

NEWS

news from the trunk

Thursday, March 8, 2012

STUDENT LED PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, March 14, 2012



African Dinner and Dance

Friday, March 16, 2012, from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

It's that time of the year again when the school will be hosting Parent Teacher Conferences/Student Led Conferences on, Wednesday, the 14th of March. As always, these are both ideal opportunities for parents to gauge their child's progress and learn more about the academic program that they are studying here at Khartoum American School.

These conferences are an exceptional forum to identify strengths and weaknesses, but more importantly, an opportunity to develop strategies that can lead to positive improvements before the year ends.

As you can see from the title, we have two formats of conference. High School and Early Childhood students will be participating in traditional Parent/Teacher Conferences whereby parents can speak with their child's teachers on a range of matters and get to know the intimate details relating to their child's performance, and devise shared strategies to help promote excellence.

The other format used this day is the Student Led Conferences which will allow our Elementary and Middle School students the opportunity to take a leadership role in terms of walking their parents through the various subjects that are engaged with on a daily basis. Students will review samples of their work and obviously explain to parents their likes, dislikes, successes and challenges. For me these are undoubtedly my favorite type of conferences as students are often found brimming with enthusiasm in terms of sharing their work while also displaying their pride in a job well done. Teachers will, of course, be on hand to help facilitate this process and also answer any questions that may arise.

I am confident that all of our conferences will be successful and I look forward to seeing most of our parents in attendance.

As always have a great weekend.

Letter from the Elementary Principal, Ben Voborsky

Parent Teacher Conferences are here again!

You have received an invitation for Parent Teacher Conferences, not just any Parent Teacher Conference but STUDENT Led Parent Teacher Conferences. What does this mean? It means that your student will be showing you what they have been learning in school. They will share with you their classroom experience and demonstrate their growth. Your student will be doing a lot of the talking but there will be room for questions from you!

Possible Questions for Your Student

- What was your favorite part about
- What was the main idea that you learned from.....?
- What was the most difficult part about
- How did you improve on.....?
- How did you decide to.....?

We look forward to seeing you and your student at Student Led Parent Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, March 14, 2012!

If you cannot attend your scheduled conference time please contact your students teacher to reschedule!

This week the Early Childhood visited Music Room

This was a great opportunity to explore different musical instruments. Some were made of wood, like the castanet, the clapper and the maracas. Others were made of metal, like the jingle bells or the triangle. We practiced our social skills when we took turns at playing them or when we raised our hand to say the name of the instruments.

Our favorite instruments were the drums: we really enjoyed playing them while following a pattern played on the piano by Ms Lanario.

When we went back to our class we drew our favorite instrument. As we love recycling, we made a colorful drum out of a carton box and a bell with a plastic yogurt cup. What a fun experience!

Thanks Ms Lanario!





We are Grade 2



In grade 2 we have been learning lots of different skills in math. We have learned about the partial sums algorithm, 2-D and 3-D shapes, parallel lines, line segments and we have become super speedy in our recall of multiplication facts for 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11. Grade 2 students have also done a super job at exploring www.ixl.com, which supports their learning in class. We have currently spent 122 hours, and answered 17, 093 questions on ixl!

WELL DONE GRADE 2, KEEP WORKING HARD!!!

At the moment we are learning about lines of symmetry, They have identified different shapes with a line of symmetry and have explored, and identified objects in everyday life that have a line of symmetry. Grade 2 have focused on answering this essential question, "What makes a shape or object symmetrical?"

Come and check out our fantastic symmetry pictures!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

G1 and G2 have been focusing on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Discovery. On Monday, we had two DAL employees volunteer to talk to the elementary students about the importance of recycling in order to help save our planet. The students were active and engaged during the discussion of the three Rs and are excited to be able to recycle PET bottles at KAS starting the 12th of March. The G1 and G2 students are very excited about their upcoming field trip to the DAL recycling facility!



Teaching the 21st Century Generation

By Mrs. Egbal Mohamed

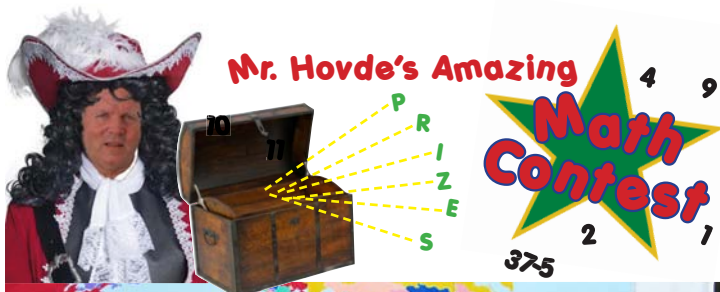
Being a technology/computer teacher requires a tremendous amount of time for preparation. Because technology is developing and moving so fast these days, it is hard to keep up with its pace. Teaching the 21st generation also requires teachers to be equipped with the skills needed to prepare them for their future. As Kelly Ahifled stated in his article (February, 2010) "*Creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, initiative and self-direction-these are just some of the 21st century skills teachers strive to develop in students. Meaningful projects, student-centered learning and differentiation are some of the strategies used to help students learn in the 21st century.*"

The good thing about teaching this generation is that they are fast learners and love to explore and try new things. In this quarter I have had the pleasure of teaching grade 7. They really are a very unique group of students and they love to learn and explore new things. The students were introduced to a new application called Hyper Studio, which they were very excited about. Coordinating with the science teacher, we chose the content of Astronomy and Solar system to be presented with Hyper Studio. The students started exploring and figuring-out things by themselves. Their excitement and enthusiasm about this exploration experience is unquestionable. They were having fun sharing what they have discovered about the program tools and they did an amazing job in creating presentations related to their science class.

Without doubt, students had the chance to unleash their power of knowledge, curiosity and creativity throughout this learning experience. With technology, we have to consider self paced learning and give the students chances to explore. It is amazing how capable they are and how much they can achieve.

Reference: Ahlfeld, K. (2010). Hands-on learning with a hands-off approach for professional development. *School Library Monthly*, 26(6), 16-18. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/237132142?accountid=31683>





Winners: Imnet - Kindergarten, Preet - Grade 1, Ben - Grade 2, Ruba - Grade 3, Anuka - Grade 4, Omar - Grade 5.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: I ate 6 green eggs and 2 pieces of ham. How many green eggs and ham did I eat altogether?

Grade 1: Solve: $9+9$.

Grade 2: Use the trade-first method of subtraction to solve the following.

$$\begin{array}{r} 73 \\ -58 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Grade 3: What value does each digit have in 52,761?

Grade 4: Is the following number sentence TRUE or FALSE? $(4.6 + 2.9) - 3.1 < 3.7$

Grade 5: The price of an apple at a certain store is \$2. How many could you buy with \$313? Show your work and be sure to interpret the remainder correctly in your solution.

Middle School Math problem:

Roslyn spent $\frac{1}{4}$ of her life on her parent's farm. Then she left the farm and spent $\frac{1}{6}$ of her life continuing her education after high school. Then she worked as a social worker for half her life. She has been retired for 6 years. How old is she?

High School Math problem:

What is the period of $3\cos 2\pi\theta$?

TV and Our Children

The number of TV hours watched by individual children has dramatically increased compared to the number of hours watched 20-30 years ago. Much research reveals that children of all ages are vulnerable to prolonged TV watching. TV, computers and other technologies are important tools for communication and information, but if there is no control and limit in their usage they can be tools to harm our children. The following study gives us information about how modern children are affected by television.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)/USA:

1. Two-thirds of infants and toddlers watch a screen an average of 2 hours a day
2. Kids under age 6 watch an average of about 2 hours of screen media a day, primarily TV and videos or DVDs
3. Kids and teens 8 to 18 years spend nearly 4 hours a day in front of a TV screen and almost 2 additional hours on the computer (outside of schoolwork) and playing video games

The report also concludes that:

- Children who consistently spend more than 4 hours per day watching TV are more likely to be overweight
- Kids who view violent acts are more likely to show aggressive behavior but also fear that the world is scary and that something bad will happen to them
- TV characters often depict risky behaviors, such as smoking and drinking, and also reinforce gender-role and racial stereotypes

The role of adults in helping our kids to plan their time for homework, outdoor games and social activities, TV watching and other activities cannot be stressed enough. It has a significant impact on the mental, social, moral and physical health of our children.

See http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/tv_affects_child.html# for more.

Volleyball season is here

The U19 girls' team has begun practice already and the other teams are soon to follow. If you want to play volleyball, it's not too late. Just find out who your coach is here, and see them as soon as you can. They will give you a permission form that allows you to begin practicing with the team. Sorry, no permission form, no play. Here are the current dates for the 2012 volleyball season. There is a chance that the games on the 17th and 18th may be rescheduled, so keep listening to your coaches or read this newsletter for any changes.

Volleyball Season Games 2012

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| March 27th – All Boys - at KAS | April 4th – All Girls – at KICS |
| March 28th – All Girls – at KAS | April 17th – All Boys - at TBD |
| April 3rd – All Boys - at KICS | April 18th – All Girls – at TBD |

Each week teams are awarded points for their match play against the other teams. Points are awarded for the following:

- Winning 3 points
- Losing 1 point
- No Show (forfeit) 0 points

Coaches for the season:

- U19 Boys – Coach Ben
- U19 Girls – Coach Marlo and Coach Hani
- U14 Girls – Coach K. Kirby
- U14 Boys – Coach Kelley

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 10 books; **Grade 1:** 12 inches; **Grade 2:** 81 (must show work using correct method); **Grade 3:** 54,090; **Grade 4:** 3,526; **Grade 5:** $1382 / 3 = 460 \text{ r}2$; **Middle School:** 4 ; **High School:** $\cos^2x - \sin^2x$;

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____