glen
- 2: iFly Physics Field Trip
- 3: [Prom Glitz](#) Charity Drive
- 4: Girls Volleyball Game
- 5: Grade 10 Digital Tech students at Objex Unlimited
- 6: Grade 9 Comm Tech students at York Motion Media Studio
- 7: Winter Wonders Holiday Showcase

Please view our [Winter Wonders](#) video created by our students and faculty.



PLACE- BASED LEARNING

An exciting part of our evidence-based program is place-based learning. By design, students in every course will have one or more opportunities to see their subject in action by getting outside our building and learning in facilities and greenspaces across the GTA and beyond, often in partnership with external experts.

Youth want to understand the world and the relevance of all they learn at school. Going off site also builds broad awareness, confidence, life skills, and the relationships that forge in special experiences.



Here are some of the remarkable locations where learning took place since November:

- Gr. 10 Digital Technologies: Objex Unlimited, 3-D printing for industry
- Gr. 12 Physics: High Park for student-made rocket launching
- Gr. 12 Art: PowerPlant Gallery and Harbourfront Gallery
- Gr. 9 and 10 Physical Education: Eurostep Basketball, Argonaut Rowing Club, Boulderz Climbing Centre, Nathan Phillips Square for skating
- Gr. 11 Law: University Ave Courthouse
- Gr. 10 Communications Technology: Motion Media Studio at Cinespace Studios
- Gr. 11 English: Nathan Phillips Square, Moss Park, Eaton Centre for a Social Justice Issues Audit
- Gr. 12 Biology: behind the scenes at Ripley's Aquarium
- Gr. 11 Chemistry, Gr. 12 Biology and Physics: Cryo Electron Microscopy Lab at SickKids
- Gr. 9 Geography and Gr. 12 Business: Gardiner Museum.
- Gr. 10 Civics: Queen's Park
- Gr. 11 and 12 Physics: iFLY indoor skydiving
- Gr. 10 and 12 Communications Technology: York U Motion Media Studio at Cinespace Studios
- Gr. 11 Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology: ROM
- Gr. 12 Art: AGO
- Gr. 12 Interactive Media and Gr. 12 Business: Concord Autoport to learn about emerging technologies that assist in the digitalization, efficiency, and security
- Gr. 10 Business: Humber College Centre for Entrepreneurship

CONSTRUCTION (ALMOST) COMPLETE!

These early years have been full of big milestones. Without a doubt, finishing the construction of our 40,000 sq. ft. facility will be among them. Our Phase 1 space earned three architecture awards and visible delight when visitors first entered our space. Soon we'll have new dedicated spaces to further build our offering and community.



- A dedicated Communications Technology Lab with an attached editing suite and iMacs to support high-end creative work will be a welcome home to the remarkable work already happening in that department.
- A Prototyping Makerspace will support more of the hands-on learning and creating that we're keen to help grow here.
- Our Student Services hub will support our growing student body, differentiated learning, and post-secondary planning.
- MacLachlan Hall will be our new assembly space, available for large gatherings as well as more room for our physical education offerings.
- A dedicated music room, multimedia studio, second science lab, and multiple new classrooms and breakout spaces will also be exciting to enjoy in the coming weeks.

KCS By Design (KBD) - Student Leadership in Media Literacy

A student in our Civic Engagement KBD Committee is in his third year raising awareness of politics, civic issues, and the importance of critical thinking when consuming news. Last spring, he brought to our attention an impressive resource to help: a global news aggregator and Ontario start-up called [Ground News](#). It not only gathers news articles from around the world (60,000 a day from 50,000 sources), it also takes compelling steps to help us all read with the care and critical thinking that's needed.

Earlier this school year, the student delivered presentations to our KCS Teacher Librarian, other faculty, and me. Thanks to his leadership, KCS has a new school-wide subscription and reading the news now includes a visible measure of each sources' record on accuracy and bias. It also includes information on the ownership structure of each news source. All articles come with easy links to the same story from different sources, making it seamless to learn about news from multiple sources and perspectives. Finally, because difference-making requires much more than just buying a solution, this student leader will lead the effort to promote this new resource and help teachers who wish to introduce it to their students.

Active citizenship has long been a core value of KCS. Developments in the world make this more important than ever. Students care about the world and want to help make it better. Inviting students to lead in ways that matter to them is an inspiring way to do so.



KCS Path Program - Now Including Mentorship from our Grade 12 Students

The Advisor Program in Grade 12 includes our most senior students exercising leadership of all kinds, sometimes stepping in where needed and many other times initiating something brand new for our community. A drive to gather gently used formal dresses to help the charity Prom Glitz was the most recent and hugely successful example.



Starting this Semester, our Grade 12 students will also offer Path mentorship to our Grade 9 students. Most students joining in Grade 9 aren't used to the challenge posed by Path; all will benefit from the earned experience of our Grade 12 students.

We look forward to their help as Grade 9 students wrap up their first year initiatives, learning about their topics from the lenses of academics, arts, athletics, citizenship, and off site learning.

If you're wondering what topics Grade 9 students might choose when asked what they are most motivated to learn about, here are topics ours are pursuing:

- Investing
- Language learning (current focus: Japanese)
- Contract law
- Video game creation
- Roller coasters
- Cardiology
- Acting
- Sports training
- Transportation
- Sports marketing
- Veterinary medicine
- Interior design
- Videography
- Aerospace engineering
- Zoology
- Building computers
- Beauty product industry
- Neurology
- Cooking
- Sound systems



OPEN HOUSES

We have many **Open Houses** scheduled this year, including one on **Tuesday, February 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.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 Taiwo, Senior School Registrar and Office Manager, at ntaiwo@kcs.on.ca.

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

Kind regards,



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