

# Classrooms of Tomorrow – Today

New learning spaces, new learning styles



PER KRISTIANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY



**WHEN WAS THE** last time you saw a girl walking on a treadmill while working on a math problem? Can you ever remember hearing a teacher encourage her students to sketch out their thoughts with markers on their desks or their classroom's walls?

These are everyday scenes in Branksome's new "classrooms of tomorrow." The leading-edge spaces — two in the Junior School and two in the Senior and Middle School — are receiving glowing reviews from both students and teachers.

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*Sofia Musicco, Grade 8 student*



The Grade 4 “Elhaddad Family Classroom” was unveiled and the family was gratefully acknowledged at the evening Circle Reception, held on September 26.

“The new classrooms adjust to the needs of the students — not the other way around,” says Janet Pehlivanyan, Director of Facilities. “Each girl can now work in a way best suited to her individual needs and learning style.”

One only needed to scan the faces of the girls as they walked into the renovated spaces for the first time in September to appreciate the level of change these classrooms represent. More than a few “oohs” and “aaahs” could be heard as students explored the flexible, modular furniture and discovered the many ways technology is seamlessly incorporated into the spaces.

“I like how we can use the same classroom in different ways for different subjects,” says Grade 8 student Sofia Musicco. “For English, we can easily set up the furniture for a teacher-led seminar and then quickly reconfigure it for small-group study in math.”

“I like to work standing up,” adds Rosie MacMillan, also in Grade 8. “The new adjustable desks allow me to switch from sitting to standing in about two seconds. My friends really like the treadmill work station, too.”

The four new classrooms were realized through contributions to the 2016–17 Annual Appeal, as well as through a generous lead gift from Dr. Mohamed Elhaddad and Mrs. Alaa Matar, the parents of Maya in Senior Kindergarten.

These model spaces will be carefully studied over the course of the next school year to inform future renovation plans. With the Branksome community’s further support, two more classrooms will be transformed in the summer of 2018.