

STORIES

from the Journey:



KCS Head of Senior School Update

12.10.2025



Courses are underway, Camp Onondaga 2025 is now behind us, and we held our Pin and Tie Ceremony welcoming new students and recognizing student engagement and with, for the first time, a Senior School alum as guest speaker.

KCS Senior School students are showing what's possible when they're inspired to learn about the world and help shape it for the better. Here are some of those stories from our journey since [our last issue](#).



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](#).

Our Founding Graduates

We were proud - and not at all surprised - to see how well our founding graduates did in post-secondary admissions. Our eleven Grade 12 graduates received a total of 61 offers from universities across Canada, including University of Toronto, Queen's University, McMaster University and many more, plus one from Michigan State in the US. Scholarship awards added up to over \$60,000.

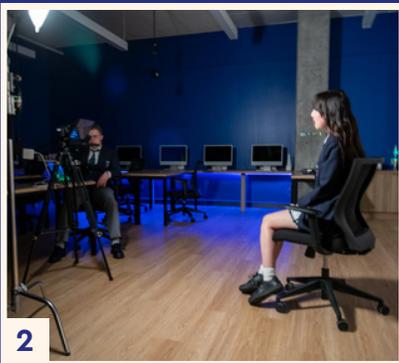
Our alumni are now beginning their futures in Engineering, Health Sciences, Architecture, Computer Science, Arts, Business, and more.

The Senior School is intentionally designed to help students thrive both at high school and in their post-secondary learning and leadership.

Here are some of the features that help realize this for every student:

- ✓ Notably enriched instruction that includes opportunities in every course to learn from **external experts** and to experience their subjects in action outside of school.
- ✓ The intentional development **of agency** in every course and co-curricular, equipping students to take charge of their learning, be resourceful, and exercise initiative in going beyond expectations.
- ✓ A bedrock of **relationships**, built through our Advisory program, Outdoor Education, open-ended support for student initiative, and an experiential, place-based program that optimizes learning, community-building, and well-being.
- ✓ Weekly engagement in our signature **Path**, program where every student from Grades 9 -12 has dedicated time and guidance to independently pursue learning on a topic of their choosing. Our graduates each built a personal and differentiating story of initiative and dedication that was inherently rewarding while also opening doors to competitive programs and scholarships.
- ✓ Weekly engagement in our **KCS By Design (KBD)** student leadership program, where every student joins a committee of their choosing, follows a design thinking process, and persists in making a thoughtful difference in the community. **The initiative exercised in KBD is also what competitive post-secondary programs and scholarships seek.**

KCS SENIOR SCHOOL MOMENTS



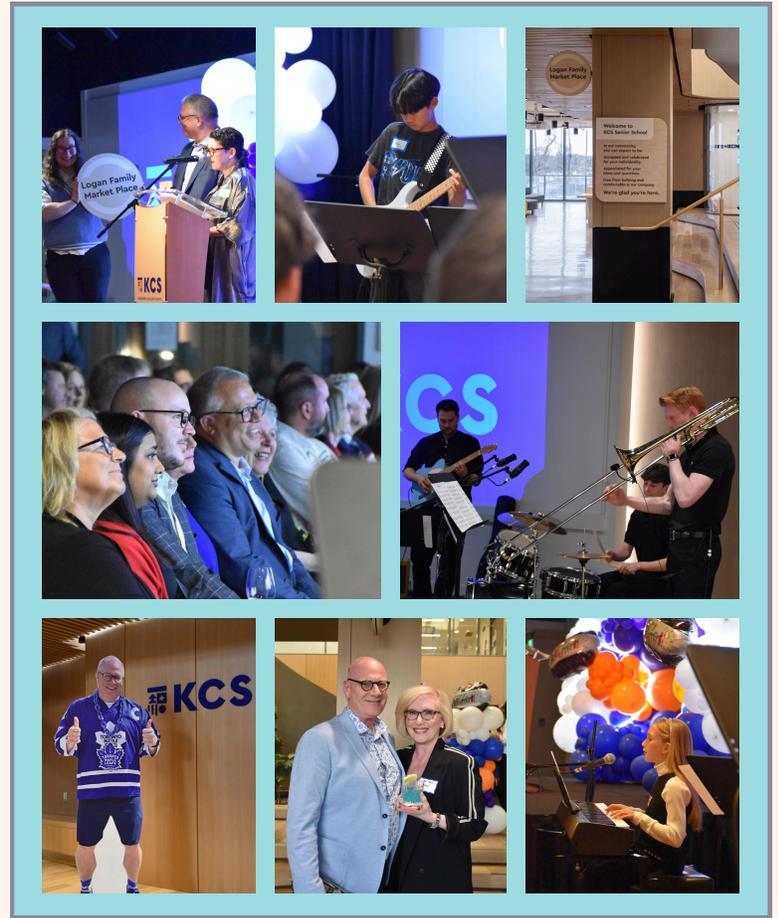
- 1: First Grade 12 Graduating Class
- 2: PATH Learning Showcase Exhibit
- 3: Post Secondary Visit to McMasters
- 4: KCS Remembrance Day Assembly
- 5: Orange Shirt Day & visit with Anishinaabe Great Lakes artist Michael Belmore.
- 6: Camp Onondaga - Cross Campus Trip
- 7: Senior School Flag Football Team

Grand Opening and Gratitude

In May we hosted our Grand Opening, marking the end of construction, celebrating of our fully built facility, and honouring Derek Logan, now retired Head of School who dedicated 26 years to KCS, 18 as Head. Over 400 members of the community - current and alumni - came to see our award-winning facility, reminisce, and share memories and stories of impact from their time at KCS.

In addition to realizing the launch of the KCS Senior School, over his tenure as Head of School, Mr. Logan oversaw:

- A capital project to double the size of KCS's JK-8 school
- Amalgamation with the former St. George's Nursery School
- The doubling of the student population
- The bold commitment to student and community mental health as a foundational priority.



Introducing our new Head of School, Garth Nichols



KCS is excited to welcome Garth Nichols as our fifth Head of School. Garth has led a notable career as a dedicated educator putting students at the heart of schools. With a focus on experiential education, Basketball and Softball coaching, and on educational leadership (check out his podcast with Head of Rundle Academy Jason Rodgers' ['Lassoing Leadership'](#)), Garth believes that schools should respond to what the future is demanding of students.

In this way, he is an innovator, and a leader in schools as well as in our Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario (CIS Ontario) and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) leading key strategic and innovation projects to support continuous improvement in Independent Schools.. We look forward to watching KCS continue to grow with Mr. Nichols leading the community.



Garth Nichols was recently recognized by the University of Toronto as the 2025 OISE CPL Award of Excellence recipient, an honor celebrating his role as an exceptional leader, collaborator, and "lead learner."



PLACE-BASED LEARNING

Place-Based learning is an exciting component of our evidence-based program. During the past school year we had **58** individual excursions that support student learning.

We began the year having our Grade 7 and 8 students join our Grade 9-12 classes at Camp Onondaga. This was a wonderful and purposeful way to start the year by intentionally building our community right from the beginning.

By design, students in every course will have one or more opportunities throughout the year to see their subject in action. This means getting outside our building and learning in facilities and greenspaces across the GTA and beyond, often in partnership with external experts.

Why this focus on learning off-site?

Young people naturally want to understand the world and see the relevance of everything they learn at school. Taking learning off-site also builds broad awareness, confidence, life skills, and the strong relationships that are forged during special, shared experiences.

We believe this approach is vital for making learning meaningful and preparing our students for life beyond the classroom.



Rock Climbing at Boulderz Climbing Centre



Business and Entrepreneurship students at the Humber Polytechnic Competition



Grade 10 History Trip to Montreal

Here are some of the remarkable locations where learning took place in 2024 and to begin 2025:

- **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. 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
- **Gr. 12 Biology:** behind the scenes at Ripley's Aquarium
- **Gr. 11 Chem, Gr. 12 Biology and Physics:** Cryo Electron Microscopy Lab at SickKids
- **Gr. 10 Civics:** Queen's Park
- **Gr. 11 and 12 Physics:** iFLY indoor skydiving
- **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
- **Gr. 10/11 Music:** Roy Thompson Hall
- **Gr. 9 Science:** Humber Arboretum
- **Gr. 12 Challenge and Change in Society:** Graffiti Alley





We are excited about the role senior students play in strengthening our community through the Grade 12 Advisor Program.

This program supports our Grade 12 students to exercise leadership of all kinds—leading several of our school’s initiatives such as **Welcome Fest** and our **Terry Fox Run**, stepping in where needed in **athletics, clubs, and KCS by Design**, and regularly initiating something brand new for our school.

KCS PATH PROGRAM

Now Including Mentorship from our Grade 12 Students

A current example of this is our school’s recognition of Movember. Several Grade 12’s are “starting the conversation” about men’s physical and mental health by sharing stories from their own lives, role modeling that being open and vulnerable will lead to a future of better health. They are also organizing a variety of contests and activities: smoothie mustache morning, design a mustache art challenge, and of course, facial hair growing contests which includes the prized award for “Patchy and Proud.” This level of student-led engagement is what makes the program so valuable.

Our Grade 12 students are also engaged with the Grade 9’s as mentors, specifically helping provide guidance for the Path program. to our incoming Grade 9 students in the Path program (a passion project based program emphasizing future ready skills. This challenge is new for most of them, and all will benefit greatly from the earned experience and insights of our senior students.

To further support this process, we are also implementing Growing Partnership Sessions. These sessions offer opportunities for our students to interact with alumni and community members who may serve as Path mentors and offer great support to our students. Sessions include content such as; Adopting a Portfolio Mindset to Navigate Change, Money and Meaning, Communication in Action, Design as the silent ambassador of your brand, Your Story - Your Edge, and so many more. We look forward to supporting student growth through these first-year initiatives, viewing their chosen topics through the lenses of academics, arts, athletics, citizenship, and off-site learning.



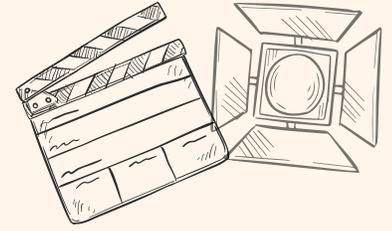
If you're wondering what topics Grade 9 students choose when asked what they are most motivated to learn about, here is a snapshot of what our current students are pursuing:

- 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



KCS BY DESIGN (KBD)

CREATIVE LABS



KCS by Design allows our students to increase their agency by stepping into the role of innovative problem-solvers.

Using the design-thinking model, students are empowered to identify a need of their choosing—whether within the school experience or within their local communities and subsequently come up with original solutions or new ideas to address it. This process is instrumental in building their capacity as student leaders and cultivating leaders who are keenly focused on their communities.

With dedicated faculty guidance, students are given the freedom to explore, create, and implement the solution of their choosing, fostering genuine ownership and real-world results.

Through this type of student leadership, KCS Creative Labs was born. Creative Labs is a unified creative innovation hub that equips students with the technological, creative, and collaborative skills necessary to be leaders and change-makers in our community.

Photography captured by Creative Labs students below.



Incredible Athletic Media Day shots



Grade 8 Cross-Campus Collaboration Day



Camp Onondaga through student lenses

As we evolve and grow, students will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning and real-world problem-solving in support of academic, extra-curricular, and community projects across both campuses. We look forward to tracking the progress of this initiative.



END OF A JOURNEY

Now that we've graduated our first class from Grade 12 and the facility is complete it feels like we have brought this part of our journey to an end.

We will have many more journeys, and stories to tell, but we have decided that this will be our last "Stories from the Journey".

Thanks to all the readers and those of you who have supported us in so many ways. Please continue to follow us on our website and through social media as we continue to grow and serve our Kindergarten to Grade 12 community.



OPEN HOUSES

We have many Open Houses scheduled, including one on **Tuesday, January 13, from 9:30 to 11:30 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 admissions@kcs.on.ca and we will ensure that we find a date that works for you.



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KCS graduates stand out for their readiness to embrace life's challenges and opportunities in an ever-changing world.