



THE KOÇ SCHOOL

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VOICE





THE KOÇ SCHOOL

VOICE

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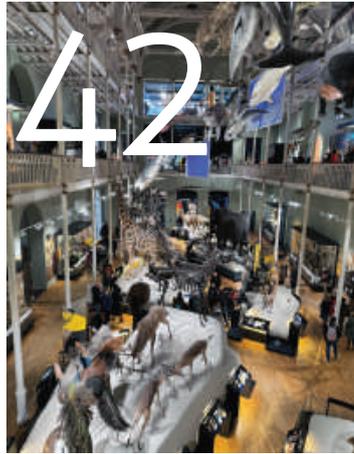
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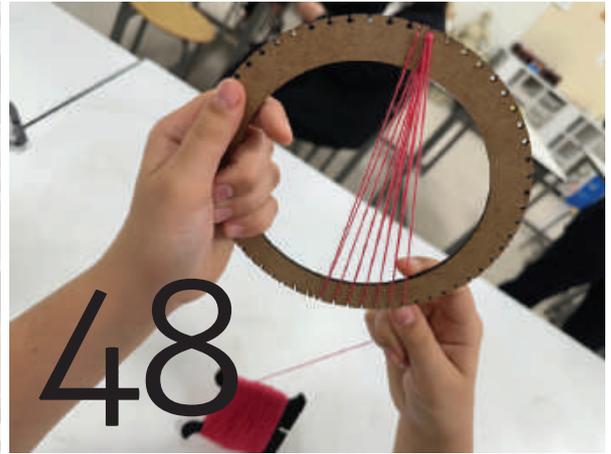
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‘As we step into the second century of our Republic, greater responsibilities rest on our shoulders. It falls on all of us to navigate our country toward a brighter future, hand in hand with the younger generations, equipped with the skills and adaptability required to thrive amidst the rapid pace of global developments.’

ONWARD TO THE SECOND CENTURY

Dear Voice Readers,

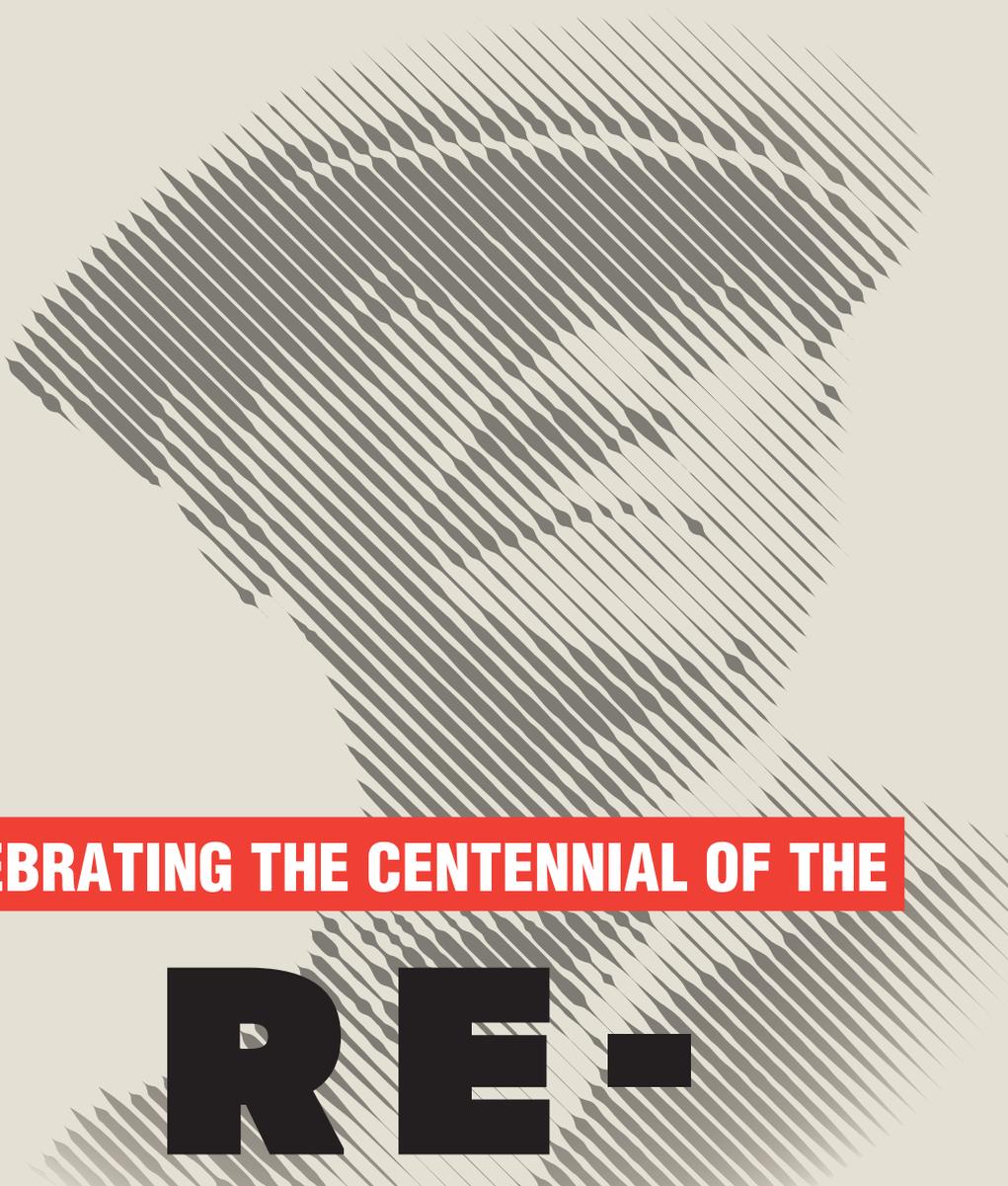
We are leaving behind an academic year filled with many exciting activities, befitting the centennial of our Republic. During the 2023-2024 academic year, we honored this historical milestone with a ceremonial gathering at our school, with our students, teachers, parents and colleagues in attendance.

At The Koç School, we launched numerous projects designed to share and spread the joy surrounding the Republic’s centennial through a series of events at all the schools. Among these initiatives was the creation of a time capsule, drawing from the idea of preserving the memories of our centennial celebrations for future generations. We placed carefully selected works and photographs from our schools within this capsule and buried it in the yard, to be unearthed and revisited fifteen years later, on the occasion of our school’s 50th anniversary. This year, Code Week, a European-wide event, was organized with the theme, “Teams are Coding on the Centennial

of our Republic!” In addition to the events focused on exploring the mathematical aspect of the Republic, lessons that encouraged the conveyance of the Republic’s associations and achievements through sensory experiences or artistic expressions also kept our memory fresh throughout the year. Furthermore, we all witnessed a poignant and historic moment as we ceremoniously replanted the nearly millennia-old Olive Tree Voynati from the Karaburun district of Izmir in our school grounds.

Now, as we step into the second century of our Republic, greater responsibilities rest on our shoulders. It falls on all of us to navigate our country toward a brighter future, hand in hand with the younger generations, equipped with the skills and adaptability required to thrive amidst the rapid pace of global developments. I look forward to reuniting with our students, fueled by higher motivation at the dawn of our Republic’s second century.

Until we meet again in September, I wish everyone a great summer.



CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE

**RE -
PUB -
LIC**







republic

noun, (*ri-'pə-blik*), a form of government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law.

The founder of the Republic of Türkiye is Atatürk.

What is a republic? Is it merely a name or a word? Or is it a form of government?

When it comes to the Republic of Türkiye, the word holds a much deeper meaning.

The Republic symbolizes a nation's struggle for sovereignty and freedom.

It is the tale of the Republic of Türkiye, built with the perseverance and determination of our people under the leadership of our great leader, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

It signifies the will of the people.

It represents not just a system of governance, but a philosophy of life.

It embodies the unity and solidarity of our nation.

It stands for equality, justice, and freedom.

It reflects the major strides toward development.

The Republic means always progressing toward the goal of reaching the level of contemporary civilization, following the path that Atatürk forged for us.

It signifies looking to the future with hope.

It embodies the enduring aspiration to preserve and build upon our legacy.

As we proudly leave the first century of our Republic behind, we remain resolute in our faith in the future.

We know that the Republic of Türkiye will endure in peace and prosperity for many more centuries with perseverance and determination.

**OUR REPUBLIC WILL FOREVER
ENDURE.**



THE CENTENNIAL ANTHEM

**REPUBLIC, THE LIGHT OF A
BRIGHT FUTURE, A PRECIOUS GIFT
ENTRUSTED WITH US BY ATATÜRK.**

**I HAVE WALKED FOR A CENTURY
ON THE PATH YOU FORGED, YOUR
WORDS "PEACE AT HOME, PEACE IN
THE WORLD," FOREVER ETCHED ON
MY MIND.**

**MY FLAG HIGH IN THE SKY, MY
COUNTRY IN MY LIFE, IN MY BLOOD,
WE ARE ALWAYS ON YOUR PATH,
DEAR ATATÜRK.**

*Lyrics-Composition: Burcu Bal Ulusoy
Arrangement-Orchestration: Emre Köz*

“

Our hope is that our children, to whom Atatürk entrusted the Republic with great expectations, will continue to carry our cultural heritage forward, embracing the transformation that began a hundred years ago with an innovative perspective inspired by art.

”



We proudly marked the centennial of our Republic with great enthusiasm. This proud heritage allows us to look back with gratitude, drawing strength for today and hope for tomorrow. Filled with these feelings and committed to the spirit and principles of the Republic, we reaffirm our responsibility for the future: We are the generations that will protect this legacy and carry it forward!

This century-old plane tree tells the story of a hero in every leaf and holds a ray of hope in every branch. We will forever preserve this strong and enduring tree, whose branches reach the sky and whose roots run deep. Our path is illuminated by the light of this great heritage, guiding us as we continue our journey.

Looking back, we deeply appreciate the invaluable gift our great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his comrades have left us, and we clearly see how far we have come. We pledge to follow in their footsteps in the second century, working tirelessly to strengthen our Republic and ensure a brighter future for the generations to come.

As we proudly celebrate the centennial of our Republic, we share with you the efforts we have made to spread this enthusiasm throughout our school.



“

Our Republic is a symbol, like a plane tree with endless branches, deep roots, and a strong trunk. It has stood tall for centuries, providing shelter for countless birds and a place for people to rest and find peace. It is the guarantee of a bright future.

”

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC!

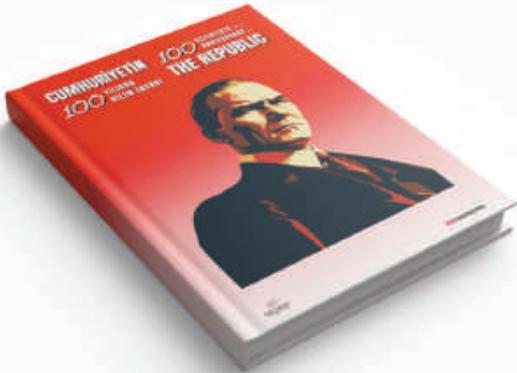
We celebrated the centennial of our Republic on October 29 with a ceremony at school, joined by our students, teachers, parents and colleagues. The ceremony opened with a video featuring the centennial image, created with contributions from the entire school community, and the “Centennial Anthem,” written and composed by our teacher Burcu and arranged and produced by our teacher Emre.

All the students, teachers and staff convened on the track field and formed the “100th Anniversary” words, demonstrating that our Republic is empowered by our unity and solidarity.

Please click to view the video, accompanied by the “Centennial Anthem,” written and composed by The Koç School music teachers.



WE PROUDLY CELEBRATED THE CENTENNIAL OF OUR REPUBLIC



We created posters of 100 scientists with the contributions of our students, teachers, employees and parents in the journey that started with the aim of recognizing and remembering the scientists who traveled all over the world to learn science and the firsts of the Republic of Türkiye. The posters were featured in an exhibition and turned into a book as part of the centennial celebrations of the Republic.

Please click to view the book.



- We focused on the sense of **independence, freedom and trust** by reflecting the enthusiasm of the centennial of our Republic to all our work throughout the year. We conducted transdisciplinary studies on themes that we aimed for our students to absorb.
- Aiming to preserve **memories from the centennial celebrations for the future**, we placed art works and photographs selected from all grades in a **time capsule**, which was buried in the school yard to be opened 15 years later, on our school's 50th anniversary.
- The preschoolers determined their class names **democratically**, using their **right to elect and be elected**, one of the reforms introduced by our Republic. All the students voted to elect their class representatives, and then the winners were congratulated.
- Our primary school students discussed the **right to equal education**, one of the greatest achievements of the Republic, as part of their course content. They gained an appreciation of what they have **earned** thanks to this right. They also participated in creative writing activities, **imagining that they were children living in the year the Republic was proclaimed**, and supported their ideas with their writing skills.
- During the class circle sessions, we introduced the theme of **developing a language of peace** across the primary school.
- We asked our students, “**What is the meaning of Republic for you?**” Based on the meaningful answers submitted, we defined **how the generations of Republic should be**.
- Drawing from our great leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's words, “**Culture means to read, to comprehend, to be able to see, and to make sense of what you see, to think and to educate the mind,**” we identified the equivalent of having integrity in our behaviors by deducing the meaning of each action in the quote and its reflections on our lives.
- In preparation for the October 29 Republic Day, our students designed banners about the **100 Values of the Republic** and participated in the plane tree planting activity at school. During our walk to plant the plane trees, we felt unity and solidarity by **singing “Republic” themed songs and anthems**.
- We emphasized the importance of understanding and communicating the 100 Values of the Republic in our classes and studies. We tried to understand **the motivation within us about being a republic** to learn about the reforms and innovations introduced in the first century of our Republic.
- Using the theme of “Republic and Atatürk”, we wrote poems reflecting the values of the Republic and the **fight for independence led by Atatürk**.
- We teamed up with Yapı Kredi Culture and Arts Publishing to organize the “**First Year of the Republic Exhibition**” on the school grounds. The students visiting the exhibition gained an understanding and **appreciation about the importance of our values**, promoted through images evoking a sense of confidence in the future.
- As part of the Culture Cranes project executed by our fourth graders in collaboration with Boğaziçi University, we read İpek Ongun's book “**Her Şey Değişiyor: Cumhuriyet Dönemi**” (“Everything Changes: The Republic Era”). Then, all the students and parents watched the play “Everything Changes,” written by our drama teachers and adapted to the stage by our Primary School Drama Club students. The play **highlighted Istanbul in the early years of the Republic and the values of our heroes**.
- The **nearly millennia-old Olive Tree Voynati** from the Karaburun district of İzmir was ceremoniously replanted in our school grounds on the centennial of our Republic.
- The 26th Book Week was dedicated to the centennial celebrations with the



View the video of Voynati being replanted in the school grounds:



theme **“In the Light of the Republic: Dreams Come True.”** In the talk titled **“Atatürk and the Achievements of the Republic”** with our guest of honor, Sunay Akin, we gained an understanding of our power to be global citizens, paying tribute to our great leader.

- Further promoting the theme “In the Light of the Republic: Dreams Come True,” we hosted **visionary guests** such as Alp Gökcalp, Gülşah Yemen Sarioğlu, Onur Koç, Kardelen Özdemir, Hande Gündüz, Özlem Özdemir, Gökçe Akgül, and Jonathan Heilig, who engaged with the preschoolers and primary school students, inspiring them **to shape their road maps.**
- During the Book Week organized with the theme “In the Light of the Republic: Dreams Come True,” we hosted a **talk with journalist Emre Buga** to discuss the developments in the press and journalism from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic era. During the talk, the **reforms and innovations that the Republic introduced for journalism and communications** were emphasized.
- We organized talks, drama activities and workshops where we discussed the books written by children’s authors on themes, including **“The Thousand and One Colors of the Republic”** and **“Journey to Our Dreams and the Future.”** These events provided opportunities for making associations with and appreciating our **freedoms, rights, aspirations, and the importance of engaging with the world.**
- The primary school students launched a bookmark project with students from different countries. They sent bookmarks reflecting the importance of reading to their peers in Portugal and Australia, informing them **about our way of government, the importance of living in a peaceful world and their commitment to the Republic,** and highlighting this issue with the visuals they created.
- Throughout the year, **multiple book exhibitions** were organized about **“Atatürk,” “Women of the Republic,”** and **“Atatürk’s Vision,”** offering opportunities to benefit from the books in the exhibitions.
- Various coding activities titled **“Teams Code on the Centennial of our Republic!”** were organized as part of the Information Technologies and Software courses.
- The students in the Maker Jr Club exhibited the 100th year themed mini motion circuits with lights and sounds, while a **“Republic’s Centennial Parade”** was put on with robots carrying Turkish flags.
- We participated in the 7th International Istanbul Children and Youth Art Biennial with an installation titled **“Construction the Republic”** created by first graders. The biennial, organized with the theme of hope, included works in different art disciplines prepared by 5,250 children and young people from 12 countries and 25 provinces.
- We launched **The Koç School Centennial TEMA Commemorative Forest Project** in cooperation with The Koç School, Primary and Middle School Parents’ Association (OAB) and Visual Arts Department to commemorate centennial of our Republic. As part of this project, a visual design competition was organized for our fourth, fifth, and sixth graders as well as a logo design competition was organized for the seventh and eighth graders. **The winning designs were used in the centennial celebrations.** The proceeds from product sales were used to contribute to The Koç School Centennial Commemorative Forest, to be grown in an area designated by TEMA.
- Multiple **anthems** were composed to **commemorate the centennial of our Republic.**
- Professor Sevtap Demirci from Boğaziçi University was at our school for



On the centennial of our Republic, we published the book, “100 poems for 100 years” and opened an exhibition featuring the poems from the book in the middle school library.

Please click to view the book.



WE PROUDLY CELEBRATED THE CENTENNIAL OF OUR REPUBLIC

an event titled “**Lausanne Marks 100 Years.**” Demirci, who has in-depth knowledge and expertise about all the documents, discussed **the importance and process of Lausanne** with our students in an engaging conversation and then answered the students’ questions.

- The award ceremony for the **17th Suna Kıraç Inter-High School Story Competition**, themed “**The Bright Face of the Republic**”, took place on Wednesday, April 17 at The Koç School.
- During the Code Week themed “**Centennial of our Republic**”, we hosted various coding activities as part of the Information Technologies (IT) and Software courses. At the House/Teams Compete event, we focused on **Republic-themed coding, algorithms with games, and sequential thinking problems**.
- Our students created a **special installation dedicated the centennial of our Republic**. The installation called “**Long live the Republic,**” enabling us to perceive the relationship between art and space, made the viewers feel the strength of our feelings and spirit.
- The students were highly motivated and excited during their reading, writing, research and presentation activities. They enthusiastically embraced and used historical terms **to show their deep commitment to the Republic and Atatürk**.
- **The 100th Year Republic Day Exhibition**, created by the primary, middle and high school students, was opened during the October 29 Republic Day Ceremony at The Koç School. A book containing the works in the exhibition is

currently being prepared.

- During the **Monday morning ceremonies** from September 11 to October 23, the middle school students gave **presentations, sharing the developments in our country in the last 100 years** with their friends. In speeches addressed to Atatürk, they talked about **the factories built, constitutional changes, achievements in arts and sports, and technological developments** in the past century.
- A special centennial edition of the “**Boyut**” magazine featured our students’ works, including poems and essays.
- From October 19-22, the eighth graders traveled to **Thessaloniki, where Atatürk was born, Monastir, where he attended a military high school, and Çanakkale, the place of his epic victory**.
- As part of the centennial celebrations, the **Future Historians Essay Competition** was organized with the theme “**The Achievements of the Republic.**” Essays submitted by students from various schools in Istanbul were evaluated by historians, and the winning schools and students were presented awards.
- During the opening ceremony of the Culture Days activities, the middle school students staged the play “**100th Year Train.**” The play emphasized the contributions of prominent figures such as Muhsin Ertuğrul, Halide Edip Adivar, Afet İnan, Nazım Hikmet, Mehmet Akif Ersoy, and İbrahim Çallı, who have **shaped our culture since the foundation of the Republic, to the direction, preservation, and continuity of the Republic’s culture from past to present**.



Our students embarked on a creative journey where they used the Desmos graphing calculator to create unique mathematical representations for the milestone centennial of the Republic of Türkiye. The works were brought together in the book titled “Names That Empower the Republic: Desmos Portrait Project”.

Please click to view the book.



“

When Atatürk founded the Republic, the most significant challenge was social transformation. To remotivate and inspire a weary nation, it was essential to establish the Republic on solid foundations. A secular and modern education system was introduced, and women were granted the right to vote and be elected. Infrastructure projects, including ports, mines, factories, and railways, were developed across the country, reducing reliance on imported resources. By prioritizing art and science, great strides were made to surpass the standards of civilized nations. As the students and teachers of The Koç School, we continue to build upon the Republic entrusted to us by Atatürk, embracing it fervently in the light of reason and science.

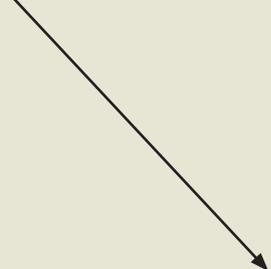
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- Drawing from the narrative “We light up dark horizons like a sun”, the **reforms introduced since the proclamation of the Republic were turned into a film strip** in a chronological flow and a poster titled “Our Republic is 100 Years Old” was created. One month before October 29, the words of the Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk were featured on each calendar page on our bulletin board and the countdown to the Republic day started.
- Inspired by Atatürk’s address to the nation, “The rising new generation! We founded the Republic, you are the ones who will elevate and keep it alive!”, we created the **Republic Poems Corner**, where poems by **our students, the bright faces of our Republic**, are featured.
- In the course titled “**A Centennial Celebration: The 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye**,” the middle school students were encouraged to explore the mathematical aspects of the Republic. Using the slogan “**Everything is Possible with the Republic**,” the students participated in classroom activities aimed at reaching the numbers between 1-100 with mathematical equations containing the numbers 1-9-2-3.
- During the event titled “**From Our Eighth Graders to Our Centennial**,” our students shared their **feelings about the Republic and Atatürk, creating great joy**.
- The middle school students used their creativity to reflect **Atatürk’s views** on the digital platform in German, French and Spanish. They also contributed to the work called “**Republic Birds**” by using words related to the Republic in German, French and Spanish.
- We organized trips for high school students to cities, which were instrumental leading up to the proclamation of the Republic, with the theme “**Tracing Atatürk’s Footsteps on the Centennial of the Republic**.” While the sophomores followed the traces of the epic journey 109 years ago in Çanakkale, the juniors students visited **Samsun, Amasya, Sivas**, and **Anıtkabir** during the Congresses Trip. The high school sports teams visited the Atatürk House in **Thessaloniki** and played volleyball and football matches with Anatolia College.

Please click to view the Boyut magazine.





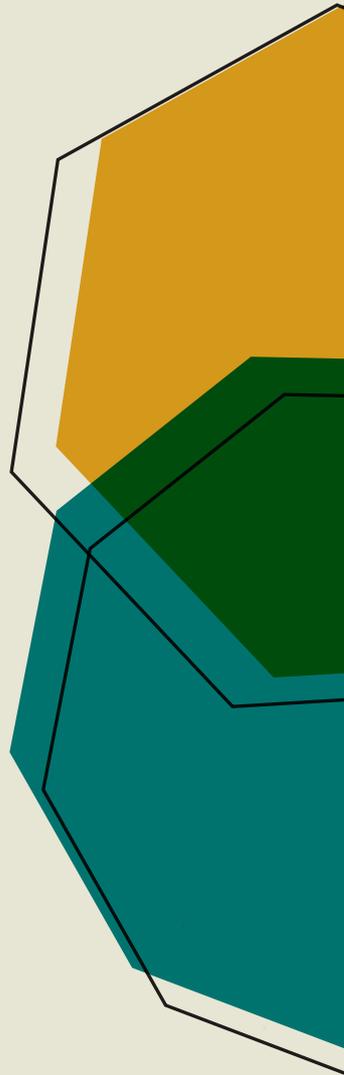
DEEPENING MEANING AND PURPOSE WITH

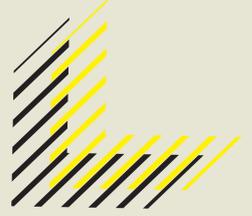
CORE VALUES

The Koç School embarked on a journey to define a new educational approach in alignment with its stakeholders about the change it aspires to create in the world and in the lives of students. This approach would entail utilizing the available resources most efficiently to set an example for Türkiye and the world. As the initiative progressed, the school engaged students, parents, staff, and alumni to collectively explore both the meaning and purpose of the school and its core values.

The overarching objective was to cultivate a profound sense of meaning and shared purpose, aligned with its core values, within the school community and to guide the actions in response to change. After an intensive, nearly four-year process, the Koç School Meaning and Purpose study was finalized.

Drawing strength from its heritage and charging ahead with confident strides, The Koç School defined its Guiding Statements, bridging the gap between its past and future built on a solid foundation. This endeavor stands as a testament to The Koç School's perspective of aligning its founding vision with the contemporary world, inspired by Suna Kıraç's educational ideals. With this commitment, the school will continue to nurture the development of every member of its community.





WHILE INDIVIDUALS SEARCH FOR MEANING AND ASPIRE TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO SOCIETY, WHY SHOULDN'T INSTITUTIONS HAVE SIMILAR ASPIRATIONS?

The Koç School's Purpose Research was launched with a vision to transform into a school driven by meaning and purpose, dedicated to the holistic development of its students, fostering a positive school climate, and pioneering educational practices that could serve as a model for Türkiye's education system. Embracing the narrative "The Onus Is On Us," the research delved into the fundamental question of life's purpose from the perspective of students. This research, conducted for the first time in Türkiye and led by Matthew T. Lee and Ayşe Yemişçigil, Ph.D., researchers with the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University, was spearheaded by The Koç School and financially supported by Vehbi Koç Foundation. The findings of this study were published in the prestigious Harvard Business Review.

Please click to read the article.





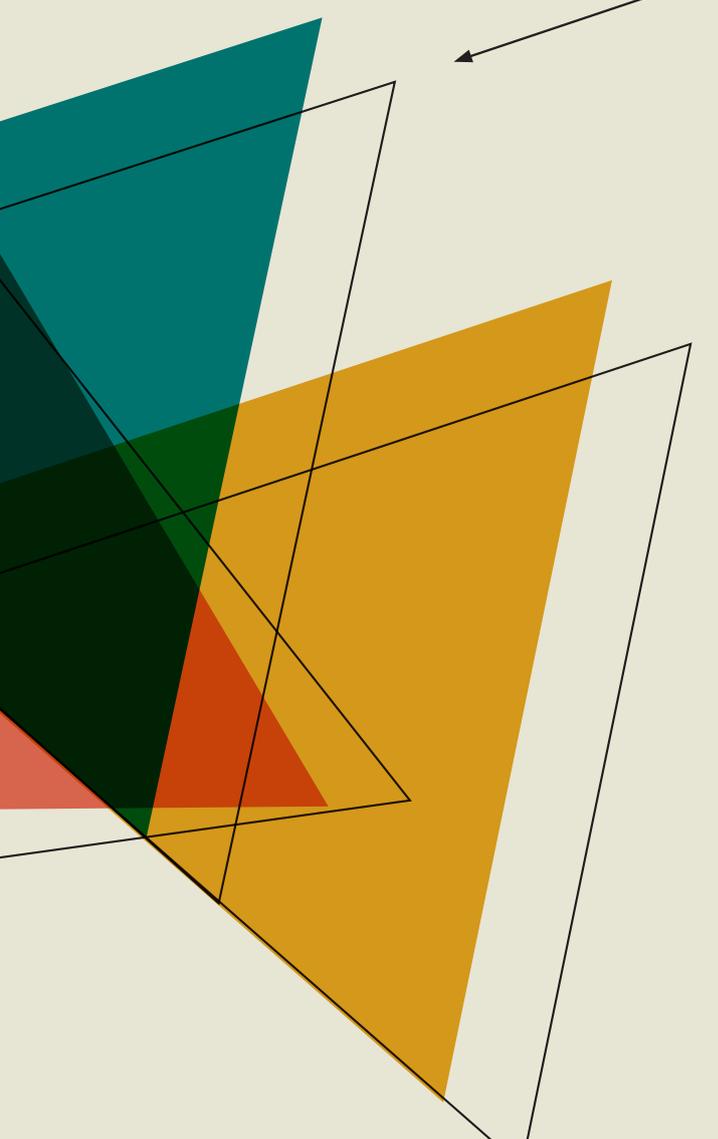
The Meaning and Purpose study represents a major stride in shaping not only the present but also the future generations.

The Journey

- The journey started in 2019 with a fundamental question: “While individuals search for meaning and aspire to contribute meaningfully to society, why shouldn’t institutions have similar aspirations?” In the process, students’ insights, the perspectives of faculty members on education, the parents’ expectations from the education system, and the impact on the lives of alumni were addressed in depth.
- Throughout the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, the Koç School Future of Learning Community team engaged in intensive work, supported by collaboration with international consultants.
- The data derived from this exhaustive study, which analyzed the competencies required to propel the school forward while upholding the core values together with all stakeholders, resulted in the formulation of The Koç School Guiding Statements, based on comprehensive evaluations aimed at defining The Koç School’s identity.
- The Koç School Guiding Statements, conceived to serve as sources of guidance and inspiration beyond just a product, have already begun to manifest in students’ learning journeys and in the work processes that form the DNA of The Koç School.
- The Meaning and Purpose study represents a major stride in shaping not only the present but also the future generations. The ongoing journey of realizing this vision, forged in collaboration with all stakeholders and aiming to enrich the experiences of each member of the school community, committed to constant evolution and self-actualization, will continue in the times to come.

OUR VISION

AT THE KOÇ SCHOOL, WE ENVISION A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF LIFELONG LEARNERS, NURTURED BY A SENSE OF WELL-BEING AND GUIDED BY COLLECTIVE WISDOM AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS.



OUR APPROACH

- ADAPTATION
- INNOVATIVENESS
- REASONING
- EMPATHY
- INTEGRITY

OUR PURPOSE

OUR PURPOSE IS TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT WHILE NAVIGATING THROUGH A COMPLEX WORLD, WHERE INDIVIDUALS ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION AT THE KOÇ SCHOOL IS TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO BECOME INDIVIDUALS AND LEADERS EQUIPPED WITH ETHICAL VALUES AND POISED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A BETTER WORLD.



GUIDING STATEMENTS

The Koç School's Guiding Statements have been crafted through an in-depth study of the competencies essential for steering the school toward the future, while always upholding its foundational values.

DEVELOPMENT CULTURE

ADAPTATION

OPENNESS
FLEXIBILITY
RESILIENCE
DILIGENCE





INNOVATIVENESS

RISK-TAKING
CHALLENGING
INQUISITIVENESS
MODELLING

REASONING

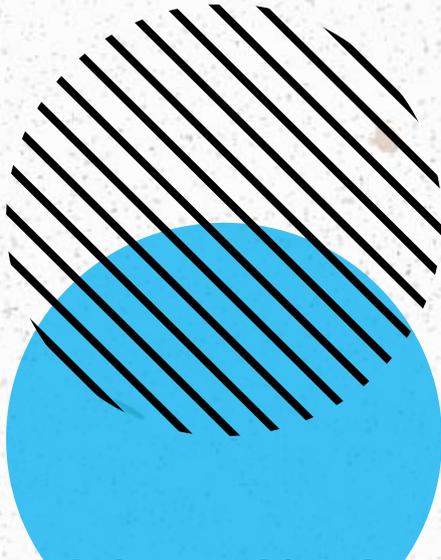
REFLECTION
PERCEPTION
ANALYSIS
INTERPRETATION

EMPATHY

CURIOSITY
SENSIBILITY
COMPASSION
AWARENESS

INTEGRITY

CONNECTION
COLLABORATION
ESTABLISHING PATTERNS
ORGANIZATION



The Koç School, which aims to provide world-class and high-quality education to its students, has taken another important step in this journey and started the Council of International Schools (CIS) accreditation process in 2023.

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS ACCREDITATION FOR THE KOÇ SCHOOL

ON A JOURNEY TO DELIVER WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION NEW STEPS

- ▶▶ As part of the preparations for accreditation by the Council of International Schools (CIS), The Koç School's academic and administrative activities are being comprehensively evaluated in terms of curriculum, education and student's well-being.
- ▶▶ The first report prepared within the scope of the project, in which all stakeholders of the school were involved, was evaluated by experts from the CIS team in November 2023.
- ▶▶ The CIS evaluation team will be hosted again at The Koç School in May 2025 for the presentation of the main report, which is the next stage.
- ▶▶ In preparation for the evaluation meetings, work on nine main topics is ongoing with volunteer representatives from the school.



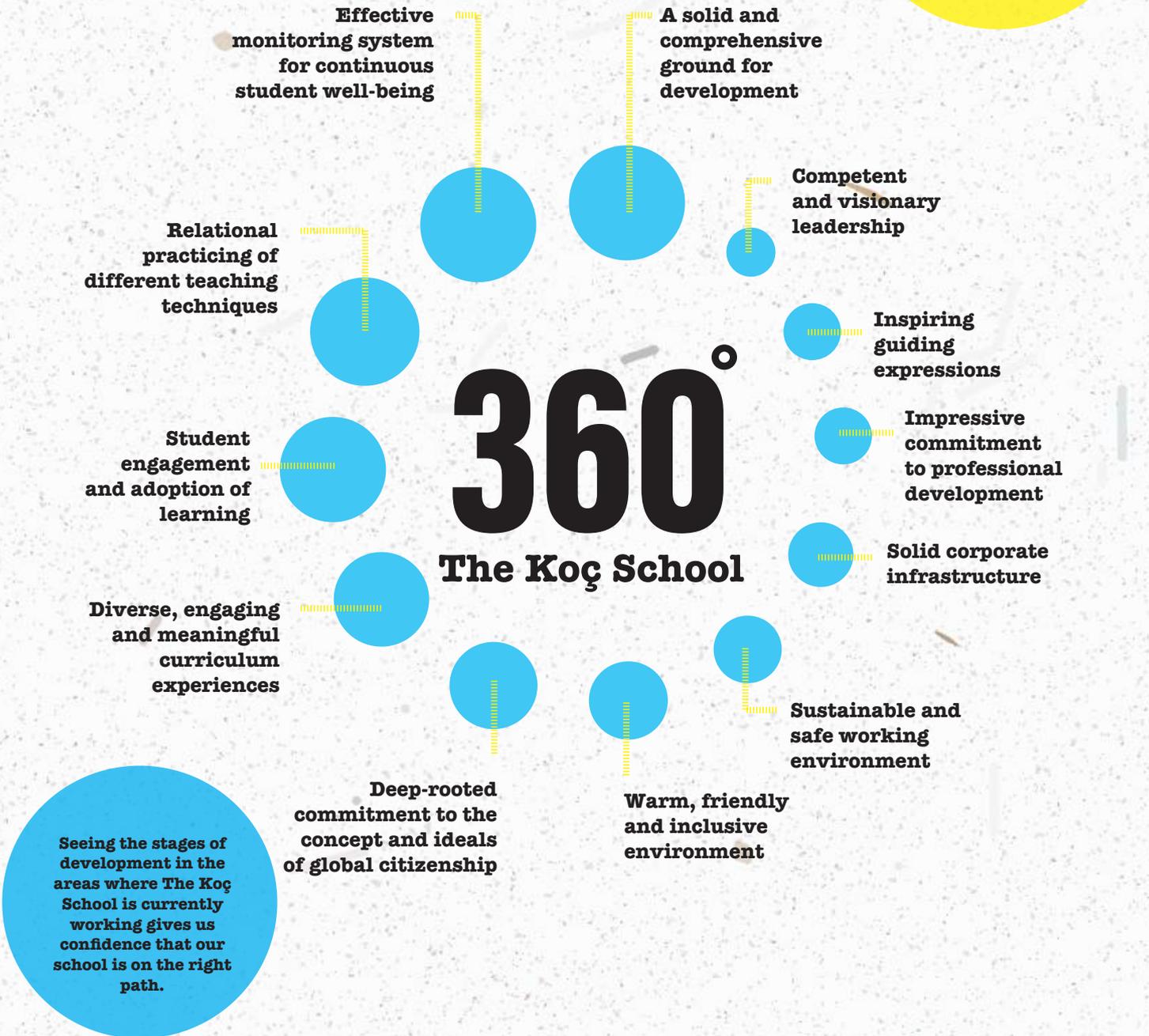
**COUNCIL OF
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS**

The Council of International Schools (CIS) has been active since 1965 as an organization providing accreditation and support to international schools. It works to promote high quality education and learning experiences around the world.

COMMENTS FROM THE EVALUATION TEAM

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all our stakeholders who supported us in this exciting process and our volunteer teams who contributed to the nine main topics.



We spoke with **Ceren Bingöl '97**, the successful architect recognized for her remarkable achievements since her graduation from The Koç School.



EVOLUTION OF CREATIVITY THROUGH CHANGES IN FORMS

In this issue, we host Ceren Bingöl '97, who talks about her impressive career. Ceren holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Architecture degrees from Yale University and Yale School of Architecture, where she graduated with multiple awards. Following her graduation and after working for prestigious architectural offices, starting with Robert A.M. Stern, Grimshaw Architects, and Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in New York, she founded Ceren Bingöl Studio. Around that time, she received an offer to head the architecture department at Cranbrook Academy of Art and became the first female to be appointed to this position, previously held by renowned architects including Eero Saarinen and Daniel Libeskind. She then continued her academic career as a visiting professor at Cooper Union University for two years. Ceren shares the details of her journey for Voice readers.

Contact Ceren Bingöl at
cerenbingol@gmail.com





Let's start with your experiences at prestigious architecture firms.

The fourteen years of experience I gained in two prestigious offices - Grimshaw and OMA - has greatly influenced my mindset, professional knowledge and ethical approach in conceptual, aesthetic, technical and functional aspects. As a senior project architect, I was involved in executing multiple projects, including museums, airports, railway stations, atmospheric biomes, art centers, high-rise buildings and city planning projects. I specialized particularly in museums. At Grimshaw, I worked in the Queens Museum of Art and Monterey Museum of Steel projects. At OMA, I was the project architect for the Quebec National Museum of Fine Arts, Marina Abramovich Performance Center, and Albright Knox Gallery Art Museum projects. During my time at Grimshaw Architects, I worked on high profile projects that required exquisite attention to detail, enabling me to refine my skills in forms that combine cutting-edge technologies with architecture. At OMA New York, I led the design and construction of multiple cultural projects, in which I was able to bring conceptual thinking to urbanism, form and function. My work involves developing a deep understanding of the values that a project can add, considering the environment and the locals, and taking into account conceptual, aesthetic, functional and technical integrity as a whole. I believe that the most successful designs emerge when minimalist solutions are combined with rational and out-of-the-box ideas.

How has Ceren Bingöl Studio evolved since its establishment?

At Ceren Bingöl Studio, the architecture and design office I founded in 2016, we are cross-disciplinary, conceptually driven, functionally thoughtful and technically innovative. We are driven by a spirit of care, curiosity and problem solving. Since 2020, in addition to our office in New York, we are undertaking design-build projects in Bodrum. The renovations that started on a small scale in New York continued with the purchase of land and building from scratch, later turning into projects where we also managed the architectural and construction processes. As the residential and hotel projects continued in Bodrum, I opened a boutique beach restaurant called Muse on the Küçükbük shore in Gündoğan in 2023. I don't think I have yet reached a milestone in my architectural work that will reflect my two decades of experience and interests. Therefore, I keep moving forward by weighing the opportunities that arise and considering the cultural, economic and sociological balances.

Please tell us more about Muse Bodrum, where you also hosted The Koç School alumni.

Muse Bodrum is a boutique beach restaurant where we serve a variety dishes from Aegean and Mediterranean cuisines with innovative twists. When I first visited Küçükbük 35 years ago, I

was amazed by its nature. So I wanted to bring back the simplicity that we long for to a venue where I try to reflect Bodrum's mystical and cozy feel, alongside entertainment. The process of creating and operating a restaurant brand can be likened to the process of designing and implementing an architectural project. Therefore, I see creativity, coordination of multiple aspects, and the human-space relationship as key factors in both professions. Muse gave me the opportunity to meet many fellow Koç School alumni during the summer season. We also hosted a group of Koç School alumni already into the second month of our opening. This summer, we will have another Koç School meet-up on July 25. I look forward to hosting more members of The Koç School community at Muse Bodrum.

What is your most memorable project?

When we won the international project competition of the Quebec National Museum of Fine Arts in Canada, we managed all the processes and delivered an innovative and multifunctional museum to the people of Quebec. Despite its simple appearance, the building's static solution and details are highly complex. It is an aesthetically striking building in a climate that drops to -40 degrees in the winter with heavy snowfall and high wind loads. As a LEED Platinum certified building, where A+ quality works of art can be exhibited, it is aesthetically striking with solutions that minimize heating load, material waste, and environmental pollution, making passers-by stop and take it all in. We enriched the visitor experience by installing iconic stairs connecting the spaces and windows that reinforce the relationship between the museum and the city. The museum, which was opened by the Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau, has reached students and enthusiasts through several books and international architecture and design magazines.

How do you balance conceptual and functional thinking in your projects?

Conceptual and functional thinking is a perpetual cycle in which concept and function keep the other under constant control. When I get stuck in finding a functional solution, I return to the project's conceptual ideals or vision. Similarly, when I apply the conceptual vision to the project, I look at how I can solve the functionality and reflect it on to the form and space. This perpetual cycle of thinking evolves further as the project comes to life, inspiring new ideas and projects.

You must be working on many innovative ideas...

There is a project that has long been on my mind, sort of like an alternative cultural framework that I want to develop. I envision a collaborative, tangible and also an intangible framework that blends nature, city people, and creatives. I invite those who are interested to reach out to me to exchange ideas.

An artistic awakening sparked by curiosity

Sarp Gürel '22 talks about **photography, a passion fueled by a desire to bring visibility to the backstage and now a part of his future goals.**

Sarp Gürel '22, one of the dancers on Sevgi Gönül Art Night, noticed people's curiosity about the backstage of a musical and opened a social media account - @sganbloopers - to share what was going on behind the scenes. He has been taking photographs ever since. Sarp turned the pandemic into an opportunity to improve his skills and served as the President of the Photography Club in his last two years at The Koç School. No wonder everyone at school called him the "photographer" since he always walked around with a camera in his hand in his senior year. Sarp, who also shot photographs of The Koç School's new high school building, answered our questions.



Follow Sarp on Instagram!
@sarp.gurelphotography
@sarp.gurel



Let's start with going back to the school years.

My time at The Koç School played a major role in my personal and academic development. I learned to think critically, solve problems, and be creative. The courses I took and the clubs I joined made me who I am today. I was in the Digital Arts club in middle school, and I participated in the Sevgi Gönül Art Night in high school. Such activities reinforced my interest in art. The Technology and Design course in middle school and the FRC Club in high school influenced the study field I chose for university.

What did you do after graduating from The Koç School?

I am currently studying industrial engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e). I am also a member of E.S.F.F. Dekate Mousa, a photography club for students in Eindhoven. Since I'm still a university student, I pursue photography in part as a hobby and in part like work for the time being. Once I graduate from university, I plan to develop a business model that will involve photography.



digitalization and social media brought to photography. If we had not experienced the pandemic, I might not have realized that I was interested in photography. The fact that photographs reach wide audiences motivates people, both the ones who have yet to discover their interest and those who have already established themselves in this business. This motivation and the speed of engagement drive people to experiment, paving the way for advancements in techniques, styles, and equipment.

The photographer Aaron Siskind famously said, “Photography is a way to capture a moment in time and preserve it forever.” From this perspective, how do you think the timelessness of photography and its power to preserve memories contribute to the human experience?

When I was a senior in high school, one of my essays appeared in The Koç School’s “Bülten” magazine. I wrote, “Photographs are the only tools that stop the flow of time, and I believe this is the most significant and compelling aspect of photography.” In fact, the archive work I mentioned is a good example. The photographs I take might be used one day to describe what the school used to look like. My friends might show their future children the photographs I take.



Please tell us about your favorite photography project to date.

I have worked on numerous projects, but the two I enjoyed the most coincided in the same term: the “2022 Term Video” that we created as a group, and the “2022 Koç School Archive,” which I see as an individual project. These two, in particular the archive, allowed me to practice every day and most likely fueled my passion for photography thanks to all the good times I had with my friends.

Considering the interactions between photography and different fields such as arts, communications and technology, do you see this profession not only as a means of visual expression but also as a communication tool?

When you put it that way, the first answer that comes to mind is usually photography’s “power to draw attention to the problems around the world.” For instance, the most recognized Pulitzer prizes, even though they include other categories, are always the ones that go to journalism and consequently, war photographs. A famous example is the “The Napalm Girl.” From a somewhat different angle, communication today revolves around advertising and marketing. So photography is used as a tool for engagement rather than communication. People often interact with each other through images, including tagging someone in a social media post.

What are your thoughts on the creative impact that digitalization and social media have brought to the world of professional photography?

As a matter of fact, I am a good example of what

SEVGİ GÖNÜL ART NIGHT

The 18th Sevgi Gönül Art Night featured captivating exhibitions and outstanding musical performances by Koç School students, engaging art enthusiasts and communicating the subtle language of art through the transformative power of digital technologies.

A CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY, OPENING NEW HORIZONS, AND UPHOLDING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE.



Held on March 15, the 18th Sevgi Gönül Art Night showcased the outstanding artworks of Koç School students and also featured captivating stage performances by 120 middle and high school students, who were joined by two alumni. In keeping with tradition, Sevgi Gönül Art Night honored the legacy of the late Sevgi Gönül, renowned for her passion for the arts, aesthetics, and life and her dedication to advancing culture and arts in Türkiye with her deep appreciation of cultural heritage.

178

students'
WORKS
EXHIBITED



120 students

ON STAGE



Staging supported by
ALUMNI



HOW DOES TIME ENHANCE

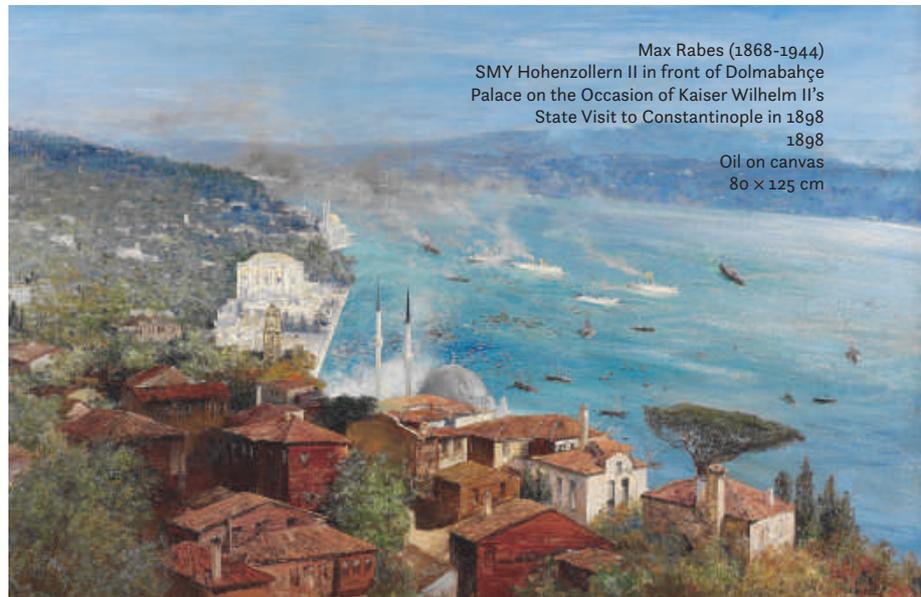
ART?

Three threads weave the fabric of time: the past, present, and future, transforming into a work of art infused with unique colors, scents, and tones added by the artist's touch. With each stroke, the artist establishes their unique truth in time. As Marcel Proust, the author of 'In Search of Lost Time,' said, if searching for lost time means pursuing the truth, then every brushstroke on a painting, every chisel strike on a sculpture, and every decision made during an exhibition's installation is an endeavor to uncover this truth of time. These are the touches that whisper the truth of how the present is uniquely experienced, how the past can be remembered differently, and how the future awaits to take shape. Sometimes one of these threads stands stronger, while another may seem fragile. Yet, despite the changing tension of these ties that bind us to life, we remain eternally connected through all three.

PULSE
OF THE PRESENT

ECHOES OF THE PAST

This timeless language of art speaks to us from different eras through three exhibitions hosted by art institutions under the Vehbi Koç Foundation umbrella: *Elegance from Past to Future - Women's Costumes from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Early Republican Era* at Abdülmecid Efendi Mansion, *Suppose You Are Not at Arter*, and *Istanbul as Far as the Eye Can See: Views across Five Centuries at Meşher*. Although each exhibition appears to focus on a specific period, they collectively reveal the timeless and powerful nature of art.



Max Rabes (1868-1944)
SMY Hohenzollern II in front of Dolmabahçe
Palace on the Occasion of Kaiser Wilhelm II's
State Visit to Constantinople in 1898
1898
Oil on canvas
80 x 125 cm

WHISPERS OF THE FUTURE



Dress with transparent glass bead embroidery. İstanbul, 1920s. Belonged to a woman from the Fethi Ahmed Pasha family. Donated by Rüya Nebioğlu. Sadberk Hanım Museum Collection.

TELLING THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE THROUGH THE LANGUAGE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The “Suppose You Are Not” exhibition is rich with works that challenge traditional understandings of art, urging viewers to question and engage with an out-of-the-box approach. It inspires us to rethink and experience the past-present-future continuum by pushing the boundaries of contemporary art. This exhibition treats a collection as a living, breathing organism rather than a static entity, much like time itself. Works from various disciplines ignite the audience’s imagination through their interactions within the space, fostering an environment open to new interpretations. It reminds us that art is not merely a vessel for aesthetic pleasure but also a tool for questioning our existence, our relationship with the world, and, certainly, our ways of experiencing time.



Suppose You Are Not
Exhibition view
Curator: Selen Ansen
Arter, 2024
Photo: Orhan Cem Çetin

Suppose You Are Not

Curator: **Selen Ansen**
Arter/ İrmak Cad. No. 13
Dolapdere Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Open until
December 29, 2024
Opening hours
11.00 a.m. -7.00 p.m.
(Tuesdays – Sundays)
11.00 a.m. -8.00 p.m.
(Thursdays)

After learning about museums, exhibitions, and collections under the theme of “Place, Space, Structure” as part of their Social Studies course, third graders visited a dedicated exhibition area. During the visit to Arter, they saw “Glassolala,” an exhibition by Johanna Gustafsson Fürst and Dilek Winchester. They also examined Şakir Gökçebağ’s designs and tried to guess what they meant. Then, they participated in a workshop after the visit to Arter and designed their own portraits using geometric shapes.



A dress belonging to Latife Hanım (1898-1975). Beaded embroidery on chiffon. On loan from Mutlu İlmen.



The riding outfit of Mevhibe İnönü (1897-1992). Wool jacket and jodhpurs. Stone & Blyth, Wien Badgastein. Leather riding boots, labelled Altun Çizme, Eminönü, İstanbul. 1930s. İnönü Foundation Collection.

Open until October 29, 2024
Opening hours 11.00 a.m. -7.00 p.m.
(closed on Mondays)

Elegance from Past to Future - Women's Costumes from the Late Ottoman Empire to the Early Republican Era
Curators: Hülya Bilgi, Şebnem Eryavuz, Bahattin Öztuncay

Abdülmeccid Efendi Köşkü
/ Kuşbakışı Cad. No.18
Kuzguncuk Üsküdar/İstanbul

A JOURNEY THAT BRINGS THE ELEGANCE OF THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

This exhibition captures the evolution of women's clothing from the late Ottoman Empire to the early years of the Republic. It not only reflects the fashion of the past but also provides insights into the lifestyles, roles, and social positions of women during that period. The intricate details of the dresses and the fabrics used reveal the cultural and aesthetic values of the time. A special section, prepared by the Sadberk Hanım Museum, is dedicated to photographs, clothing, and personal items related to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic.

A PANORAMIC VIEW OF ISTANBUL THROUGH FIVE CENTURIES

This exhibition, featuring more than 100 rare works, invites you to view Istanbul across five centuries. While showcasing the city's evolving silhouette and its structures that have stood the test of time, the exhibition also serves as a richly varied visual record of Istanbul. The works, primarily created by Westerners fascinated by the city—whether for political, military, or aesthetic reasons—guide the viewer on a journey through Istanbul's past, present, and future. By offering a view of Istanbul as far as the eye can see across centuries, the exhibition reminds us why this city continues to captivate so many.



Anonymous Constantinople [Germany, c. 1835.] Peepshow



Rudolf Hellgrewe (1860-1935?)
The Golden Horn at Dusk
c. 1900
Oil on canvas
80 x 120 cm

Istanbul as Far as the Eye Can See: Views across Five Centuries
Curators: Şeyda Çetin, Ebru Esra Satıcı

Meşher / İstiklal Cad.
No. 211 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Open until September 29, 2024
Opening hours 11.00 a.m. -7.00 p.m.
(closed on Mondays)

VKV SOHBETLERİ



VEHBI KOÇ
VAKFI'NIN
KURULUŞUNUN
55.
YILINA ÖZEL

Yıllar içinde yolu Vehbi Koç Vakfı ile kesişen, ülkemiz meseleleri için elini taşın altına koyan, hayırseverliği bir yaşam biçimi haline getiren ve daha iyi bir gelecek için bizlere ilham kaynağı olanlara kulak vermek isteyenler için **“Vehbi Koç Vakfı Sohbetleri”** podcast serisi başladı.

Takipte kalın!

Dinlemek için tıklayın.



“Once a scholar, always a scholar!”

We are accompanying Koç Scholars Academy, one of the organizations that best reflects the spirit of The Koç School, on its sparkling journey in the realm of knowledge!

JOURNEY TO THE TOP

The Dawn of 2023 witnessed an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation among the students and coaches of Koç Scholars Academy. The newly announced theme of the World Scholars Cup, “Reconstructing the Past,” encompassed diverse fields such as Science & Technology, Social Sciences, History, Arts & Music, Literature, and Media, as it did every year.

In the following months, amidst the challenges caused by Maraş Earthquakes and subsequent cancellations of regional tournaments, June arrived. Despite the difficult times, the brilliant minds of Koç Scholars Academy convened at the Doha Global Round competitions, competing alongside nearly 6,000 scholars from over seventy countries. The KSA Scholars concluded the tournament with significant individual and team awards, securing the 18th position in the debate category, 5th in Arts & Music, 6th in History and an overall 4th in various individual and team categories.

The highlight of the closing ceremony undoubtedly revolved around Özlem Ekmekci, the guiding force and founder of Koç Scholars Academy, receiving the prestigious WSC Coach of the Year Award. This recognition crowned the

dedicated efforts of our “Özlem Hoca” in steering KSA towards its pinnacle of success.

Held, as tradition dictated, within the splendid ambiance of Yale University, the grand finale gathered over 1,300 finalists, winners from diverse regional and global tournaments, striving for cups, medals, and acclaim. For Koç Scholars Academy, this competition held historical significance. Following a prideful celebration of our Republic's 100th year, students and coaches gathered at Istanbul Airport, bidding farewell amidst heartening wishes from their families, before embarking on their journey to the United States.

The grand final was an achievement in itself; yet, KSA's aspiration has always been to secure a position in the top ten and claim victory. With unwavering determination, they emerged victorious from challenges entered with great resolve. While one of our students achieved 4th place in Writing, a team secured the same position in the same category. While a student clinched 1st place in the European regional categories, another secured 4th place. The Koç School soared to the pinnacle of Europe once again, claiming the European Championship title with exceptional performances from all its teams.

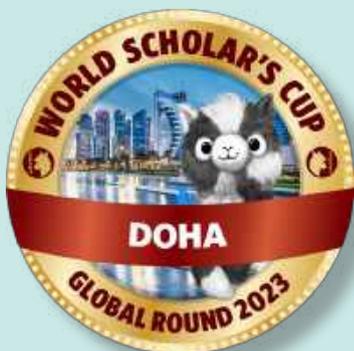


About Koç Scholars Academy

Koç Scholars Academy stands as an epitome of our school's spirit. The club fosters students' curiosity for learning, enhances their research skills, and nurtures their ability to establish interdisciplinary connections through a globally renewed curriculum, elevating them to a global level in challenging areas such as writing and debate.



Many Koç graduates, former KSA members, are currently enrolled in the world's best universities! During this journey, our former scholars studying at prestigious universities like New York, Pratt, Boston University, RISD, Brown, Yale, and Harvard did not leave us alone. They warmly welcomed us everywhere we went, offering guidance to our students during university visits and sharing their invaluable experiences.



As one competition season draws to a close, Koç Scholars Academy prepares for a new era. Our expanding club with nearly 70 newcomers, eagerly dives into the 2023-24 competitions with renewed enthusiasm and ambitious goals.

WE CALL THEM ‘UNSUNG HEROES,’ AND YOU’LL ENCOUNTER THEM ANYWHERE, ANYTIME AT THE KOÇ SCHOOL. YOU MAY RECOGNIZE SOME OF THEM, WHILE OTHERS REMAIN UNFAMILIAR. YET, THEY TIRELESSLY ENSURE EVERYTHING RUNS SMOOTHLY. IN THIS ISSUE, WE ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE THE THIRD GROUP OF OUR UNSUNG HEROES!

Unsung HEROES OF THE SCHOOL - 3

Alihan Toker | Measurement and Evaluation Specialist



18 years at
The Koç School

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I can lighten the burden of the teachers even a little bit during their busy times.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to return to the days when the foundations of the school were laid to get a sense of the environment back then. I would want to come back to the present day with someone who had witnessed the first day of the school and make them see their current situation and growth. Since I am already traveling in time, I would also want to go 100-150 years forward and see The Koç School of the future.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could climb the stairs to the upper floors with the fastest and biggest strides and compete on a track consisting of stairs.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would benefit from all the advantages of an IB school and frequently use the technology and science laboratories.

Aysa Ballıkaya | ISS Personnel

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I quickly deliver the materials that our teachers anticipate in excitement and see their curious looks, wondering what they are about to receive.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to 2005, the year the school organized a raffle. There were great prizes, and Hüysüz Virjin (Seyfi Dursunoğlu) was a guest. The raffle started, with everyone waiting in anticipation. I was pleasantly surprised when my name was read out as one of the winners.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could enter a cooking competition to be discovered as a chef.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would appreciate that I could enjoy sitting under the trees in the garden and lying on the grass.

24 years at
The Koç School



Büşra Türker Arat | Human Resources Manager

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I can perform in-depth analyses, knowing that the smallest details matter.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to the early years of our school to meet one of our founders, Suna Kıraç, and hear directly from her about her aspirations for The Koç School.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could compete as the last problem bender. If problem solving is a talent, I can say that I am pretty good at it.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would join clubs that would help me prepare for a future career and plan my education, knowing that nothing could hold me back.

3 years at
The Koç School



Çiğdem Kamberoğlu | Dining Room Personnel

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I serve coffee and tea to give people a breather amidst their busiest times.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to the school's inauguration to feel the atmosphere back then.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could showcase my cooking skills.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would try to learn multiple foreign languages and spend most of my time in the library.

9 years at
The Koç School



2 years at
The Koç School



2 years at
The Koç School

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I can touch the hearts of our teachers, even in a small way.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to travel back to the days when I could see the daisy field in full bloom on the magnificent school campus and let the children play the games of those times.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could deliver a solo musical performance that I conjured up in my imagination.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would want to sing songs, playing my imaginary violin, in Mehmet Yurdal Hall, accompanied by our teachers, students and parents.

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I can help a concerned parent quickly locate their child by contacting the academic staff and reaching our student as fast as possible.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to the year the first Sevgi Gönül Art Night was organized.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could compete with my ability to come up with alternative solutions. Solving problems quickly makes me feel good.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would want to spend time in the Mesure Tekay Grove, be in touch with nature, and above all, go on the trips abroad.



4 years at
The Koç School

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I try to find and solve problems without anyone noticing because we work in the background to shed light on issues.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to the days when I enjoyed barbecues and picnics outdoors.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could compete in resolving the issues with the positivity I spread to the universe. I have witnessed many times when I went to solve a problem and found that it was already resolved without my intervention.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would join student clubs and make the most of the sports facilities.

Mehmet Dalıcı | Landscaping (Garden Attendant)

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when it rains, reminding me of the day we planted olive trees with the students.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to the early years of our school.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I’m not sure that I could compete because I don’t think I have any secret talents.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would want to spend time on the soccer field and in the library.



12 years at
The Koç School

Vedat Abay | Landscaping (Indoor Plant Care)



11 years at
The Koç School

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I water the flowers, keeping them healthy and ensuring that they continue to produce oxygen.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back to the year when the first class of the school graduated.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could enter by saying that I am unable to hide my talents.

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would benefit from the school’s high quality education and spend most of my time in the library.

Ziya Gönül | Landscaping (Garden Attendant)

I feel like a hero any given day at school, especially when I take extra responsibility in the winter and clear the roads using the work machines.

If a time machine was invented, I would want to go back in time to when our founder, the late Vehbi Koç, planted trees and help him.

If the school held a “secret talent” competition, I could enter by saying, “I have no secret talents.”

If I were a student at The Koç School, I would make the most of everything that the school offers and spend time in the library and Pyramid Cafe.



8 years at
The Koç School

EXPLORING NATURE!

The Koç School, committed to fostering strong connections among individuals and with the natural environment, conducted comprehensive biodiversity studies from September 5, 2022, to May 6, 2023. The aim was to identify all living creatures on the school grounds. Students from various grades, teachers, and staff participated in these activities. The surveys covered both semi-wild and built areas of The Koç School campus, utilizing the expertise of natural science professionals, field guides, and the Corporate Planning Department teams. The iNaturalist mobile app was used for species registration, resulting in approximately 2,250 observations.





A study conducted with contributions from experts at the TEMA Foundation to map the species of trees, shrubs, and bushes resulted in the creation of The Koç School Survey Map. This study identified 182 plant species and a total of 13,708 trees, shrubs, and bushes within The Koç School grounds. Following this, 215 tags were prepared and hung on specific trees as identified by the map. Some of these tags were placed in designated areas to enhance our understanding and discovery of species we might not yet know by name.

Please click to view
The Koç School Survey Map.



What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including humans, plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi, all of which form ecosystems. This concept encompasses the diversity of life forms in various habitats, both terrestrial and aquatic. Beyond species diversity, biodiversity also includes genetic diversity, making it a broader concept that involves the relationships and interactions within ecosystems, species, and genetic variations.

Why biodiversity matters

- Biodiversity has been essential since the existence of living organisms on Earth.
- It is crucial for sustainable development.
- Ensuring the continuity of biodiversity involves meeting the needs of current generations and achieving equality across territories, while safeguarding the rights of future generations.
- Biodiversity has the ability to restore balance in response to changes in the world.
- Biodiversity forms the basis for how ecosystems function.
- Biodiversity maintains balance within itself and adapts through ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic changes.
- Biodiversity is vital for the continuity and evolution of life support systems in the biosphere.



As you walk around the campus, you can scan the QR codes on the tree tags to learn more about each specific species.



Please click to view the "The Koç School Biodiversity Booklet," which provides detailed information on the species identified through the species counting activities.



This academic year has been notably fruitful for our students, as many have been awarded generous scholarships and financial aid from renowned universities in the US, Canada and Europe culminating in a total of 1,550,000 USD/year as of May 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS

This was another highly successful year for Koç students as they received acceptances from most of the top universities worldwide. While most of the 2024 cohort applied to universities abroad, 85 percent of the 240 senior students sent at least one application to schools outside Türkiye. Despite admissions at the most prestigious universities in the United States becoming even more selective this year, Koç students were able to achieve acceptances, for example at Stanford University with a 4.3 admission rate, Princeton University with a 5.55 admission rate and Columbia University with a 6.1 admission rate. Two students were admitted to Dartmouth College, three to Cornell University and two to the University of Pennsylvania.

Three students were also admitted to Johns Hopkins University, five to Northwestern University, two to the University of Chicago, two to Georgetown University, five to UCLA, two to Rice University, one to Vanderbilt University and one to Washington University in St. Louis. Three of our students were accepted by Georgia Tech, four by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and seven by the University of Michigan.

We also had 19 students accepted to Boston University, 10 to New York University, four to Tufts University, two to the University of Southern California, 19 to the University of California at San Diego, 12 to the University of California at Santa Barbara, two to Emory University, one to the University of Rochester, five to Case Western Reserve University, seven to George Washington University, six to Tulane University and six to the University of Virginia.

We had a number of students accepted to the top liberal arts colleges including two to Amherst College, one to Williams College, one to Franklin and Marshall College and one to Oberlin College.

We also had a number of students accepted to universities most known for their top engineering or business programs including two to Babson College, 14 to Northeastern University, 16 to the University of Illinois at Urbana, 11 to Penn State University and 15 to Purdue University.

The Koç School seniors were also accepted to some of the world's leading art and design universities including three to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, six to Pratt Institute, one to Rhode Island School of Design, one to Parsons School of Art and Design and four to the University of the Arts London.

The senior class were admitted to all of the leading universities in the UK including three to the University of Oxford, two to the University of Cambridge, 11 to Imperial College London, two to London School of Economics, 22 to University College London and 41 to King's College London. We had two students who were accepted into Medicine and Surgery programs. We also had six students admitted to Trinity College Dublin in Ireland and one student to a joint degree program with Trinity College Dublin and Columbia University.

26 students received acceptances from the University of Bath, 15 from Durham University, 23 from the University of Edinburgh, 27 from the University of Warwick, 10 from the University of Bristol, 40 from the University of Manchester.

Netherlands is another top destination for Koç students and 32 students received acceptances from the University of Amsterdam, 30 from Eindhoven University of Technology, four from Delft University of Technology, 11 from the University of Groningen, five from Leiden University and nine from Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Italy also continues to be a top destination for The Koç School students. A number of students were accepted to universities in Spain including three to ESADE and four to IE University. We also had four students accepted to KU Leuven in Belgium.

Our students received acceptances from all the top universities in Canada as well: 26 students were admitted to the University of Toronto, nine students to McGill University and 10 students to the University of British Columbia.

COUNSELORS' VISITS

Our team participated in the CIS Global Forum, which was held in Dublin in November 2023, representing The Koç School. The Forum was a great opportunity to interact with university representatives from all around the world, and learn about their new academic programs, admission trends and scholarship opportunities.

During the CIS Global Forum, we had the opportunity to visit Trinity College Dublin as well as to see universities from different parts of the world. Our counselors were invited by universities in Prague, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Germany and the UK to participate in their counselor fly-in programs, which enable them to experience the campuses first-hand, talk to international students on those campuses, and connect with admissions officers as well as forming ties with counselors in other countries.

UNIVERSITY VISITORS

In this academic year, it was a pleasure to host representatives of 106 universities from 15 countries, who informed our students about their programs and scholarship opportunities. Based on our experience over the years, we can confirm that these interactions between our students and university representatives are helpful for both parties to get to know each other.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS OF 2024!

GERMANY

Constructor University (Jacobs University)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American University (2)
Amherst College (2)
Arizona State University
Arizona State University-Polytechnic
Babson College (2)
Bard College
Barnard College
Bentley University (3)
Boston University (19)
Brandeis University (3)
California College of the Arts (2)
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
Carnegie Mellon University (4)
Case Western Reserve University (5)
Chapman University
Clark University (2)
Columbia University
Cornell University (3)
Dartmouth College (2)
Drexel University (5)
Duke University
Emory University (2)
Florida State University
Fordham University (9)
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University (7)
Georgetown University (2)
Georgia Institute of Technology (3)
Illinois Institute of Technology
Johns Hopkins University (3)
Lehigh University (3)
Loyola Marymount University (4)
Michigan State University (13)
New Jersey Institute of Technology (2)
New York School of Interior Design
New York University (10)
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University (16)
Northwestern University (5)
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
Pennsylvania State University (11)
Pepperdine University
Pratt Institute (6)
Princeton University
Purdue University (15)
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University (2)
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University - New Brunswick (11)
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago (3)
Southern California Institute of Architecture (2)
Stanford University
Stony Brook University (3)
SUNY University at Buffalo
Syracuse University (4)
The New School
The Ohio State University
Trinity College Dublin - Columbia University Dual BA Program
Tufts University (4)
Tulane University (6)
University of California, Davis (8)
University of California, Irvine (12)
University of California, Los Angeles (5)
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside (2)
University of California, San Diego (19)
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara (12)

University of Chicago (2)
University of Colorado Boulder (2)
University of Delaware (3)
University of Florida (8)
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (16)
University of Maryland (4)
University of Massachusetts Boston (3)
University of Massachusetts, Amherst (16)
University of Miami (8)
University of Michigan Ann Arbor (7)
University of Minnesota Twin Cities (4)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (4)
University of Pennsylvania (2)
University of Pittsburgh (2)
University of Rochester
University of Southern California (2)
University of Vermont (2)
University of Virginia (6)
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison (6)
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (3)
Washington University in St. Louis
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Williams College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

BELGIUM

KU Leuven (4)

UNITED KINGDOM

University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)
Architectural Association School of Architecture
Arts University Bournemouth (2)
Brunel University (2)
Cardiff University (2)
City University of London (23)
Durham University (15)
Goldsmiths, University of London (5)
Hult International Business School (2)
Imperial College London (11)
King's College London (41)
Kingston University (3)
Lancaster University (2)
Leeds Beckett University
London College of Fashion
London Metropolitan University
London School of Economics and Political Science (2)
Loughborough University (6)
Newcastle University
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University (2)
Queen Mary University of London (15)
Regent's University London (2)
Royal Holloway, University of London (11)
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (2)
The University of Liverpool
University College London (22)
University of Bath (26)
University of Birmingham (12)
University of Brighton (2)
University of Bristol (10)
University of Cambridge (2)
University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)
University of Edinburgh (23)
University of Essex
University of Exeter (18)
University of Glasgow (2)
University of Greenwich
University of Kent (4)
University of Leeds (3)
University of Manchester (40)
University of Nottingham (31)
University of Oxford (3)

University of Reading (6)
University of Sheffield (4)
University of Southampton (11)
University of St Andrews
University of Surrey (10)
University of Sussex (2)
University of the Arts London (4)
University of Warwick (27)
University of West London
University of Westminster (7)

FINLAND

Aalto University

FRANCE

ESSEC Business School, Cergy-Pontoise

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam University College
ArtEZ University of the Arts (Enschede)
Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) (4)
Eindhoven University of Technology (30)
Erasmus University College
Erasmus University Rotterdam (9)
Leiden University (5)
Maastricht University (15)
Radboud University (2)
The Hague University of Applied Sciences
Tilburg University (11)
University College Maastricht
University College Tilburg
University of Amsterdam (32)
University of Groningen (11)
University of Twente (2)
Utrecht University (4)
Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (8)
Wageningen University & Research

IRELAND

Trinity College Dublin - The University of Dublin (6)
University College Dublin

SPAIN

BES La Salle
Cardinal Herrera-CEU University
ESADE (3)
IE University (4)
Saint Louis University Madrid
TBS Education

ISRAEL

Reichman University

SWITZERLAND

Glion Institute of Higher Education

ITALY

Bocconi University (11)
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Cattolica International, Milan (3)
Luiss University (9)
Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano (3)
Politecnico di Torino
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (2)
Vita-Salute San Raffaele University (3)

CANADA

Concordia University
McGill University (9)
McMaster University (2)
Queen's University
The University of British Columbia (10)
Toronto Metropolitan University (2)
University of Toronto (26)
University of Waterloo (2)

*The data in the brackets shows the number of students who have received acceptances.

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

The trip to Edinburgh, which was full of fun science experiments, and the experiences and awareness our students gained as a result of their participation in art and culture and scientific activities, will contribute to their interest in scientific research in their career planning and take action to protect the balance in the ecosystem.



The musical "Hamilton", telling the story of America's past, presented through the lens of modern America, combines the best elements of live theatre, film, and streaming, bringing the cultural phenomenon into homes around the world.

Our Grade 7 students, who participated in our EDINBURGH Science Festival trip had the opportunity to make unforgettable observations and to experience in many different fields with the rich excursion.

- They had the opportunity to witness an unforgettable cinematic stage performance with the filmed version of the original Broadway production of "**Hamilton**". This was a unique experience.
- With a visit to the **National Museum of Scotland**, founded in 1876, our students had the opportunity to closely examine the first steam engine James Watt, who was born in Scotland, designed in 1786 and its working principles, in addition to the tools and equipment produced by human beings from 3-4 thousand BC to the present, many geological and artistic works, as well as Dolly, the first cloned mammal.
- After visiting the **Kelvingrove Art Gallery**, which was established in 1901 and hosts more than 8,000 works, they visited Glasgow Science Centre, which was opened in 2001 by Queen Elizabeth II and hosts hundreds of interactive scientific activities.
- **At Glasgow Science Centre**, they had the opportunity to conduct and question interactive experiments on Physics-Chemistry-Biology-Entrepreneurship-Energy themes. With the 3D IMAX show, they had the opportunity to get to know the beauty of the oceans, the natural wonders and the most mysterious and fascinating creatures of the sea with an inspiring and entertaining journey. With the unique and exciting journey under the sea, they also explored the impacts of global climate change on the balance in the ecosystem and questioned the solutions.
- They had the chance to experience the formation, present and future of the world with a visit to the **Our Dynamic Earth Museum** and interactive exhibits including 4D and 3D experiences. In the museum, which is designed as an immersive experience with a high level of interaction, they experienced a real Iceberg, an earthquake experience and the Deep Time Machine that allows travel to the formation of our planet with multimedia and 4D techniques, and the Planetarium show that tells the story of planet Earth with entertaining and educational films.
- During their visit to **Edinburgh University**, founded in 1583 and is among the most respected universities in the world, they completed the tour of the Elephant House Cafe, where J. K. Rowling wrote Harry Potter, and the Greyfriars Kirkyard tour, which inspired the Harry Potter books.



In the City Art Centre, the center of Edinburgh Science Festival, our students participated in interactive workshops within the scope of Edinburgh Science Festival activities.

- **ER SURGERY**
Racing against time to save the lives of patients as an Emergency Room doctor
- **ROBO CONSTRUCTORS**
Designing robots to perform given tasks
- **SPACEBASE**
An immersive journey into our solar system in the planetarium





Each individual participating in social responsibility projects at The Koç School carried their commitment towards making a difference in society one step further with the emotional satisfaction they felt at this wonderful Giving Tuesday event. The students and teachers of the school came together at meaningful activities, and continued to instill the values of sharing on this special day.

FOR THE POWER OF SHARING



Giving Tuesday, which was held for the 4th time on November 28, emphasized once again The Koç School's commitment to social responsibility and solidarity. On this meaningful day, our students, teachers and parent-teacher associations gathered and experienced the power of sharing, and the spirit of volunteerism and solidarity once again.

ON GIVING TUESDAY

Our primary school students shared the kindnesses they wrote on the 'We Share' board and collected food for stray animals in activities led by the Ecological Life Club.

Middle School students developed their entrepreneurship, communication and sales skills by selling their handmade products at the stall activity they organized. The income from the activity was donated to various organizations chosen by the students.

The Koç School Libraries aim to support students' right to equal access to information and to shed light on their future with the book donation campaign started with the project "We are Building a Bridge with Books from Istanbul to Hatay".



#GivingTuesday

THE KOÇ SCHOOL STUDENTS PROUDLY EXEMPLIFY

THE SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY

As passionate athletes, The Koç School students proudly represent their schools in several branches, returning with individual and team achievements. The spirit of fair play our students exemplify is crowned with the medals and scores they achieve.



MINOR GIRLS TABLE TENNIS TEAM
DISTRICT - 3RD PLACE



YOUTH BOYS TABLE TENNIS TEAM
DISTRICT - 2ND PLACE



JUNIOR BOYS TABLE TENNIS TEAM
DISTRICT - 2ND PLACE



MINOR BOYS TABLE TENNIS TEAM
DISTRICT CHAMPION



YOUTH GIRLS TABLE TENNIS TEAM
DISTRICT - 3RD PLACE



MINOR GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM
DISTRICT - 3RD PLACE



MINOR BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL
GAMES DISTRICT - 2ND PLACE



JUNIOR BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
DISTRICT CHAMPION



JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM
DISTRICT - 3RD PLACE



YOUTH GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM
DISTRICT CHAMPION



MINOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM
DISTRICT - 2ND PLACE



TRACK TEAM RALF ROBERT SEZER
INTERSCHOOL ISTANBUL CHAMPION



MINOR GIRLS ORIENTEERING TEAM
ISTANBUL - 3RD PLACE



DURU ÖZSOY
SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP YOUTH FINALS
200-METER BUTTERFLY - 2ND PLACE IN ISTANBUL



JUNIOR BOYS SWIMMING TEAM
TURKISH CHAMPIONSHIP - 4TH PLACE IN MEDLEY RELAY



BOYS TENNIS TEAM
TURKISH CHAMPIONSHIP - 3RD PLACE IN GROUP



MINOR GIRLS ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS TEAM
INTERSCHOOL TURKISH CHAMPIONSHIP - 4TH PLACE



MINOR GIRLS ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS TEAM
ISTANBUL ANADOLU - 3RD PLACE



The 11th Mathematics Week, organized with the theme 'Playing with Mathematics' between March 11-15, was full of activities that set an example of how mathematics lessons can be held outside the classroom, in a game-like environment where all disciplines come together, and complete learning takes place.

Playing with Mathematics



- As every year, our students covered our traditional song for our week with the support and contributions of the Performing Arts Department teachers.
- During the week, many valuable guests were hosted, including the keynote speaker Özlem Kalkan.
- Hasan Topdemir, who explained the importance of the game to our students with his presentation titled "Humo Ludens". Haluk Memili, who made our students taste the mathematical proof that there will not be an answer to every question "Advanced Mathematics" presentation. Özgür Özcan discussed the relationship between String Art and mathematics and participated with pleasure "Rope'n Roll". Emre Alettin Keskin, who contributed to our imagination with his presentation, Ezgi Kara, who played with geometric patterns and contributed to our week with the "Geometric Pattern Workshop". Onur Efe was among us with the "Advanced Mathematics" sessions. Eray Alpan contributed our week with their presentation "Mathematics for

Game Design with Unity".

- Eyüp Sultan Municipality Mathematics House team came to our school by compiling the most striking pieces of their exhibition in order to popularize mathematics. Together with all their instructors, they played games with our students in the corridor throughout the day and devoted their awareness of mathematics in a game manner.
- The competitions, which were the most important and exciting moments of the mathematics week, were met with great interest by the students. "What's Next?", which reveals the most academically successful student who is also fast and can control his stress, "Math Hunters", which requires team problem solving skills, "Math & Science", which creates an interdisciplinary cooperation environment, Rubik's cube, Relay, many competitions such as "Run & Play with Math", where binary, sports and mathematics are carried out, were among the unforgettable moments of

our week.

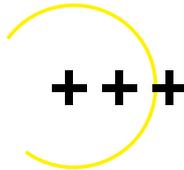
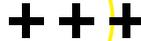
- On "March 14 Pi Day", one of the most valuable days of our week, our students met with their favorite pi cookies and donuts. The activities of PBL-Project Based Learning studies prepared for each grade level were also held this week.
- While our fifth grade students continued their kite design topic called "Fly High", our sixth graders visited "Solar Panels | Solar House". Seventh graders competed among themselves with the "Ferris Wheel" Ferris wheels they designed and eighth graders competed with their "Spaghetti Bridges" bridges within certain criteria.
- In the "Mathemagicians" program of our week, our Religious Culture and Ethics teacher Ubeydullah Gördebil, our Music teacher Emre Köz, our Mathematics teacher Bekir Kaya, our Turkish teacher Yalçın Aydın, our Social Studies teachers Serkan Efendioğlu and Ahmet Çelik presented a rich conversation program to our students mathematics related their branches.

I was very happy to have the chance to take an advanced mathematics class with Haluk Memili after going to the Nesin Mathematics Village.



In Mathemagicians, listening to the comments of social studies, religious culture, Turkish, and music teachers about mathematics, and hearing about all subjects sharing a connection with mathematics greatly impressed me.

Rope'n Roll was my favorite activity. It was a workshop that all participants enjoyed.



The Opening Ceremony was a lot of fun. I didn't even realize how time passed.



I think the competitions were really good. I participated in Math Hunters, but there were too few questions. I suggest having more questions next year and also including questions outside.



During this Math Week, we truly experienced Mathematics and Game. I played many games in the corridors. While playing games, we also improved our mathematical skills.



This Mathematics Week was very enjoyable: all the competitions, activities, games, and presentations were wonderful. I'm looking forward to the next Mathematics Week eagerly!



We celebrated Math and Brain Awareness Week

The Koç School witnessed many activities during the Math and Brain Awareness Week. The week started with a yoga practice to raise awareness and support the brain to work vigorously and healthily, and the importance of healthy brain functioning was emphasized with breathing techniques learned and practiced during circle time. Each branch participated in the Math Stations activity, which included all levels from kindergarten to 4th grade, in the time period planned for them. In addition to yoga, breathing techniques and math games, students also participated in various activities in music, science and information technology classes.

Our journey keeps going

The Koç School, which has aimed to be a pioneer in the field of education since the day it was founded, continues on its way to raise individuals who are lifelong learners and accept the guidance of reason and conscience, with its deep-rooted history, strong academic programs and teaching staff. Celebrating its 35th anniversary with the school community, The Koç School held various ceremonies in primary, middle and high schools as part of the Foundation Day events. The Koç School students also witnessed the opening of the time capsule left by students, teachers, administrators and staff 12 years ago.



Designs inspired by the dot

September 15 International Dot Day was full of various activities for The Koç School students. Trying to understand what Vashti, the hero of the book "Dot", felt in their adventure that started with a small dot on a piece of paper, the kindergarten students created a class exhibition with the designs they created with dots of various colors and sizes. After listening to the message shared by Peter Reynolds, author of the book "The Dot", primary school students learned about the works of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. In a room inspired by a piece of art exhibited at the Tate Modern Museum titled "The Obliteration Room", they glued dots together to create a complete piece.



A joyful beginning

On Saturday, September 9, we had a delightful start to the new academic year with the Koç Back to School '23 event at Mesure Tekay Grove. Middle school students, parents, teachers, and colleagues gathered for this event. Thanks to the contributions of The Elementary and Middle School Parent-Teacher Association for providing and hosting a pleasant gathering at the Koç Back to School where we all had the opportunity to socialize and get to know each other. Furthermore, the DJ performance added a lot of fun and colorful moments to the event.

Child Protection Policy Trainings

After months of preparation, we, under the guidance of the Humanist Office, have developed the Koç School Child Protection Policy, which is of paramount importance for the safety and well-being of our children. We also conducted teacher training on the subject. These programs aim to increase awareness and knowledge among our administrators and teachers on the purpose of the child protection policy, neglect and abuse situations, the establishment of a child protection team, processes for recognizing neglect and abuse, the child protection system in Türkiye, and the implementation of the policy within the school.





International Coastal Cleaning Day Activity

As part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day event, The Koç School, represented by 50 high school students and three biology teachers, participated in the coastal cleanup event organized at Moda beach. Activity started with energizers and ice breaker games and then it continued with the explanation of TURMEPA team. The participants were divided into five groups and collected 120 kilograms of recyclable waste and 17,500 non-recyclable items such as cigarette butts.

Cambridge Accreditation



The primary school has implemented the Cambridge International Program during the 2023-2024 academic year. This is an educational program that focuses on ten different school subjects in English that has a focus on global awareness at the local, national and international levels. The program is prepared on the basis of determined themes, and aims to enable students to learn the concepts of communication, research, analysis, evaluation, reflection, and cooperation. We are happy to announce that the program was approved by the Ministry of National Education.

Respect for the right to life of every living being!



World Animal Day was celebrated throughout the Primary School with various activities. Kindergarten and first grade students focused on Atatürk's love for animals; second grade students focused on the friendship of animals with humans; third grade students focused on rare animal species; and fourth grade students focused on animal rights. Volunteer students from all grade levels brought a photo they had with an animal to be displayed on the bulletin boards. Having empathized with animals while thinking about and discussing the impact people have on animals' lives, our students grasped the importance of respecting every animal's right to live.

Focus on continuous improvement

The first Koç School Professional Development and Collaboration Day took place on the October 10 with the theme of "Innovation". On the professional development and collaboration days, which will continue throughout the academic year, we will delve into the latest research in education, learner centered approaches and high-quality learning and teaching in relation to our guiding statements. The Koç School educators, through the workshops they conducted, exemplified competencies such as risk-taking, curiosity, inquiry, and modeling, which are part of The Koç School learner profile.



For better trips

The Koç School, Middle School Psychological Counseling and Guidance Department held a training for school bus drivers and hostesses. During our training, information was provided about adolescence, communication skills, school bus rules and report writing processes.



The journey of information literacy

Throughout the year, The Koç School Libraries conducted interactive activities with fifth grade students with the theme of information literacy. A pre-test study was conducted to determine the preparedness of the students before starting the Information Literacy Curriculum lessons to be implemented by the library specialist. The program will cover the concept of library, library rules, printed and electronic resources, the concept of information literacy, types of literacy, access to secure information in the digital environment and the use of databases under the theme of information literacy. The program aims to raise individuals who are lifelong learners and have information literacy skills, which are among the 21st century competencies.



With respect and longing...

On the 85th anniversary of his passing, the founder of our Republic, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, was commemorated with respect, love, and great longing at The Koç School. At 09:05, a moment of silence was held and the Turkish National Anthem was sung in front of Atatürk's bust. Following this, ceremonies were held in the primary, middle, and high schools to honor his memory.

Celebration full of love

November 24 Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at The Koç School with the participation of students and teachers at all levels. Unforgettable memories were shared at the Primary and Secondary School Parent Teacher Associations' program for teachers. The High School Parent-Teacher Association once again honored our teachers' contributions to education with their donation to the Turkish Education Foundation through a special event to mark Teachers' Day by making a kind gesture. In the "Teacher's Voice" podcast series, which was specially published for Teachers' Day on the Teachers' Network channel, the question of "Why is it not possible without teachers?" was examined. Moderated by Gizem Ok Uluçay, Deputy Academic Director of the Primary School, the podcast hosted author and educator Dr. Burcu Aybat, who discussed the role of a teacher and its importance in society, considering the current educational environment in Türkiye.



To listen to the podcast, please click.



Education in the garden!

On Thursday November 2, as part of Education in the Garden Day, all kindergarten and primary school students carried their classrooms outdoors and held part of their lessons in the yard. They played traditional games, designed new games and toys by utilizing waste materials and pieces of toys in their group activities. They developed their skills and also had fun.



Every moment of nature under observation

Kindergarten students carried out the autumn activity of the "This Moment in Nature" workshop with Hüseyin Çağlar Ince, an expert on environmental awareness, to form the basis of certain values and skills to distinguish species around them and to discover the environment they live in. They learned new information by talking about the details of being a Nature Observer. At the workshop, our students observed four different types of crows in the school yard with binoculars and discovered the natural changes at our school in autumn.



What we need to know about the internet

The "Social Media and Security Panel," organized by our IT department, aimed to increase awareness of online issues arising during the use of social media. The panel took place on November 21, 2023, and was conducted in two separate level groups. Our guest was the police officer, Okan Çamur from the Istanbul Child Security Unit. The presentation emphasized the importance of knowing the requirements for existing in the world where our youth, defined as digital natives, primarily prefer to spend their time in learning, communication, gaming, and information processes. It was highlighted that understanding the necessities of existing in this world and simultaneously comprehending the risks is a valuable skill.

Meeting the heroes of success stories

The first of the Inspiring Meetings seminar series planned by the Middle School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department hosted marathon swimmer and retired physical education teacher Nesrin Olgun on November 23, 2023. Within the scope of the series organized to bring students together with role models and help them set their goals, the guests shared their success stories, projects and educational journeys with the students.

University meetings with a global perspective on education

This fall, the Overseas College Guidance Office of The Koç School hosted university representatives from more than 50 universities all around the world. Thus, the students had the opportunity to talk to admissions officers from universities in the US, the UK, Canada, Germany, Spain, Italy, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Hong Kong and Singapore. These one on one interactions enable our students to ask their questions and learn about different study abroad options and financial aid opportunities.





Q&A on universities in Türkiye

The 20th Turkish University Fair started with the screening of a short film prepared by Oğuz Tuna Solaroğlu '21 on the topic of "The Republic and Turkish Universities". After our graduate's short speech, Koç University President Professor Metin Sitti gave the opening speech titled "My Story with Robots". Our students asked Professor Sitti questions Turkish domestic universities, the Turkish education system and Koç University. At the fair, our students not only got first-hand information about the departments and programs, but also had the chance to find answers to their questions about double major and minor programs offered by universities, scholarships and abroad opportunities.

Hello Winter!

First grade students presented their show "Hello Winter" in Mehmet Yurdal Hall on Wednesday December 20, 2023. Kindergarten and second grade students attended the show as audience and each class performed their own New Year themed dance performance. The show, which emphasized the holistic and harmonious characteristics of our students, ended with the choir composed of all first grade students singing Turkish and English songs. The exhibition consisting of ceramic works, paintings, decorations and New Year's cards prepared by our students in Turkish lessons was also visited in the foyer area after the performance.



Getting to know professions

The annual Professions Day event, organized every year for eight grade students to have an idea about professions, was held on December 20, 2023. Students had the opportunity to get to know the profession of their choice in the workshops. At the end of the event, in addition to having information about professions, they had the opportunity to learn about the difficulties, enjoyable aspects and the traits required for the professions they are interested in. The professions introduced were determined as a result of the surveys conducted before the event. In addition, the reports of the inventory study on vocational orientations were shared with the students.



Live@Koç '24

The Live@Koç event, which is a tradition of our middle school, took place this year, as every year, on the last day of the first semester in the Atakan Demirseren Hall in the high school. At the event, hosted by the eight grade Student Council and where approximately 100 students attended, our students performed in the categories of composition, digital music, solo instrument, vocals, dance, photography and caricature. At the end of the event, mid-term break for our students began with a mini concert by the Koç Philharmonic Orchestra.



“Building a Bridge from Istanbul to Hatay with Books”

The number of books donated within the project “Building a Bridge with Books from Istanbul to Hatay”, which was initiated with the support of The Koç School students, parents and employees who are sensitive to the problems of the world they live in, have high awareness, are responsible and raised with the value of sharing, reached 1,575. We would like to thank all our donors who donated the books that Hatay Harbiye Esenbulak Primary and Secondary School students needed in the fields of story, fairy tale, poetry, science, culture, art, sports, etc.



Briefing for parents

The second 12th Grade Turkish Universities ÖSYS Parent Sharing Meeting was held by the Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department. The aim of the meetings was to inform the parents about the preparation process for the entrance exam to Turkish universities, also to share the experiences of students and parents during the process. In the second meeting, the topics were the importance of preparatory practice exams and exam anxiety.



We commemorated the founder of our school



The late Vehbi Koç, the founder of the Koç Group, was commemorated with respect, love and longing at The Koç School, honoring the 28th anniversary of his passing. During the commemoration ceremony, which was held at Mehmet Yurdal Hall and where M. Özalp Birol, General Manager of the Pera Museum attended as a guest speaker, primary school students had the chance to ask questions and hear about the value that Vehbi Koç attached to arts, as well as the artistic works of the Vehbi Koç Foundation he founded. Students also participated in activities focusing on Vehbi Koç’s view of art, his work in the education, culture, healthcare and industry fields, his personal traits, his contributions to our country, his values that shed light on us, the innovations and the institutions he brought to our country.



Celebrating 100th day at school

The 100 days we spent at our school was celebrated with various activities at all levels in primary school. Students in all classrooms counted the days since the first day they attended school. While the kindergarten students experienced counting by fives and tens at the 100th Day boards they prepared, they named their days with a movement, a riddle, an animal or a flower per day. They had fun in their 100th Day themed t-shirts, which they designed themselves. First grade students have learnt that the word “hundred” has different meanings. The students identified how many tens and how many ones the number 100 contains, and counted rhythmically by tens and fives up to 100. They worked on the “Hundred Smiley Cubes” design with the cubes in Penthelitha class. Second grade students produced the work “The Hundred (Face) of Recycling” from waste materials, while third and fourth grade students designed works “That is 100 (why) I love my school very much!” and “The 100 (Face) of the School” and displayed them in their corridors.



Inspiring experiences in the pursuit of science

Our students had the opportunity to explore scientific topics and strengthen their ties with science at the “Science Festival” held between February 12-16. Primary school students had the opportunity to explore scientific topics and participated in awareness-raising activities with the contributions of various NGOs. Secondary school students took part in interactive experiments, competitions, debates, trivia competitions and entertaining science-based activities. Koç University Faculty Member Assoc. Prof. Arif Karabeyoğlu, the guest of honor of the festival themed “Space Studies and Rockets”, gave an impressive presentation on the history of space exploration and technologies. Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students also engaged in peer learning activities in different fields. Students participating in The Koç School’s “Science is Everywhere” project had fun with their experiments at the Science Talent Show and had the opportunity to have an inspiring scientific experience.



Artworks that meet art lovers

Our 12th grade IB Visual Arts students shared their personal exhibitions curated by themselves in line with the themes they chose as part of the event held on February 20. The exhibition, which attracted great interest, remained open to visitors until the end of March.



1st Prize from NASA Club - Healthy Life in Space Design Project

The NASA Club participated in the “Live in a Healthy Space” design project competition organized by NSS for the first time this year in November. The ninth and tenth grade students came first at both levels among 224 projects and 1,295 students from 11 countries with their sustainable healthy life projects in space.

Supporting entrepreneurial skills

The second year of The Koç School Entrepreneurship Program planned and carried out by The Koç School, Otokoç, Girişimcilik Vakfı and Genç Başarı Vakfı, started with an Ideathon event on February 17-18. The program, in which a total of 27 students from different grade levels of the high school are enrolled, provides mentoring support to our students and enables them to acquire skills such as design thinking, business plan writing and investor presentation. Our students will present their business ideas to leading names in the business world at the investor presentation event that will be held on our campus on June 8, 2024.



Together towards a better internet



A Visit from Slovenia to The Koç School

The Koç School successfully concluded a visit of 8 students and 2 accompanying adults from Slovenia within the framework of the Erasmus+ School Mobility Program, planned in collaboration with the middle school and Institutional Planning and Evaluation Department. This initiative was a remarkable journey for all stakeholders in terms of cultural exchange and learning. Between February 5 and 8, Erasmus+ students from Slovenia visited The Koç School and had the opportunity to participate in various enriching activities held in the middle school. Erasmus+ participants who joined the workshops on how innovative and learning-supportive digital tools can be used in middle school classes expressed that they observed many new ideas during their visits. At the end of the visit, the Slovenian team expressed a significant interaction with our teachers' technology integration strategies and impressive teaching styles, stating that they were inspired. Additionally, the guests had the opportunity to explore the exciting world of robotics during their visit. The Erasmus+ team visiting The Koç School High School FRC club interacted with the club members recognized for their achievements in the field of robotics.

The Safe Internet Day (SID), organized annually by the INSAFE (European Safer Internet Network) network, was celebrated worldwide on February 6. As part of this, with the theme “Together Towards a Better Internet”, awareness-raising activities were conducted during the week in the Information Technologies and Software classes, and middle school students came together with guests who explained how to use the internet in a safer and more responsible way and the importance of being conscious and responsible in a technological environment.

We commemorated our heroes with gratitude who made Çanakkale impassable

March 18, Çanakkale Victory and Martyrs' Commemoration Day was honored with a ceremony attended by The Koç School, primary, middle and high schools' students. In the ceremony marking the 109th anniversary of the Victory, where all our heroes who made Çanakkale impassable were remembered with gratitude, it was emphasized once again that the sacrifice, courage, solidarity, and struggle demonstrated by our ancestors in the Çanakkale Battles continue today as it was then, and that we can overcome all challenges as a nation.



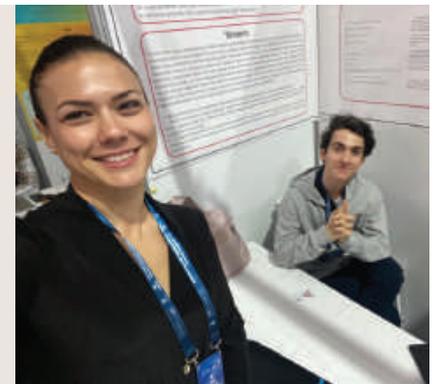
Invitation from the International Guidance Counselor Conference



One of the Overseas College Guidance Office (OCGO) team members, Irmak Otrac, was invited to the University of Cambridge's International Guidance Counselor Conference. The conference was attended by 50 high school counselors from around the globe and took place at the Old Divinity School, St John's College, Cambridge, in March 2024. During the 2-day conference, admission tutors provided in-depth advice on how to put together a competitive application for various subjects across the university. They also offered detailed insights into the profile of students they are looking for. Participating counselors had the opportunity to observe mock interviews, get their questions answered by admissions tutors, and tour some of the colleges within the university. The conference also served as a great opportunity to learn about the unique teaching style of Cambridge and the new practices and assessment tests introduced for the coming academic year. IGCC 2024, which provided a first-hand look at what it's like to be a student at the University of Cambridge, was followed by a one-day International Counselor Event at Imperial College London. This full-day event also provided detailed insights into admission assessments and the unique teaching style of Imperial College.

Mathematics project succeeds in TÜBİTAK

11th grade IB student Alp Menevşe and his mathematics project, prepared by his advisor, Mathematics teacher Bernis Küzgil, qualified for the regional finals of the TÜBİTAK High School Students Research Projects Competition. The exhibition process took place at Sakarya University of Applied Sciences between March 4-7, 2024. In the project titled "Modeling Cancer with ODEs in the Light of New Findings in Mitochondrial Transfer," a system of differential equations has been developed to model tumor development in the light of new findings about the nature of cancer.



10th Annual Eighth Grade Speech Contest

Eight students were class finalists in the 10th Annual Eighth Grade Speech Contest. The phenomenal speeches given by all eight contestants made the task of selecting the winners challenging for the members of the jury. The jury members were Head of the High School English Department Alexis Brady, High School English teacher Victoria Zrakowski, seventh grade level Dean Koray Öztoprak, and eighth grade level Dean Ece Kahraman Çakar, as well as the Middle School English Department Head Aslı Ölçeroğlu, and eighth grade English teachers Lauren Lamont, Ashley Gale, and Mansur Asrar.



Happy April 23!



April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm with the participation of our parents, teachers, and students. The ceremony started with a march and band show. The ceremony prepared by our drama, dance and choir students was held with the participation of a huge crowd. Kindergarten students decorated their classroom doors with banners about children's rights that they determined themselves. They learned the flags and traditional clothes of the children of the world and exhibited their work. The third and fourth grade students performed their music Show. The finals of the "Traditional Children's Games" were a lot of fun. In the Fairy Tale Workshop with Gökçe Kurt, they learned to imagine a world where visuality is at the forefront. They traveled through different fairy tales and met different characters. Olive tree saplings, which have been a symbol of peace for centuries, met with the soil in the school on April 22, 2024. One sapling was planted for each of our 22 sections. General Manager Murat Günel was also present at the planting day event. The English Department hosted Czech Consul General Olga Hajflerova at an event called "Being a Child in Different Cultures". It was a pleasant conversation in which the Consul General talked about Czech children's games, songs as well as her country. Moreover, Primary School Dean Gizem Ok Uluçay and Visual Arts Teacher Ismail Aykutlu recorded a podcast with Student Council President Ala Bade Timur and Vice President Can Akıncı as part of the April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day. In the podcast, which was organized with the theme of "Being a Self-Confident Child", a pleasant conversation was held on four themes: "Being a child, living spaces, being a self-confident child and April 23 celebrations".

To listen to the podcast, please click.





"Secure the Connections, Shape the Future"

The traditional Careers Day was organized by the High School Guidance and Counseling Department this year for the 31st time on April 4. The theme of the event was "Secure Connections, Shape the Future". In the event, attended by the alumni, parents, academics, and industry experts, there were 46 different career introductions, 84 speakers, and 15 universities in 64 sessions. This year, as part of a social responsibility project, the event provided online access not only to The Koç High School students but also to students from Vehbi Koç Foundation's 21 Koç Schools, Umut Kent Schools, and 11th and 12th grade scholarship recipients continuing their high school education in Koç community. Expanding the social impact of the event, The Koç School students had the opportunity to gain awareness on the importance of social connections, career flexibility, 21st-century skills, and the future job market. They interacted with professionals from different sectors and fields, attending panels, discussions, and presentations that allowed them to share their experiences.

Portfolio presentations as a time warp

Primary school students shared samples of their works that include the knowledge, skills and achievements they have acquired throughout the academic year with their families on Portfolio Day. The presentations supported the development of students' skills and academic learning. During the presentations, students shared with their families with great excitement what they had done throughout the year as if they were going through a time warp.

Creativity and perseverance on stage

The Middle School English Drama Club presented an unforgettable comedy drama show on March 27. In the show, students showcased their talents to their friends. The English Drama Club students prepared for the show by rehearsing intensively for weeks under the leadership of their club teacher Dilara Ulutaş. The drama show was staged in two separate sessions. The students demonstrated their creativity and perseverance while displaying their English and acting skills together.



World Theater Day

The Koç School's students celebrated World Theater Day on March 27 by enjoying a play as they do every year. Students watched the musical play "Puss in Boots" with great interest and enjoyment. World Theater Day is seen as an opportunity to celebrate the power of art to bring people together, to better communicate with the audience and to increase peace between people.





We experienced the joy of Youth and Sports Day to the fullest!

The 105th anniversary of May 19th Commemoration of Youth and Sports Day was celebrated with great excitement and enthusiasm at The Koç School. In addition to gymnastics show, a teacher-student basketball game, a tug-of-war and a dance show, the celebration was filled with the energy and participation of teachers and students.



New Age: Artificial Intelligence

The 14th Informatics Week, which primary and secondary schools celebrate every year with the motto “Create, Participate, Share, Compete, Learn”, was held between May 6-10. The theme of the week was “New Age: Artificial Intelligence”. While students’ curiosity and creativity were supported with artificial intelligence-based games and interactive activities throughout the week, future artificial intelligence technologies and developments were discussed. They competed with Kahoot in the classroom. The guest, Microsoft General Manager Levent Özbilgin, opened new horizons with his speech and gave important information about the future of artificial intelligence.



Stories about honesty and trustworthiness

The words of Mr. Mustafa V. Koç saying “You will work hard, you will work tirelessly, you will not complain. You will be consistent, open, honest and reliable.” also underline the importance of honesty along with adopting many other values in his own journey of life. The Mustafa V. Koç Story and Opinion Writing Contest was organized this year with the theme of “Honesty”, for the beloved memory of the late Mustafa V. Koç. The awards for the competition, which included seventh and eighth grade students from all middle schools across Istanbul in the Story category, and seventh and eighth grade students from The Koç School in the Opinion Writing category, were presented to the winners at a ceremony held on May 9, 2024.

Atakan Demirseren Math Competition 2024

Atakan Demirseren Mathematics Competition was held on May 14 with the participation of 96 students. The students had a lot of fun during the competition, as they worked together in teams to solve challenging math problems. The students who came to watch the competition and support their friends participated in their own mini-competition by answering questions specially prepared for them. The winners of the competition were announced at the end of the competition, with prizes awarded to the top performers.



WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN UP TO SINCE HIGH SCHOOL? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



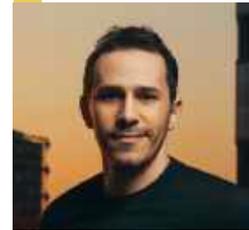
Cevdet Mehmet Kösemen '02, graduated from Cornell University and Sabancı University, later going on to earn his master's degree at Goldsmiths College, London. Building a career as an artist, writer, and advertiser, Kösemen specialized in surrealist painting and scientific drawings of prehistoric creatures in his artistic production process. His works were exhibited in Catania, Vienna, Ulcinj, Istanbul, Ankara, Eskişehir, London, and Tel Aviv. Also a researcher-writer, Kösemen's books include "Osman Hasan and the Tombstone Photographs of the Dönmes" published by Libra Books. This archival work, which documents the cultural heritage of the Thessalonians in Türkiye, has been included in the world's leading university and national library collections and recognized with the Eduard-Duckesz History Prize in Germany. Kösemen is also the author of the popular science-art book about dinosaurs, "All Yesterdays: Unique and Speculative Views of Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Animals" and the popular online science fiction book "All Tomorrows." Kösemen, who also worked as an editor for Benetton's "Colors" magazine and Istanbul Research Institute, continues to serve as an editor and copywriter for a number of advertising agencies.



After graduating from the Drama and Comparative Literary Studies Program at Northwestern University, **Ayşe Draz '97** earned a master's degree in drama from Middlesex University and a Ph.D. from Istanbul University. In Fall 2023, she joined the faculty of the Drama Department at Kadir Has University. In addition to her ongoing production work and research in theatrical performance, Ayşe has been involved in diverse projects as an actor, dramaturge and director, and cofounded "Tiyatro Hemhâl", a professional theater company, in 2018. Ayşe continues to collaborate with artists from different disciplines, sometimes appearing on stage and sometimes working behind the scenes.



İlayda İşeri '21, embarked on a filmmaking career while still in high school, shooting short documentaries, first "Kozan" as part of her IB curriculum, followed by "Çeşme" in 2021. Her documentaries, which were included in the selections of several national and international festivals, including the San Francisco Film Festival, were recognized with multiple awards. In 2022, her first fiction film "Oyunbozan" won a short film production award from institutions like the Ministry of Culture, TRT2, and Akbank Sanat, making her the youngest director to receive such grants in the country. The festival journey of "Oyunbozan", which premiered globally in March 2023 during the 53rd Tampere Film Festival, one of Europe's important short film festivals, continues. İlayda, who currently attends Boğaziçi University toward a double major in Philosophy and Physics, also works as an assistant director in various movie and TV series projects. In addition to her job as assistant to director Tolga Karaçelik, she continues to work on developing her new short film project.



Tolga Esin '03, graduated from the University of Chicago with a double major, earning a B.A. in Psychology (Honors) and a B.A. in Social Sciences. He started his professional career as a business analyst at a shipping company in New York. Returning to Türkiye, he joined Türk Telekom, working first as a business analyst and later as a project manager. Tolga then ventured into entrepreneurship, launching a number of mobile platforms and e-commerce sites, including Gurunzi, Popkop, and Futbolist. Since co-founding Senfonico in 2015, he has served as the CEO of the company, Türkiye's largest independent creative and digital agency, which partners with brands such as Netflix, Google, Domino's Pizza, Xbox, and Türk Telekom.

Please click to watch the reunion video.



ALUMNI REUNION

The Koç School hosted alumni at the reunion on June 18, 2023. All graduates who missed the campus embraced throughout the event, reminisced about old memories, and reconnected with friends, all in all enjoying a wonderful reunion.

See you at Homecoming!

The Koç School alumni will meet again at Homecoming! The event will bring all alumni together again on The Koç School campus in September, enabling them to reunite with members of the school community, reconnecting, and having fun.

More on Homecoming 2024 is on KOnnect!



Please click to stay up-to-date about the Homecoming.



Save the date for the Homecoming in September 2024!



WE ALWAYS RETURN HOME EVEN IF EVERYTHING CHANGES



The only platform where all The Koç School alumni connect easily with one another, participate in the alumni events, and are the first to know about the latest school news: KOnnect!

Sign up to KOnnect!

Through KOnnect, we aim to strengthen The Koç School alumni's ties, while ensuring continued and up-to-date communication. To sign up, please go to mezun.koc.k12.tr, click the button in the upper right corner, and enter all required information, including your current email, phone number and full address.

Please submit your platform-related suggestions by email to mezunlar@koc.k12.tr.

Your data on the KOnnect platform will be processed and stored in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Laws of Türkiye and other countries via the Raklet system.

Leaving behind another productive year filled with memorable moments...



The centennial celebrations
KÖLMED commemorated the centennial of our Republic with great joy and pride. Aiming to ensure that the celebrations were befitting this major milestone and reflect the spirit of The Koç School, the Association teamed up with the alumni. A video was created based on the alumni's contributions about the meaning of the Republic. The video featured content such as drawings, texts, songs and voices provided by various alumni.

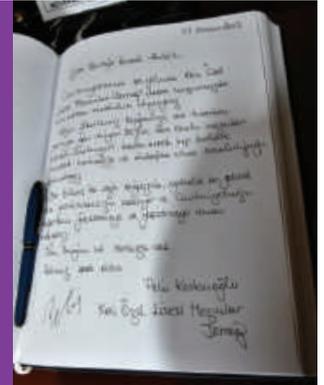
Please click to view the video.



KÖLMED continued to organize events to bring alumni together: In addition to the traditional Hello Summer Party and Winter Meet-up, Terrace Meet-ups, Happy Hour at Muse Bodrum, operated by Ceren Bingöl ('97), ArtWalk exhibition tours, tasting events, and book club meetings brought variety to the event calendar. KÖLMED also met with the Üsküdar American Academy Alumni Association, focusing on cooperation opportunities, common problems, and solution suggestions.

We paid our respects at Anıtkabir

KÖLMED Board of Directors alongside alumni paid an official visit to Anıtkabir to commemorate the centennial of our Republic and our great leader Atatürk on the 85th anniversary of his passing. During the visit on November 17, the official Anıtkabir memorial book was signed on behalf of The Koç School alumni.



The KÖLMED office in the C-D Block reopened in November 2023, with The Koç School administrative staff, Student Union, and boarding students sharing the excitement.



BizzLink Networking Events continued this year with the Academics Meet-up and BizzLink360, a meeting hosted at KoçPera for alumni from diverse professions, regardless of industry, to make new connections



Since 2014, **KÖLMED** has extended nearly USD 200,000 in **scholarships** to The Koç School alumni. In 2023, 31 students benefited from monthly aid through alumni donations amounting to TL 200,000. Furthermore, the Association covered the flights of 14 new graduates for their overseas trips to their new schools.

If you wish to support The Koç School alumni currently at university by offering them opportunities or if you are a young alumnus looking for an internship, contact KÖLMED!

KÖLMED was instrumental in creating internship opportunities for more than 40 alumni through a new project that aims to connect young alumni seeking internship positions with alumni looking for interns.

KÖLMED joined The Koç School on various occasions throughout the year:

- We participated in the October 29 Republic Day celebrations, the November 10 Atatürk Commemoration Ceremony and the Tree Planting Ceremony.
- On the Sevgi Gönül Art Night, we proudly watched the outstanding performances of the students. We shared the excitement of the Class of 2024 by attending both the rehearsal and the actual commencement ceremonies.
- We reunited with the alumni at homecoming and had a great day.
- We inspired future alumni by supporting the Career Day.
- We joined the ceremony for the opening of the time capsule buried in 2011, sharing in the joy of seeing the letters and mementoes from 12 years ago. We also added an optimistic letter to the new time capsule buried this year, wishing that it will reach future generations.

Visit www.kocozel.com to contact KÖLMED, join the association, update your profile, and become a regular donor.

Please click to go to the website.



Association President's Letter

Pelin (Bingöl) Keskinoglu '96

Dear Alumni and Future Alumni,

As the KÖLMED Board of Directors, we are delighted to reflect on another highly productive and fulfilling period. Throughout the past year, our guiding principle has been to foster greater solidarity and communication among all stakeholders, while enhancing the benefits we provide, reinforcing our brand identity, and instilling the sense of unity that defines us as one big family.

The year 2023 held special significance and meaning for us, as The Koç School alumni raised with the values of the Republic. Our primary objective was to commemorate the centennial of our Republic in a manner befitting our heritage. To this end, we collaborated with fellow alumni to create a commemorative video that encapsulated their reflections on the Republic and their contributions to its legacy. Ayşegül Kula '10 meticulously crafted the text based on insights derived from a survey that alumni from diverse areas responded. Oğuzhan Seçir '94 brought this text to life through animation, complemented by an original musical composition by Selim Göncü '94, and voiced by Ece Üner '99 and Murat Eken '98. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our graduates who contributed to this meaningful project, which continues to evoke deep emotion and pride with each viewing. Furthermore, we had the privilege of representing all The Koç School graduates by signing the official Anıtkabir memorial book during our visit to Ankara on November 17.

We had extended the use of our association office at the school premises to architects during the construction period. At the start of this semester, we reclaimed our office space thanks to the support of the school administration. To mark this occasion, we hosted a delightful gathering with boarding students in our office.

As customary, we seized the opportunity to introduce our association to the new graduates during the graduation rehearsal, and we are thrilled to share that we have surpassed our 2023 record for new member enrollments in 2024.

Throughout this period, our focus remained on further building our knowledge base to better connect with our members through the right channels and gain deeper insights into their needs. Since February 2023, we have updated the information of over 1,500 of our members. Furthermore, we dedicated efforts to enhance the value of our association's Toss Shop brand. Based on feedback from students, we refreshed and diversified the product offerings at our stores located within the middle and high school buildings. To drive brand recognition, we introduced informative labels on our products. We are on the verge of relaunching our online store, the primary sales channel for our graduates to access and purchase Toss Shop products.

This term, we continued our BizLink series, designed to foster communication with our key stakeholders and reinforce a sense of solidarity. The BizLink360 Meeting, open to individuals from all sectors, received high praise from our graduates, including university students and professionals. Additionally, we initiated an internship program aimed at connecting new and experienced alumni for internship opportunities.

Delivering all of the initiatives and endeavors I tried to summarize above can only in the quality you have come to expect from us and ensuring their continuity can only be possible with our alumni's timely fee payments and generous donations. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated graduates for their invaluable contributions. For years, we have been granting various scholarships to support our graduates pursuing higher education, both in Türkiye and abroad. Our goal is to grow the number of graduates we assist. To this end, we will establish scholarship funds on behalf of the alumni celebrating their 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, and 30th graduation anniversaries at the homecoming event hosted by our school this September. Your contributions to these scholarship funds will play a crucial role in fostering a sense of solidarity within our community and demonstrating that we are indeed a tight-knit family.

We are proud of our members, who not only shape the agenda but also design the future, and we remain committed to working in unity toward our higher aspirations.

Warmest regards,

Contacting KÖLMED is easy!

For all your questions:

iletisim@kocozel.com



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[kocozellisesimezunlardernegi](https://www.facebook.com/kocozellisesimezunlardernegi)



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

Join the **closed groups** to follow the latest posts of the association and the alumni about the business world and share your job applications or listings with KÖLMED members via this channel.

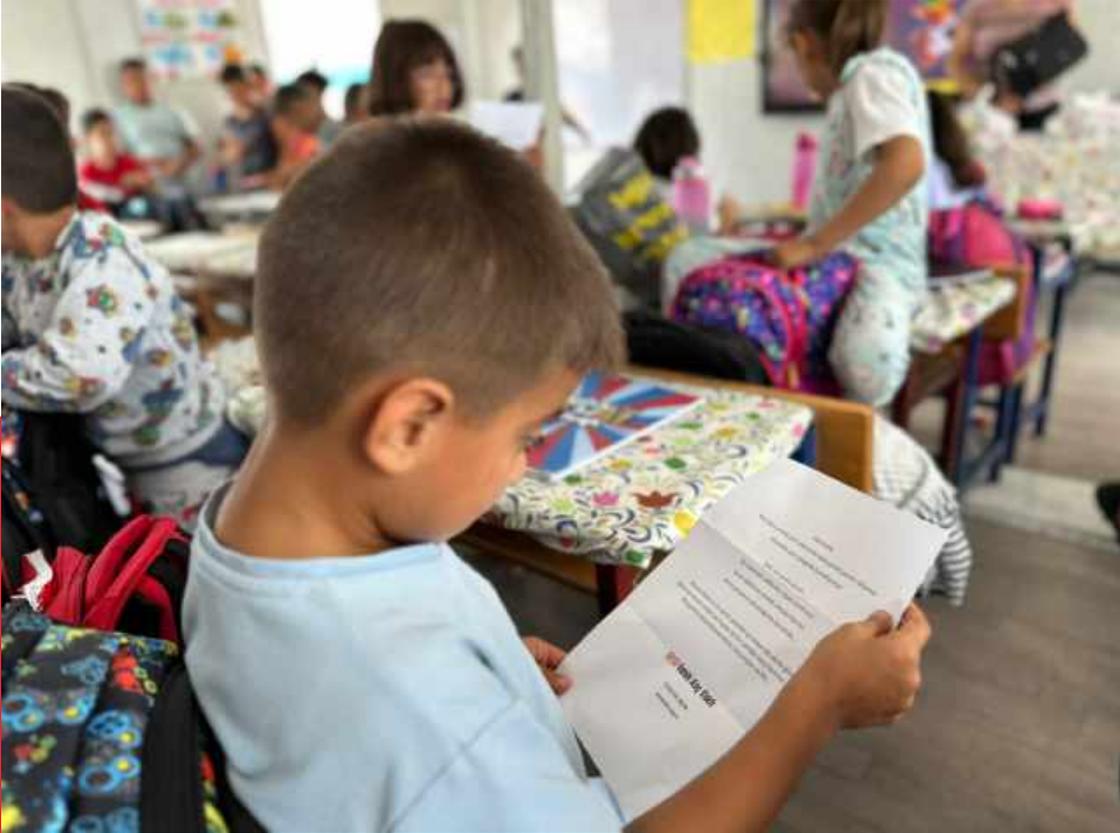


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[Koç Özel Lisesi Mezunlar Derneği](https://www.linkedin.com/company/koç-özel-lisesi-mezunlar-derneği)

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND, SUPPORTED BY KOÇ GROUP COMPANIES AND EMPLOYEES, PROMISES HOPE FOR TOMORROW



Guided by the timeless vision of our founder, Vehbi Koç, who said, "I exist if my country exists," Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund has been established to create benefit for society. The efforts within this scope are currently focused on the region destroyed by the earthquake in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, 2023. Koç Group companies and employees alongside Koç Holding are actively supporting initiatives aimed at nurturing the growth and development of children and youth within the affected area, fostering a culture of social solidarity.

For more information, please click.

