



# CURRICULUM MATTERS

## Fall 2019



### Dear Fieldstone Family,

This year marks my tenth year at Fieldstone. During my time at the school, I've witnessed much growth and continued development. I've seen a variety of different policies, programmes, and pedagogies introduced to ensure that our students get the best possible support and enrichment whether in Kindergarten or Grade Twelve.

The aspect of Fieldstone that has never changed in its two decades as a school is its unwavering commitment to a unique and rigorous curriculum. With our Friday Files, Biweekly International Newsletters, and social media posts, we often highlight the vibrant cocurricular life of Fieldstone.

This newsletter, however, focuses on the heart of our school - our curriculum - and profiles the way in which classes from JK to Grade Twelve engage with curriculum concepts in innovative and enriching ways.

I'm excited to share these with you in the first of three "Curriculum Matters" editions to be sent this school year. Happy reading!

**Stephanie Long**  
School Communications Coordinator  
Assistant Head- FKCS

## Curriculum: The Heart of Fieldstone for Over Twenty Years

Fieldstone has always been committed to a curriculum that stretches our students but also scaffolds and supports every step of the learning journey. With this approach, we ensure that students are challenged, but also that they remain confident and retain their love of learning.

Our school was founded with an incorporation of E.D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge Curriculum. In 2010, we adopted the Cambridge curriculum as a way to build upon the solid foundation of Core Knowledge and ensure that our students were provided with a world-renowned university preparation programme that focused on the synthesis and application of curriculum concepts.

We are proud to be the only school that offers both Cambridge and Core Knowledge programmes and are confident that our strong curriculum and experienced and innovative teachers provide the best possible learning opportunities and environment for students.



E.D. Hirsch (Photo: Policy Exchange/Flickr)

## Visual Arts

In Visual Arts at Fieldstone, we foster the creativity of our students and we introduce them to a wide repertoire of classic works of art included in the Core Knowledge curriculum.

Recently, the students in Grade Two studied and emulated the art of Katsusika Hokusai from Japan.

The students were studying the importance of one of the elements of art: line. Note the powerful wave lines in these pictures (drawn by FDS students). Our young artists enjoy learning about classic works of art and applying the techniques of the masters to their own artistic endeavours.



## Communications Technology

Our FKCS students appreciate the chance to experiment and create with new media. They often apply techniques they learn in Communications Technology to their work in other subjects such as Marketing or English. As in every Fieldstone class, a small class size allows our teacher to give students ample mentorship and guidance as they hone their digital skills.

Students in Communications Technology recently worked on a series of digitally-manipulated photography assignments. For one of the assignments, students played with scale and created both a “miniature” and “giant” photo of themselves. Assignments like these invite students to practise their newly-acquired Photoshop techniques in a creative and playful manner.





# History

Fieldstone teachers use innovative teaching strategies to bring history to life in their classes.

The Grade Eights recently explored the duplicity with which historians can look back on some historical figures. For this activity, they put Louis Riel on trial. The class was split into a prosecution team and a defense team. It was up to the students to research and create an argument based on one primary source and one secondary source that would prove to the judge (our beloved Mr. Blasiak) whether or not Riel was innocent and deserved mercy or if he should be put to death through an execution.

This activity allowed students to explore the nature of how historians categorize information to "create" knowledge. Students were given the opportunity to embody the internationally-recognized Cambridge Learner Attributes as they were engaged, confident, responsible, reflective, and innovative History scholars. Such high-level meta-cognitive assignments are only possible with the strong foundation of Core Knowledge and Cambridge curricula that our students acquire in their earlier years at our school.



# Geography

From their earliest experiences in our Cambridge Primary Global Perspectives Programme, Fieldstone students learn to think critically and creatively about their environment and about issues in the wider world. Our FKCS Geography programme builds upon the Global Perspectives foundation to invite students to reflect critically on Canadian environmental issues.

In Fieldstone's Grade Nine Issues in Canadian Geography Class, students explore environmental, economic, and social geographic issues. Working on their sustainable cities projects (pictured) invites students to apply their learning to urban design in an evolving Canadian landscape.

## Math

Fieldstone students appreciate a challenging Math curriculum that enables them to hone their numeracy skills while being supported and guided by their trusted teachers.

The Grade Fives have been exploring a plethora of Math concepts already this year. So far, they have developed mental strategies and fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They have also worked on measurement using length and time, and improved their geometry skills by studying aspects of polygons and angles.

Throughout the year, Fieldstone students are given ample opportunities to synthesize and apply their learning through games or hands-on activities relating to the concepts being taught.



## English

At Fieldstone, we recognize the importance of fostering our students' love of language and literature. Our English curriculum helps our students to hone their literacy skills and immerse themselves in both classic and modern texts.

Grade Eleven English students in Ms. Misevski's class recently analysed the themes and symbols in *The White Tiger*. The students worked together to create posters of their themes and symbols and then presented them to the class.

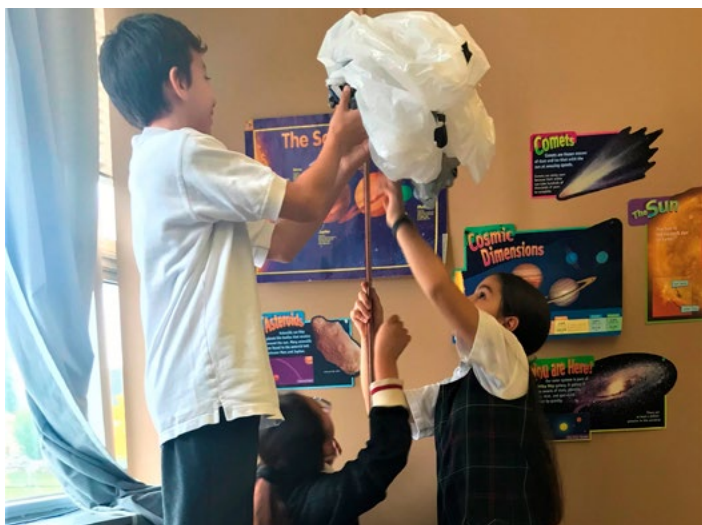
Our experienced and dedicated FKCS English teachers ensure that students graduate with the writing and reading comprehension skills that will enable them to communicate clearly and confidently at the post-secondary level.



## Science

Fieldstone students love Science! We provide enriching opportunities for scientific discoveries throughout the year, including hosting numerous "Scientists in Schools" workshops, planning trips to the Ontario Science Centre, and of course delivering an engaging Science curriculum right here on campus. With our strong commitment to STEM learning, we are excited about Coding Club joining our co-curricular roster.

Grade Six students (below left), were excited to recently experiment with the laws of physics in their Egg Drop Assignment while our Kindergarten students studied chemical reactions in their own exciting workshop (below right).

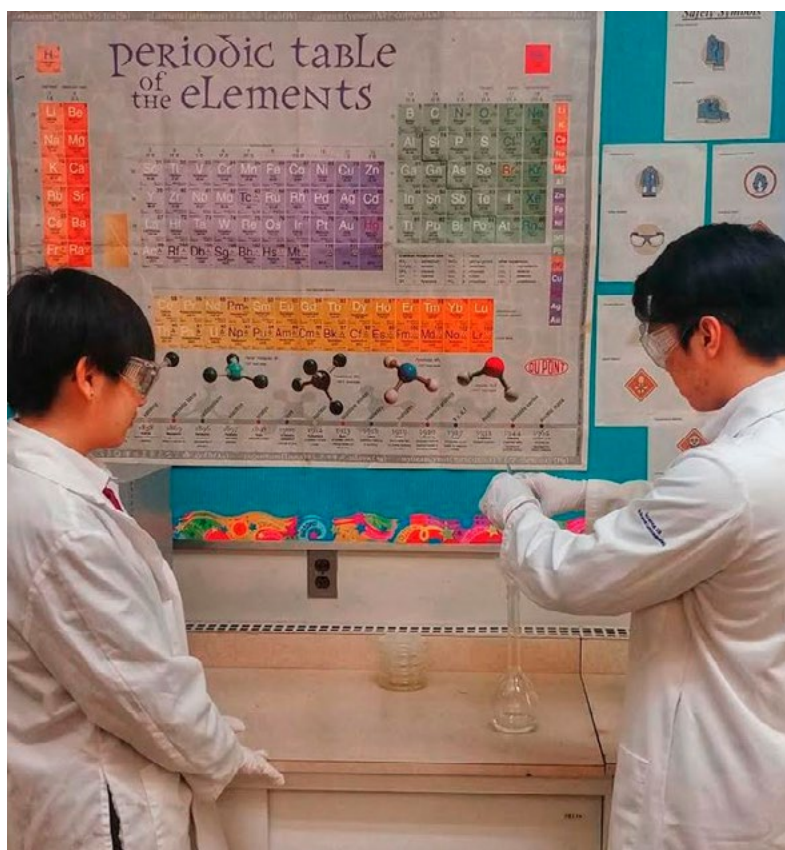


## Chemistry

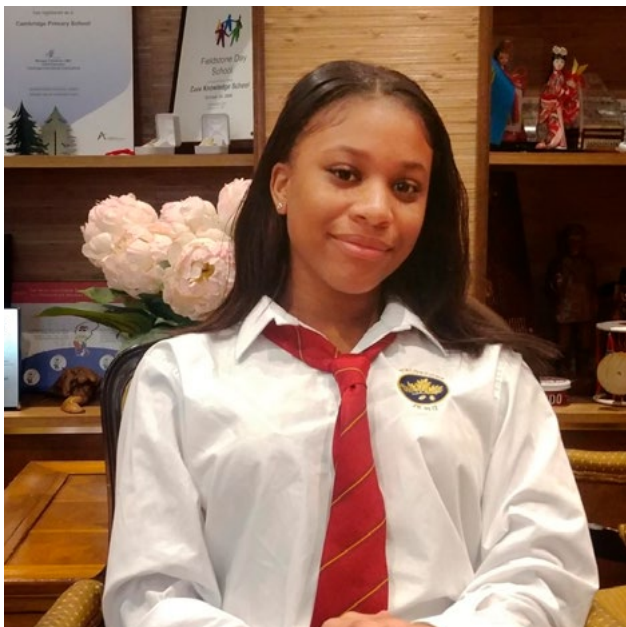
Our fully-equipped Science Lab provides an ideal learning environment for students to explore the sciences, to prepare for Cambridge Science Exams, and to ensure they have all the knowledge and practical experience that they need to feel prepared for Science programs at the post-secondary level.

FKCS Science students have ample opportunities to experiment and investigate in a safe and supportive environment. As in all classes at Fieldstone, our teachers offer tutorials to help students receive personalized attention to grasp challenging Science concepts.

FKCS Chemistry students recently completed an investigation on volumetric analysis. They were busy in the Science Lab finding the concentration of unknown samples.



## Student Spotlights: Serena & Lorenzo's Fieldstone Stories



Serena has enjoyed being part of the Fieldstone community ever since her Middle School years. Now in Grade Eleven, Serena says she wouldn't consider leaving Fieldstone because our Cambridge curriculum provides her with such rich and rewarding learning experiences.

Serena also appreciates her teachers' care and consideration for her success and well being. She says "I know I can always go to them about anything." Lately, Serena has been attending tutorials "almost every day" as she begins to prepare for university applications.

Fieldstone's small-school environment gives Serena ample leadership opportunities that she values. This is her second year as a student Prefect and she hopes to perhaps be Volleyball Team Captain in the spring.



Yesterday, I asked Lorenzo 'how you are back at Fieldstone, what was the best part of your day?' He said: I can't tell you Mum, it was ALL so, so good." [#goodcall](#) [#goodschool](#) [#happykid](#)

Another Fieldstone Family member whom we know and love has recently returned "home" to our school. Welcome back, Lorenzo! Judging by this report on social media (above), his transition back to Fieldstone has gone very well indeed!





# Introducing our New Grade 9 Entry **CO<sub>2</sub>**\* Programme



OSSD, IGCSE, A LEVEL



Music



Maths



Science



Sports



English



Global Perspectives

\*A comprehensive, challenging, and supportive programme where students earn Cambridge IGCSE and A Level Certificates and an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

We are proud to present our new Grade Nine Entry CO<sub>2</sub> Programme. This programme is a comprehensive, challenging, and supportive programme where students earn Cambridge IGCSEs, A Levels, and an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This programme is an extension of what Fieldstone King's College School has been doing well over the past 10 years – offering the enrichment of the Cambridge Curriculum for our top-achieving students.

This is for students who are interested in studying maths, sciences, or engineering in post-secondary destinations. Due to the academic rigour of this programme, only top performing students will be admitted. The Ontario-IGCSEs Combination provides a strong foundation for the senior Cambridge studies in A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics.

These A Levels improve a candidate's application for top university destinations that require qualifications above and beyond the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students will be supported with additional tutorials in the morning and after school, March Break study camps, and enhanced University Pathways Consulting Services.

Current Grade Eight Students and families are invited to attend our information session on Tuesday Dec 3rd at 5pm in the library.

Please RSVP to [sjohnson@fieldstonedayschool.org](mailto:sjohnson@fieldstonedayschool.org). Your Progression Tests and Checkpoint Tests can be used in lieu of our admissions test. We look forward to speaking with you.



Fieldstone School Curriculum Matters  
**Fall 2019**