

# News

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 12, 2013



**High School Exams** December 16, 17 and 18, 2013 at KAS

**ASAP Season II Ends Today**

No After School Activities next week. All children go home at 2:05 pm



## Letter from the Superintendent, Steven Alexander

It was a great night at KAS last Thursday. I was fortunate to arrive a few days before the annual International Potluck Dinner and Student Performance. The event gave me a good understanding why KAS is a strong family community and a very special school. The food was superb, the student performances were very entertaining and showcased the musical and performing talents of many students. I want to thank everyone for the hard work and efforts that made this a memorable evening.

Arriving after the school year has started presents special challenges. I appreciate the warm welcome and help everyone is giving me to help with meeting the challenges at KAS. Two issues are foremost on my agenda.

The first issue is determining the staffing needed for next year and to start right away with recruiting high quality staff. One of the most important duties of a Superintendent is to ensure that qualified and experienced staff are employed where they are needed. The present staff have informed me of their intentions for next year. Unlike last year fewer teachers will be leaving. I expect to hire six new staff members, two will be for positions that went unfilled this year due to visa problems. The list includes:

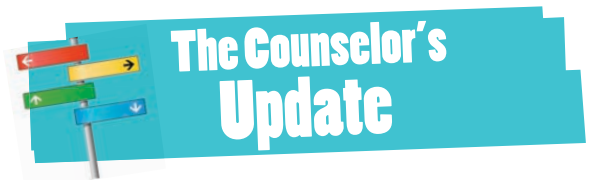
- Elementary Principal
- Learning Center Coordinator
- Grade 4 Teacher (Mr. Hanro will be teaching PE next year and continue to serve as Athletic Director)
- Grade 3 Teacher
- Grade 2 Teacher
- Pre-School Teacher (for 3 years old)

I will be attending a large recruiting fair in the United States at the end of January interviewing prospective candidates. As they are appointed, we will introduce them to the community.

The second issue is finishing the documentation of the school curriculum and then listing it on the KAS website for parents and prospective families to view. This is especially important for people looking for a school when coming to Khartoum. I would like to congratulate the KAS staff for the excellent work they have accomplished in writing the curriculum we are using. Our goal is to get it listed on the website by the end of this school year.

Please stop by and see me at school if you would like to speak with me.

Steve Alexander



## The Benefits of Family Chores

While it may seem easier to do the housework yourself, having your children help you with chores can teach them a sense of responsibility and increase their sense of family unity. It also develops their fine and large motor skills. What chores a child can help with, will depend on their age, ability, and maturity, but even toddlers can help out around the house.

### When to Assign Chores

Children can begin helping with chores as young as 3 years old, depending on their maturity level and ability to perform a routine task. Instead of assigning arbitrary tasks, give children jobs that match their abilities. For example, toddlers are able to pick up toys and put them in the toy box. As they get older, they will be able to add steps such as putting books on a shelf, putting their clothes in their dresser drawers, and eventually clean their whole room. Once they know the steps to many chores, you can even let your children choose which chores they are responsible for doing.

### Perform Chores Together

One of the most important things to remember about assigning chores to your children is that they will learn best by example. Instead of telling your children to do a list of jobs, give them just a few at a time and work alongside them to show them the steps involved to complete the chore. Gradually, you can let them work alone and assign new chores, as you deem necessary.

Also, it is important to break down the job into workable components. It is unrealistic to tell a 5 year old, "Go clean your room." Instead, tell him the tasks involved that he will understand. You might say:

1. "Pick up your toys and put them in your toy box."
2. "Put your dirty clothes into the laundry basket."
3. "Throw any garbage in the waste basket."
4. "Put your books on your bookshelf."

Breaking down a large task into smaller tasks will yield greater results because children will know what is expected of them.

### Make it Fun

Chores do not have to be work. Instead, they can be a great chance for parents and children to bond and have fun together. Create fun, colorful chore charts and reward your children for completing chores with stickers, small treats, or even such things as television, computer, or playtime. Turn on the radio and dance to music while you complete chores with your child. Better yet, assign everyone in the household (yes, even mom and dad) with daily chores. Try to schedule a consistent time every day during which everyone on the house works on their chores. Try singing and dancing to music with your children while you work to make it even more fun!

## Announcement!

Change in Elementary Assemblies  
Starting with the second semester we will only have elementary assemblies on Thursday mornings. Students should go straight away to their classrooms when they arrive at school from Sunday through Wednesday.



### Benefits of Chores for Kids

While the obvious is true – a cleaner home – there are many other benefits to getting your children involved in chores. Being expected to complete chores on regular basis teaches responsibility and accountability, two characteristics they will carry with them later in life. Having a few chores to complete every day allows children to feel they are part of a team, which will prepare them for working with schoolmates and teammates. Finally, learning new chores to do around the house allows children to learn new skills that are easily transferable into the classroom setting.

So, don't hesitate to ask for a little help from your little ones. It will pay off in more ways than you can imagine!

### English Sayings...

The **Bitter End** is the absolute end. This phrase has its origins at sea and is nothing to do with taste. On the sailing ships of past centuries, the anchor was fixed to the deck by solid bollards made of iron and wood known as 'bitts'. Coloured rags were tied to the rope near the deck end and once they were revealed crewmates knew the anchor could not be let out much further. The rope between the anchor and rag was known as the bitt end or the bitter end. To be at the 'bitter end' meant there was no rope left and the water was too deep to set the anchor.

### Bonjour mes amis

Our unit entitled "Animal Words" "Au monde des animaux" was a great learning experience for Grades 3 and 4, and a lot of fun. We learnt the different names of animals, the verb to be, prepositions and some adjectives. The aim of the unit was to answer "where" questions as well as being able to describe animals through various activities.

In Grade 5 we are currently doing more challenging work using: the book, the workbook, the video episodes with each lesson as well as making use of the mini dialogue that accompanies every unit.

In High School and Middle School students are working hard to reach their main goal, which is to develop their speaking skills. This is done through oral work and writing dialogues, which are presented to the class.



Joyeuse fête de Noël et Bonne Année.



### Student - led Campaign for a Greener and Healthier School

The high school Global Issues and Business Math classes collaborated together to develop a proposal to start a "Campaign for a Greener and Healthier School". Students were required to work together and develop a proposal, budget and timeline to implement the Campaign and then present their ideas to the school board for approval and funding. During class, the students worked on dividing up the tasks and then prepared a final group presentation for the board. As a result, they learned real-world skills of leading teams, being responsible for tasks, meeting deadlines, and coming up with a succinct and professional presentation. In fact, the students looked so professional and their presentation was so convincing, that a board member even suggested internship offers for them at his organization!

The Campaign will hopefully start after the winter break, and the students are really excited and passionate about spreading the message to the school community about taking care of our environment and going green by each of us taking a small and practical steps right where we are!





DO  
SOMETHING  
CREATIVE  
EVERYDAY



## Mr. C's Amazing Math Contest

- +  
%

### Elementary School Math problems:

**Kindergarten:** Circle the tallest rectangle:



**Grade 1:** How many hops on a number line from 14 to 22?

**Grade 2:** What time is it when the hour hand is half way between the four and five and the minute hand is pointing straight down?

**Grade 3:** Write the following amount using a dollar sign and decimal point : 2 dollar bills, 1 quarter, 3 dimes, 4 nickels and 1 penny.

**Grade 4:** . In the numeral 165.378, the 6 stands for 6 tens.

- The 8 stands for \_\_\_\_\_
- The 3 stands for \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 stands for \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 5:** How many times can you subtract 6 from 78?

### Middle School Math problem:

What is 100 divided by  $\frac{1}{2}$ ?

### High School Math problem:

Daniel Burnham designed and built the 22-story Flatiron Building in New York City in 1902. The base of the building is a triangle bordered by three streets: Broadway, Fifth Avenue, and East Twenty-second Street. The Fifth Avenue side is 1 ft. shorter than twice the East Twenty-second Street side. The East Twenty-second Street side is 8 ft. shorter than half the Broadway side. The Broadway side is 190 ft. Find the two unknown side lengths.

**Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten:** Third one; **Grade 1:** 12, 15; **Grade 2:** 407; **Grade 3:**  $9 \times 12 = 108$ ;  $12 \times 9 = 108$ ;  $108 \div 9 = 12$ ;  $108 \div 12 = 9$ ; **Grade 4:** Answers cannot be shown; **Grade 5:** \$ 1007.80; **Middle School:** The use of the letter "e"; **High School:**  $-5 < x < 6$  or  $(-5, 6)$ ;



Last Week's Winners

Laila (Pre-K), Shatikshi (Kindergarten), Cameron (Grade 1), Leke (Grade 2), Elli (Grade 3), Yabi (Grade 4), Amina (Grade 5), Johanes (Grade 8) & Divya (Grade 6).



Dear Parents,

We had an amazing Inter House tournament last Wednesday December 4th, 2013. The students played their hearts out, and they made it possible for us to enjoy this lovely day.

The results were as follows:

- Kindergarten had a penalty shoot-out, and it was a draw as the Blue and Red teams both scored 1 goal each.
- Grade 1 and 2: in this very exciting match the score was 3 – 2 for the Blue team, also decided with a penalty shoot-out.
- Grade 3, 4 and 5 were mixed in much bigger sides, and both teams played to the best of their ability. At the final whistle, the Red team were victorious, winning 3-2 through a penalty shoot-out.
- Grade 6 and 7 had a tough match as they kept turning the ball over to the other side. The Blue team was victorious with 2-1 the final score.
- Grade 8 and 9 were really playing hard and showed the spectators some skillful soccer. The Blue team scored the winning goal in the last dying moments of the game to win 1-0.
- Grade 10 – 12 had a real festive feel to it. The boys and girls played hard, but at the same time made it fun for us to watch from the sideline. This match ended in a draw when the final whistle sounded. In the penalty shoot-out, no quarter was given, and the Blue team were the winners in the end with 4-3 the score.

This afternoon was made possible through the collective effort of the students and their amazing spirit. I am really astounded every time I write after an event about the students' remarkable school spirit. I would also like to thank the PE department and team coaches for their hard work with our students. All the parents that came to watch their kids play, a big thank you.

On Wednesday December 11 2013 and Thursday December 12 2013, KAS SPORTS teams will participate in soccer at KICS. I trust that I will have some good results to report back on next week.

Hanro van der Merwe  
Athletic Director

XSHME

X