



CURRICULUM MATTERS

Winter 2020



Dear Fieldstone Family,

In this second issue of Curriculum Matters, teachers share the rich learning experiences taking place within our classes. Fieldstone's small classes and supportive teachers help students to succeed, while our world-class curriculum stretches them to become future leaders and informed global citizens. The high quality of our curriculum and teaching is no secret; indeed, we have been included in a list of the top twenty five private schools in Toronto.

When I reflect on the diversity of articles featured here, I see the common thread of connection. Fieldstone's teachers help students make meaningful connections between curriculum concepts, and relate their learning to the wider world. Whether putting themselves in the shoes of major

historical figures, teaching other students about a new concept in Science, or using their knowledge of music to write their own songs, Fieldstone students apply their learning to a variety of contexts. Making such connections enables them to consolidate their learning and to share their knowledge with others in our community.

We look forward to continuing to support meaningful curriculum connections as we head together into the final few months of the school year.

Stephanie Long
School Communications Coordinator
Assistant Head - FKCS

Curriculum: The Heart of Fieldstone for Over Twenty Years

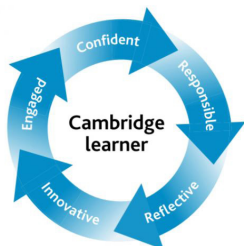
As Canada's Cambridge School, we see tremendous value in the enriching and engaging Cambridge curriculum. Cambridge builds on the foundation of Core Knowledge, and provides our students with a content-rich curriculum that enables them to be part of an international learning community.

We prepare our students to be future global leaders and Cambridge helps us provide them with a "global passport to success."

Featured below are the five Cambridge Learner Attributes. We ensure that our curriculum and teaching methods foster these traits in every Fieldstone student.



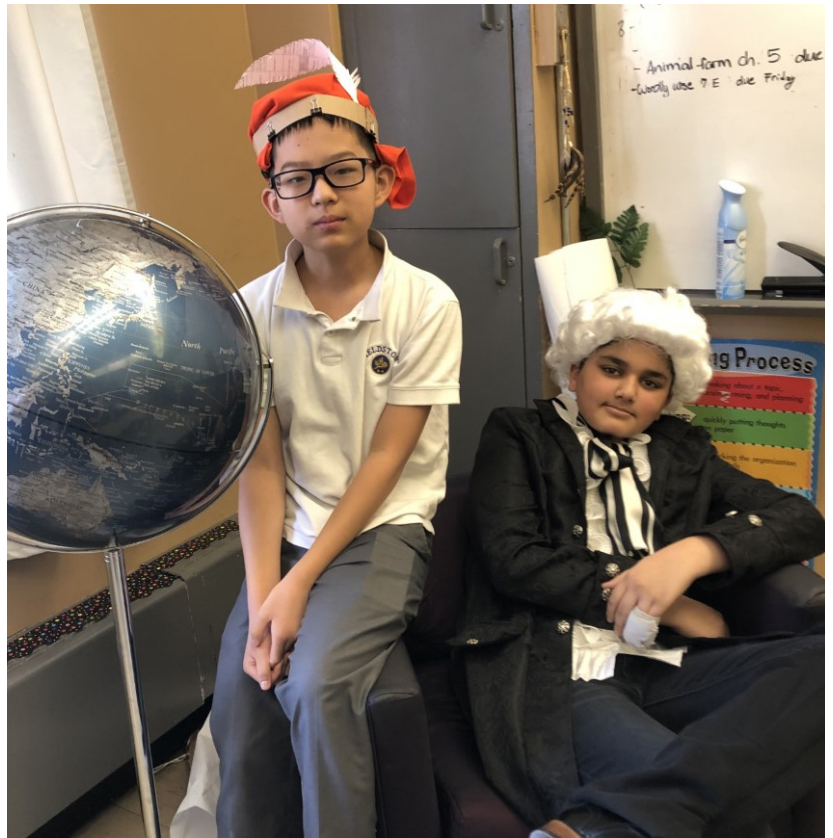
The University of Cambridge, www.cambridgeinternational.org/about-us/our-history/



Creative Connections in History

Appreciating History involves appreciating the perspectives of major historical figures. During their recent study of the War of 1812, Grade Seven students each chose a historical figure connected to the war whom they wanted to learn more about. After conducting in-depth research, students came to class as their historical figure and were interviewed by Mr. Blasiak.

This innovative activity allowed students to try to situate themselves in a different time and place and to understand the context of their chosen historical figure. It really enabled them to make personal connections to curriculum concepts.



Creative Connections in Drama

Our FKCS Drama programme provides students with valuable opportunities to practise teamwork, empathy, and presentation skills. Furthermore, we expose students to a wide range of theatrical texts, including those of Fieldstone's favourite Bard - William Shakespeare.

Earlier this year, our Drama students traveled to Weston Artscape to take part in an immersive Shakespeare Workshop with an expert in the field. They found the experience extremely engaging and returned to Fieldstone with a greater appreciation of Shakespeare's legacy, one that they share with even our youngest Fieldstone students.



Water Studies in Science

This past January, our Kindergarten students explored the properties of water in their Chemistry strand. They learned about the three states of matter, using water as their reference point, and explored the processes of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation in a Water Cycle Investigation.

After making individual Water Cycle Models, Kindergarten students got to create a rain simulation experiment in class. The Grade Eight class was invited to hear the students' presentations on their findings.



Water Studies in Chemistry

At Fieldstone, we ensure that class trips provide meaningful learning opportunities, often with experts in the field. These allow students to connect their in-class studies to real-world applications.

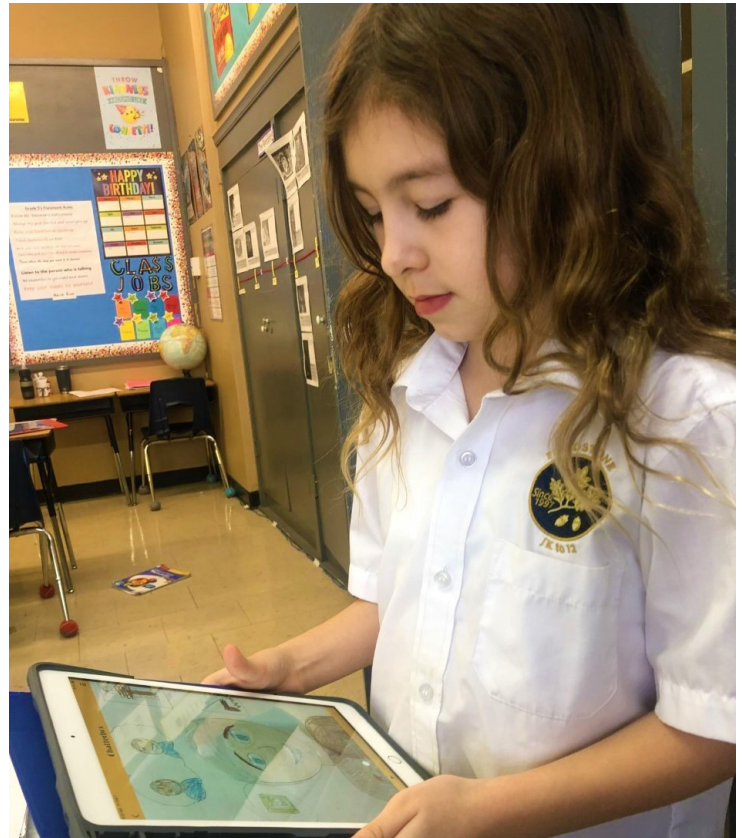
Recently, our FKCS Chemistry students learned about environmental water testing from professional scientists and were able to try the testing methods in a fully-equipped lab at the Ontario Science Centre.

A Writer's Process in FDS English

At Fieldstone, we help students feel supported and successful within every stage of the writing process.

Grade Five students recently wrote biographies about people whom they admired. They researched important and interesting information about their chosen individuals and then worked to improve their grammar, vocabulary, and organization within their pieces of writing. They concluded the assignment by drawing a picture of their chosen individual.

As a final creative application of their learning, students uploaded their drawings to an app on our new iPads, which allowed the drawings to "come to life," much to the delight of our young writers.



A Writer's Process in FKCS English

In Grade Twelve, our most senior English students are assisted by caring and experienced teachers as they refine their techniques and develop their writing voices.

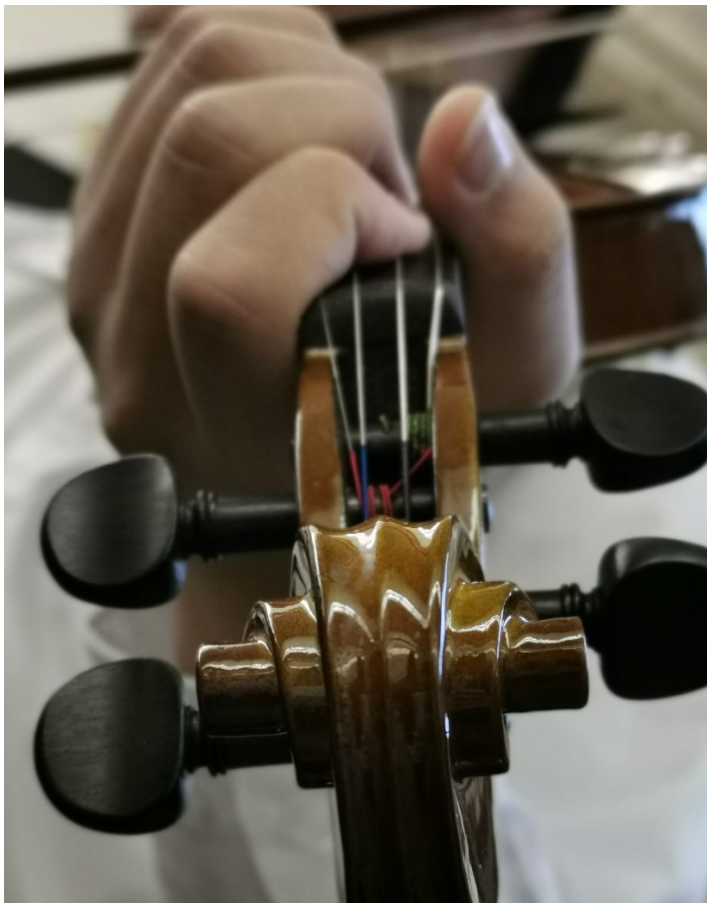
Senior English involves a step-by-step writing process, and students are given ample opportunities to confer with their instructors and polish their writing before submission. This gives them an understanding of the writing process and preparation for writing assignments at the post-secondary level.

Fieldstone teachers form meaningful mentoring connections with students so that each learner feels valued and supported at school.

Music Matters at FDS

Music appreciation and performance has long been an important pillar of our programme at Fieldstone.

Our students always impress audiences with their violin performance skills. This year, many FDS students have been making tremendous strides in sight-reading music, a challenging skill and required knowledge for every grade - even Kindergarten. Some of FDS students' favourite reading activities have included learning to read *The Train Song*, playing games at the piano to learn the note names, and naming mystery tunes on the violin. This gives Fieldstone Music students the ability to find and learn their favourite songs confidently and independently.



Music Matters at FKCS

At Fieldstone King's College School, we build on the solid foundation provided by the FDS Music programme and continue to help students to connect music theory to their personal preferences and broader cultural influences.

FKCS students are challenged to learn violin, read their own music, and write their own compositions all in one semester. This gives students the ability to perform songs of their choice. Many students test their reading skills after school on the piano or guitar.

FDS Public Speaking at the Branch Finals

Have you heard? Fieldstone students won in every category of the recent Branch-Level Legion Public Speaking Competition.

Public speaking has always been an important part of Fieldstone's curriculum, as we believe that confident presentation skills will help our students on their journey to become future global leaders. Writing and practising speeches also helps students connect topics of personal interest to an important academic project.

Congratulations to our successful scholars.



DECA Business Presentations at the Provincial Competition

Presentation skills are essential for a career in Business, or indeed any leadership position. Our Business courses emphasize the importance of effective communication and public speaking skills.

Several enthusiastic Business students recently took part in the Provincial-Level DECA Competition, an event which enabled them to showcase their Business acumen, consolidate their learning, and meet other future leaders from across the province.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Abigail Lewis, Class of 2018

Abigail attended Fieldstone Day School and then stayed at Fieldstone for her high school experience. She is a proud member of the Fieldstone Alumni Association:

"My experience at Fieldstone was an enriching one that pushed me to reach my potential through the extracurricular activities and through the challenging Cambridge curriculum. Through my years at Fieldstone, I was involved in the DECA

Club, the Drama Club, the Knitting Club, the Dance Club, and Model UN. These taught me public speaking skills, leadership, and empathy. I am grateful that Fieldstone gave me the opportunity to take the Cambridge English, French, and Drama exams, which provided me with a more specialized education. I feel more confident in my success at the University of Toronto because of my Fieldstone education."





CAMBRIDGE SPOTLIGHT:

Cambridge Evaluations: Preparation and Payoff for Fieldstone Students

The Cambridge Primary and Secondary I programmes have three main types of evaluations:

- Tests, quizzes, and assignments that are created by, administered by, and marked by teachers.
- Progression Tests that are created by Cambridge but administered by and marked by teachers.
- Checkpoint Tests that are created by Cambridge, administered by a Cambridge Centre, and marked by Cambridge.

Fieldstone's report cards are based primarily on the first type of evaluation because it allows teachers to have a holistic overview of how a student is performing through observations, conversations, and student products.

Progression Tests are administered at Fieldstone at the end of the school year in June in Maths and Science from Grade 3 - 8 and English from Grade 5 - 8. These tests are based on Cambridge learning outcomes that are specific to the child's current stage of learning. Teachers mark these tests and input the results into a report generator. These reports allow the teacher, the student, the parents, and the school administration team to see how the student did on each strand and sub-strand related to the subject. Teachers can use this report to help identify areas that may need improvement or areas that may need enrichment in the following school year. These tests also provide feedback on how the student is performing in comparison to other Cambridge schools internationally.

Checkpoint Tests are administered in April for students in Grade 5 and students in Grade 8. These assessments test concepts from the entire Cambridge Primary Programme (Maths, Science, and English) for the Primary Checkpoint Test and concepts from the entire Cambridge Secondary I Programme (Maths, Science and English). Students receive an official report from Cambridge that gives them an overview of their strengths, areas to improve on and overall result on the syllabus. The grades are classified as bronze (below standard), silver (at standard), and gold (above standard) for these tests.

Students will be preparing for Checkpoint Tests throughout March by writing practice papers and understanding Cambridge marking schemes. In May, students will be provided practice Progression Tests to ensure they are familiar with the format and understand how they are marked and administered.

Overall, these three methods of evaluation provide our students, families, and faculty the feedback we need to continue to individualize the challenge for each of our students and continuously improve our programme to meet the needs of our families and students. Additionally, these types of formal examinations provide students the opportunity to experience formal examination procedures, so that when they move to high school and post-secondary studies, they are confident and can perform to the best of their ability.



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