



THE KOÇ SCHOOL | ACADEMIC 2021-2022 • ISSUE 37

VOICE





THE KOÇ SCHOOL

VOICE

Owner

On behalf of The Koç School
Prof. Murat Günel

Editor-in-Chief

Zeynep Kurmuş Hürbaş

Institutional Communications
Buse Merve Eren

Editors

Leyla Demirbağ Atay, Elif Kutlu

Art Director

Senem Ener

Cover Photography

Aykut Karadere

Contributors

Levent Pakdamar, Büşra Özcan,
Sevilay Sönmez

Produced by

Demirbağ Creative
Çayırçimen Sokak C-3 Blok No. 9/9
Levent / İstanbul
Phone: 0212 347 47 80-82
www.demirbag.net

Printed by

Vefa Printing
Certificate Number 46843
No. 206 Şahintepe Altınşehir
Başakşehir / İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 612 11 27

Voice Magazine

Correspondence Address
The Koç School
Tepeören Mahallesi
Eski Ankara Asfaltı Caddesi No. 60
34959 Tuzla / İstanbul
Phone: +90 216 585 62 00

Local Periodical Publication
Owned and published by The
Koç School for complimentary
distribution.

All excerpts and re-production
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ISSN 1305-1857

 Vehbi Koç Vakfı

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editorial | Professor Murat Günel, PhD

Back to School

'At The Koç School, we left behind another year as we kept pursuing and supporting science and facts, leading the education sector with real and effective practices.'

Dear Voice Readers,

As the pandemic continued, we started the 2021-2022 academic year with face-to-face education, happy to welcome our students - who had been physically away for a long time - back to the school. This year, we also found the opportunity to rethink the “meaning” of school and move forward, fueled by what we learned.

We all felt wonderful about being back at school, and for reuniting!

The teachers who taught for hours behind their face masks, the administrative staff who worked day and night with great dedication, and most importantly, the students who faithfully followed the school’s guidelines and the pandemic measures... you made it possible for us to navigate through these challenging times with ease.

Protecting the health and safety of our school community, and ensuring that our students make up for the time they missed in their academic, social and emotional development... When I addressed you in October 2021, these were the main goals that we had set for our school community for this academic year. In this edition of Voice, you will see how we reached and went beyond these goals, through both face-to-face and online activities.

In the following pages, you will find an overview of a study prepared for our younger age group on critical digital literacy, a subject that we care deeply about. At one point, we all become subjected to disinformation, both in education and also in many areas of life. Information pollution and assumptions in all areas from the pandemic and health to economy and politics seem to appear everywhere. Here is an excerpt from “Critical Digital Literacy in Education,” a valuable booklet prepared by the Teacher Network, that will sound familiar to all of us: “With the audio recordings of ‘top secret’ insider information from the Ministry circulating on WhatsApp, exacerbated with quite suspicious information about healthcare stirring up crises, we, as teachers, students and parents, were undeniably in the midst of an information chaos.” This booklet is a must-read and I highly recommend that you check it out.

At The Koç School, we left behind another year as we kept pursuing and supporting science and facts, leading the education sector with real and effective practices. I wholeheartedly thank our school community and all our stakeholders for helping us get through these trying times and wish you all a wonderful summer.



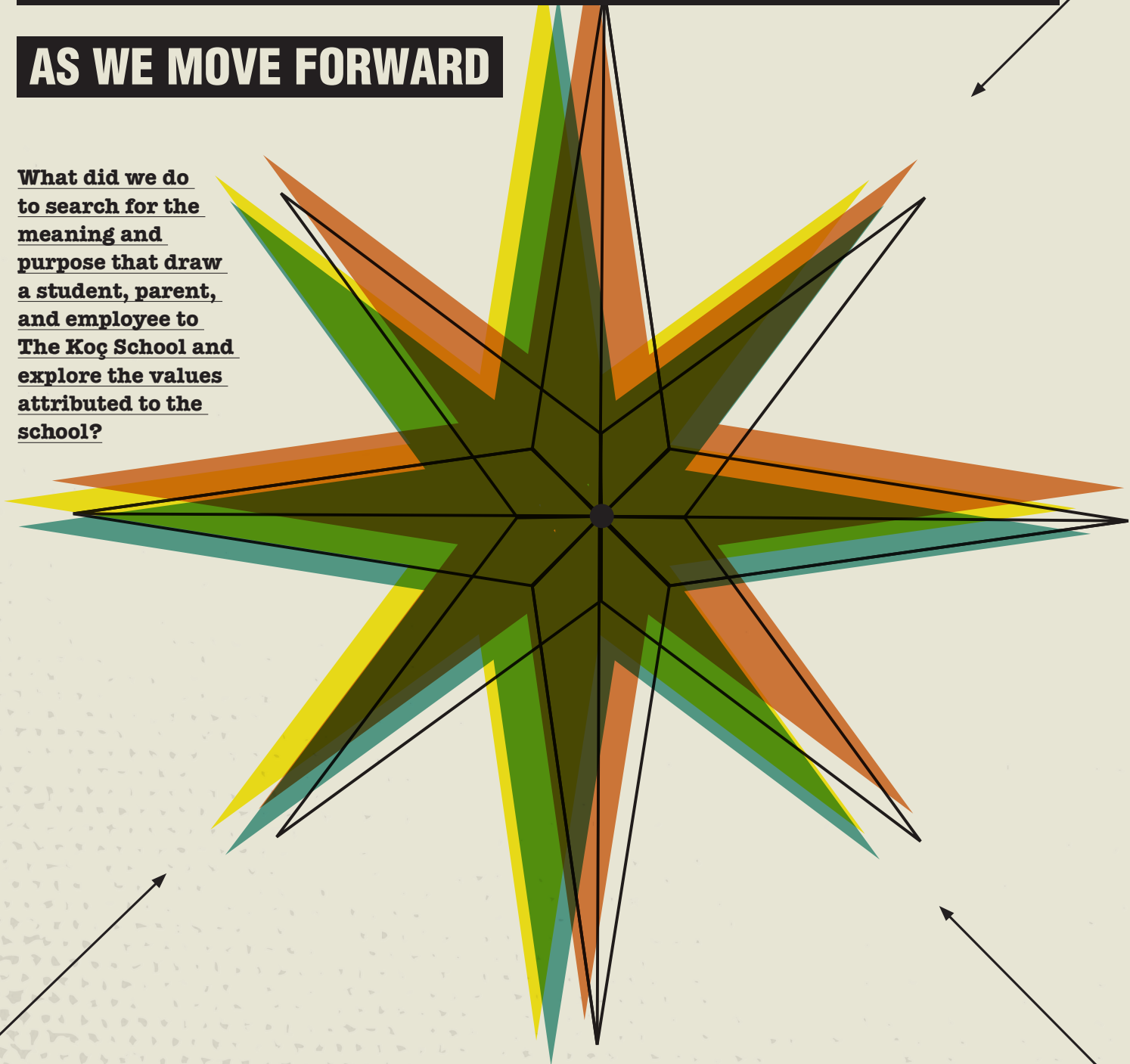
Please scan the code to view the “Critical Digital Literacy in Education” booklet.

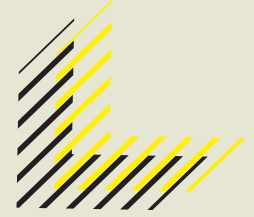
IN SEARCH OF

MEANING AND PURPOSE

AS WE MOVE FORWARD

What did we do to search for the meaning and purpose that draw a student, parent, and employee to The Koç School and explore the values attributed to the school?





When we launched the Meaning, Purpose and Positioning project at The Koç School in 2019, the meaning of school and education was hypothetically framed around all the stakeholders. As the project proceeded according to the initial outputs at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, the pandemic upended everything, changing our assumptions, perceptions, stories and outlook. Now, the homes had become school.

As we tried to connect on screen, the meaning attributed to education evolved as did our goals as individuals and communities. So, we focused on how we could make our dreams for a better world and future come true, curious and excited about the prospects. Even though the project was put on hold, the school's usual flow and routines continued online as we kept observing and researching.

When The Koç School signed an agreement with SIA Insight, the firm that had recently led an important research for the Koç Group, to run the research phase, the pandemic was showing no signs of slowing down. In the process, the perceptions regarding The Koç School and the meaning and purpose of education had changed significantly.

The research process that started with a detailed definition of the sample groups was planned as a series of workshops to collect qualitative and quantitative data, ensure comprehensive representation of the stakeholders based on the findings, and drive the school to its North Star. The qualitative meetings involved online focus group discussions with The Koç School students. Furthermore, in-depth online interviews were conducted with The Koç School teachers, parents, alumni, employees, and prominent opinion leaders in education. The Koç School Board of Directors, which sets the school's roadmap, was also involved throughout the process. In this phase of the project, 58 stakeholders were interviewed in total.

For the qualitative phase of the research, a survey questionnaire was created to address the key topics and support the quantitative process. Then, The Koç School students, alumni, teachers, parents and staff were asked to respond to the survey. In order to form an overview of the current conditions and reach a wider audience to identify the meaning and purpose that attract a student, parent, or employee to The Koç School and discover the values attributed to the school, 1,036 interviews in total were conducted.

ASKING QUESTIONS

TO HOLD A MIRROR UP

TO THE KOÇ SCHOOL

What are the codes of **The Koç School's culture, educational philosophy, and meaning-purpose journey** according to our stakeholders?

What are the **concepts and qualities** associated with The Koç School?

What are the **reasons for preferring** The Koç School?

What are the **positive and negative experiences** at The Koç School?

What does **"preferring"** The Koç School **signify**?

What are the **values that create satisfaction** with The Koç School?


What are the **qualities that describe** the Koç School student?

What are the values that **distinguish** The Koç School, its students and alumni **from other schools**?

What is **expected from The Koç School culture**?

What **solutions can be proposed** to meet expectations?





Perceptions about the meaning and purpose of The Koç School and education are evolving significantly.



What we did?

- Collected qualitative and quantitative data
- Organized a workshop series to drive the school toward its North Star
- Held focus group discussions with The Koç School students
- Conducted in-depth online interviews with The Koç School teachers, parents, alumni, staff, and prominent opinion leaders in education
- Involved The Koç School Board of Directors, which sets the school's roadmap, in the process



TOTAL
1,036
INTERVIEWS

The famous philosopher Aristotle (322-384 BCE) defined the ultimate purpose in human existence as “to pursue that which is always desirable in itself and never for the sake of something else.”



LOOKING AT THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE IN HUMAN

EXISTENCE FROM A STUDENT’S STANDPOINT...

WE AIM TO?

- **Support the holistic development of students**
- **Be a school focused on meaning and purpose**
- **Contribute to a positive school environment and community**
- **Build a collaborative culture across The Koç School**
- **Ensure that The Koç School is in continuous contact with its external stakeholders**
- **Follow the motto “The Onus is on Us!” to generate outputs as a model for the Turkish education system**

[They] grow into happy and aspirational adults with a higher level of life satisfaction.

(Burrow et al., 2010, Sumner, 2014)

[They] turn into individuals with a stronger character, self-confidence, ethics, and high social intelligence.

(Hill, 2010, Johnson et al., 2018)

[They] will have higher self-worth and will not be affected by social media likes.

(Machel, 2016)

[They] are more likely to complete their education, work harder, and achieve academic success.


(Bronk et al., 2017)

[They] are less prone to anti-social behavior.

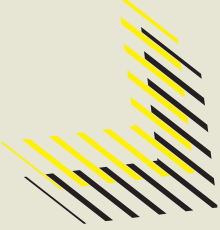
(Burrow and Rainone, 2017)

[They] are more resilient against economic challenges.

(Sharma, 2018; Yeager, 2014)



The results of the research were addressed in a workshop with the participation of various stakeholders in June 2022. The evaluations and outcomes will be shared in stages through various processes within the 2022-2023 academic year.



STUDENTS' SEARCH FOR MEANING AND PURPOSE

EXPERIENCES DURING

THE PANDEMIC AND OUR FUTURE PLANS

Dr. Ayşe Yemişçigil Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University

How do we protect our mental health and find new meaning and purpose in everyday life or when faced with challenges?

Where were you and what were you doing in the spring of 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic? You probably remember what you were doing in the days when the first cases were reported and the lockdowns were imposed very vividly. Our memories of the moments when we receive a shocking and unexpected news are called “flashbulb memory,” and research shows we retain such memories for quite a long time.

In the first month of the pandemic, my colleagues and I worked day and night to create a survey to understand the experiences and well-being of students and youth. We reached out to 1,300 students studying in the USA and asked them to respond to the survey questionnaire. Among the responding students, 32% said they knew someone who had COVID-19. At the time, we did not exactly know the effects of the disease and there was no vaccine to talk about. So the young people, like everybody else, experienced COVID-19 as a vital threat with no certainty on the horizon.

According to the Terror Management Theory, a frequently addressed concept in psychology, people begin to question their values and purpose when faced with life-threatening experiences. We observed that the students who responded to our survey and whose lives were impacted by COVID-19 fell into two groups. The first group said they questioned their belief systems and the meaning of life during the pandemic. This group expressed 3 to 5 times more interest in dedicating themselves to working for the good of people. On the other hand, the second group experienced stress and anxiety and was far from transforming their perspective on life.

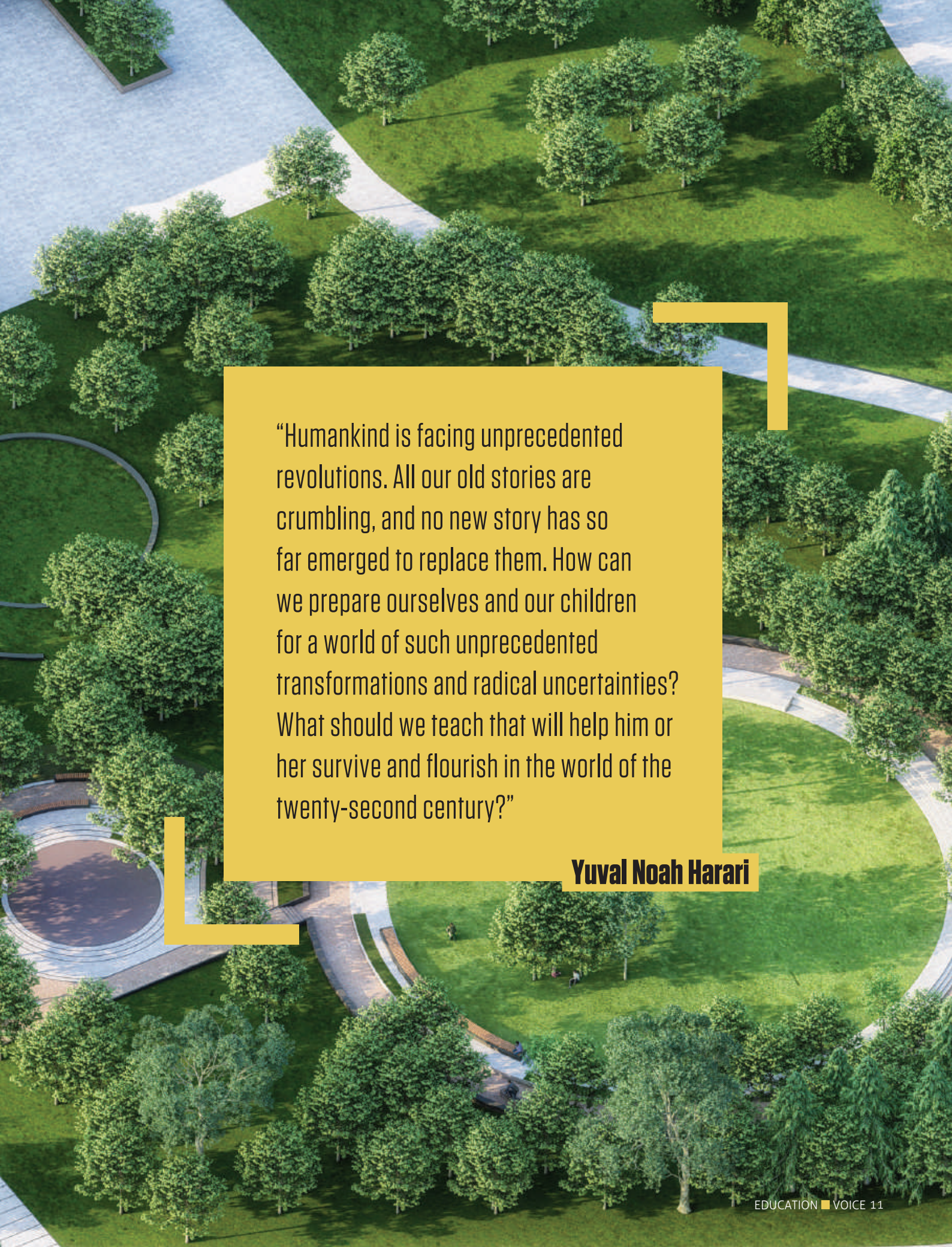
We don't yet know the extent of the lasting impact these experiences will have on the students. However, scientific studies show again and again that young people who have a meaning and purpose lead happier and healthier lives and show more resilience and strength in the face of challenges. So, how do we protect our mental health and find new meaning and purpose in everyday life or when confronted with challenges? Even though this is specific to each individual, research indicates that the social and economic environment can also affect the process of finding meaning and purpose positively or negatively.

The research we carry out at the Koç School enables us to generate information and develop evidence-based practices on how we can support the students socially in their search for and discovery of meaning and purpose accurately and effectively. The students who responded to our survey in November 2021 provided valuable insights. We will share our learnings and findings with all the stakeholders during our June event. We expect our findings to make new contributions to the scientific literature on meaning and purpose. We also have plans to develop practices that positively affect student life starting with The Koç School and later in schools worldwide.

An aerial architectural rendering of a modern high school building. The building features a prominent glass entrance with a red circular logo. In the foreground, there is a large outdoor amphitheater with tiered seating and a circular stage area. To the right, a swimming pool is visible. The campus is landscaped with green lawns, trees, and walkways. The overall design is contemporary and functional.

A NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

READY FOR TOMORROW!

An aerial photograph of a lush green park with winding paths, many trees, and a circular paved area. A large yellow text box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing a quote. The text box has L-shaped corner brackets on its top-right and bottom-left sides.

“Humankind is facing unprecedented revolutions. All our old stories are crumbling, and no new story has so far emerged to replace them. How can we prepare ourselves and our children for a world of such unprecedented transformations and radical uncertainties? What should we teach that will help him or her survive and flourish in the world of the twenty-second century?”

Yuval Noah Harari

LOOKING FOR THE TIMELESS BUILDING CONNECTING TO THE FUTURE

Following a demanding yet efficient process involving multiple stakeholders and serious collaboration among different teams with expertise in their respective fields, the new high school building of The Koç School is slated for opening soon. At the outset of the process for the building, designed by DB Architecture as the lead, with Trung Le/ThisIs180 as interior design consultants and PAB Architecture as the executor of the project, long listening workshops were held with the school's stakeholders, with ThisIs180 leading the discussions, to find the common ground that all the stakeholders would agree on. Based on the outcome of these listening workshops, a design strategy was defined for the spaces with a multi-layered and multi-disciplinary approach that considered the school's expectations, anticipations about the future of education, the students' place in the innovative education paradigm, the impact of technology on education, user experience, and campus life. Innovative educational practices. The student-centric design strategy comes to life with different reflections around the school. Anticipating that education will be interactive and immersive in the schools of the future and actively involve the students, "learning studios" replace classrooms, while "non-directional studios" are designed. Rather than a conventional layout where the classroom has a front and back, alternative uses are made possible with two boards on the walls and portable furniture to enable different arrangements, resulting in more flexibility and versatility. In this space arrangement where the standard teacher's desk in front of the board is eliminated and the teacher becomes a component of the studio like the student, the teacher-learner and active-passive roles were reconsidered for more innovative educational practices. Using glass panes for the studio walls facing the hallways was a decision to bring



"The most important question we can ask ourselves is, 'Are we being good ancestors?'"
Jonas Salk

the activity inside the studio out to the corridors and increase engagement and transparency.

Informal learning spaces

Many common areas are designed to ensure that the learning spaces are not limited to the studios and to make the entire physical setting a learning area to facilitate teaching. Some of the common areas such as the Writing Hub or Deep Questions Institute provide spaces for more focused and concentrated study and production while informal learning areas are created in the hallways with meeting points of different sizes, allowing the students to come together, socialize, and learn from each other outside of class hours. Dividing each floor into specific departments and designing them according to the needs of respective department, and creating informal areas for teachers as well to come together and work on joint projects were important decisions in terms of ensuring that all stakeholders of the education ecosystem were considered. Using similar glass partitions for the interior walls of the teachers' offices enhanced the feeling of transparency throughout the school.





All-over daylight

Drawing natural daylight in to all possible corners of the building was one of the key reasons for using glass panes in the interiors. In the final architectural design, the wide skylight positioned directly above the agora with amphitheater stairs, located at the center of the building and set to become a meeting place for all students, blends with the daylight pouring into all the floors from the studios and offices to the hallways. Wide glass surfaces that create an alignment between the interior and exterior allow the weather conditions outside to be observed from inside the building while filling it with light.

Flexible areas

The alley that connects the structure to the other buildings of the high school seems almost like a street bathed in natural light, bringing a feel of the exterior landscape inside. It is large, spacious and bright, serving as a main entrance to welcome in the students, and flexible enough to allow many encounters.

The architectural design makes it possible to establish a direct visual relationship with the outside world from all levels and allows the classrooms on the lower ground floor to open directly to the yard, open learning areas to be formed in the courtyards, and social areas to connect directly with the yard. The exterior, the courtyards and the yard are conceived as extensions of the learning areas.

A sense of timelessness

Selection of natural materials to create a sense of timelessness is another prominent feature of the building. With a natural texture and muted colors, the bricks on the outer shell of the building create the feel of a building that has stood and will always stand there. The bricks peeking through the large glass panes on the façade meet with another natural material, wood, in the interior. Wooden wall coverings that will be elevated with the patina of time contribute to creating a people-centric environment with their soft and warm texture.

Please scan the code to read the views of DB Architecture, the executor of the high school building's architectural project.





Trung Le & Sam Chaltain | Thisis180

NOW IS WHEN WE COMMIT, ALL OF US, TO BECOME BETTER ANCESTORS.

We are the inheritors of gifts from the past.

Consider the legacy of Jonas Salk, the scientist who, after a decade of experiments, created the first polio vaccine -- and then refused to get his invention patented so more people could benefit from it.

Throughout his life, Vehbi Koc embodied the spirit of Dr. Salk's essential question. Whether it was in business or philanthropy, Koc's own legacy has been to inspire trust, excellence, and a commitment to build a better Turkey -- with a global perspective.

If he were alive today, then, Vehbi Koc would clearly see the changing nature of the world, and urge us -- the inheritors of his legacy at The Koç School -- to reshape our patterns of human behavior in order to help our once and future students build a better world by design.

But how?

How can we commit to a new north star in the service of a different story?

How can we develop a different way of learning and living?
And how might The Koç School lead the way?

After (how much time) spent pondering this question, The Koç School now stands poised to provide its answer to the world.

Starting in academic year 2022-2023, our new high school -- replete with cutting-edge places to create, converse, and collaborate -- opens its doors to a new building, and a new era in its storied history.

Now is when we commit, all of us, to become better ancestors. This is who we are -- and who we must still become. "The most important question we can ask ourselves is, 'Are we being good ancestors?'"





HIGHLIGHTS

- Student-centric strategy for designing the spaces
- Creating a direct visual relationship with the outside world
- Shifting the focus from “classroom” to a “learning studio” concept
- Flexible and versatile designs in learning studios
- Natural materials enhancing the sense of timelessness



It's all about telling a story



To break away from the hub of creativity and pursue a fancy title, or to believe in the power of storytelling and creativity instead of a title and push forward like a 'junior' on the road with new steps... For Can Faga '98, it's all about telling a story.

Can Faga '98 is one of the most prolific, creative and award-winning figures in the advertising world. "The fact that most of the teams in the advertising agencies still live in the 1990s, the managers are focused only on making a profit, the most successful craftsmen of the trade have moved abroad to become tattoo artists or freelance designers in Europe, and he, himself —as of his last position—broke away from the hub of creativity" made him question what he was doing. Drawing from the need for a new, more creative yet more economical system in the advertising industry and asking questions — like "What to do?" and "What not to do?" — Can Faga developed a new agency model with his friends during the pandemic. He says, "I am super excited about the new system we created. I think it's good for the brands, too. With a creative team of only 10 people, we acquired 24 clients in 18 months and never received a complaint from any of them." This is how he describes aRthuR, the new creative agency. Keep reading to find out how he answered our questions.

All the changes and beauty in life start with caring for something. Not having a worry in the world is not as great as the youth thinks it is. So, yay for my worries!

What did you do after graduating from The Koç School?

I enrolled in the Department of Communications at Bilgi University. I selected public relations as the main course (major) and advertisement as side dish (minor). I have been very fortunate in my education, both at The Koç School and Bilgi. During my university years, I was lucky enough to take courses from great teachers like Betül Mardin, who made me dream of public relations and Atilla Aksoy, who inspired a career in advertising. I should note that I was undecided for quite a while. But as I watched the commercials of brands like Nike, PlayStation, Levi's, and Volkswagen that would be featured in movie theaters in those years, the scale tipped more toward the advertising side. So, I began to research the agencies and the creative teams behind those commercials. After graduation, I started interning at Ogilvy & Mather, the agency of David Ogilvy, known as the godfather of advertising. I graduated in early June 2002, and after a month long vacation — the longest in my professional life - my advertising career officially launched in the heat of July. I later had the opportunity to work for many international advertising agency networks like McCann, MullenLowe, DDB, and Publicis. Over the years, I worked with some great creative directors. And when I became a creative director, I always had excellent teams. With many successful campaigns under my belt, I returned with numerous awards from several festivals. But among all the accolades, the awards I won at Cannes three years in a row have a special place for me. Beyond a great creative work, getting recognition for it helps the brands even more. So it was important to rank among the agencies that win the most awards every year at Effie, which focuses entirely on the impact created. However, there seems to be a serious decline in terms of professional satisfaction in the advertising industry, especially in recent years. I can say that I felt this change more strongly than many others because I am driven by delivering good work. This is all I expect from my job. When I started losing that drive, I knew something had to give. On top of that, the pandemic happened so I stayed at home and spent a year reflecting, going over everything I did so far, and looking at the whole picture. What did we need to keep and what did we need to change? Finally we decided to create a new agency model and founded aRthuR with friends that I worked with shoulder to shoulder for years.

What do you do at aRthuR? Or what do you do differently?

We founded aRthuR as a collaborative agency. In this organizational structure, no one has a title and everyone believes in the power of putting aside egos and collaborating with other people and companies to deliver the most effective job. We will never be concerned about having 100 employees. Depending on the scope

of the client's requirements, we collaborate with the best in their fields (digital agencies, social media agencies, strategy consultants, celebrities, freelance talent, etc.) and become a team of 100 people if needed. And once the job is done, there are only 10 of us left again. By not employing extra staff, we avoid increasing the costs and compromising quality.

With the rapid rise of digital, and all the talk about metaverse and gamification, do you think things are getting more difficult for the advertising world?

What you mentioned are actually just channels with different dynamics, different target audiences and measurable metrics. The creative idea at the core of an advertisement, the urge to do something different, and its social relevance remain unchanged. We are storytellers. You can tell a story in metaverse, on the radio, or even as you put your child to sleep at night... The channels will keep evolving and transforming, and some will eventually disappear. That is the one constant.

Is there any campaign/ad that will always be "very special" to you?

There are many. But off the top of my head, I can name "İğdir" commercial for Turkish Airlines, November 10 films for Koç Holding, and Women's Day communications for Boyner as a few of the most memorable.

Is there any campaign/ad that made you say, "I should have come up with that"?

I can tell you worse: There are ads/campaigns when I said, "I had thought of it, too!" There are the near misses, the ones that could have created a big buzz but couldn't because the client pulled the plug for some reason or other. Then one day, you see someone else doing something very similar and you say goodbye to that idea, never to see the light of day again. That is the worst feeling.

How did The Koç School mold you into who you are today?

I was a boarding student at The Koç School for five years. This experience matures and develop you emotionally, teaching you to stand on your own feet from a very young age. You make great friends and you probably save the time you would lose in forming useless relationships. It allows you to focus more on your own life.

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE SCHOOL

Carpenters, security guards, technicians... Some have been at The Koç School for five years, some for more than twenty years! They are the unsung heroes of the school, always striving to give their best with their endless energy, smiles, warm talks, expertise, kindness, and the marks they make!



ŞEREF GÜNAY

SECURITY GUARD

If I had to describe The Koç School and my experience here in three words, I would say family, discipline and trust.

23 years at The Koç School.

Known as a dependable, friendly, hardworking, and disciplined employee.

Tag line: Hello, how may I help you?



ÖZKAN YILMAZ

CARPENTER

Nearly 5 years at The Koç School.

Known for assisting all the art events at the school.

Tag line: When do you need it?

There was an issue with the window screen in the Student Administration Office. I put up the ladder from the outside and slowly climbed up. As soon as I lifted my head, I saw our High School Principal Ms. Elif, Ms. Berna and the other office employees all looking at me from above. We all had a good laugh.

ZEYNEP GÜRESİN

IT AV SPECIALIST



15 years filled with action and innovation at The Koç School.

Known as a friendly employee and an animal lover.

Tag line: It's a full house!

Every year, the school organizes a Book Week, publishing houses set up sales desks in the hallway in front of the auditorium. It is a very busy time for our team. After an author's talk in the auditorium, we were walking out when a first grader came to the publisher's desk and held out a book, saying: "I want to return this." When asked why, she said, "I bought it yesterday, I read it to the end at home, but I didn't like it." I didn't know what to say at that moment. But the publisher had heard us and said that our student could exchange the book.

HÜSEYİN ÇELİK

SENIOR
SYSTEM SPECIALIST

14 years at The Koç School.

Known as a kind, calm, and patient employee.

Tag line: I'll check it immediately.

In my first year at The Koç School, I was working at my desk and I had to restart my computer. I clicked on the start bar and the "Shut Down" button and waited, but my computer would not shut down. I clicked the "Shut Down" button again, wondering why it hadn't shut down yet. This time, my computer shut down. Then I turned it on. After a while, my phone started ringing off the hook. People were asking why Outlook was not working and emails were not going through. As I tried to figure out what was happening, I realized that our email server was down! Apparently, I had turned the remote server off while I was trying to shut down my own computer! I rushed to the system room and turned on the server. It was very stressful at the time, but now I remember it with a smile.

MUSTAFA HAMDİ MAR

LIFEGUARD

The pool building is completely covered with glass panes and there are many emergency exits. We have had students who could not find the entrance and had to tour around the building.

5 years at The Koç School.

Known as a rule-follower and a disciplined and responsible employee.

Tag line: Please shower before you enter the pool.



SÜLEYMAN DENİZ

TECHNICAL TEAM SUPERVISOR

7.5 years at The Koç School.

Known for getting everything done and being impatient.

Tag line: No worries, we'll get it fixed, nice and fine.

We had the bent weightlifting bars in the Fitness Center replaced with Olympic grade bars and a stand. The students were very pleased and as they were checking out the gym with the pool technician, they asked who got the school to buy Olympic grade bars and the stand. When they learned that it was me, they told me how happy they were.

İBRAHİM KOÇ

CARPENTER TECHNICIAN



25 years at The Koç School.

Known for getting things done and solving the problems.

Tag lines: Sir, madam.

I will never forget the fun we had with the students participating in a competition as we prepared and built their projects. I am very happy to be a part of The Koç School.



GÜRAY YEŞİLYURT

SECURITY GUARD

23 years at The Koç School.

I have worked at The Koç School for 23 years, which may seem like a long time to others but for me, it felt like a breeze. I made so many unforgettable memories in these 23 years that could fill a book if I wrote one. I started working at The Koç School in 1999 on the recommendation of a good friend. I am so glad I did. I met my wife at The Koç School. And my daughter, Selenay, who was selected in a draw to attend The Koç School kindergarten, will graduate from The Koç School this year.

HALİL İBRAHİM OKTAY

POOL TECHNICIAN

9 years at The Koç School.

Known as a friendly employee who loves the forests and is an athlete and a good folk dancer.

Tag line: Hey, look here!

The days when our youngest primary school students first start swimming lessons are the most memorable moments at the school for me. When they first see the pool, it looks “huge” to them. I witness them grow up and become excellent swimmers over the years as the pool becomes normal in their eyes.



MUSTAFA SÖYLEMEZ

POOL TECHNICIAN, LIFEGUARD, ELECTRICIAN

**9 years (since the opening of the pool building)
at The Koç School.**

Known for his honesty and compassion in the school.

Tag line: Hey, bro/sis!

I have so many fun memories at the school, but I'm not sure telling them would have the same effect. I am about to complete 10 years at the school and will soon get my certificate. The Koç School is firmly committed to its values and is always open to newness, and being a part of this family means safety and security to me.

**Batuğhan
Uzgören '06 tells
how he fearlessly
pursued his
childhood dream
and became a
conductor...**

MAESTRO'S INSTRUMENT IS THE

ORCHESTRA

Batuğhan Uzgören '06, who divides his time between Turkey and Austria, teaches at three conservatories and spends every day wrapped in music. Batuğhan is an orchestra conductor, who says, "If I had any other job and worked this hard, I would probably say my life was tough but I can't because it feels like a game and I have so much fun." He is a believer of the thought that people should choose the job they can do easily and well, not the job they love. He says that people who choose the job they love and do it well will eventually be successful. He tells his story as he answers our questions.

How did you decide to become an orchestra conductor?

This may sound like a cliché to you, but I have always wanted to be a conductor for as long as I can remember. The conductors are typically charismatic figures and always in the spotlight; so, it is only natural for a young person to emulate them and want to be like them. Since my mother is a musician and my father has a keen interest in classical music, I grew up watching orchestras and conductors at home and developed a passion for it.

Did you show an interest in music during your time at The Koç School?

I certainly had an interest in music at school. Whenever music came up during a conversation, everyone would turn and look at me as if I was in charge of it. In my senior year, when everyone was preparing for the university, I decided to attend the conservatory. While everyone else would carry loads of test books

and bags larger than themselves, I would put my bag in my locker and walk to and from school like a tourist with nothing in my arms. Then, a new principal—I think it was Mr. Paulus - started at the school. In the morning, when the school buses arrived, he would be at the entrance, greeting the students with a subtle nod. But it felt like he was judging me and making a face, probably wondering, "Who is this kid?" I would be smiling and walking to the school. One day, I went on stage and played the piano in a concert. My friends in the audience were cheering and applauding, making quite a scene in the auditorium! I took a bow and got off the stage. Mr. Paulus approached me and said, "Now I get it!" Whatever that meant, I don't know!

Conducting an orchestra is usually associated with leadership. What do you think are the essential attributes of a conductor?

There is indeed such an assumption. Orchestra conductors are assertive as they should be. Why, you

ask... Musicians sometimes tend to be messy given their artistic nature and you need to be there to guide them. In some cases, the conductors may be intolerant because they have to take care of many things at once and they may seem angry even if they are not. I do not believe that leadership and authority have anything to do with being tall or having a strong voice, showing empathy, being open to newness, or being friendly while conducting; these are all pointless. In my opinion, leadership and authority can only be asserted through knowledge and competence. When you are more knowledgeable than everyone else playing in the orchestra, you don't need to try anyway because they acknowledge your leadership already when you lift a finger.

How do you prepare for the concerts?

Orchestra conductors are at a disadvantage because they don't have an instrument in their hands. All members of the orchestra prepare for a concert by playing their instruments, whether it is a piano, a violin, a flute or their own voice, whereas the conductor's instrument is the orchestra. So, they only "play that instrument" in rehearsals and the concert. When I ask my instrumentalist colleagues, "Do you think a violinist could play in a concert if they get the sheet music two months in advance, but can only have access to a violin two days before the concert, during the rehearsal?" they look appalled! The same may not apply to conducting an orchestra, but in practice it does. So, conductors gain experience over many years and become "good conductors" in time. You may have noticed that many of the good conductors are usually older. There are, of course, other things you do at home without the orchestra. For example, we study the piece, play it on the piano, and make plans for what we will do when we meet with the orchestra. In other words, there is the tedious part of working at your desk, but in the end, it is worth the effort.

Did The Koç School play any role in your career and artistic journey?

It did, how could it not? I say this whenever an opportunity comes up; my school helped me significantly. I was studying piano at the conservatory and what I needed the most was to play on stage. The Koç School gave me a chance. The school organized all kinds of events: Ramfest, Talent Show, Sevgi Gönül Art Night... My school gave me the opportunity to perform in these events. I did not need a reason to call, I would just go to our principal (Füsun Ersoy) and ask, "Do you think I could play two songs before the flag ceremony today?" And she would say, "Certainly, Batuğhan, go ahead." So I would go on stage and play two Chopin Études or something else. If I had kept my practices limited to my time at the conservatory, I would have missed the chance to perform so much."



What should one do to become a conductor?

Growing up with classical music and as part of this culture from a young age is key. I should note that growing up with classical music is not that hard because anyone who gets serious music education starting in childhood can do it. However, growing up in a culture of classical music is not so easy unless you live in certain European countries. What I mean is, it requires going into the basics of music and learning and experiencing every single pillar of music from a young age, like a master training from apprenticeship. Gregorian polyphonic choirs, where classical music was born, history and culture of Christianity, European languages and opera are some of these foundational pillars. Someone who has not sung in a choir and gained a vocal music culture, has not developed an understanding of the European culture and tradition, and is not able to comprehend one or more European languages, and who is not familiar with the opera, performing arts, and drama would have a hard time becoming a conductor because classical music is a combination of these values. Growing up with these is an exceptional privilege, both in our country and in the world. Therefore, conductors are few in number worldwide, and the good ones are even fewer.

PROUD

We are very!

Overseas College Guidance Office (OCGO) writes

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS!

Although the Koç School has had many years in which our seniors have been very successful in terms of overseas university results, this year stands out because of the amazing success of our students despite the extreme challenges both our students and the school as a community faced during the pandemic. There were many unknowns that our students faced as they submitted applications to many of the leading universities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy and Holland. For example, how the grades would be interpreted by universities when IB students studied the entire first year of the program online and classes were shortened to thirty minutes for all students and students only took a handful of in-person exams over a two-year period. Another concern was how the teachers and counselors would write meaningful recommendations that brought the students to life despite knowing them largely online. Many families were impacted financially by the repercussions of the pandemic and the fluctuating exchange rates, forcing many more families than in the past to seek financial aid in order to afford the costs of an overseas education. The impact of this situation also created uncertainty for many. Thankfully, the entire Koç community pulled together to tackle these challenges and in the end our students achieved unparalleled success in terms of university outcomes.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU!

There were many unsung heroes that helped this class achieve success. First of all, the teachers who worked tirelessly to provide quality education virtually and then to help students adapt to in person learning in the fall. We would like to thank them on the students' behalf for working to write meaningful reference letters that helped differentiate students for admissions committees despite having known them to a great extent virtually.

We would also like to mention how vital Rakela Levi and her team were in helping to support the many students who suffered emotionally and psychologically due to the lack of socialization and the effects of lockdown and the impact on learning virtually. Their efforts helped many students through this difficult period and later to adapt to returning to in-person learning in the fall.

Richard Fower played a major role in maintaining a quality IB program in the most difficult conditions and Asuman Okman gave up weekends throughout most of the year in order to meet with families online to help them through the financial aid process and Hasan Kurt was a lifeline for both parents and students. Both Richard, Hasan and Asuman should be congratulated for the critical roles they played in our seniors' success. And finally a big thanks for the leadership and wisdom of Elif Öztürk, Principal of the High School, who steered the Koç School through the most difficult times with an even amount of empathy and professionalism.

WHICH FIELDS DID STUDENTS PREFER?

- We had two students admitted each to the two most selective universities in the United States, Harvard and Stanford. Harvard University had a 3.2% admit rate and Stanford 3.9% admit rate. We also had two students admitted to Yale University with a 4.5% admit rate, three to Brown University, one student admitted to University of Pennsylvania with a 5.9% admit rate and three students admitted to Dartmouth with a 6.2% admit rate and three to Cornell University with a 10.3% admit rate.
- Koç students also received offers from universities specializing in engineering including three to Georgia Institute of Technology, fifteen to Purdue University and nine to the University of Illinois. Similarly, seven students interested in business received offers to Babson College and two to Bentley University.
- We also have outstanding offers from top liberal arts colleges in America including Swarthmore College, Bates College, Wesleyan

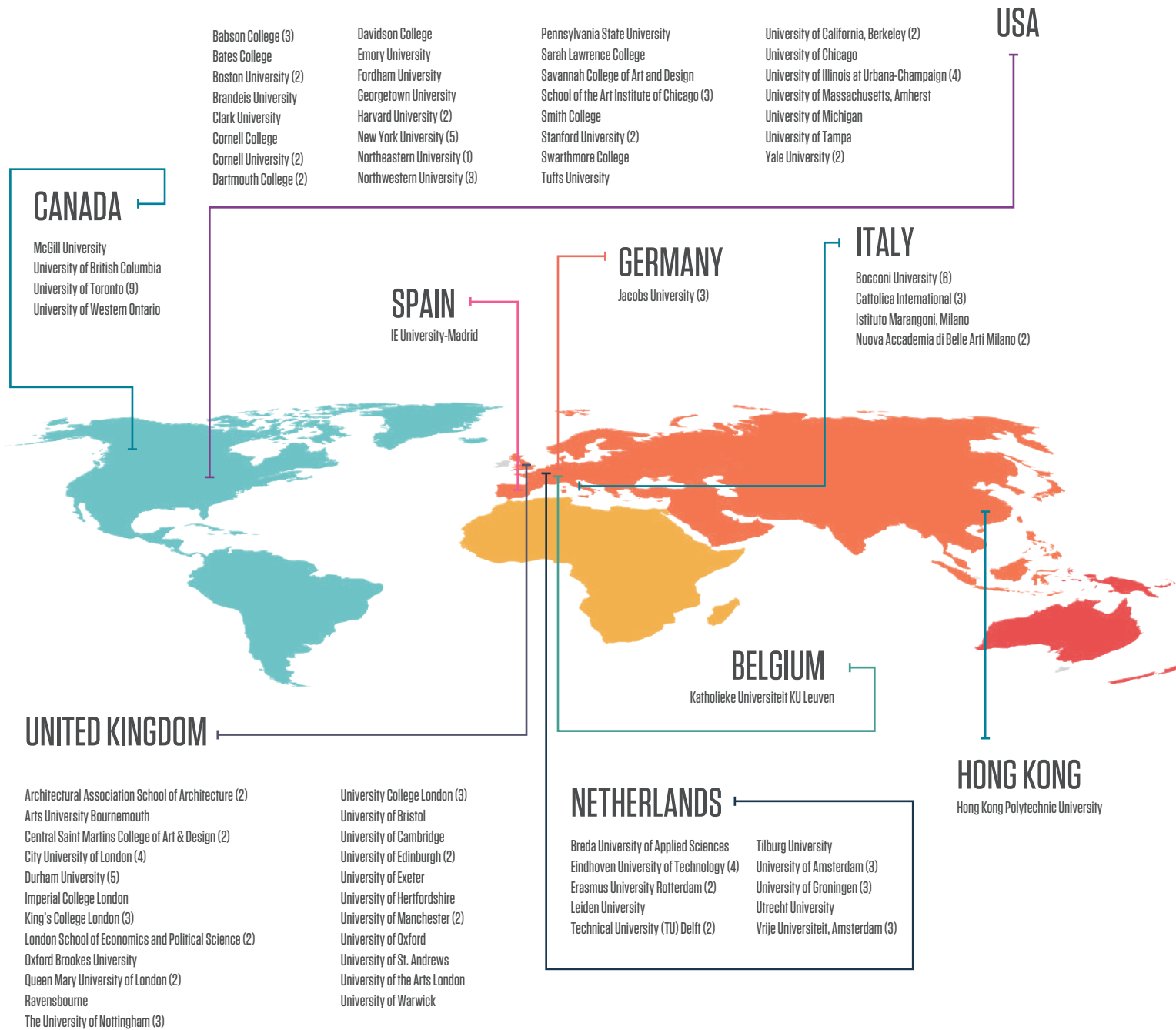
University, Smith College, Sarah Lawrence College and Davidson College, many with large scholarships.

- Our seniors had similar success in the UK and two students were admitted to the University of Oxford and one to the University of Cambridge. We also had six students receive offers from University College London, three to Imperial College, two to London School of Economics and sixteen to King's College London. Ten students were admitted to the University of Edinburgh, fifteen to Durham University and sixteen to the University of Warwick and two to the University of St. Andrew's.
- Students also achieved success at top Canadian universities and 22 students received offers from the University of Toronto, eleven to McGill University and thirteen to the University of British Columbia.
- Similarly, our students were admitted to top universities in Holland including twelve to the University of Amsterdam, twelve to Eindhoven

University of Technology, nine students to University of Groningen and three to Leiden University.

- Italy remains a popular destination for Koç students and thirteen students received offers from Bocconi, three to medical school at Humanitas and two students received offers to study engineering at Politecnico Torino.
- Art and Design in fact is a field preferred by many Koç students and two students were admitted to Pratt Institute, three to Parsons School of Art and Design, four to Maryland Institute of Art, three to Savannah College of Art and Design and six to School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the United States. We also had six students admitted to study at Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano in Italy. Four were admitted to study at the University of the Arts in London and four to Arts University Bournemouth in the UK. One student was also admitted to study art and design at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, Canada.

THE KOÇ SCHOOL STUDENTS MADE THEIR CHOICES



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS!

As many students chose to apply to multiple countries, some are waiting for IB results or Turkish University results to elect their final college choice. Yet, we would like to extend a big congratulations wherever they end up as they have certainly accomplished great things despite the obstacles they faced. We also send our best wishes to students taking the upcoming Turkish University examinations. The entire Koç community should be proud of their success and the role that we all played in helping them in their journey.



Contact Alim Erginoğlu at:
alimerginoglu@gmail.com

Alim Erginoğlu '92
shares the essentials of
employee experience as his
specialty...

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE IS A REFLECTION OF CORPORATE CULTURE

Alim Erginoğlu '92, who says that he was a boarding student throughout his education and learned team spirit as well as how to stand up as an individual in the face of challenges, is one of the earliest alumni of The Koç School. He adds, "We were raised as intellectual global citizens with an open mind and compassion at The Koç School." Pursuing his interest in international affairs from a young age, he studied International Relations and Political Science and then specialized in European Union (EU) Policy and Legislation. Alim Erginoğlu, who has worked as an Employee Experience Consultant for the last 20 years, tells us all about it.

What was your first work experience and how did your career evolve?

We grew up listening to the late Vehbi Koç and Suna Kırac, who instilled the pride of being a student of The Koç School in us. After my specialization, I headed to Koç Holding fresh out of school without a second thought and started as a Management Trainee. Careerwise, I was lucky because Turkey had just begun the Customs Union process with the EU. I am one of the rare people to have had the opportunity to practice their profession in the EU. After Koç Holding, I transferred to Arçelik. In addition to working in corporate relations and international affairs, I was also involved in the industry's harmonization with EU Customs Union. As a very inexperienced young person, I worked very hard, sweating to harmonize critical legislation such as Consumer Law and Competition Law with the Turkish legal system. Files in hand, you go in and out of rooms filled with people, who are the experts of this work and who at the time seemed like gods, making you feel so fresh and inexperienced. Who wouldn't sweat? Visiting some of the highest institutions such as the Ministry of Industry, the EU Office in Ankara, or the State Planning Organization, you feel like a fragile leaf about to be swept away by a sudden gust of wind. If you ask what I do now, life in general and my professional development led me to consultancy work over the years. I have been providing Employee Experience Consultancy for different sectors and international organizations for nearly 20 years.

What exactly is "employee experience"?

People gain experiences in their jobs just as they do in life. Essentially, the employee experience begins with an organization attracting and hiring an individual and continues through the recruitment and onboarding processes up to the moment the employee leaves the organization, encompassing all the gain and pain points throughout the experience. Employee experience is a reflection of the corporate culture. If the experience is positive, the employee builds a healthy bond with his company and we call this employee loyalty. Peter Drucker, known as the father of modern management and the world's most famous consultant, has a quote that I love: "Culture eats strategy for breakfast." If the culture you have built is mediocre and not people-centric, it will crumble to pieces no matter what strategy you implement. I should add that the employee experience is perceived as a new concept, but it has always been around. As I tell you this, millions of people are trying to do their jobs in a reality where they may or may not be happy or effective. The organization wants to create an experience but the employee also has an experience in mind. Just as we have expectations, hopes and dreams, there are realities determined by organizations. The experiences of the employee profiles we call "persona" may vary, but if there is a healthy culture as a whole, if the stages of the experience are well designed according to the needs, in that experience, you will not drag your feet when you go to work in the morning!

What are the must-haves of a positive employee experience?

First of all, you must hear and listen to the employees to improve the employee experience. In more technical terms, you need to collect data using a specific method to understand critical points of the experience. In today's world, organizations try to collect this data through employee engagement surveys. This is a good practice, but just not enough because it is not easy to understand the root causes behind the answers in the surveys. Therefore, you need to listen to the employee segments and analyze the root causes within the experience through focus group facilitations, which we call active listening. And you should do these frequently using a sound methodology and planning, not once a year.

Did the pandemic drive the companies forward or backward in terms of employee experience?

There is no easy answer to this question. Some companies quickly moved beyond the shock of the pandemic and adapted to the new working model. In this period, the companies that understood what their employees experienced in the flexible work model with data and responded to the needs improved the experience. Even though the employees were working remotely, the company connected with them and kept the bonds alive. They recognized the need and the breaking points of the experience and took the necessary actions. One size does not fit all, neither do the actions. What you call great in one company can be a disaster in another. As employees, we rely on two basic elements: trust and value. Those who deliver trust and value will be remembered well.

You quit your job and started traveling after your health problems. And you wrote a book about your experiences...

I suffered three cases of cancer, which upended my life at a young age. Surgeries, treatments... Sometimes I think it is a miracle that I am still alive. These events changed my outlook on life. I describe it as feeling 80 before turning 30. As I dealt with cancer, my career was inevitably interrupted for five years. At the time, my wife and I thought, "We may not see through this cycle!" and decided to chase after our dreams and make memories. I'm so glad we did! We backpacked across Southeast Asia, traveling to Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei and Borneo Island, on the roads for some 200 days and feeling all the beauty to our bones. I later published a book titled "Bir Türk Bir İngiliz ve Üç Kuruşluk Dünya" (One Turk, One Brit, and The World) to tell my cancer story and our trip. I also wrote articles on culture and travel in newspapers and magazines such as "The Gate," "Hürriyet Travel" and "Gezi Traveller." I also have a website (www.uckuruslukdunya.com) where I share my musings.

The Koç School values all forms of giving and aims to raise students who embody solidarity and philanthropy.

#TheKoçSchoolGives



Empowered by the principle of #TheOnusIsOnUs, The Koç School aims to raise students who understand the importance of giving and embody solidarity and philanthropy. During the Giving Day activities this year, donations were raised for the social responsibility projects that The Koç School students, teachers and employees started in the 2021-2022 academic year. The proceeds from the sales in the bazaar, organized by the middle school students, went to various NGOs and animal shelters. The high school students gave presentations to the primary school students to raise awareness and supported the project with a film about the importance of giving.

WHAT IS GIVING DAY?

Giving Day, marked on November 30, 2021, is a collective fundraising campaign that promotes and encourages giving and volunteering. The Koç School adopts Giving Tuesday, a movement followed in more than 60 countries, as Giving Day to emphasize the importance of giving, solidarity and volunteering.

GIVING DAY ACTIVITIES

- Detailed information on the social responsibility projects that The Koç School students, teachers and employees started in the 2021-2022 academic year was provided on The Koç School website.
- The primary school students engaged in several activities as part of their course content to help them grasp the importance of giving, philanthropy, generosity, and kindness throughout November.
- Middle School Student Assembly designed lovely posters for the Giving Day.
- Volunteering middle school students presented the NGOs and campaigns they supported to the primary and middle school students on December 1, 2021.
- Students and teachers who explained why they love giving were photographed.
- Volunteering High School IB students made a short film themed “Why I give?”
- The Koç School Libraries started a “Book Drive” with the belief that all children have the right to read books and access knowledge resources.
- Giving cards were hung on the “Paying Forward” to raise awareness.

Please scan the code to view.



Voice readers are invited to support these projects or actively join a cause that they believe in!



THE YOU IN ME

On Giving Day, “The You in Me” activity, which involves showing appreciation, provided an opportunity to touch the hearts of The Koç School employees. With nearly 1,200 exchanges by the end of the activity, the certificates presented to the employees made them happy and warmed their hearts.

GIVING CONTINUES AFTER THE GIVING DAY

- During the 58th Library Week, the students organized a book drive titled “Give A Book From Your Heart.” At the end of the campaign, 2,552 publications were collected and later sent to various schools to brighten the lives of the students who asked for books.
- The Boarding Department and a group of students took action to help Işıklı 60. Yıl Primary School. The aid material consisting of 32 boxes was quickly compiled and delivered to the village school located close to the Ardeşen district of Rize.
- In a book drive that the seventh graders Mercan Koroğlu and Berrak Kutlu started, 500 books were collected with the contributions of the kindergarten, primary and middle school students and then delivered to the Gülseren Enver Tüfekçioğlu Primary School in Mardin.



AWAY FROM FAST FASHION

**A passion that started in
childhood, a successful
education, a career
choice shaped around
sustainability...**

and Eda Gürkaynak '13!

Eda Gürkaynak '13 took over the second-hand clothing store, OriginalSeconds, from her family and as the second generation, she turned it into a circular fashion platform as an alternative to overproduction and overconsumption. Her goal is simple: to raise awareness by contributing to sustainable fashion with the help of technology. Here is the story of Eda Gürkaynak...



Where and what did you study after The Koç School?

In my first year at New York University (NYU), I enrolled in Liberal Arts because at the time I wasn't quite sure about what I wanted to study. Then, I transferred to NYU Stern School of Business in my second year with a 4.0 average and graduated with a double major in Business Economics and Marketing. Of course, living in New York City was also a great learning experience.

When and how did you develop an interest in fashion?

I think I always had a keen interest in fashion ever since I was little. Even in kindergarten, I would choose all the clothes I wanted to wear! I probably made some funny choices because my mother would have to go and explain the situation to my teachers! I remember putting on different clothes and showing them to the guests visiting us. But I really did not think that I would turn this interest into a career and make it my profession until I graduated and even until I returned to Istanbul.

Do you think fashion and clothes have a mission beyond their function?

What we wear is part of the first impression we make in others. To me, the key is creating our own style instead of following the trends and expressing ourselves through the clothes we wear. Even if it may not be easy to integrate this approach into our daily lives all the time, we should at least stay away from fast fashion, prefer longer lasting clothes, and ensure that the actual designers make the money, not the imitators. Textile industry is the second most polluting sector in the world. This is why fashion should be something that we reflect on, articulate, and find meaning in — not something we consume.

So, you are doing it through OriginalSeconds, right?

OriginalSeconds is a second-hand luxury fashion platform. It is a community that aims for a circular fashion movement as an alternative to overproduction and overconsumption for a sustainable future. The future of fashion is circular as sharing and reusing becomes more common. We also offer a platform for buyers and sellers to extend the life of their luxury products with our concierge service.

We know that you donate the proceeds from some of your projects to the Yuvam Dünya Association...

At OriginalSeconds, we upcycle second-hand luxury wear if they are damaged or not sold for a long time by combining them with excess materials of local brands. We teamed up with the Cekette brand to create our first series. We launch various projects to extend the lifecycles of quality products and contribute to sustainable fashion to raise awareness. So, donating the proceeds to an association with a relevant cause was the right decision.

How would you describe The Koç School's role in your career?

The Koç School was where I received my IB education and prepared myself for higher education in the USA. Studying abroad definitely expanded my horizon. I also learned a lot very quickly and gained self-confidence when I worked abroad. I am happy to see that many of my classmates are on successful career paths in different sectors. We became friends at The Koç School, and we still connect and help each other out, which I find very precious.

What's next?

We work hard to grow OriginalSeconds by leveraging technology. I have another career plan in the works that I will carry out concurrently with OriginalSeconds. I can't say more for the time being but I am very excited about it. I am currently taking courses to develop myself in that field.



For more information:
originalseconds.com



In the 2021-2022 academic year, The Koç School students competed in many individual and group championships in different sports disciplines, making us proud and elevating our school's position in sports.

WE COMPETED AND WON!



Junior Girls Table Tennis Team
District - 2nd Place



Junior Boys Basketball Team
District Champion



Young Boys Basketball Team
District Champion



Junior Girls Volleyball Team
District - 3rd Place



Minor Boys Swimming Team
Turkey Swimming Championship
Group Races - 2nd Place



Minor Boys Table Tennis Team
District Champion



**Junior Boys Football Team
District Champion**



**Minor Boys Basketball Team
District Champion**



**Minor Girls Table Tennis Team
District Champion**



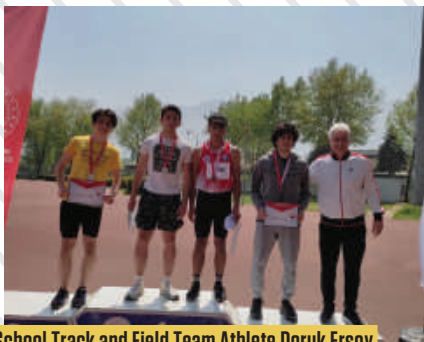
**Junior Boys Table Tennis Team
District Champion**



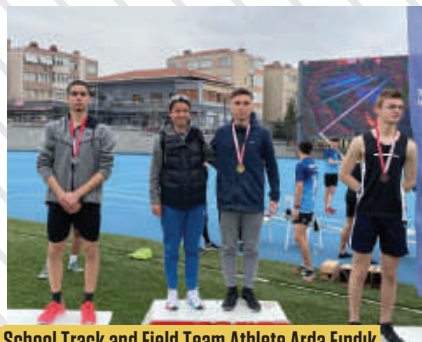
**Young Boys Table Tennis Team
District Champion**



**Minor Girls Volleyball Team
District - 3rd Place**



**School Track and Field Team Athlete Doruk Ersoy
Track and Field Races 100 m – 3rd Place – Istanbul,
200 m – 4th Place - Istanbul**



**School Track and Field Team Athlete Arda Fındık
Track and Field Races Triple Jump and Long
Jump – 2nd Place**



**School Swimming Team Athlete Duru Özsoy
50 m Butterfly, 100 m Butterfly and 200 m
Medley - Winner - Istanbul and Groups,
50 m Butterfly, 100 m Butterfly – Winner – Turkey**

LOOKING AT **THE HISTORY OF ART** **IN TURKEY** FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE

BEN- SEN- ONLAR

Some could never make a name for themselves with their works kept hidden behind closed doors, while some were renowned worldwide. But they were all productive, creating at a time when women faced many challenges. 'I - You - They' presents the works of women artists in Turkey, telling the stories of Mürşide, Seniye, Müreccel, Frumet, Nasip, Mihri, Harika, Tiraje and so many others.

“IDENTITY IS BOTH COLLECTIVE AND ONE-OF-A-KIND. EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS A UNIQUE AND SINGULAR EXPRESSION OF THE COLLECTIVE IDENTITY.”

Mesher, the exhibition space that the Vehbi Koç Foundation opened in September 2019, hosted a spectacular exhibition from October 2021 through May 2022. Realized under the patronage of Çiğdem Simavi and curated by Deniz Artun, the exhibition ‘I-You-They: A Century of Artist Women’ featured a selection of works by artist women who lived and worked in Turkey between roughly the 1850s and the 1950s.

The book accompanying the exhibition is published in two volumes for Turkish and English languages. Both the cover and the content of the book reflect the exhibition design and serve its purpose. The book helps us discover the artist women who lived and worked in Turkey, including the many who were overlooked in the writing of art history or remained in the shadow, in other words, the ones who could not become “I” and explore ways of creating a collective “we.” The book successfully documents these women, who were creative enough to make their mark on art history and perhaps change its course with their works, even though many of them were never acknowledged.

The unsung heroes of art

The exhibition and the book derive their name from a work of Şükran Aziz (1949-2019), the woman artist who lived and worked in Turkey and the USA. “I-You-They: A Century of Artist Women” features 232 works by 117 artist women who produced works through roughly a century from the 1850s and the 1950s. The 400-page book opens with forewords by Çiğdem Simavi and Esra Koç ‘15, a supporter of the project. Drawing from Çiğdem Simavi’s idea of giving visibility to the “unsung heroes” who made great contributions to culture and art in Turkey, the project took three years to come to fruition and aimed to bring artist women to the forefront outside of their studios and homes. Another goal of the project was to invite contemporary artist women of Turkey to explore their roots.

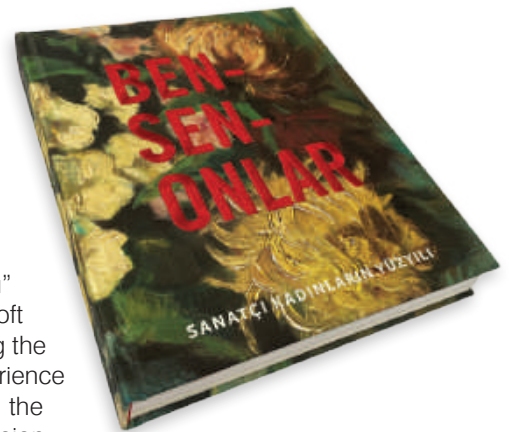
This quote by Şükran Aziz was how she interpreted “I — You — They,” also the title of the exhibition and the accompanying book, as a chessboard of gender identities. As she noted that gender identity could only be empowered when it became a collective “we,” she used the term, **“as strong as water.”** Şükran Aziz, a Turkey-born artist woman, believed that **“I”** and **“you”** should become **“we”** like water. On the other hand, the marginalizing, strict and disruptive **“they”** defined her existence in New York City, where she lived and worked for a time.



Şükran Aziz (1949–2019)
I-You-They, 1993–1996
Foil-cut letters on wood
25 plaques; each 33 x 33 cm
Fuat Yalın Collection

I — You — They

The book design reflects the layout and concept of the exhibition. The ground floor of the exhibition was dedicated to “I” for unsung women who were only faced with their mundane existence in the mirror. The first floor “You” offered an encounter with the soft and unifying other, encouraging the viewer to contemplate the experience of motherhood and subjectivity, the definition of family and compassion, the power of creativity and immortality. And the second floor “They” cast a look at women through the eyes of others. Curator Deniz Artun’s conceptual framework can be interpreted as a call to a collective “we” with an invitation for alternative histories to be written by recognizing each and every one of these women and their works.



...and We

The “We” section of the book takes the reader on a journey through the history, providing glimpses into the stories of these modest yet very creative women with images of their diplomas, photographs, newspaper clippings to the extent they could find coverage in the press, and exhibition invitations.



Yıldız Moran (1932—1995)
Echo, 1952
Yıldız Moran Archive



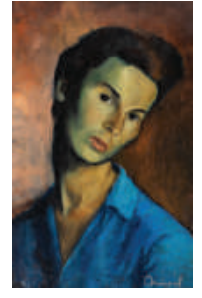
Vildan Gizer (1889—1974)
Ömer Bey (her father)
Bilge Berker Collection



Celile Uğuraldım (1880—1956)
Nude, 1949
Sema and Murat Germen Collection



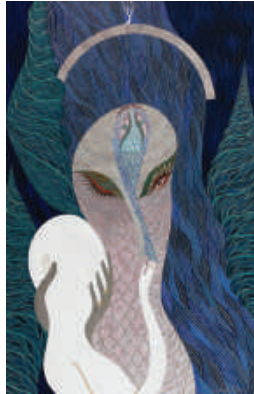
Frumet Tektaş (1912—1961)
Still Life
Courtesy of Aylin Tektaş



Mürcel Küçükaksoy (1921—2008)
Self-Portrait, 1950
Yusuf Küçükaksoy Collection



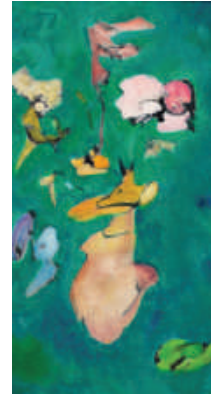
İvi Stangali (1922—1999)
Untitled, 1950—1964
Courtesy of Maya Stangali



Deniz Bilgin (1956—1999)
Madonna and the Child, 1996
Emel Meltem Yılmaz Collection



Mukaddes Saran (1923—1995)
Thorns of Mürefte, 1993
Seres Ener and Sema Ulcay Collection



Tiraçe Dikmen (1925—2014)
Flowers in a Vase, October 1999
Sulhiye-Murat Gültekingil Collection



Nasip İyem (1921—2011)
Untitled, 2002
Evin Art Gallery Collection



Emel Korutürk (1915—2013)
Zeynep
Korutürk Family Collection



Nüveyre Faik (?—?)
Sitting Nude
Arkas Collection



Füreya Koral (1910—1997)
Ceramic Amphora, late 1960s
Private Collection



Neşe Aybey (1930—2015)
Girl with Magnolias
Murat Aybey Collection



Nevin Edhem (1910—1931)
Untitled
Edhem Eldem Collection



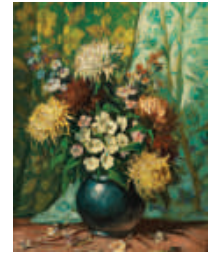
Iraida Barry (1899—1980)
Green Woman
Doğan Paksoy Collection



Belkis Mustafa (1896—1925)
Drawing
Arkas Collection



Melek Celal Sofu (1896—1976)
Portrait
Private Collection



Melek Celal Sofu (1896—1976)
Flowers in a Vase (Still Life)
Private Collection



Hale Asaf (1905—1938)
Still Life with Brushes
Alpaslan Aktug Collection

VEHBI KOÇ VAKFI ANSİKLOPEDİSİ

50 yıldır sağlık, kültür ve eğitim alanlarında üstümüze vazife diyerek
milyonlarca hayata dokunduk.

A-Z

ANSİKLOPEDI İÇİNDE

A'dan Z'ye
VKV'nin 50 yıllık
yolculuğunu
keşfedin.

Eğitim, kültür ve sağlıkta 50 yıllık yolculuğumuzu
şimdi dijital ansiklopedimizden inceleyebilirsiniz.

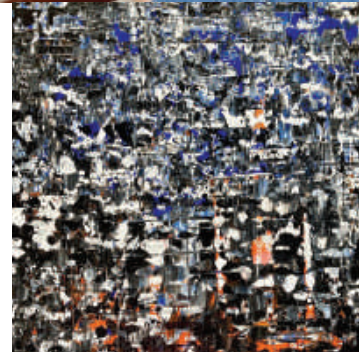
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VEHBI KOÇ VAKFI
ANSİKLOPEDİSİ

 Vehbi Koç Vakfı

Dilek Uzunoğlu Örs '93, who took up painting, her passion since childhood, again, this time more professionally, says, 'It felt good to paint my changing feelings on the canvas!'

CHALLENGES FOSTER PEOPLE'S CREATIVITY



We spoke with Dilek Uzunoğlu Örs '93, who - after graduating from The Koç School - studied Economics at Bilkent University, completed a master's degree in business at Istanbul Technical University, worked as an executive in a number of international companies, and managed the strategic research company Euromonitor International's projects for Turkey for 12 years. Here is what Dilek Uzunoğlu Örs '93 said about how she feels now that she's painting again after she was "shaken" by the pandemic and realized that she needed more time to herself...

When and how did you develop an interest in painting?

My interest in painting developed at a young age. As the child of architect parents, I can say that I started holding a drawing pen before I used a pencil. When I was in primary school, my father was teaching at 9 Eylül University and my paintings would be hung in the hallways of the Faculty of Architecture.

Why did you take a break from painting? Did your professional career not leave any room for your art?

In the first ten years of my career, I was frequently traveling abroad for business. Then, I had two babies. So, I spent most of my time focused on my family and career.

What made you take up painting again during the pandemic?

I was still painting from time to time but during the pandemic I started to concentrate more on my art, working with canvas and using different techniques. Unlike most people, I was actually working seven days a week in the first year of the pandemic due to the heavy workload because the research industry wants to hear bad news as much as the good.

In a way, the pandemic brought me back to my senses. I realized that I needed more time for myself and what I wanted to do, so I



To view the paintings:

📷 @duo__studio

How do you feel when you paint?

Most importantly, I feel liberated. I can spend a whole day painting, without even eating. It is similar to what I feel when I surf but the exhilaration of surfing fades much more quickly. As much as I love painting, I also enjoy giving names to what I do and adding small notes to think about. I try to use simple, quirky notes when I ask art lovers, "So, what do you think?" There is also a musical piece that I associate with almost each of my paintings and I have plans to develop projects based on this idea.

You held exhibitions in February and in April-May. Are there more on the horizon?

The exhibitions started in March 2022 in Ankara with the one at ArtAnkara. Next came my second solo exhibition "Spring Fever" at Moda Deniz Club in April. I will participate in two editions of the Bodrum Art Fair in June and July. Then, my third solo exhibition will be at Grand Hyatt Istanbul from July 1 to August 30. And finally, I will be at Contemporary Istanbul in September. Meanwhile, some of my works will be displayed in three locations of Intermed Medical Centers in Istanbul throughout 2022.

How did The Koç School shape your relationship with painting?

My school was influential in both my painting and also in terms of feeding on all artistic disciplines, freedom of expression, thinking differently, having flexibility, and cultivating creativity. But most importantly, it was at The Koç School, where I gained self-esteem and learned that you can do anything in life if you really put your mind to it.

reduced my work to five days a week, as it should be. I started by painting at home in the weekends. Especially during the lockdowns, getting your hands on paints and canvas quickly was nearly impossible. But challenges foster people's creativity immensely. Materials that you would never think of using in the past, like the stuff you have at home or in your yard can become a part of your art. For example, I used materials like sand, coal, soil and packaging to add dimension and texture to my paintings. But the day I dared to post my paintings on social media marked a turning point for me. Previously, I did not have a single personal post on my social media. And then, I opened a page for DUO Studio (inspired by my initials) on Instagram in October 2021. Things proceeded very fast after that. In this respect, social media empowered me to express and promote myself.

Dilek Uzunoğlu Örs '93

"I BELIEVE ART MAKES THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE AND ADDS BEAUTY TO ANY ENVIRONMENT AND CONDITION."

For me, the best part of the pandemic was taking up my passion for painting again and gaining a second career. During the pandemic, most of us probably asked ourselves, "What will feel good to me?" It felt good to paint my changing feelings on the canvas. I expressed the emotional outbursts I experienced during the pandemic in my paintings and I think art lovers find a piece of themselves when they see my works.



FOR THE LOVE OF ART!

The book titled 'Healing with the Power of Art' was created to reflect the excitement of the Sevgi Gönül Art Night events - which could not be held due to the pandemic restrictions for three years even though artistic production continued - in a different format. With a variety of content providing a look into The Koç School students' love of arts and efforts to heal through artistic production, the book serves as a meaningful reminder to commemorate Sevgi Gönül.



Please scan the code to view the digital version of the book.

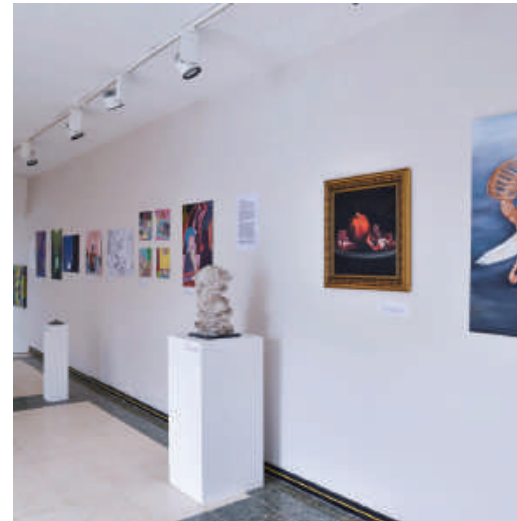
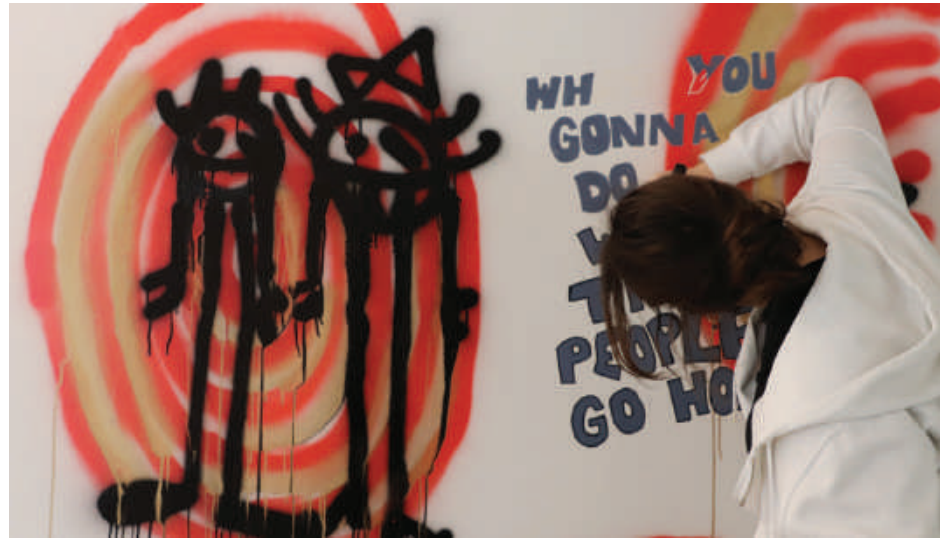
Every year, The Koç School excitedly prepares for Sevgi Gönül Art Night (SGAN), drawing inspiration from the Koç Family's deep connection to art. Since the first Sevgi Gönül Art Night on March 27, 2004, the year after Sevgi Gönül's passing, this event has been dedicated to the "creative spirit" that she deeply cared about. This meaningful night still keeps both her name and her passion for art alive in the works created by the students and encourages the youth who aim to become artists or express who they are through art.

The 17th edition of this event, which always takes place with the participation of an enthusiastic audience, had to be cancelled as the pandemic suddenly upended life as we knew it in Turkey as it did everywhere else around the world. With only two days to go until the event, everything had been planned and people were counting down to SGAN. But then, the cancellation was announced, leaving the works of art and performances in uncertainty and reducing the people who put their hearts and souls into the preparations to tears. After all the effort to present the works of art and performances to the audiences, everyone was stunned.



As people stayed at home and education continued online, The Koç School teachers and students had understood that art knows no boundaries, has no rules, and does not need a specific time and space to create. So they said, “Art will do us good!” and rolled up their sleeves to keep producing. Photographs, songs, dances, videos, dramas, ceremonies, exhibitions, performances... Every art work/performance that The Koç School students and teachers created with their resilience made its mark in the history of this period.

Then, work started for the second time to experience the excitement of the Sevgi Gönül Art Night, again cancelled due to pandemic restrictions while artistic production continued seamlessly. This time, the efforts focused on creating an archival resource for the future with input from the teachers, students, and alumni, the works of art produced in this period, and digital content in the seven art disciplines taught at The Koç School. The book’s contributors talked about how The Koç School’s outlook on art evolved during the pandemic, what everyone did for art in the process, and how the whole experience impacted the educators and the students as artists. “Healing with the Power of Art” is a tribute to The Koç School students’ love of art and their efforts to heal through art. Every line in the book is also a beautiful reminder to commemorate and honor Sevgi Gönül always and forever.



DOORS OPENING WITH MUSIC

"I fell in love with rock'n roll at The Koç School," says Cantek Batur '93, adding that the relationship he developed with music in the supportive and motivating environment of The Koç School was the biggest reason for his becoming a musician. Cantek Batur graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Yıldız Technical University "as a result of a series of events he doesn't quite remember." Although he is a computer programmer by trade, Cantek Batur talks about how his career, which also continues with music, evolved over the years.

Cantek Batur '93
talks about his music career which
has started at The Koç School and
continues with his brand
new album...



Please tell us how your music career proceeded after graduating from high school.

My university years were the start and the most exciting part of my professional music career. We were a cover band and we played in venues like Kemancı in Taksim. At the time, there were some really great cover rock bands. We met with the drummer of Moğollar, Engin Yörükoğlu, who gave us a spot on Friday and Saturday nights at Jazz Stop, which he operated and where Moğollar also played. One night after the show, I was carrying the instruments and the equipment to the car, when Cahit Berkay came to me and said, "This is the fate of rock musicians, dear Cantek, I hope it changes one day" and I will never forget his remark. We continued at this pace for nearly two years. It was tough at first because I would sing for about five hours two nights in a row and then couldn't speak for the next couple of days due to my sore throat. I took vocal performance lessons for about a year, which made it easier to sing later on. The pace was very fast but we also had a lot of fun and learned so much, it was like a school for us. I think it was there that we became a real rock band. When I finally graduated from university - albeit a little late - I flew to Canada 48 hours after I received my diploma.

How did you cross paths with Zift?

For a long time after I arrived in Canada, I was not actively involved in music but I continued to write and that never stopped. We were in constant contact with my bandmates and we kept pushing each other, so I decided to return to Turkey and continue with music professionally. We interpreted this as a sign and said, "Let's do it now before we get old, or we will always regret it." We formed a new band with some additions to the old and Zift was born. It was an entirely new experience for all of us. In 2010, we released our debut album "Yanlış Şeyler" (Wrong Things). I was both proud and scared of what we had accomplished. I discovered my abilities and potential and realized that many things that other people had difficulty doing came naturally and easily to me. Soon after, I met a producer who had worked with top Turkish rock bands. He listened to the demos of eight songs back to back and then said, "You have obviously listened to English songs all your life and have been influenced by poets and writers. And now, you released a Turkish album in this style. Your songs are really good but they won't sell in Turkey." Sometime later, we were invited to the "Gece Gündüz" (Night and Day) show on NTV. It was probably the day when we would get closest to our real audience. Before the show started, we spoke with the host Yekta Kopan about what we would play and talk about. A few hours later, we heard that Amy Winehouse had died. Everything was canceled and we went back home. I remember thinking that day, "Maybe it is time that I see the signs."

Do you miss your time with Zift?

There used to be such a thing as "Beyoğlu rock culture." There would be about 100 live music performances every night in that area back then. European tourists would come to the venues we played and say, "We found this place on Trip Advisor. These are the top venues in Istanbul." Everything seemed typical to us, the stages, the ambiance, the restaurants where we dined before the show and the

soup kitchen after the show... We would finish our show and then crash the stage of our friends in another venue. We couldn't walk down the street without stopping to say hi to someone every minute. The smells and the sounds... everything about Beyoğlu was unique. We couldn't get enough of the music and the chaos there. We experienced that culture at its peak with Zift and I certainly miss it. Sadly, they took away that lifestyle from music fans and we will never get that spirit back.

You released your first solo album in 2019 and the latest one this March...

The solo album I released in 2019 was titled "45'lik" (45 rpm) and it was a maxi single with three songs: a road song called "Tam 1 Sene Oldu" (It's Been One Year) from my time with Zift and two other songs. I played most of the instruments myself but I did not have a producer to guide me and I did not heed what others had to say. That album was my birthday present to myself. I also released a single in 2019 with a song in English titled "Under The Northern Skies." It was entirely a remote production, a piece I wrote when I was in Iceland and after a long break from writing. When I played it to my band mates, they all loved it and we recorded it without any expectations. I wanted it to sound like an old Pink Floyd song with no sales concerns. All the better for the guys! This song was also a test run and showed us that we could work from a distance. At this point, we had developed a method that worked. So, I dusted off the old songs I had written and music production took off again but this time in a different language with the band members on different continents and in different conditions. The seven-song solo album "Snowbird" came to life over the course of two years and I worked with excellent producers, alternative musicians, and sound engineers. I also collaborated with a vocal coach in Toronto to record the vocals. I not only improved my English but also learned to use my voice more naturally.

You said in an interview that you "had another profession (computer programming) because making a living with music is not easy." Do you still believe that?

Yes, I do have another profession, and it is my other passion. Both of my professions demand creativity and continuous learning. I write poems, stories, and songs; this is how I express myself. People appreciate my experience, musical talent, my work but more often than not, they don't aspire to these qualities. What they aspire to is that I have a channel where I can express myself. Everyone, including me, needs a medium to express themselves. Even when a piece you wrote does not receive the attention you hoped for and when you do not feel rewarded for your efforts, even when you are criticized and your talents are questioned, if you come home and write again, it means you are truly a musician. But you should deliver quality. I strongly believe in Malcolm Gladwell's "10,000 hour rule." No matter what, you cannot achieve perfection without making mistakes and without spending hours and days. The place where I am today opens new doors for me. I work with musicians I admire. I receive project offers from all around the world. After the release of my most recent album, I got a text from someone who said: "I can only put my daughter to sleep if she listens to your song." This is what I have been dreaming of for 20 years, not flying to the Grammys on my private jet!



Academic solidarity continues

Copies of “My Math Journal” prepared by the Middle School Math Department were presented to the fifth graders on a visit made to the Beykoz Koç Middle School accompanied by Middle School’s principal Meltem Önal Sertkaya. A meeting was organized with the Beykoz Koç Middle School Principal, Bekir Sağır, where continuing academic solidarity between the two schools was discussed. The two schools started exchanging ideas by conducting joint department meetings.

We learn in the yard, we teach in the yard



On Friday, September 10, 2021, a face-to-face workshop on developing curriculum for “Learning in the Yard” was held with the teachers under the guidance of naturalist and educator Banu Binbaşaran. Games were played with the theme “My Friend Nature” during the training in the Mesure Tekay Grove and various areas of the school yard. Following activities to learn more about nature, connect with the natural surroundings, and examine resources, the participants exchanged their experiences in a big circle.

Back to School Festival

The middle school students reunited with their friends and teachers at the Back to School Festival on September 6-7, 2021. The new semester started with the Opening Ceremony, where the Vice Deans gave presentations, and continued with fun activities in the school yard as the middle school students made unforgettable memories.



Games that break the ice and develop team spirit

An orientation program was carried out for all grades of the High School on September 6-10. The objective of the specifically designed High School Orientation Program was to enable the new students in High School Prep and Grade 9 to get to know and connect with each other better while helping higher grade students to remember one another and reinforce their friendships. The activities, which included Friendship Bingo and Treasure Hunt and a tour of the school, aimed to foster team spirit and facilitate orientation.



The Koç School continues to raise responsible youth

Since its establishment in 1988, The Koç School has always aimed higher, embraced a progressive education approach, and continued to raise young people who are aware of the cultural and universal values and their responsibilities for our country. On its 33rd anniversary, The Koç School celebrated its Foundation Day on September 21, 2021 with ceremonies to commemorate the founders and speeches on the school's history, values, and goals. The Primary School students made colorful cards to express their love for the school through their drawings and words. As September 21 is also the "World Peace Day", these two special days were marked together.



Creative writing journey

Middle School Grade 7 student Ada Tanbaş published her first novel titled "Kame's Chest" in June 2021 after completing the creative writing course she had attended for three years. This fantasy novel offers the readers a reading experience in which they can choose their own adventure among interactive options. Ada's authorship adventure continues as she works on her second novel.

Making a difference in emergencies

During the "First Aid Panel Session" on September 22, 2021, safe life specialist Cevdet Canbaz, Primary School Physician Dr. Özlem Zaralı and Head of Primary-Middle School Counseling Department Şenol Demirhan explained that even a little child can do something and make a difference in case of an emergency. The students were advised about what to do and what to pay attention to in natural disasters and possible emergencies.



Preparing for **school and learning**

The Koç School Development Festival was organized on August 25-27, 2021 with the framework “Preparing for School and Learning in the Prolonged Pandemic Period”, the theme set for the 2021-2022 academic year. Over 400 academic and administrative staff attended the virtual sessions in which experts such as Alan November, Jonathan Cohen, Prof. Üstün Dökmen, and Asst. Prof. Mine Göl Güven spoke. After the sessions, the participants provided feedback on the event and expressed that they learned about the practical implementation methods on the main topics of the fest, gained new knowledge in fields such as the importance of a holistic approach and solidarity, effective communication, awareness, and defining emotions.



Water bottles for less waste!

The Koç School continues to demonstrate its sustainability-focused approach and perspective on environmental issues in all its practices. The water dispensers, which were deactivated during the pandemic as part of the safety measures, were renewed and made available again in the primary, middle and high schools in September 2021. The new water dispensers use reverse osmosis for potable water and help preserve nature by reducing the use of plastics.



Meteorology Station is live!

Thanks to the hard work of the high school geography department and students, The Koç School now has a meteorology station. The Koç School Meteorology Station, connected to a global meteorology network, accesses data from thousands of stations in real time and also communicates with the schools using the same system by exchanging data. The station set up on the roof of the High School F block can instantly save all types of data such as temperature, humidity, pressure, wind direction, wind speed, solar radiation, evaporation, and air quality etc. and upload the collected data online at 15-minute intervals. The station also makes 24-hour weather forecasts in the exact location of The Koç School with a 95% accuracy.



Coding and competing

Various coding activities were held at The Koç School during Europe Code Week (October 9-24). On October 12, a competition titled "Houses Are Competing" was organized for middle school students. The students completed the "Code4all" coding activities in ICT lessons throughout the week and won their Houses points.



We love animals!

Various activities were organized to mark October 4 World Animal Day in Primary School. Grade 1 students made porcupines, worms, donkeys and snails with finger exercises in the book titled "Animal Theater." Meanwhile, Grade 2 students read the book titled "Pöti: The story of a Shelter Dog" after drawing pictures of their pets in their Learning Journals and drew attention to the importance of the day with the posters they designed. Grade 3 and 4 students shared the photos of their pets or other favorite animals with their teachers.

'My School is Clean' Certificate renewed!

As part of a project launched by Turkish Ministry of National Education in cooperation with Turkish Standards Institute, The Koç School's pandemic precautions and practices were evaluated and as a result of the on-site inspection, the "My School is Clean" certificate, awarded to The Koç School on October 14, 2020, was extended until October 2022.



Seasons and climate with 'The Man Who Smells the Air'

Bünyamin Sürmeli, known as the "man who smells the air" and the Koç School students came together in a panel session where Grade 8 students had the opportunity to better understand seasons and climate. In addition to explaining global warming with compelling examples, Sürmeli also answered the students' questions.



Parent Academy with Prof. Önder Ergönül



This month's guest for the Parent Academy seminars organized for the parents was Professor Önder Ergönül, MD, Infectious Diseases Department Head at the American Hospital and the Chair of the Infectious Diseases Department at Koç University Hospital. At the event on January 5, Prof. Ergönül spoke about the status of the infection in Turkey and the world.



Republic Day celebrated with joy

The 98th anniversary of our republic was joyously celebrated with various activities at The Koç School. Atatürk's Replica Hats Exhibition and an interview with Melih Aydın took place on October 29 for the primary school students, who attended a talk with author Süleyman Bulut on the Republic's Achievements, Our Values and Responsibilities within the scope of the Republic Day Ceremony. In Middle School, all department lessons included activities related to the meaning and importance of the day throughout the week of October 29. Following the Republic Day ceremony on October 28, the students walked the traditional republic march on campus with the Carnival Turco Rhythm Team. In High School, the Republic Day was celebrated with the high school students' speeches, talks to mark the day and a poetry recital at the October 29 ceremony, which was open to all students and parents.

A painting is worth a thousand words



Grade 5 German language students are participating in an international project themed "A Painting Is Worth a Thousand Words." The students worked in cooperation with students learning German in some schools in Italy, Croatia and Poland. The project continued throughout the year.

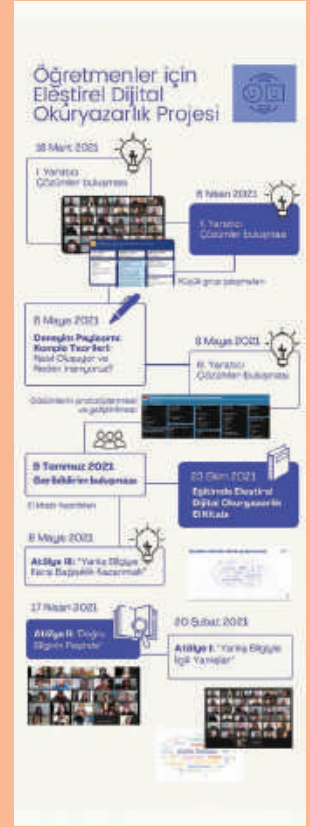
For parents who accompany their children on their career journey...

On October 26, 2021 "10th Grade Career Selection Workshop for Parents" was organized by the Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department. In the first session of the workshop, Dr. Nevin Dölek gave a presentation titled "As I Accompany My Child on Their Career Journey." In the second session, five different scenarios created with the observations of the students, who chose the MEB-IB over the years, were analyzed with the parents.



A Handbook on Critical Digital Literacy in Education published

The “Critical Digital Literacy for Teachers” project, carried out with the support of Teyit, Teacher Network and Heinrich Böll Stiftung Association Turkey Representative, continued working for approximately nine months in order to bring the affirmation and critical thinking skills needed in the online world to schools. The output of the project, “Critical Digital Literacy in Education: A Teacher to Teacher Handbook” was launched on October 23, 2021. The handbook prepared with the teachers within the scope of the project, in which one of our teachers Gizem Ok Uluçay is also included, offers application recipes, activity suggestions and a concept pool. It is desired to turn critical thinking into a habit with creative solution ideas within the project.



Family's role in the development of gender identity in children



The guest of the Parent Seminar organized by the Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department on October 12, was Prof. İsmihan Artan, the Director of Hacettepe University Child Development Application and Research Center and a faculty member in the Child Development Department. The seminar, which aimed to support the students' healthy upbringing and contribute to their development, focused on “Development of Gender Identity in Children and the Role of the Family.”

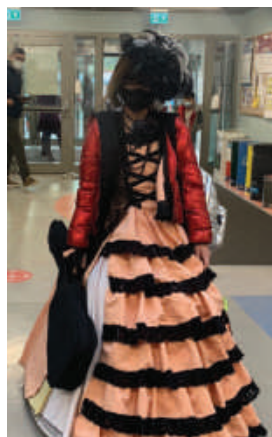


Gateway to the colorful world of books

The Koç School library program, filled with story times, information literacy, library week, book week and activities, took place on October 11-15, 2021. As part of this week-long orientation, all kindergarten and primary school students discovered the library, a gateway to the colorful world of books, and were informed on the use of library, loan service and COVID-19 precautions. Grade 5 students were informed on the concept of library, access to printed library resources, loan service and use of library. Alp Gökalp, the author of the book “Kids Question Media,” addressed Grade 4 students online on October 14, 2021 to inform them on media literacy.

Whose costume is the most creative?

Students were all around the school corridors in creative costumes on Costume Day, organized in Middle School. Wearing creative costumes that they designed by considering the costume recommendations of their math, modern foreign languages and science teachers, the students joyfully started their midterm break on November 12, 2021.



Inspiring Meet-ups

Inspiring Meet-ups seminar series organized by the Middle School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department for The Koç School students continued in the 2021-2022 academic year. Guest of the series on November 30, 2021 was the football player, coach and head coach Prof. Lale Orta, who shared her experiences with The Koç School students. Other guests of the seminar series were writer Aret Vartanyan and choirmaster, art director, musician and composer Masis Aram Gözбек.

Explorations to spark curiosity



The Koç School Middle School Library gave educational presentations on Scientific Research Processes to Grade 6 students who are ready to hone their information literacy skills. The answer to the question “What do we need to pay attention to in order to become competent students every step of the way when selecting a topic, gathering information, evaluating and presenting in an original way?” was sought to spark their curiosity to find reliable information while the library’s printed and digital resources were explored.

24/7 accessible library

Within the scope of Library Orientation, The Koç School LP and Grade 9 students familiarized themselves with the High School Library, which they can use 24/7. Providing accessible information at all times, the library accompanies the students’ academic and personal development journeys with a digital publication collection of more than 4,000 e-books, over 7,000 e-magazines and journals, digital encyclopedia, and article databases.



With love, respect, and gratitude...



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, was commemorated on November 10 with respect and gratitude at The Koç School. Following the moment of silence at 9.05 and singing of the National Anthem, ceremonies were held at the Primary School, Middle School and High School. The Primary School ceremony included a student choir and a Zeybek folkloric dance performance by the high school students and ended with a talk by Dr. Ata Özdemirci. Throughout the week, the primary school students expressed their love, respect, gratitude and longing for Atatürk by writing their thoughts in the November 10th Journal. In the Middle School, Salih Bozok, the grandson of Atatürk's aide and childhood friend Salih Bozok, answered the students' questions. In the High School, the guest of the November 10th Atatürk Commemoration Ceremony was the photographer Mine Dal, who was named the Photographer of the Year in 2020 by Photographic Arts Federation of Turkey for her book titled "Everybody's Atatürk." The photographs depicting Atatürk photographs in people's everyday life in Turkey, were exhibited in the Pyramid throughout the week.

An opportunity to measure informatics abilities

The Koç School participated in the Bilge Kunduz (Wise Beaver) Informatics event during the week of November 8-12, 2021. The LP students answered the questions, which were sent to them, in their computer classes, and the Grade 9 students in their available time in accordance with the instructions they received. The event is held online and students attended a 45-minute session. They produce answers to questions that measure abilities such as "arithmetic thinking, sequential thinking, and problem solving." The event is carried out by volunteering academics from Ankara University and participating schools from many countries find the opportunity to measure their students' abilities in informatics.

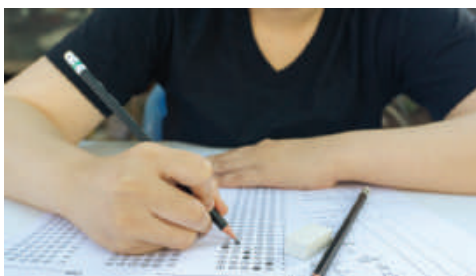


Opinions on sustainability

In memory of our dear student İlayda Yarcan, an opinion competition is organized on sustainability, a topic The Koç School cares about and allocates resources for. İlayda Yarcan, who passed away in 2019, had been working on the subject.

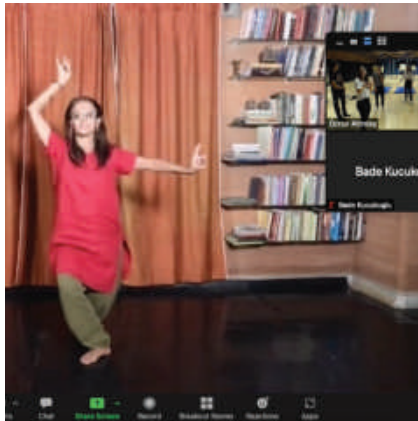
Fun activities for teachers

Teachers' Day was celebrated at The Koç School with the participation of students and teachers from all grades. The Koç School teachers also attended and enjoyed many online activities ranging from Laughter Yoga to Virtual Italy Tour, organized by the Primary-Middle School PTA. The High School PTA expressed their appreciation by making a donation to the Turkish Education Foundation.



Preparing for the exams

On November 2, an SSPS (ÖSYS) workshop was organized with the participation of Grade 11 parents. Following the session in which the Turkish university preparation process and the exam system were explained, a panel session was held with the participation of five alumni from The Koç School. Following these sessions, a workshop was organized to study four different university preparation scenarios, giving the parents a chance to discuss the paths their children may take under different circumstances.



Together with prominent IB schools of India

Organized for the second time online in the 2021- 2022 academic year, The Koç School MindVISA CAS program took place between October 16 - December 15 with the participation of 42 IB students from Grades 11 and 12. During the 9-week program, the students attended workshops on Indian Dances (Kathak and Odissi), Cuisine, South Indian Martial Art (Silambam), Mindfulness and Terracotta and also ran dance, sports, food, arts, animal rights, travel and storytelling projects with students from Pathways Noida, a prominent IB school in India. The MindVISA program, whose focus is cultural interaction, social service and creativity, has been carried out for six years, with the last two in online format. Grade 11 and 12 IB students who join this program participate in the workshops of renowned specialists in groups and work with students from leading IB schools in India.

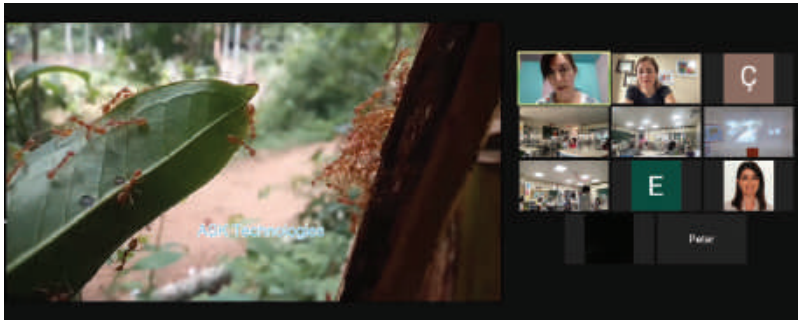
Awareness trainings with Semtpati

Within the scope of the SemtPati project, launched by Koç Holding and İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality last year, the first phase of the training programs was held at The Koç School on December 27, 2021. During the training, which İpek Kırac '02, the Chairperson of The Koç School Executive Committee also attended, Dog Trainer Gamze Aral explained the proper and safe ways of communicating with stray animals. The SemtPati project was initiated to live in harmony with stray animals, discover how one needs to approach stray animals, and become a society aware of animal rights.



A visit from Greece to The Koç School

Dimitris Mantoulidis and Hristina Yordanis '02 from Mandoulides School, which provides K12 education on two different campuses in Thessaloniki, Greece, paid a visit to The Koç School. In the meeting, the participants discussed the practices of international schools during the pandemic and possible opportunities for collaboration.



Solidarity, unity and dreams

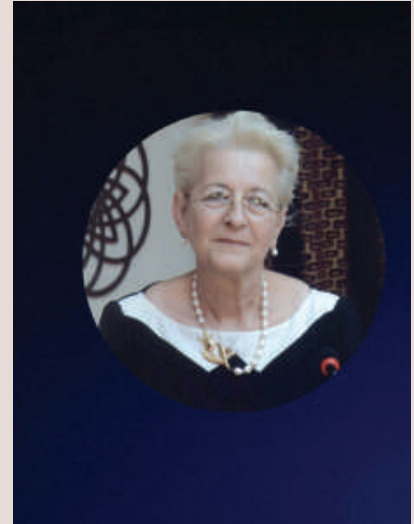
Primary School Grade 2 students had an online event on solidarity, unity and dreams with Sezin Mavioglu, the author of the book titled “The Book Ant.” During the talk, the students went on a journey with the ant who learns in the world of words with inspiring punctuation marks, rhymes and riddles.

Inspired by ‘Memed, My Hawk’

Yaşar Kemal’s masterpiece titled “Memed, My Hawk”, a novel about the villagers’ struggle against landowners set place in Anatolia’s fertile yet barren region, Çukurova, inspired an interdisciplinary activity at The Koç School. The interdisciplinary performance projects that the Grade 10 students prepared with the collaboration of The Koç School literature, geography and performance arts departments by focusing on Memed, My Hawk were exhibited in the Pyramid on December 16, 2021. The exhibition in which the students shared their creative projects about the literary work included new cover designs for the novel, diaries of the characters from the novel, a new ending, a play and a song version of a chapter from the book. Reflecting the flora of the Çukurova region where the novel is set and the natural treasures of Anatolia on their posters, the students used quotes about the locations where the plants from the novel grow to make the visitors feel the emotions, imagine the gardens and plains of Çukurova filled with thousands of flowers that Yaşar Kemal tried to conjure in the minds of readers about that geography. The exhibition included a concert of folk songs mentioned in the novel.



Molly Abraham Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Asuman Okman



Asuman Okman, who has served as the Associate Director of College Guidance at The Koç School since 1992, was recognized with a second international award. The first was in 2011, the Peggy Templeton Strong Award by the Council of International Schools, the recent award is the Molly Abraham Lifetime Achievement Award by IC3 Movement. She was announced as the winner of the award in a virtual ceremony attended by audiences and countries worldwide on December 3, 2021. With this meaningful award honoring professionals who have been instrumental in changing or building the college counseling industry, Ms. Okman was recognized for her experience and mentorship and her dedication to helping students and counselors around the world. The IC3 Movement was founded by Ganesh Kohli in 2016 to help create a platform that allows schools to focus on careers and college counseling. The Annual IC3 Awards by this organization are presented to high school counselors, schools, universities, admissions representatives, and organizations that stand out for their inspiring work to honor contributions made to career and college counseling.

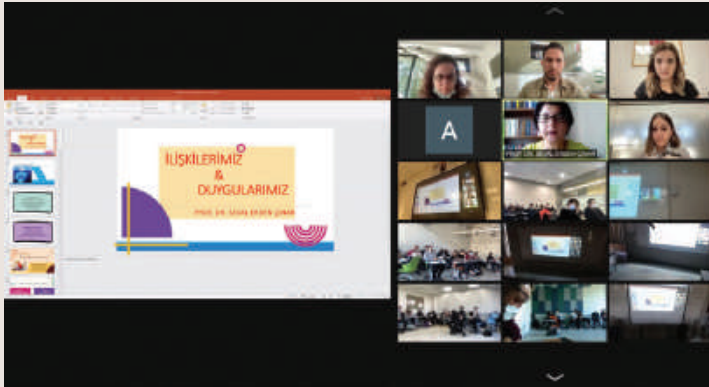
The story of bread

Mother Earth Day was celebrated on December 10, 2021 focusing on "soil pollution" by creating a connection between the books titled "Sister Earth" and "Tales of Mother Earth" which Primary School Grade 3 and 4 students read in December. In the exhibition that took place in the Primary School Foyer on the same day, the students created a 2-sqm area with soil, planted wheat seeds and wrote informative texts. They also prepared posters to raise awareness on food waste, which leads to the unnecessary use of soil.



When wishes come true

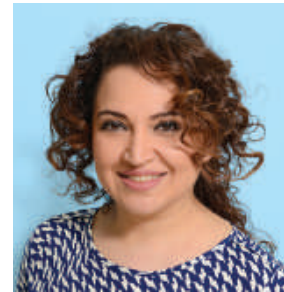
An annual tradition of the Middle School, "The Wish Tree Social Project" was completed this year with significant support. The teachers, parents and coworkers who strived to meet the needs of the students of Rotary Region Primary-Middle School for the Hearing Impaired and Vala Gedik Occupational School for Special Needs, delivered their best at every stage of the project from the announcement stage to boxing the presents.



To be prepared for an informed and happy life

An age-appropriate "Sexual Health Training" was organized with the support of the Turkish Family Planning Foundation (TAPV) for all students to help them understand their physical development and needs according to their developmental stages, fulfill their responsibilities to themselves, families and society, and prepare them for a healthy, informed and happy life. Throughout the training sessions, which started on November 29 and continued until December 9, 2021 the students gained information about the development processes of sexuality, biological basis, processes of psychosocial change, social values, facts and changing roles, responsibilities and attitudes as well as developing safe behaviors. At the Counseling Department Student Conference on December 9, Prof. Seval Erden Çıkar informed the students about "Relationships, Emotions and Coping Skills."

To make progress with a better curriculum



Derya Yazıcı participated in the international workshop "Course Book Reforms in the Middle East and North Africa: Lessons to Learn

from Turkey" organized by Georg Eckert Institute online on December 21-22, 2021 and presented her paper entitled "Teachers' Perspective in Curriculum Development Processes and the Tools Used, Equipment and Methods." Derya Yazıcı addressed the extent to which the existing curriculum and course books meet the expectations of teachers and students during the implementation and activities in the classroom and also gave examples of the tools and channels used to reflect the teacher's perspective on the functioning of curriculum development processes.



Best speakers selected

Two of the three teams from The Koç School that took part in the International English Debating Championship organized by the Argument Factory succeeded in competing in the finals and one of the teams became the champion. The students Elif Sude Yanık and Mert Karabıyık were selected the best speakers of the championship and Ayşesu Özdoğan the third best.



Professions under the magnifying glass

Organized every year in Middle School to support the students in making informed professional choices, Career Day took place on December 22, 2021 and four professions were promoted during the event. The guests briefly explained their fields of work and then answered the students' questions. In addition to the four professions that were introduced live, information on different professions was provided with asynchronous videos.

Color Hunt in Middle School

The Visual Art Department of Middle School organized the "Color Hunt" event, where the students discovered the colors in nature in the beautiful Koç School campus and created delightful artistic works. The students had great fun during the event which aims to develop color perception, group work, team spirit, seeing the diversity of colors in nature, and doing research.



If books could talk...

The 24th edition of the Book Week, a tradition at The Koç School, took place online on January 17-21 this year. The theme of the Book Week was "If Books Could Talk..." and the event was organized with the interdisciplinary cooperation of The Koç School's Primary and Middle School Libraries and other departments. The event was opened by Todd Parr for the Primary School and by Prof. Hüseyin Vural for the Middle School. During the Primary School Book Week, the students witnessed the change that the world of books creates with the participation of 17 guests who are experts in different fields such as interview, drama, workshop, puppetry, poetry, talent show, story and storytelling. In the Cin Ali Museum Virtual Tour, Grade 1 students played a game with the character Cin Ali, who accompanied the children in reading and writing. The Koç School 2C Radio Theater Club and 3D Choir added variety to the week with their radio theater and choir performances. With the "Drop Everything and Read Books" activity, the school community had the time to choose the books they would like to read. The Middle School hosted esteemed guests and organized interesting workshops.



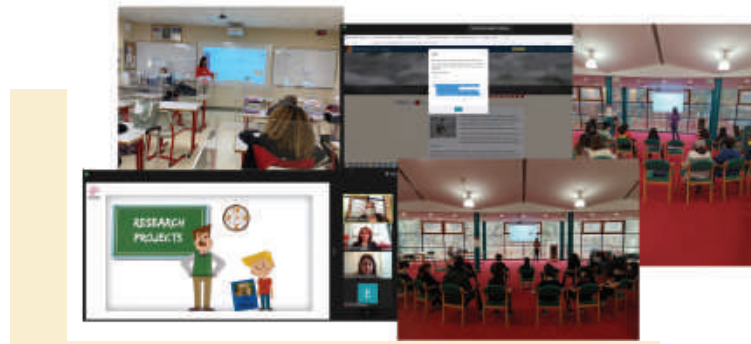
The impact of drama on other lessons



Drama teacher Ercüment Acar shared his knowledge with all of The Koç School teachers on January 4, 2022 in a session titled "The Impact of Drama Lesson on Other Lessons." He provided information on enriching class content by using drama techniques and gamifying the lesson content by starting off with the following quote from D. Heathcote, "Lesson is an action performed by the teacher and student together, the best lesson is achieved by co-implementation." In his presentation, Acar also talked about the definition and meaning of the term "drama," concepts such as psycho-drama, creative drama, educational drama etc., the form of drama in education and gave examples of using drama as a tool in other lessons.

Sustainable Development with Önder Kantarcı

Grade 4 students met Önder Kantarcı, the editor of the book titled "I Love My Planet", on January 14. Kantarcı shared images to draw attention to the inequality in access to clean water, which is the main source of life, and climate change. He used striking numerical data to describe that the extinction of living species is an irreversible loss and that the extinction of one species leads to results that affect the entire planet. The students learned about "sustainable development" in the activity they listened to with interest.



How to reach the right information?

In the training series that started within the scope of information literacy to raise students to become ethical individuals who research, inquire and produce, Grade 5 and 6 students were given a training session on "Academic Integrity and MLA Citation" on January 10-14, 2022. In the training, the concept of plagiarism was discussed and several examples were given with regard to using references and citations, proper form of references and quotes, and preparing a list of references with the help of the citation management software, Noodle Tools. At the end of the training, the students were asked questions on Google Forms about the information provided in the session. The students were taught throughout the year about how to access and use accurate information by taking as basis the quote "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn," by American author Alvin Toffler, who underlined the competencies we need in today's world with his futuristic approach.



Add a piece of puzzle

The Middle School Puzzle Club started to work on a 1500-piece Anatolian puzzle, placed in the library, on the puzzle table inside the glass room. The work on the puzzle which has geographical indications on the map of Turkey was carried out with the contribution of the Social Sciences teachers and other participants. After the puzzle was completed, a celebration was organized for the participants, who wrote their names and how many pieces they added to the puzzle in the little notebook on the table.

A Meeting with Bünyamin Derman

The Koç School participated in the TEAMS (Test of Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science) competition once again this year. Within the scope of the competition, students were asked to write a paper about the arrangements needed to convert a stadium into a venue for concerts and sports events, and therefore used more frequently, and what can be done to enhance the baseball and concert spectators' viewing experience. The TEAMS member high school and middle school students and counselors came together online with Bünyamin Derman, the founder of DB Architecture, on January 20, 2022 to talk about the topic. Bünyamin Derman shared examples from Turkey and around the world, giving the students a chance to consider the topic from different perspectives while writing their paper.

Who is a child with special needs and superior talents?

Specialist Psychological Counselor Meltem Canver Kozanoğlu came together with the Koç School teachers in the Teacher Seminar, organized by the Middle School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department on January 6, 2022, to talk about topics such as "What does it mean to be a child with special needs and superior talents? How do these children show presence in the classroom? What is the importance of their planning and focusing skills? What kind of bridge activities on these skills can teachers carry out regarding their fields?".



Person of the year and event of the year

The "Person of the Year" and "Event of the Year" for 2021 were determined through a survey conducted at The Koç School Middle School with the participation of teachers and students. Healthcare Professionals on the front lines against COVID-19 who saved thousands of lives by risking their lives every day with dedication, compassion, resilience, and courage, were named the Person of the Year. In the survey, "Wildfires" was selected as the Event of the Year for 2021 among the candidates. While experiencing one of the hottest summers of the century in the northern hemisphere, wildfires broke out in many parts of the world. Especially in countries such as Turkey, Greece, Italy, and France, thousands of acres of forests turned to ash in the fires. Many people and forest animals lost their lives.

Welcoming the New Year with joy

The Student Union, elected by the high school students at the beginning of the semester and consisting of leaders from all grades, organized a small celebration for their friends as the New Year was approaching even though it was overshadowed by the pandemic. They decorated the Pyramid, played music during lunch breaks, and served treats and beverages. The New Year's draw, for which the tickets started selling a week ago, was held online. The students greeted the New Year with joy in their school as well.



After the distance education period

Having worked in the field of education, Specialist Psychologist Funda Akkapulu came together with the High School administrators and teachers in an online meeting on January 4, 2022. In this meeting, several topics were discussed, such as the change of familiar school, student, teacher and parent concepts after the 1.5 year distance education period, the roles and responsibilities the teachers and administrators have in coping with challenging situations as the stakeholders of education in high school.



Together for a better Internet!

Safe Internet Day (GIG), organized by INSAFE (European Safer Internet Network) every February, was celebrated on February 8, 2022 worldwide and in Turkey, with this year's theme called "Together for a better Internet!" The Koç School brought the students together in awareness-raising activities in Information Technologies lessons in the week starting from February 7. Students took part in mini competitions, met Görkem Kantar Arsoy, the writer of the book "Tibo Tabletine Yapıştı" ("Tibo Got Stuck to His Tablet"), watched a presentation on "Stop, Think, Share", discussed ways to access accurate information with a presentation by Teyit.org on digital literacy, and were informed on the use of technology for good, artificial intelligence, and cyber security with the presentation by Arzu Kilitçi.

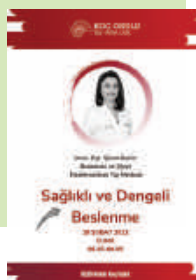
Works from different art practices

The opening ceremony of the IB Visual Arts Exhibition, where IB Visual Arts students exhibit the works they create throughout the year in their own themes using different art practices, was held on February 22 with the participation of the students, parents and school administration. The exhibition, featuring 14 students' personal art pieces, remained open until the end of March on the ground floor corridors and Library in the High School.



A healthy diet is important

All primary school students from kindergarten to fourth grade attended a talk with specialist dietitian Şimal Deniz from Med American Medical Center. The focus of the talk on "Healthy and Balanced Nutrition" on February 18 was the importance of eating healthy and maintaining a balanced diet.



Intertwined with science

The 4th Science Festival, organized by the Middle School Science Department with content such as instant challenges, debates and quiz shows, was held on February 15-18, 2022. The festival was an inspiring, enjoyable and informative event with activities, which pique curiosity in the students, activate creativity and contribute to acquiring 21st century skills such as questioning, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration, and talks with esteemed guests on different subjects. Students had the opportunity to watch and listen to which technologies can be used to make waste water usable presented by the Professor Berrin Tansel from Florida International University, who has worked with NASA, and is the recipient of the American Academy of Environmental Engineering and Scientists Award; the Mysterious Quantum Riddle and Big Bang Theory presented by Prof. Hakan Ürey from Koç University; how the Adventure of Learning Happens in Mind by Prof. Soner Yıldırım from METU; and examples designed with inspiration from nature presented by Architect Melodi Simay Acar.

As part of the 4th Science Festival program, the "Science is Everywhere" project was launched with the participation of the parents, who contribute to raising today's young scientists as the future's beneficial individuals to society. The students understood that science is everywhere with the experiments they conducted with their parents, and then witnessed that they achieved results on their research by following the scientific process. Within the scope of the festival, debate events were organized on different topics such as "modern societies are more vulnerable to pandemics" and "Terra-forming other planets is necessary" for all levels. In addition, "Instant Challenge" competitions were held on different subjects at each level.



How does personal commitment guide the CAS initiatives?

Organized on January 15-30, the IB DP Thinkathon enabled teachers, students and administrators from various countries to come together and share their experiences and the most innovative methods they use. Grade 12 student Batuhan Saridede was invited to the student session titled "Mapping CAS* experiences and learning objectives" as a panelist. Sharing his own CAS adventure during the session, Batuhan talked about his experience on how personal commitment guided the CAS initiatives and how serving their communities made them empathetic, lifelong-learning individuals.

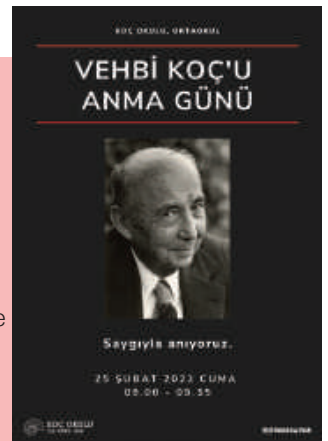
*Creativity, activity and service forms the basis of CAS, which is one of the fundamental components of the IB Diploma Program. IB students prepare their CAS portfolios with the projects they carry out within the scope of creativity, activity and service over two years.

IB DP Thinkathon



Vehbi Koç was commemorated in ceremonies

On the 26th anniversary of his passing, the late Vehbi Koç, the founder of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, was commemorated in ceremonies that took place on February 25 at the Primary, Middle and High Schools to mark the Vehbi Koç Commemoration Day. The kindergarten students were given a presentation about the life of Vehbi Koç, his values and the institutions he established in our country. They illustrated what they remembered about Vehbi Koç in their Learning Diaries. They drew and expressed what they wanted to say to Vehbi Koç by preparing cards. At the Primary School ceremony, the writer Nevzat Basım talked about Vehbi Koç and his values that shed light on today. In the Middle School and High School, the students watched the documentary "The Story of The Future: From Past to Present" and learned about the values of the late Vehbi Koç and the history of the Vehbi Koç Foundation and also listened to the message from Semahat Arsel, Chairperson of Vehbi Koç Foundation, about Vehbi Koç's values.



Confirmation Hammock



Confirmation Hammock, an activity carried out with Grade 3 students to raise awareness about researching and confirming the information encountered in daily life, aims to enable the students to gain the habit of looking primarily at the source of every information they encounter, ask questions that lead to confirming the accuracy of a piece of information while consuming it, spark curiosity, and research independently to select reliable sources on their topics of interest. Confirmation Hammock, which was first implemented in the school during the Energy Week, provided the students with an opportunity to find news stories about energy saving and research the accuracy of this information in the classroom.

Raising resilient children

On February 17, 2022, Assoc. Prof. Onur Noyan was hosted at the Parent Academy Seminar organized by The Koç School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department where he shared his experience on "Raising Resilient Children Against Addiction" with the parents.

KOÇ OKULU
İLK-ORTA-LİSE

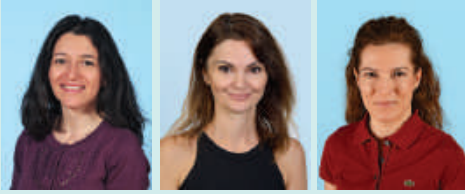
EBEVEYN AKADEMİSİ

"Bağımlılığa Karşı Güçlü Çocuklar Yetiştirmek"

DOÇ. DR. ONUR NOYAN

17.02.2022
20.00
ZOOM

KOÇ OKULU, BEHİRELİLİK VE PSİKOLOJİK DANIŞMANLIK BÖLÜMÜ
©2021 Vehbi Koç Vakfı



Second Step Training by volunteer teachers

Volunteering Primary School teachers Inci Özgör, Bilge Buhan Musa and Mine Türe gave the branch teachers the "Second Step Training." During the presentation, the teachers provided information about the content and examples of the structured and preventive program that supports the students' social and emotional development. Teachers underlined the impact of speaking the same language with a common approach. Various scenarios were discussed about how homeroom teaching practices could be applied in branch lessons through play recommendations.

MUNDP's theme was Latin America and The Caribbeans

Hosted for the 22nd time this year by The Koç School, the MUNDP Conference was held online on February 18-20 with the face-to-face participation of 40 high school students working in committees. The theme of the conference this year, joined by more than 800 participants from schools worldwide, was Latin America and The Caribbeans. Once again, the MUNDP conference was a great and meaningful experience for the participants this year.



For fair education: Academic integrity

Academic Integrity means embracing the utmost level of honesty and integrity in all academic work. Recognizing that academic integrity is a fundamental component of a fair education environment, the High School Academic Integrity Policy was updated this year and shared with the students, teachers and parents. The Academic Dean also visited classes to promote the policy.



Presents from the Tree of Kindness

Always recognizing the importance of social cooperation and solidarity, the high school students helped meet the second semester needs of 171 students at a state school with the Tree of Kindness Project launched by the Ambassadors of Kindness Club. The club members got in touch with the said school and identified the needs of the students, announced the project to the school community, and organized everything in a short period of time. The principal and teachers accompanied them to the school to have the students present the gifts personally.

Book presentations on special days

The Koç School publications that support the intellectual structure and interests of the school community are exhibited in the library collections on special days and weeks. In March, as part of the International Women's Day and the anniversary of the Çanakkale Victory, "Women Who Make a Mark" and "Çanakkale Victory" videos were created and book exhibitions were organized. Moreover, the publications requested by the teachers and students were made available for all library users.





Reflections on history and culture

The first meeting of the “History & Culture Day” activity organized by The Koç School, High School, History Department and the Middle School Social Sciences Department was held with the participation of teachers and students from İbn Mucana School from Portugal and Mandoulides School from Greece. The students from the three schools shared their thoughts on culture, education after the pandemic, important historical remains of their respective countries, and current international relations and their impact.

We have to preserve the balance of the ecosystem

The Middle School’s Science and Eco-Team Club organized an online talk where Savaş Karakaş, the producer and director of the documentary show “Traces in Water”, was the guest on the occasion of March 22 World Water Day. Karakaş shared examples of humans’ negative impact on the marine ecosystem. He also emphasized that we need to develop an attitude to be aware of the balance in the ecosystem, understand its importance, and protect it.



Informative posters

A selection of posters created by Grade 9 and LP students in their computer lessons were exhibited in the Pyramid on March 10, 2022. The posters that LP students designed showed practical tips for using online search engines. Grade 9 students shared the points to which everyone should pay attention when communicating online, the appropriate online behaviors, and the requirements for being a digital citizen.

Mathematics unites!

The middle school students attended many educational and fun activities during the 9th Koç Mathematics Week, which was held on the week of March 14-18 with the theme “Mathematics Unites.” During the week when Andrew Jeffrey was the guest of the opening ceremony, the school corridors witnessed joyous moments with students learning and having fun in the competitions and workshops. Furthermore, various math-related activities and interdisciplinary studies were carried out in different classes throughout the week.



Information literacy training



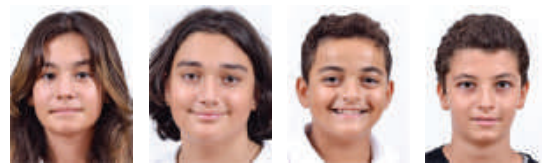
Information literacy training was delivered to Grade 4 students to help them develop new research skills, design creative projects, and improve their ability to access resources in different environments where information is available. An interactive, hands-on activity with lots of questions and answers was held on the classification system DEWEY and the Big 6 steps, which are the research steps in the library. They experienced a pleasant learning environment with brainstorming questions to spark their curiosity for learning.



Libraries getting digitalized

The Koç School participated in the online Educational Technologies Conference

organized by the Turkish Private Schools Association on March 26, 2022 with its presentation titled “Changing World, Our Digitalized Libraries - Integration of Information Technologies with Library Services and Resources - The Example of The Koç School.” In the presentation, the objectives and actions of The Koç School libraries in digital transformation, the information technologies used in the creation of web services, the school’s digital collection policy and publication selection criteria, as well as the benefits of integrating information technologies with the entire school community were explained.



On the journey to becoming individuals who **read, think, and write**

The “Free Window Story Writing Contest” is organized by the Free Window Children’s Literature Group to contribute to raising individuals who read, think and write, and promote story writing among younger generations. Ömer Alp Daniş won first prize with his story “O” (It) and Duru Saylı the special jury award with her story “Toprak” (Soil) in the 7th and 8th Grade category. Berke Bahar won first prize with his story “Küçük Hasan” (Young Hasan) and Ahmet Sarp Manga second prize with his story “Denizin Sevdası” (The Love of the Sea) in the 5th and 6th Grade category.

Women who make their mark **on history**



On the occasion of March 8 International Women’s Day, Grade 4 students learned about the Turkish women who made their mark on history and understood the meaning and importance of the day. The students studied the book titled “Türkan Saylan” released by National Geographic publications to find out more about the life of Türkan Saylan, a medical doctor, academic, writer, educator and the former chair of the Association for Supporting Contemporary Life (Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği). The students designed posters to draw attention to the fact that women can work in every field in our country and in the world. As a homework assignment, they researched a Turkish woman who made a mark on history, her efforts and achievements, and presented it in the classroom.



Commemorating the fallen heroes

While March 18 Çanakkale Victory was celebrated with ceremonies held at the Middle School and High School, the fallen heroes of the war were commemorated with respect. After the high school students gave a speech on the meaning of the day, the ceremony ended with the song titled “Kız Çocuk” (The Girl Child) written by Nazım Hikmet and composed by Fazıl Say for all the children who suffer the most in wars with the performance of Melike Naz Yiğit on the piano, Elif Su Veliöğlü on the flute, Ece Şekercioğlu and Nil Tuana Sivrikaya on vocals. In the Middle School, the ceremony continued with dance and bağlama performances and a poetry recital after a talk with the students and teachers.

Technology meets design

Grade 7 students learned about the principles and elements of design and recognizing noticing the links between basic design and math & science while studying the “Fundamentals of Technology and Design” in their Technology and Design lessons. They used the concepts of patterns and symmetry from math to understand the concept of biomimicry and created their own 3D designs by drawing inspiration from the repetitions in nature. With projects created by using only “wood” as a “readymade material”, the students said “the onus is on us” when it comes to environmental consciousness. Grade 8 students learned about the publishing graphic and layout techniques and created their own e-magazine designs on Canva while studying “Visual Communication Design.”



Awareness for independency

On March 16, the second edition of the Student Counseling Conference organized by the High School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department with the theme of "Awareness for Independency" was held online with the participation of Dr. Onur Noyan. The conference focused on the relationship between independency and addiction, the concepts of freedom, addiction, and curiosity and the importance of being able to say no.



About Blockchain, NFT and metaverse

Members of the Koç Fintech Club came together with representatives from the stable crypto currency company, BiLira, founded by a group of 2013 Koç School alumni. Deyvi Benun '13 and Levent Alp'13 from the BiLira team and Mert Durular, Cansu Özdemir, Robin Can Öztürk, İden Rumi and Defne Savaşkan from the Koç Fintech Club joined the meeting and talked about Web3, Blockchain, Non-Fungible Tokens, and metaverse. During the meeting, it was decided to focus on the topics of Blockchain and Web3 in the annual Koç Fintech Forum and to organize training panels with the support of BiLira that both the students and the teachers could attend.

Internal Auditor Training completed



The ISO 14001 Environmental Management and ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Standards and Internal Auditor refresher training sessions held by The Koç School were completed in March. As the existing members refreshed their knowledge, new members successfully completed the training and became internal auditors. The Koç School's "Internal Auditor" team consists of 24 people including representatives from administrative units such as Internal Services, Technical Services, Security, Procurement, Computer Technologies (IT), Audio and Video (AV), Human Resources and Academic Units, Boarding, and subcontractor ISS, catering, and Med-American.



Spirit of April 23

April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day was joyously celebrated with several activities during the week of April 18-23. The activities included a talk with the author Burcu Bahar on "Atatürk and Children's Rights", "Atatürk and Children's Rights" exhibition featuring students' works that reflect the meaning and importance of the day, a special concert, celebratory event for the primary school students, and fun games. During the ceremony, Deniz Yıldız Yıllık, the museum expert at the Ankara Republic Museum addressed the students via video to talk about the second Assembly and its history.

The fruit of passion and dedication

This year's winner of the Vehbi Koç Award, presented by the Vehbi Koç Foundation in the fields of culture, education and health, was Distinguished Professor İvet Bahar, who laid the groundwork for the development of pharmacological products that save millions of lives with her computational molecular and systems biology studies. She came together with the Grade 7 and 8 students in an online talk organized by the Middle School Science Department and shared her knowledge and experience. The students enjoyed learning about topics such as a cell's structure-function, DNA's structure and properties, genomes, polymers, protein modeling and other topics and also listened to a truly inspirational success story written with passion and dedication.



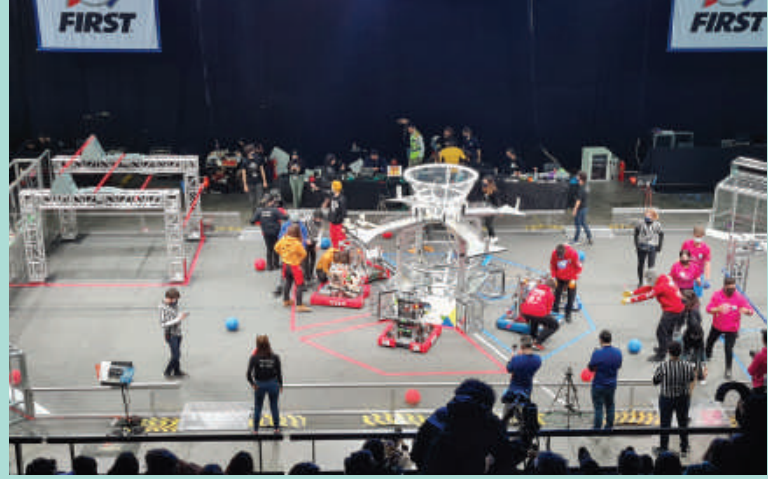


A talk with Burcu Bahar, the Creator of Nature Friendly DODO

On Wednesday, April 6, 2022, a face-to-face talk was held with the kindergarten and primary school students and Burcu Bahar, the author of the Nature Friendly DODO book along with the main character DODO, an extinct bird. They talked about what one can do to protect the environment, consume the world's energy resources consciously, preserve trees, and build a better world for the future.

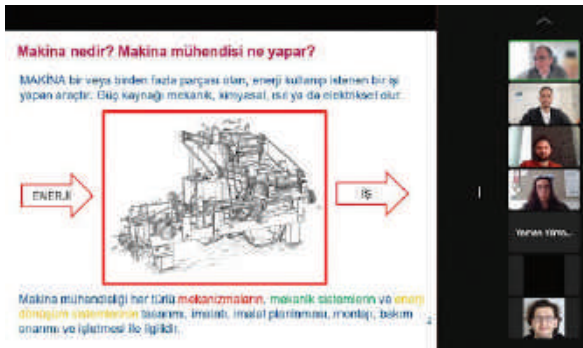
Goals accomplished

The FRC Bosphorus Regional competition, for which The Koç School FRC Club prepared throughout the year, took place on March 18-20, 2022. The FRC team, named RAMS7729, consists of 33 high school students who carried out various studies in their own fields in PR, electronics, mechanics, and coding units. The participants had a very challenging three-day competition marathon with their robot, which accomplished the goals of the competition such as autonomous movement, controlled movement, and throwing a ball to the basket.



Reading culture with memories of Nuri Ulusu, Atatürk's librarian

The middle school students met with Mustafa Kemal Ulusu, the son of Nuri Ulusu, who served as the librarian to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, in a talk on "Atatürk and Reading Culture." During the talk, Ulusu discussed the cultural reform that Atatürk started, the books he read, his topics of interest, his passion for reading, and his memories with his librarian.



Making sound career choices

The 29th Career Day, organized for high school students to make sound professional choices, took place on April 7, 2022. On this day, 30 different undergraduate programs were introduced in 21 career rooms with the participation of 44 distinguished guests. During the online event, students joined different career rooms to find out more about their interests. They had the opportunity to come together with academicians and employees working in different fields, listen to their experiences, and ask their questions.



Children voiced their rights

As part of a Grade 2 interdisciplinary project about Children's Rights, English classes focused on Children's Rights through an introductory video and song. In addition to delivering performances, the children also created posters and made their own music video to a song about Children's Rights written and performed by Mr. Caudwell. The video showed the Grade 2 students voicing their rights around school, playing and dancing with signs they made about children's rights.

Planning the best career path...



The Turkish University Fair was held face-to-face on campus to help the high school students, who are in the process of planning their career paths, to discover different universities. Twelve universities participated in the event, which started with the opening speech of Prof. Tunç Bozbura, who emphasized considerations in career planning, the skills to develop and the relationship of these skills with the professions of the future. In addition to getting first-hand information about the departments and programs, students also received answers to their questions about double major and minor programs offered by universities and scholarship opportunities.

Illustrating a book...



The kindergarten students attended a workshop with Gökçe Akgül, the illustrator of the book titled "Sağ Sol Kitabım (My Right & Left Book)" on April 5, 2022. The illustrator, who shared the stages of illustrating books, fictionalizing characters and thematic pictures in a book, carried out a sample illustration activity with the students.

Looking into the colorful world of mathematics



Koç Mathematics Festival was organized by the Middle School Mathematics Department on April 5-6, 2022 at Beykoz Koç Middle School. In the event, held in cooperation with the mathematics teachers at both schools and with the support of the candidate teachers of MEF University, students had the opportunity to meet new guests, both online and face-to-face, for two days. They attended many events and participated in competitions. The festival aimed to instill a love of mathematics in the students, enable them to take an active role in the colorful world of mathematics, spark curiosity, and build an environment conducive to learning while having fun. The Koç School aims to expand the Mathematics Festivals across the country by incorporating other schools under the leadership of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. There are also plans to bring the Mathematics Festival's activities to a website and share with the whole country.

The cyclist librarian who makes a difference inspired by the **librarian on a donkey**

On April 7, 2022, the middle school students attended an inspiring talk with the cyclist librarian Hakan Yücel, who makes a difference about solidarity, cooperation and contributing to our communities. The students listened to the remarkable work of Hakan Yücel, who was inspired by the success story of Mustafa Güzelgöz, known as the “Librarian on a Donkey” in Nevşehir, who loaded books on his donkey and took them to children by going from village to village because no one was visiting the library.



How to prevent **eating disorders**

The Koç School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Departments organized an online Parent Academy event titled “Body Shape, Weight and Meaning Attributed to Food: Methods to Prevent Eating Disorders”, hosted by Feyza Bayraktar, on April 19. In the conference, besides eating disorders and the main causes of eating disorders, parental attitudes and their impacts on eating disorders were addressed. In addition, information was provided about the treatment of eating disorders in children and adolescents, and the questions of the parents were answered.



'People leaving a **TRACE** in their career' event

Within the scope of the “İZ’22 (TRACE’22) Career Festival” events organized by Yeditepe University, Rakela Levi, High School Department Head at The Koç School participated in the panel session held for the students of guidance and psychological counseling on April 21 in the category of “People Leaving A TRACE in Their Career.” Levi talked about her career story and the works of the GPC department at school and answered the questions of the students during the panel session.

Emotional foundations of **learning discussed**

It is in itself a difficult and sometimes an impossible job to ensure the learning of the students, whose stories, personalities, skills, emotional worlds, and life experiences are different from each other, without losing their sense of curiosity while they become individuals. Teachers and the school have an unquestionable pedagogical contribution to the learning process. With this in mind, a seminar was organized with Specialist Psychological Counselor Meltem Canver Kozanoğlu on April 5 with a session where the emotional foundations of learning were discussed. It was an effective seminar that concentrated on the PASS theory and blended with the experiences of the teachers.



Mixed **photography exhibition**

A mixed photography exhibition, featuring the works of High School Visual Arts students, opened on May 25.





May 19 marked with ceremonies and activities

The Koç School celebrated May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day, marking the beginning of the War of Independence and presented to the youth by the Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, with ceremonies in Primary, Middle and High Schools. In addition, many activities were held throughout the week. At a panel session organized in the Middle School, students came together with the Fenerbahçe Wheelchair Basketball team.



To preserve biodiversity

The Koç School Permaculture Club, active since 2013-2014 and conducting theoretical and applied studies to develop ecologic and geographic literacy of students to preserve biodiversity in line with the sustainable development goals, protected all the trees in the permaculture garden by using a mulching technique. Working in Permaculture Garden, the students created a “bug hotel” to build an area for the beneficial bugs that will support the ecosystem of the garden and increase biodiversity. They also designed seed balls to revitalize the soil that lacked vegetation. These seed balls are planned to be used at a seed ball activity that will be carried out with the primary school students next year.

Shedding light to the future with curiosity

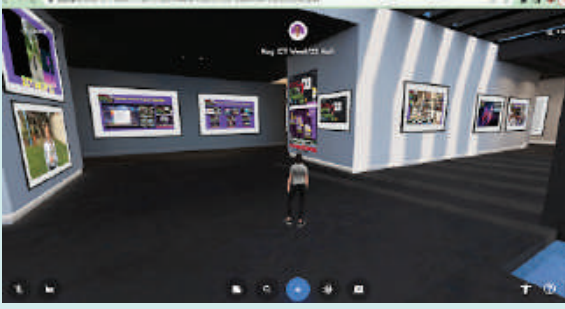
The Koç School students had the opportunity to participate in many activities and carried out various studies during the Curiosity and Science Week. Grade 2 students conducted interdisciplinary studies since March, researching the impacts of global warming on habitats. Grade 3 students have worked on the question “How can we create a school life that will benefit the ecological system at The Koç School?” since February. Using the “Design Thinking” methodology, the students, who understood the principles and stages of the method, identified their stakeholders at the understanding stage of the problem situation, and completed their in-depth interviews at school and at home. In this context, students had meetings with Alper K. Ateş, the author of Blue Planet Set, Hüseyin Çağlar İnce, the author of “This Moment in Nature”, and Elif Çubuktaş '02 and Yasemin Kırkağaçlıoğlu '02, the founders of Kokopelli Şehirde, which creates a learning environment on ecology and sustainable life.



Following Sustainable Development Goals

Starting from the second semester, Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on land is taught in the Basic Social Sciences course of the Prep classes within the framework of the international project titled the “Goals Project” of the organization #teachsdgs. Within the scope of the project, the LP students applied the theoretical information they learned in the permaculture garden.





What is this metaverse?

The 12th Information and Communication Technology Week, celebrated every year with the motto “Create, Join, Share, Race, Learn”, was held on May 9-13, 2022 with the theme “Metaverse.” The Middle School keynote speaker was Tansu Yeğen, Vice President of Ui Path Europe, who spoke on Metaverse on Monday, May 9. The Primary School keynote speaker was Kerem Onat from class 7E, with his presentation titled “What is this Metaverse?”. Mete Cem Utku & Sinan Üstüner from the Middle School Podcast’22 team provided podcast support with the title “Metaverse: Beyond the Universe.”

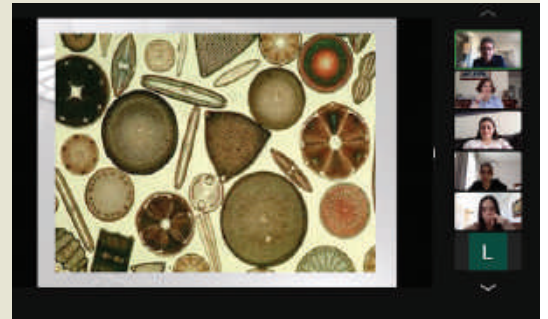
Visualizing a novel digitally

Grade 9 students read Sevgi Soysal’s novel “Noontime in Yenişehir” and examined the themes and literary techniques in their Turkish Language and Literature classes. Then, in their Computer classes, they visualized these themes and literary tools in a digital environment by using the “double exposure” technique in Photoshop. Starting on May 18, the students’ works were exhibited at the Pyramid. The visitors scanned the QR codes below the posters to discover the themes and literary tools used to design each work.



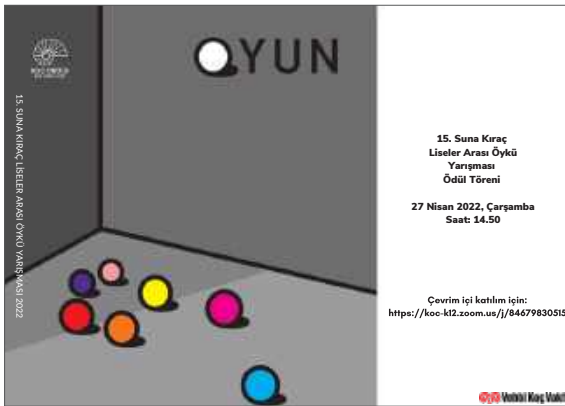
Striking examples of forensic medicine

The panel session organized by the Health and Medicine Club for the first time on May 20 was held on the theme of “Forensic Medicine.” Prof. Coşkun Yorulmaz from Koç University School of Medicine Department of Forensic Medicine provided information on the topic and shared striking case studies.



Writing a game in itself

The theme of the 15th Suna Kiraç Inter-High School Short Story Contest was “Game,” a notion as old as the history of humankind. Stories on “Game,” drawing from the idea that writing is a game in itself, an act that opens doors to the magical world of words, could be submitted until February 12. The winners of the contest, which was open to all high school students in Istanbul, received their awards on April 27. Following the contest, a book featuring a selection of stories by the participants was compiled.





In solidarity

Mustafa Koç Story Writing Contest, organized in memory of the late Mustafa V. Koç, who believed that “every hand we extend to each other will take us to better days” and that the spirit of solidarity that elevates humanity is the most important building block for his country, was held with the theme of “Solidarity” this year. The winners of the contest, which is open to Grade 7 and 8 students of all middle schools in Istanbul, received their awards at a ceremony on May 16.

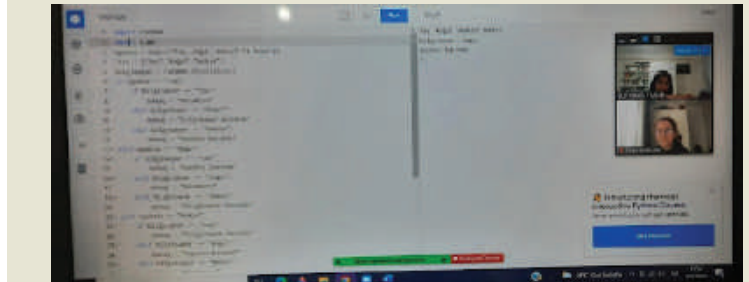
Certificates of recognition for kindness

The International Expressions of Kindness, which provides an environment for children around the world to reflect on how kindness and benevolence can be shown in different ways and offers young people an opportunity to advocate for the right to free expression, delivered certificates of recognition to The Koç School and 10 middle school students, who supported the kindness project, for their dedicated contributions.



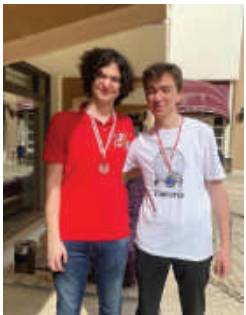
A foundation for knowledge on artificial intelligence

Artificial Intelligence Club held the annual training on artificial intelligence and coding on May 3-6. The purpose of the training was to help participating students learn basic coding and establish a foundation for knowledge on artificial intelligence. The training, which focused on understanding how artificial intelligence worked without coding, also provided information about the uses of artificial intelligence and career opportunities.



Big success at Antalya Mathematics Olympics

Two Koç School students, who prepared under the leadership of Mathematics Club Advisor Bernis Özgönül, won 1 Gold and 1 Bronze Medal at the 26th Antalya National Mathematics Olympics. Grade 11 student Mert Tarım, who achieved an outstanding success in the 1st stage and participated in the final exam, won the Gold Medal and Grade 11 student Eren Ehli won the Bronze Medal on May 8.



Understanding approaches in the changing world order

The Koç School Turkish Language and Literature Department completed their in-service training on May 13, 2022 with Prof. Zeynep Uysal from Boğaziçi University. During the training, the books recommended by Prof. Uysal were read by considering the current literary approaches and then a face-to-face meeting was held in the campus. The active participation of the teachers in the sessions, whose discussion processes were planned together, enhanced the impact of the in-service training. Raising awareness about and taking a critical approach toward the reflections of posthumanism on literature inspired the teachers about understanding the place of the topic in daily life and approaches in the changing world order.

EVERYTHING CHANGES YET WE STAY TOGETHER

Classes of 1992, 1997,
2002, 2007 and 2012!
Please contact us if you
want to join the Reunion
Committees to plan the
homecoming events!

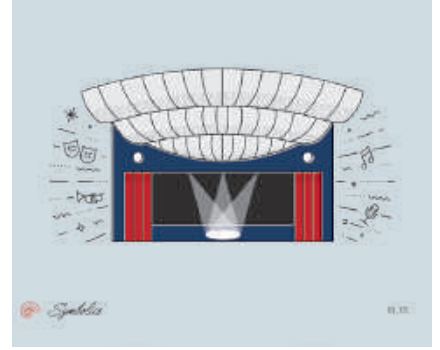
mezunlar@koc.k12.tr

KOnnect

KOnnect, launched in 2021, aims to provide a platform where all alumni of The Koç School can connect, participate in the school's alumni events, and be the first to know the latest developments at the school.

Homecoming

The long-awaited and planned Homecoming will be the first KOnnect event to bring the alumni together at the school. The event will also feature reunion ceremonies for the alumni celebrating their 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th graduation anniversaries.



Sign up to KOnnect!

mezun.koc.k12.tr

You may sign up with your email address, phone number, and postal address.

Save the date!

September 2022

Homecoming!

More info to follow soon!

A surprise for the alumni!

Prepare for a surprise when you sign up to KOnnect, the platform created to connect all alumni of The Koç School with each other and the school. The special designs that Taner Köşeli, the creator of the Koç Sembol project, conceived for The Koç School will be mailed individually to each member.

The data you provide to the platform will be processed and stored via the Raklet system in accordance with the personal data protection laws applicable in Turkey and other countries. We believe that KOnnect will strengthen the connection among The Koç School alumni and contribute to continuous, up-to-date communication. Please send your suggestions about the platform to mezunlar@koc.k12.tr.

ALUMNI NEWS

Gamze Hongur Altınok '94, creates beautiful Turkish patchwork designs

using a somewhat forgotten traditional technique. She promotes her collections, which she started as a project to support women's handcrafts and labor and later turned into a new fashion trend, via prestigious sales channels.



Nilhan Gençoğlu '19, who started singing at a very young age, discovered

that she loved performing on stage when she played in musicals at The Koç School and began to compose and write songs. In addition to currently studying business at Queen Mary University of London, Nilhan also continues her music career, sharing her — mostly — pop and R&B songs on social media.



'STANDING IN UNITY, WE WILL DESIGN THE FUTURE TOGETHER'

KÖLMED President
Pelin (Bingöl) Keskinoglu '96
provides details about the association's
scholarship program.

Please tell us about The Koç School Alumni Association (KÖLMED).

KÖLMED is an association that facilitates the building of strong bonds among The Koç School alumni. These strong bonds create solidarity and enable us to extend moral and material support to the school's students and alumni currently studying at university.

What exactly does this support cover? Could you elaborate on the solidarity between The Koç School alumni and students?

We have two scholarship programs, made possible entirely with monetary support and our own funds: Allowance Scholarship and Transportation Scholarship. We provide a certain amount of allowance for the current students at The Koç School and the alumni at Turkish universities if they are on scholarships. Every year, we also offer a round-trip flight ticket to our alumni who have completed their university education abroad to support them in returning to Turkey.

How do you raise funds for the scholarship program?

Every year, we allocate an amount equivalent to one-third of our association's annual budget for supporting our alumni. Our biggest support comes from donations and the dues paid by our members on time. We also meet with people and organizations that may support our program to expand our area of impact and raise new funds.

How many students benefited from your scholarship program so far?

The number of our scholarship students increases every year. Since we launched the program in 2014, we granted scholarships to 80 alumni for a total of TL 2 million.

What are your 2022 targets?

Reaching new scholars was rather difficult in the last two years due to the pandemic, so this year, we want to increase our scholarship amount and the number of scholars. Therefore, starting in 2022, we aim to extend scholarships amounting to nearly TL 250,000 to our alumni and students.

How do the people who want to support your scholarship program contact KÖLMED?

You can reach us via our website kocozel.com or by email at iletisim@kocozel.com. Support requests can also be communicated by DMs on Instagram [@kocschoolalumni](https://www.instagram.com/kocschoolalumni) or by calling +90 212 393 6131/32.

How would you encourage people to support your scholarship program?

The education we receive at The Koç School plays a key role in the steps we as alumni take for our future. We should enable our alumni to feel and recognize this value. Let's not forget that they will design the future with our contributions.

What is **KÖLMED** up to?



In the summer months, **online reunions** brought together alumni celebrating the 10th, 15th, 20th, and 25th anniversaries of their graduations.

The alumni continue to come together in the summer months in events such as **Terrace Meet-up, Summer at KoçPera party** and various outdoor activities.



In the September event of the **KoçConnect** series, Süha Çubukçuoğlu '97 and Selim Sazak '07 discussed the local and global agenda topics. In March, Can Atacık '96 moderated a talk on impact entrepreneurship with panelists Yalın Karadoğan '93, Başak Önen '09 and Seçil Kinay.

An event was organized at Istanbul Golf Club to bring variety to the fall and winter months. Other events included tasting activities and the traditional **New Year's Party**.



The association supported the middle school and high school **Career Days** at The Koç School.

The Koç School General Manager Professor Murat Günel and High School Principal Elif Kara Öztürk joined a talk at Koç Pera to discuss the school's latest projects.

Several activities were organized in the spring to meet up with **The Koç School Student Association** and boarding students.

In an **ArtWalk** event, Hope Alkazar and Meşher were visited.



A new event series called **BizzLink** was launched to bring together The Koç School alumni who work in the same field and contribute to the school community. The participants of the first two meetings were alumni working in the construction and health sectors, respectively.

The alumni continue to come together in the summer months in events such as **Terrace Meet-up, Summer at KoçPera party** and various outdoor activities.

An **Extraordinary General Assembly** was convened in June to amend the association's charter.

Reach **KÖLMED** easily!

Visit www.kocozel.com to contact KÖLMED, become a member, and register for all events. You can also pay your membership fees, make donations, and update your profile and communication preferences on the website.

For all your questions, please write to: iletisim@kocozel.com



Visit Toss Shop for The Koç School merchandise: kolmed.dukkan.im

KÖLMED on social media [kocschoolalumni](https://www.instagram.com/kocschoolalumni)

[kocozellisesimezunladernegi](https://www.facebook.com/kocozellisesimezunladernegi) [kolmed](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kolmed)



2021-2022 Board of Directors

KÖLMED's 2021-2022 Board of Directors was elected at the General Assembly meeting in September 2021. You can contact KÖLMED Board of Directors through Secretary General Beril Güngör Karadağ (beril.gungor@kocpera.com).

Venues

KoçPera

Address: Tom Tom Mah. İstiklal Cad.
Merkez Han Kat: 5&6 No.181 Beyoğlu/İstanbul
Phone: +90 212 393 6131-32
Email: beril.gungor@kocpera.com

Koç Group Sports Club

Address: Kuzguncuk Mah. Kuşbakışı Cad.
16/1-1 Üsküdar/İstanbul
Phone: +90 216 343 3676
Email: iletisim@kocozel.com

Join the **closed groups** to access the posts of the member alumni and share your own posts. Follow The Koç School alumni's posts about the business world and share your job searches or listings with the members in this channel.

kocozellisilerdernegi

Koç Özel Lisesi Mezunlar Derneği



The Alumni Association President's Letter

Pelin (Bingöl) Keskinöglü '96

Dear Alumni and Future Alumni,

Since its foundation in 1980 by the parents of the students, KÖLMED has evolved and transformed significantly. In the early years, the association was still managed by the parents under the leadership of the General Manager at the Vehbi Koç Foundation (VKF). After starting to serve on the Board of Directors, we elected our first alumnus president and took over the helm from the parents in 2009. Most recently, we have been working hard to make up for the period impacted by the pandemic. After determining a new strategy, we amended the association charter, drafted regulations, and updated our ways of working, taking major steps to ensure the continuity of our association's strength and the value we create for all our stakeholders.

Throughout all these efforts and looking to the future, the mission of the Board of Directors remains the same: to encourage all stakeholders to engage with and support each other to the maximum, create opportunities for this purpose, and uphold our school's fundamental values, culture, tradition and worldview. As we strive for these objectives, we are driven by our vision of becoming a recognized and respected brand that stays ahead of the curve, acts with agility and dynamism to adapt to the ongoing changes and the latest developments, and make our alumni proud to be members and our stakeholders happy to be collaborators. And our wish is always the same: to add value to the lives of more people, build on our strong bonds, and expand our impact while improving our effectiveness.

The Board of Directors, elected in September 2021, consists of alumni ranging from the Class of 1993 to the Class of 2016. We started by defining our vision for our term and the strategic priorities required to achieve it. We set our first of strategic priority as elevating the level of communication and unity with key stakeholders. So, we organized meetings and events to establish strong ties with both the school management and future alumni and ensure the continuity of the values and culture we acquired at our school. We defined another priority as creating more benefits for the stakeholders and changing gear to raise more funds. For instance, we cooperated with Avis, which offered special prices in car and van rentals for the alumni. We also teamed up with Getir, which sponsored our annual winter meet-up.

We are happy to report that after working long and hard to include our association members in the KoçAilem platform, we have reached a conclusion and we will soon share more information. We also increased the number of monthly allowance payments we extend to the current students at The Koç School or alumni attending Turkish universities on scholarship. With these steps, we are expanding our reach. Since branding is also one of our strategic priorities, we are accelerating our efforts in this area as well. For this purpose, we partnered with Zeynep Yıldırım '06 to design the logo and enhance the brand value of Toss Shop, which is a function of the commercial business of our association. We will soon start using this logo on our merchandise. We also decided on the new designs of textile merchandise with the school's Student Association. In the new term, we will start to sell these products in our high school store. In all of these activities, we think strategically and prioritize operational agility, making our decisions with this approach.

The donations we receive and the dues that our members pay on time make it possible for us to carry out and continue the activities that I tried to summarize. And for that, I want to thank all the alumni. We will do our utmost and serve our big family well during our term to be a strong community that takes pride and stands in solidarity with all our alumni who make their mark and shape the future.

With warm regards,

A friendly reminder!

Visit kocozel.com sign up for KÖLMED membership and benefit from the privileges of KoçPera and Koç Group Sports Club as well as a special 25% discount at DivanPera*!

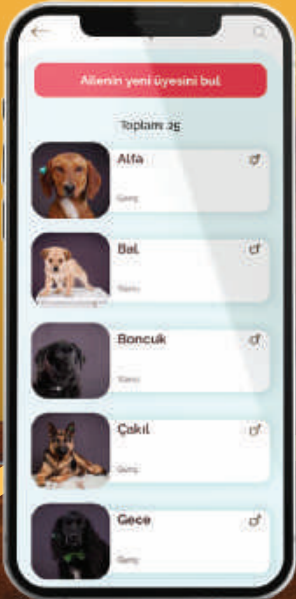
*Association members should have paid the current year's fees to qualify for the 25% discount.

Ailene katılmayı bekleyen SemtPati çocuklarını

yakından tanımak ve sahiplenmek için ●



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SemtPati'yi
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