

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Teacher
Recruitment
Fair

Recruitment Season

KAS
Attracts
Exceptional
Teachers

Professional Development at KAS

Sunday, December 9, 2012, **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

As the weekend approaches my newsletter article comes from Johannesburg, South Africa where I start the first leg of the recruitment fair season as we look for outstanding teachers to come and join our returning staff for the 2013/2014 school year. For those of you who are unaware of the process each year teacher recruitment fairs are set up worldwide, exclusively for international schools so that existing teachers working abroad can look for new schools once they have decided to move on, or alternatively teachers new to international schools can make their foray into this exciting part of global education.

These fairs are often located in far flung places and it is a challenge each year to select the fair that would have the most suitable candidates. Last year's outstanding crew of teachers were predominately hired in Johannesburg, Sydney and Bangkok, and I am sure that based on their successful transition into our community we will be returning to these fairs in the future. Johannesburg has a distinct appeal as it attracts teachers who are excited about working in Africa and are prepared for the roller coaster of thrills and challenges that the continent inevitably throws forward.

The majority of my recruitment season, however, will be spent in the US where we hope to sign on some outstanding North American teachers to move our program even further ahead while also giving our fantastic little American school that distinct American flavor. Only this week we hired our first recruit of the season an extremely talented young lady who hails from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. My recruitment trail this year will take me to Toronto in Canada, Waterloo in Iowa, San Marcos in Texas and finally San Francisco in California in my pursuit of the right combination of teachers to cover our vacant positions.

Last year on my travels, I had a conversation with one of the most experienced Superintendents on the African continent and his feelings on recruitment were succinct and simple; the recruitment of teachers far outweighs any other duty of an administrator in terms of its importance to a school community, to which I naturally and succinctly agreed.

So on that note please wish me luck in finding the right candidates, as I in turn wish you all once more a peaceful and happy weekend.



Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Now and again people come into our lives and inspire us. Two teachers driven by their passion to promote and advance education worldwide, traveling around the world in a tuk tuk, or what we call a raksha, visited Khartoum American School yesterday. The two guest speakers spoke to all our high school students and many of our middle and elementary students. The students had a chance to hear about the travels of these extraordinary teachers and their dedication to worldwide education. The students had a chance to interact with the two gentlemen and ask questions.

These two gentlemen, Nick and Rich, are attempting to drive around the world in a tuk tuk in order to help realize the charitable goals of The Tuk Tuk Educational Trust – fundraising, advocacy, educational and academic. They started their journey from the UK on August 13. They made their way from the UK, through Europe. They went to Egypt and have now reached Sudan. Nick and Rich are traveling through areas lacking education, visiting projects seeking to alleviate this problem and talking at schools and universities about the development issues encountered along the way. They share the inspirational stories of the people they meet and the valuable work of charities and NGOs through blogs and video-blogs. This allows many people and organizations to donate directly to particular projects that may appeal to them. For more information please visit their website <http://www.tuktuktravels.com/>

Nick and Rich drive around in their tuk tuk from country to country. They live very cheaply. The driving has proven to be hard work, tiresome and uncomfortable yet every day they feel happy about what they do. Since tuk tuks are not allowed on motorways and most main roads, their trips are usually slow and difficult. They told our students that they always knew that the tuk tuk would be slow, but they are happy because this gives them a chance to explore and discover the different cultures and communities they pass through along the way.

All our students really enjoyed meeting our guest speakers. The final advice that Nick and Rich gave our students was to make sure that they get a good education and to follow their passion.



Middle School Happenings



These are times of mixed emotions for the middle school at KAS. It saddens us to learn that, Justin, our wonderful 6th grade student council representative, is departing for Accra, Ghana after winter break.

Justin has made great contributions to the middle school council and will certainly be missed. On the other hand, it gives us joy to learn that he has been admitted at the Lincoln Community School after a thorough application process. It speaks volumes of the quality of our middle school programs and how well prepared our students are in relation to other top international schools in the region. Good luck to Justin and his family in their transition to Ghana. With that said, the middle school council needs one representative to take on the role that Justin had. He was primarily involved in the planning, budgeting and implementation of middle school functions. If you are interested, please let any of the advisers know. Also, the middle school will be having their Marshmallow Challenge on December 16th during their advisory meeting. This is an opportunity for the students to put into practice everything they have learned in terms of character building. Parents are encouraged to be an audience. This will take place in the kiosk area at 11:00 am.



Grade 9 Plastic Bottle Recycling Project

As we all know, staying hydrated in the hot Khartoum climate is a must. Plastic water bottles are a common sight all around our school campus, and we barely give them a second thought. But a question arises-where do all these plastic water bottles end up? Unfortunately, plastic water bottles have a negative impact on the environment. Some facts about plastic bottles include:

- Plastic bottles take a LONG time to decompose – almost 700 years! As someone said, **“Plastics are like diamonds.....they really are forever”**.
- EVERY SECOND, approximately 1500 bottles end up in landfills and the ocean around the world.
- Making plastic bottles is fuel and energy-intensive.
- Large numbers of birds, mammals and fish die due to eating plastic or getting caught in it.

(<http://www.safebottles.co.nz/NewsPlastics+and+the+Environment.html>)

So what can we do? Our Grade 9 Social Studies class has been active in starting a “Plastic Bottle Recycling” project. They have been placing cardboard boxes in key locations labeled “Recycle Bottles,” and all the collected plastic bottles will be donated to a non-profit organization that will recycle them. We are really excited to start this project, raise awareness about this issue, and we hope to collect ALL the used plastic bottles in our school!

Kindergarten

WOW! It is already December.

How the last few months have flown by! Kindergarten is a milestone year for young children, both socially and academically. These last few months have proven to be nothing short of milestone. The students are growing and progressing every day. We are witnessing ‘Aha’ moments every day and the sheer joy that shines across the students’ faces in those moments is one of the reasons we love walking into KAS every morning. The students are engaged with one another, their teachers, and their fellow school mates on a daily basis; enabling them to grow both socially and academically.

For the last few weeks we have been learning about our Five Senses: See, Hear, Smell, Taste, and Touch. Students have been engaging in fun, energetic, hands-on activities that have enabled them to gain a better understanding of how we use our senses every day. From nature walks to bird watching to stinky shoes and candy tasting, students have enjoyed learning about their senses and how we use them to learn about our surrounding environment.

As the year continues, we look forward to more ‘Aha’ moments where students have the opportunity to explore and share these moments with their friends and families. We have some fun and engaging units ahead and we hope the students embrace them and find them as enjoyable as we will!

Ms. Erika & Ms. Yeng

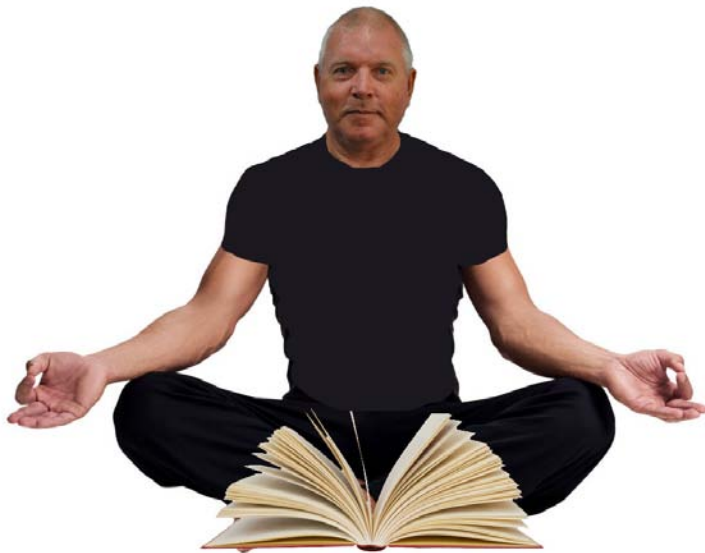


Learning Center Corner

Another Goodbye



The Learning Center has been so lucky to have quality people working in it. The problem with having such great teachers and students, is that it is always so sad for us to say goodbye when they have to leave. Ms. Lisa Tranchellini, will be leaving us this month. We are excited for her and her family as they move on to a new adventure but we will miss her sorely. Starting this coming Sunday, Mr. Michael Stewart will be joining our Learning Center Team. He has been volunteering his time the past couple of weeks and will officially start working alongside Ms. Lisa until she leaves and will continue with her duties once she is gone. We are delighted to welcome Mr. Michael to our team.



Mariam-KG, Kamal-G1, Preet-G2, Youssef-G3, Hazim-G4, Zuhair-G5, Celeste-G6.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Indicate, using the small needle, the hour you wake up at in the morning.



Grade 1: How many inches in a foot?

Grade 2: "Student created question: If a train leaves at 2:00 and the ride is 4 hours, what time does the train arrive?"

Grade 3: Put these numbers in order from smallest to largest: 4, 356 4, 305 4, 546 4, 315

Grade 4: . What is one multiplication strategy that you use?

Grade 5: Here are the math quiz scores for 12 students in grade 5: 0 1 3 2 4 3 4 2 1 2 4 3
Find the Statistical Landmarks: minimum, maximum, range, mode and median for this set of data.

Middle School Math problem:

The World Trade Center is 1350 feet tall. Each floor is about 12 feet high. Andrew rides the elevator 60 floors down from the top. How many feet is he above the ground floor?

High School Math problem:

Where is the vertex of the parabola given by the equation $y=x^2+6x-8$?

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 2, 3; **Grade 1:** Answers will vary; **Grade 2:** 32F 212F OC 100C2; **Grade 3:** The length of the tip of one finger to the other; **Grade 4:** 70, 71, 72, 73, 74; **Grade 5:** 1. Negative numbers are often used to represent the amount of a loss. For example, a debt that is owed 2. money lost in the stock market 3. Decrease in temperature 4. Floors in a building below ground level 5. Bank account: spend more money than you have in your account; **Middle School:** 2520; **High School:** 1/6 or .167;

Soccer News

Our U15 and U18 girls were in action on Wednesday against KICS. Taking advantage of playing at home, KICS went into an early lead against our U 15's. Our girls, in the shape of Tala quickly responded with an equalizer and then the team settled down to play some solid defensive soccer relying on quick counter attacks. End- to-end soccer saw us take the lead with Tala once again hitting the back of the net. Not to be fazed, KICS came back to level the score. Nevertheless, KAS showed tremendous character and determination, and were eventually rewarded with another Tala goal to clinch the victory. Our U18 girls had a disastrous start, going 4-1 down in the first half. Things were looking desperate until Lamease Philips scored from a Noon ElNefeidi through ball. The team fought back and pulled together to get another goal. They got another goal, but just couldn't get the equalizer despite creating a number of chances. The score was 4-3 to KICS at the end, but with a little more luck we could have had a victory. The girls are fired up for their clash with Unity next week. Our U 19 Boys played a friendly match against KICS and scored a resounding 5-1 victory. The guys got off to a flying start with Mohammed Yasir drawing first blood. A goalkeeper error gave KICS an undeserved equalizer. Adopting English soccer tactics with a strong defense and by playing long balls into the box the players were able to focus on getting goals. Mohammed Yasir calmly put the ball in from close range to take the lead. The next part was easy, Ji Hong and Howard scored from long range and the game was wrapped up with a powerful header from Hussein.

KAS Faculty VS KAS Parents - Soccer

As we had commented last week, we would like to organize a game between the KAS faculty and parents. To assure participation and given a timetable with limited choice, we hope most parents and faculty are willing to cooperate. Please check the day that is more convenient for you. The option with most choices will be what we decide.

- ___ Sunday 16th 15:00 pm
- ___ Sunday 16th 17:00 pm
- ___ Monday 17th 15:00 pm
- ___ Monday 17th 17:00 pm
- ___ Tuesday 18th 15:00 pm
- ___ Tuesday 18th 17:00 pm
- ___ Wednesday 19th 15:00 pm
- ___ Wednesday 19th 17:00 pm
- ___ Thursday 20th 15:00 pm
- ___ Thursday 20th 17:00 pm

Please, once you have checked your choice, cut it off the newsletter and let your child return it to the P.E. Department.

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____