



# CURRICULUM MATTERS

FALL 2020

## Dear Fieldstone Families,

It has been an unusual autumn at Fieldstone, given the need to adapt our programme to prioritize COVID-19 safety. Nevertheless, we have maintained our unwavering commitment to supporting student success.

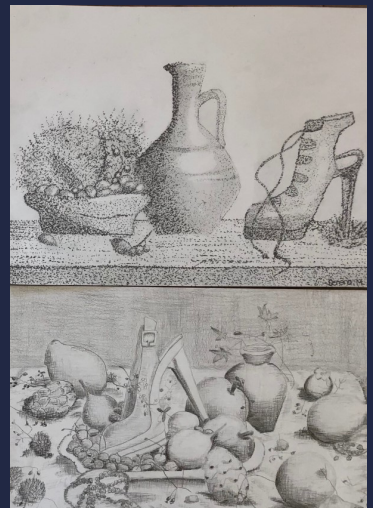
All Fieldstone classes are guided by our philosophy that a challenging and comprehensive curriculum in the context of a caring and supportive environment will help students to become future global leaders. We draw on Core Knowledge and Cambridge for our Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight students, transitioning to a dual Cambridge–Ontario curriculum for our Grade Nine to Twelve students. Fieldstone students explore topics in a spiraled and interconnected way that enables them to revisit topics as they progress through our programme. Our philosophy and our approach to curriculum delivery (illustrated by the examples in this newsletter) ensure that students feel confident and excited about learning.

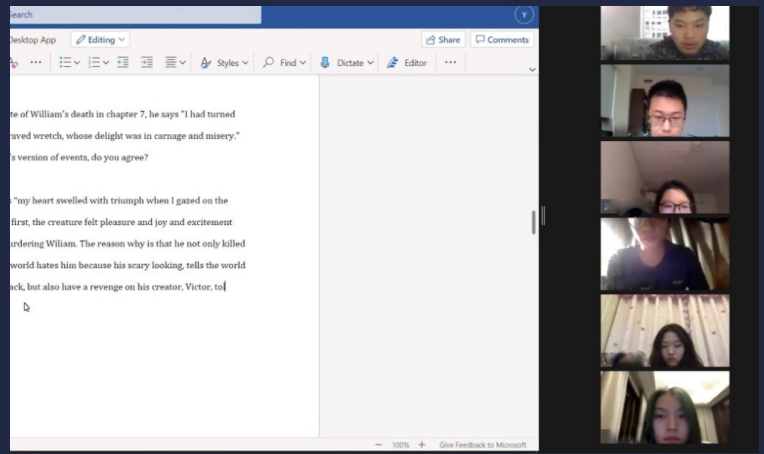
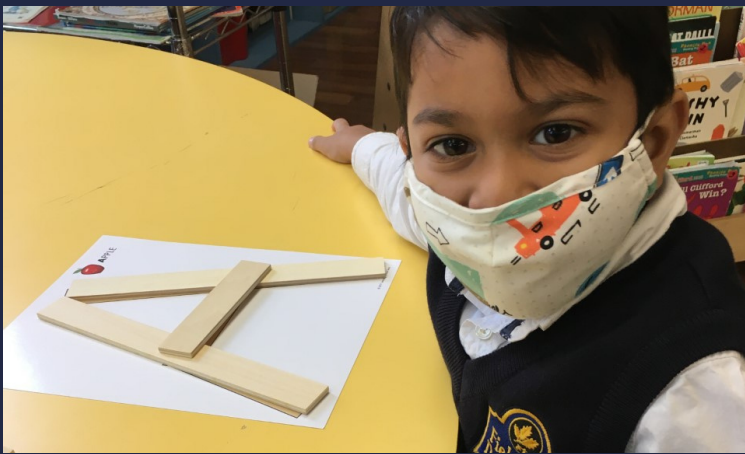
- Stephanie Long, Fieldstone Communications Coordinator



## Aiming High in All Subjects

When appropriately challenged, our students gain self-esteem and the invaluable feeling of "I can do it." They are thus motivated to continue to set goals, learn, and grow. In Fieldstone King's College School's Illustration Class, students have been encouraged to reach beyond their comfort zones to experiment with techniques that broaden the possibilities for young artists and greatly enhance their portfolios for post-secondary applications (example at right).





## Literacy Foundations at Fieldstone Day School (FDS)

The Core Knowledge philosophy is at the heart of an FDS education. We choose Core Knowledge because we share the beliefs that:

- Children can advance educationally only when they have the expected prior knowledge.
- They can become better readers only by building extensive knowledge of the world.
- They can become effective members of the wider society only by sharing the knowledge taken for granted by literate writers and speakers in that society.

We use the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Framework to guide our programme planning and delivery. CKLA emphasises letter and word recognition (pictured above), phonics, decoding of text, and ultimately, reading. To learn more about that unique framework, please click [HERE](#).

## Fieldstone King's College School (FKCS) Literary Analysis

At FKCS, our courses are Ontario credit courses through which students work towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students are given the opportunity to take subject matter further through the more in-depth Cambridge curriculum and to see how they fare internationally through Cambridge exams.

In FKCS English classes, students enjoy revisiting classic plays to which they were introduced at FDS (eg. Macbeth) and examining these at a high level. Cambridge curricula in particular, emphasise strong reflection and analysis skills.

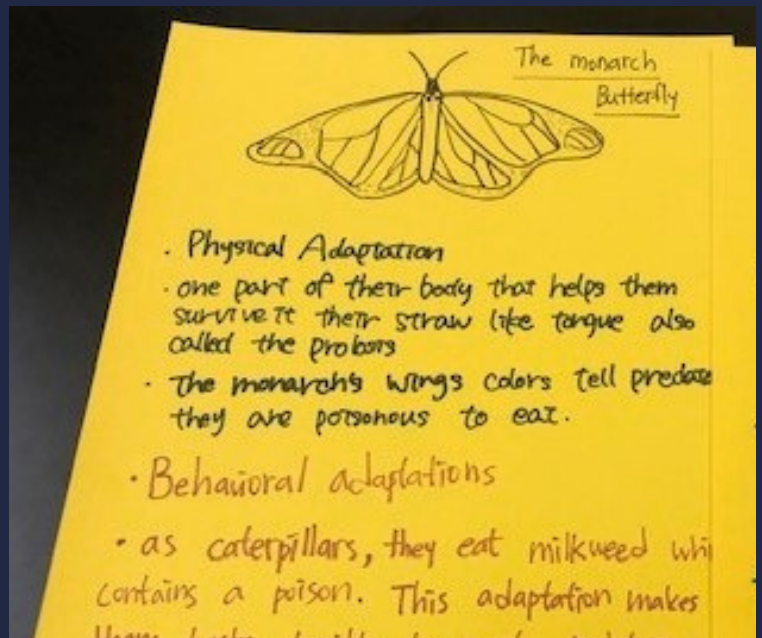
We know that strong literary analysis skills (demonstrated by Grade Twelve students around the world engaged in their study of *Frankenstein*, above) will help students to make sense of the world and to read more complex texts in their post-secondary pursuits.



## Kindergarten - Interconnected Subjects Inspire Young Minds

Our Kindergarten curriculum is rich and varied. Our youngest students are taught concepts in an interconnected manner, where ideas are reinforced throughout the main subject areas. For example, students used scientific enquiry skills to make predictions about colour mixing (above).

Similarly, as part of a recent Science unit, students explored the characteristics and habitats of insects and invertebrates. As a culminating activity, they created their very own ants, paying close attention to the ants' physical characteristics (below).



## FKCS Biology and Chemistry - In-Depth Investigations

Students revisit their early studies of living things in our FKCS Biology Programme. Recently, our Biology students designed posters on concepts related to adaptation and variation (above).

With the help of a video, Chemistry students (both online and onsite) recently engaged in an experiment on finding the percentage composition of magnesium oxide. Students were engrossed watching and recording the data from the experiment.





### **FDS Science - Online Labs**

Fieldstone teachers have adapted their teaching strategies to incorporate online learners and prioritize student safety, while staying true to our educational philosophy.

Grade Seven and Eight Science students are enjoying the opportunity to work with online labs (above). They recently experimented with the different variables that affected the movement of particles in a closed volume. This experiment successfully reinforced students' understandings of Particle Theory.



### **FKCS Physics - Online Labs**

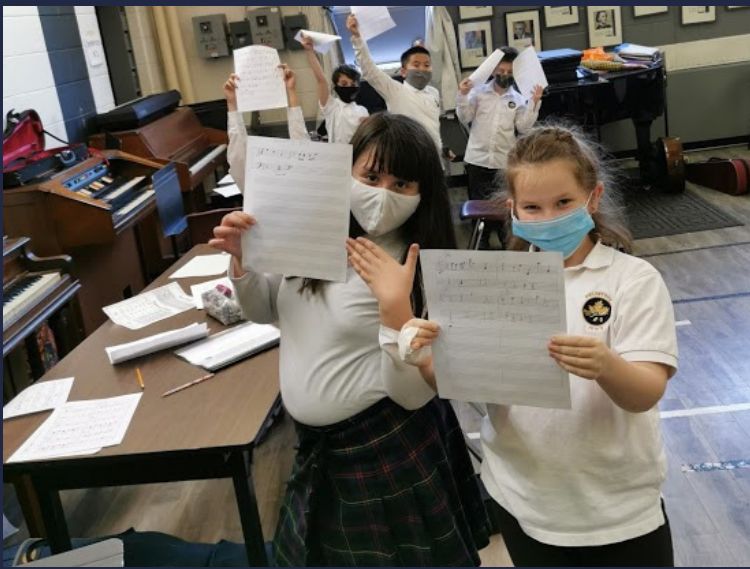
Engaged and innovative FKCS Cambridge learners also welcome the opportunity to use online labs. Grade Eleven Physics students recently completed their Kinematics Unit, and put their new knowledge into practice in a virtual space.

The student pictured above explored the motion of a projectile from various heights and angles to analyse the relationship between the horizontal and vertical components of a moving projectile.

### **Hands-On Labs Remain Popular**

We still find ways for safe and supported hands-on learning opportunities in Science. In Grade Five, a student recently made his own battery using coins of different metal composition and various electrolyte solutions (at right).





Foundation Page (AMU1020)

Ms. Peter

## FDS Music - Composition FUNdamentals

The Core Knowledge philosophy sees the arts not as an educational "frill" but as an essential part of the curriculum. Core Knowledge asserts that a good understanding of the arts grows out of the following modes of knowledge: creative, historical, and analytical.

Grade Four and Five students (above) are working on a Mozart Dice Project as part of learning to write songs. Their finished projects will become a beautiful printed piano book.

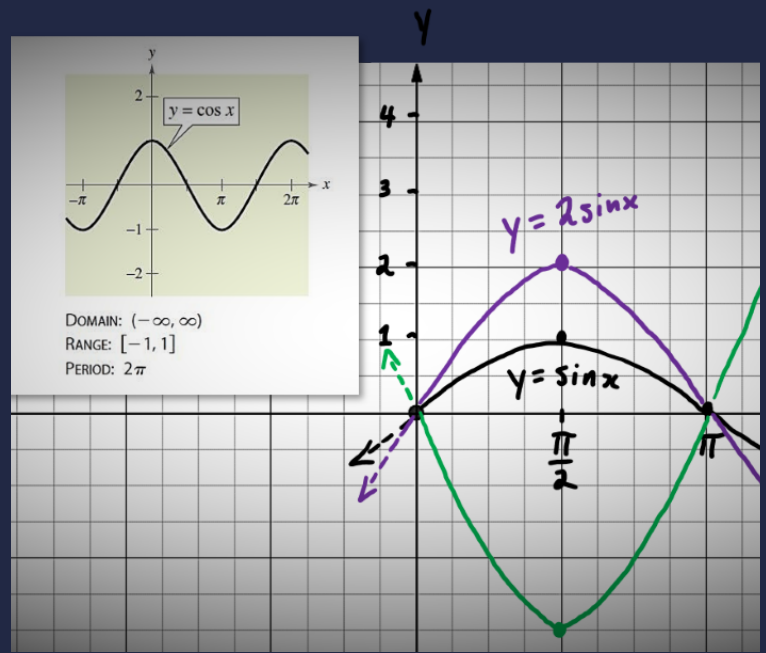
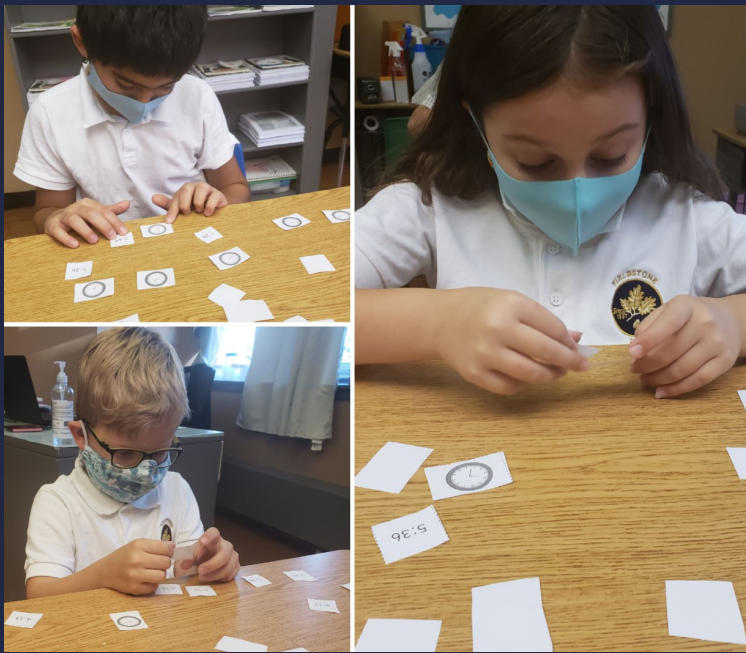
This very same activity helped Mozart write his own songs; thus, these Fieldstone students are learning about history and subject-specific skills, while enjoying creative hands-on activities. This interconnectedness of history, analysis, and creativity is at the heart of our programme.

## FKCS Music - Collaborative Composition

Piano composing is underway in our FKCS Music Programme and students eagerly practise compositional skills together whether online or on campus.

Above is a snapshot of Foundation Pages for online Music students. Note the collection of all the notes they can use for their collaboration. The number labels help them to decide when to use these notes.





### FDS Math - Model Learners

Fieldstone students are engaged and confident learners who eagerly master and apply new concepts.

Grade Three Math students (above) recently practised telling the time to the nearest minute on digital and analogue clocks, and converting time from analogue to digital. They excelled when given the task of completing a Matching Time Game to reinforce curriculum concepts.

### FKCS Math - "Model" Learners

In FKCS, students similarly tackle new mathematical ideas with enthusiasm. As reflective Cambridge learners, they apply their understanding to real-world examples.

Functions students have started to dive deeper into mathematical modelling (above). They will be using sine and cosine functions to model phenomena such as the rise and fall of the tides and the height of rotating objects like Ferris wheels.

### History and Geography - And Art!

At FDS, concepts are "spiraled" and reinforced throughout grade levels and subject disciplines.

In Visual Arts, Grade Fours recently created their own Rose Windows (at right), which complimented their learning about Medieval history and culture in other subject areas.





### Cambridge Exam Update:

Cambridge Exams resumed this fall after the cancellation of the spring exam series. Students from both Fieldstone and other Cambridge Schools joined us for the November series of examinations. This series, we hosted 19 different syllabuses, and a total of 59 different examinations were written. Fieldstone truly is Canada’s Cambridge school, supporting our students with this rich and fulfilling curriculum, while also supporting Cambridge Students from across the country to earn their Cambridge Qualifications in a safe, supportive, and enriching environment. Our COVID-19 safety protocols ensured that all students, candidates, and community members were safe and able to continue their Cambridge and Fieldstone Education.

### Cambridge Learner Attributes:

**Confident** in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others

**Responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others

**Reflective** as learners, developing their ability to learn

**Innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges

**Engaged** intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference

### Alumni Update

The Fieldstone Alumni Association is going strong. More than ever, our alumni are enjoying the sense of connection and support that they draw from the Fieldstone community.

We have had several graduates visit us and tell us that the learning environment at Fieldstone helped set them up for success at university and beyond.



*I am grateful for Fieldstone's support as I transition to university.*

Fieldstone helped me to feel confident and prepared for post-secondary studies. Through the Cambridge curriculum, I had the chance to learn concepts at a high level and was taught to apply my thinking to a global context."



**CAROLINE YANG**  
Class of 2020

