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Beyond the Building: Focus on West Kildonan Collegiate

It's safe to say that a school is more than just a building. The question is, however, what makes a school a place where young people grow as both students and citizens with a role to play in the community?

That's a question that everyone with ties to West Kildonan Collegiate (or 'Weskay' as it is affectionately known) will be considering as the school prepares for the construction of a brand new 750 student facility.

In November of last year, Education Minister Peter Bjornson announced the plan to build a whole new West Kildonan Collegiate, equipped to enhance the high school experience of its rapidly growing student population. This is in addition to the previously announced construction of a new performing arts centre named after one of Weskay's most famous students, Randy Bachman.

It's exciting news, but the question remains: what does West Kildonan mean to its students? What makes it a place they can be proud of? What makes it a place where students feel comfortable spending countless hours learning and growing both academically and socially?

Here's what West Kildonan Collegiate means to a few of its current students:

Amanda, **Senior Four** Student

What makes Weskay a great school is the student

body. With about

800 students, our high school isn't as large as most others so it creates a more intimate atmosphere. Everyone associates with everyone else no matter his or her grade level.

Another great part is the teachers. They are always willing to go the extra mile to help us even if it means giving up their lunch hours or time after school.

It is for these reasons that Weskay will remain special no matter what building it is in.

Kendra, **Senior Two** Student

Going to high school for the first

time seemed very

intimidating. It was just something I was not used to. But honestly, after a good month at West Kildonan, I changed my mind. The atmosphere was very welcoming. The teachers always take time out when you just need that extra little bit of help.

Besides my academic studies and creative endeavors in art. I make time for extra school activities such as sports. The coaches always

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try to improve your skills whether its before, during or after school. These are just a few reasons why I'm proud to say I go to West Kildonan Collegiate.



Jordy, Senior One Student

West Kildonan
has over 700
students and
still manages to
keep their students

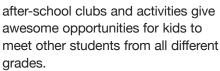
feeling safe when we are in between the walls of the school. The staff at West Kildonan is friendly and helpful. They are there to make you feel safe walking down the halls, not having to worry about anything happening to you. If you have to ask for help, you can do so without worrying about being judged.

West Kildonan staff and students are always working to make it a better place to be. For example, we were one of the first schools to ban smoking on all school property and we have a canteen which serves healthy food instead of junk food – because the people there care about your health. The people aren't just there to pick up their paycheck, but they are there to teach and help the students to succeed in their goals. I am proud they care about our safety and our health.

As a Senior One (Grade Nine) student, I am proud to have my first year of high school at West Kildonan Collegiate.

Carissa, Senior Three Student

West Kildonan Collegiate has a lot of cool qualities to offer its students. The



The atmosphere of the school is friendly and energetic. Teachers are super easy to talk to, and show a genuine interest in helping whenever they can.

One of the unique programs available is the Child Care Class. It is situated in the infant lab, and gives young mothers a chance to get their education. It also allows students to learn how to take care of babies and toddlers.

Our school also has diverse cultures that makes for a great learning experience. In conclusion, Weskay has 'something' to give everybody. I hope that my small paragraphs gave you a better idea of what that 'something' is.



Jessica, Senior Three Student

West Kildonan Collegiate is a home away from home.

When you walk through the doors, you're walking into a school filled

with warmth, as well as friends and peers. While gaining an education at West Kildonan, you're able to participate in numerous activities and extra curriculars. There are a number of sports teams as well as other groups, such as Yearbook, ENO and Reach for the Top to name a few.

West Kildonan works towards offering a world of opportunities to each of its students and helps each of its students strive to succeed. I can honestly say that I am proud and glad to be part of West Kildonan Collegiate where I am making the most of my high school experience.

Opportunities.
Friendships.
Learning.
Security.
Respect.
Caring people.

These are the traits that embody the spirit of West Kildonan Collegiate.
They're what make the school matter to students, staff and families in the community. They are what make
Weskay a place where students grow into the kind of people they want to be – no matter what building classrooms are housed in.

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note: all phone numbers provided are home phone numbers