



# Claude Watson School for the Arts

Weekly Update - Friday December 20, 2019

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## Up Coming Events

### Jan 6

- School Resumes

### Jan. 17

- PA Day

### Jan. 21

- Grad Photos

### Jan. 22

- Pizza Lunch

### Jan. 27

- International Holocaust Day One Book Event - Gr 6s

### Jan. 27

- School Council Meeting (7pm)

### Jan. 31

- Focus Arts Drama Presentation (1:30) Gr. 6, 7 & 8s

### Feb. 13

- Parent Teacher Interviews (pm)

### Feb. 14

- Parent Teacher Interviews (am)

### Feb. 15

- PA Day

### Feb. 17

- Family Day

### Feb. 19

- Pizza Day

## Principals Message: A new beginning!



As we start the **2020 New Year**, let us look forward to new beginnings and opportunities! Our student clubs did a wonderful job at the close of 2019 demonstrating caring and benevolence through a variety of CWSA initiatives: the Student Council **12 Days' of Caring**, the Me to We **CWSA Toy Drive** and the Green Team **Bake Sale** and the Independent student led **Candy Gram** Sales. Student led initiatives - help model pro-social ways of being in the CWSA community and provide an alternative message that encourage students to be kind and caring in their interactions with peers. As we enter into the new year let's work with our students/children to continue to support them in their growth and development as global citizens. As they develop, so too, will their abilities to demonstrate prosocial skills and support our community with kindness. Each of us has part in making CWSA an inclusive and warm place where all students feel welcome and a sense of belonging!

As we look forward to the month of January we are excited to continue to proudly celebrate our diversity. January 27<sup>th</sup> is **International Holocaust Day** and the launch of **Liberation75** - the Global Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, Descendants, Educators and Friends which will be held in Toronto at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from May 31-June 2, 2020. In keeping with CWSA's commitment to promote inclusion and acceptance, CWSA teachers Mr. Plener and Ms. Diack will be accompanying our Grade 6s to 5050 Yonge Street for the launch.

Claude Watson continually looks for opportunities to enhance and underscore our commitment to create a safe and welcoming environment for all. In February, we will welcome **HOZA** to CWSA for a school wide performance as part of our school wide practice to reinforce our commitment to equity and inclusion.

Have a wonderful day and we look forward to a great Winter/Spring!  
Ms. Jones





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## Student Page

### Hey CWSA! Coding Club Reflection Karen Z.

In the fall, I took part in the Wiz Kid Coding after school program. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Weeks of struggling to navigate through a world of letters, numbers, brackets, sprites, and screens: coding; gibberish at its best. I would soon discover that it was actually one of my best experiences. I have not only seen growth in my coding skills; I witnessed my passion for computer science, a field I have never involved myself in, blossom and bloom into an integral part of my personality.

Personally, I have always wanted to pursue medicine. Although I have dabbled in computer science from time to time, nothing sparked something within me. During the first few weeks of Wiz Kid Coding, I had accomplished the daunting task of making a monkey run frantically through bushes, lakes and turtles to eat a banana.

By that point, computer science was treating me like a worn down broom. I felt like I would soon be locked up in an attic with nothing but dust, monkeys and bananas to code. However, I soon realized that coding is like life. I didn't need to see the whole staircase; all I needed to do was take one step at a time. And when I started doing that, things finally started going in the right direction.

After learning how to code monkeys, I switched to creating my own VR (Virtual Reality) world. It was at this time, when I could allow my creativity to flow freely as I built my own house, uploaded different sprites, and coded them, making my VR world truly unique to me. I got to actually step into my world and walk around in it using VR goggles.

As much as I wish I could continue expanding my VR world, it was time to move onto a different area of computer science: robotics. My parents always tell me how AI (Artificial Intelligence) is going to replace humans and inherit the Earth. But, no computer is ever going to ask a reasonable question. It takes trained people to do that.

As my classmates and I are directing our robot through the maze we designed for it, the program is coming to an end and I have taken time to reflect upon how much Wiz Kid Coding has done for me as a person.

Coding is today's language of creativity. Every child deserves to become creators instead of consumers of computer science. Everyone should learn how to code because it teaches you how to think. When your code isn't right, it could very well be the fault of one wrong number. But, you have to go back and revise it. Wiz Kid Coding has not only taught me the language of our future, the program has also allowed me to interact with my peers in a dynamic and engaging learning environment. I definitely recommend this program to all Claude Watson students because of how interactive, explorative and challenging it is. And always remember, STEM: Sit at the computer, Throw a tantrum because the code doesn't work, Eat a banana, and Make the code work!

Karen Z. Grade 8



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## Extra-curricular and Additional News

### Strings News

#### Audition Orchestra

Grade 8 string players auditioning for Earl Haig are invited to an audition preparation session on Friday, January 10th at 8am in room 110. Please bring your ensemble audition music.

#### Chamber Strings

Due to the high demand for extra help time, chamber strings will not continue in term 2. It will be replaced with Grade 6 only extra help time. Thank you to everyone who participated!

#### Strings Extra Help

Mr Best is now offering Friday mornings at 8am (by appointment) for grade 6 students only. Please sign up in room 110.

### Ballmatics Registration



**Claudia Mandekic (Academic coach)**

**Dave McNee (Head Coach)**

**Kaya Fearon (Assistant coach)**

Invite you to register for a new session of Ballmatics at 416.855.5572 or [info@qsla.ca](mailto:info@qsla.ca)

### Wiz Kids Coding Registration

Link:

<http://wizkidcoding.com/claudewatson/>  
(for Parents to register)

