

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 13, 2014



THE KAS-KICS CONNECTION

**Make Up Day Has Changed From
March 1, to April 5, 2014**



Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

Last week I attended the University of Northern Iowa Recruiting Fair in the United States to interview teaching candidates to fill four teaching positions that we had open for the next school year. The UNI fair as it is known is the oldest international school recruiting fair starting in 1976. I had attended this fair before and have always found many good teaching candidates. There were 700 candidates and over 120 international schools at this year's fair. I interviewed over 20 candidates and am very pleased to let you know that I hired four new teachers who will be coming to KAS next August. All of them are U.S. citizens.

Jennifer Lyon will be our Grade 4 teacher next year. She is from Des Moines, Iowa and has been teaching elementary school in the Des Moines school district. Jennifer has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Iowa State University. She also has special training in teaching English as a Second Language.

Jason Mann will teach Grade 3 at KAS next year. Jason is from Colorado Springs, Colorado and is currently teaching Grade 1 and Grade 3 in the Bismarck, North Dakota School system. Jason has also taught at international schools in Germany, Rawanda, and Kenya. He has a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Education and Curriculum Learning from the University of Colorado.

Chelsea Meyer will be our Grade 2 teacher at KAS next year. Chelsea is also from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Chelsea is presently teaching elementary school at the Crossroads Academy in Kansas City, Missouri. Chelsea has a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Rockhurst University in Missouri. She has also taught English and Science in the U.S. Peace Corps program in Nicaragua.

Sarah Boyer will be our Preschool teacher next year. Sarah is from Chicago, Illinois. Sarah has taught Preschool and Kindergarten in the Chicago Public School system. Sarah has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Judson University in Illinois. She has also participated in sports at the college level on the Judson softball team.

Steve Alexander

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

It has been a long and busy week for everyone. It was great to see so many of you for the Sudan Days performance on Saturday.

Our Global Issues Class is currently in Ghana with Ms. Rhona and Mr. Khalid. They will be attending a GIN Conference. The Global Issues Network (GIN) empowers young people to collaborate locally, regionally and globally to create solutions for global issues. Each year, thousands of middle and high school students worldwide engage in GIN-related activities. GIN conferences bring together students, teachers, experts, NGOs, and representatives from educational organizations. GIN conferences are about cooperation, not competition. Students are expected to take the leadership with adults acting in support roles. The format is similar to a professional conference, with plenary and breakout sessions led by students, and social activities that promote exchange and collaboration around global issues.

This week our students sat for the International Schools' Assessment (ISA). The ISA is administered in many International schools and schools with an international focus, whose language of instruction is English. The ISA assessment program is designed especially for students in international schools in Grades 3 to 10. The ISA measures reading, mathematical literacy and writing. The main aim of the ISA assessment is that the data be used to improve learning.

There will be a Valentine's Dance for Middle School Students at School today, Thursday, February 13 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. It is organized by the Middle School Council. As for adult supervision, there will be a number of teachers chaperoning the dance. There will be pizza and refreshments available for sale. We kindly ask that drop off and pick up times are within those mentioned above.

I hope that you all have a great weekend!

Student Make-Up Day:

- Saturday, April 05, 2014





Grade 1



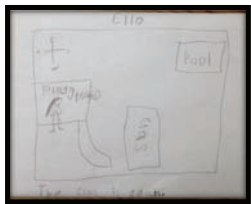
In Grade 1, we have started a unit on Transport. The main idea is to find out how people would make different types of journeys around the world and why? We have started by looking at what types of transport you could find in and

around Khartoum. We then broadened our discussion to talk about how we would travel from here to other countries.

Currently, we are working hard at collecting information about how transport has changed. We had



started our research by asking our parents how air planes had changed from when they were younger. As soon as all the information has been collected we will attempt to put it on a time line to help us sequence the changes.



Our discussions about transport have also led us to think: "how do we know where to go when we are in a place that we don't know?" When we started our discussion, we needed to find out what a map is. We watched a brain pop movie about different types of maps and their uses. We started by drawing a map of the class and then to practice this skill we went home to make a map of our room. Today we went exploring the campus trying to find out how a compass works. We learned about compass direction North/South/East/West. We have also found out that the office area is north from our class, so that makes us South and the pool is east from our class. Keeping this in mind, we drew a map of the school grounds using the compass direction. We can't wait to explore some more!



African Literature

All Grade 11 students take this class, which focuses on literature written in Africa, and compliments African Studies. This year has started off great, with students exploring how colonization has effected literature through poetry and short stories. We focused on texts that offered both euro-centric and afro-centric perspectives on Africa, and how stereotypes influence writing. Students are currently working collaboratively to study Chinua Achebe's novel Things Fall Apart. In groups, each student has a specific role and brings their unique skills to the table. Students explore a variety of avenues for interpreting the novel, including art, film, technology, writing, reading, researching, literary analysis, language and discussion. Their final performance evaluates how they collaborate to lead a class lesson, discussing different aspects of the novel. So far, this has proven to be a great success and a very rewarding experience for the students. Keep up the great work *umunna (Ibo for kinsmen)!*

The KAS-KICS Connection



Last Monday was a very special day for our Early Childhood Department. For the first time ever, two classes from KICS aged three and four visited our campus in order to further explore their project on living organisms,

in this case tortoises. The Little KICS wanted to investigate our tortoises' habitat, (they only have a couple of these ancient reptiles in their school grounds) and were looking for ideas about how to create a similar hospitable environment for their tortoises. We started the day by having a picnic on the grass: both our Tiger and Butterfly classes were very excited and curious about these new friends, so were the Little KICS. We shared cakes, popcorn, juices, and the watermelons that our visitors brought for us all to enjoy (the skins were then fed to the tortoises). The KICS Music teacher entertained us by playing the guitar, watched by a fascinated group of children, who sang along and moved to the rhythm. We then proceeded to the tortoises' habitat, where our guests counted the many exemplars that we have at KAS, pointed out the differences in their sizes and shells, asked about what they eat, and why they were digging. When we showed them three baby tortoises the children's excitement really grew wild. We went back to the Early Childhood area and invited the four classes to share large papers taped to the pavement, and use crayons to express their ideas and understandings about the recent experience. Among the colorful papers, some children attempted to draw the tortoises, the grass and slices of watermelon. We ended the morning by splitting up in two groups. One class from KICS went inside the Butterfly class and shared equipment and resources, engaging in half an hour of joyous play. The other class joined the Tiger class, where we read a few stories featuring animal characters, we sang songs, went over the materials displayed on the walls and boards, and shared common knowledge about the alphabet, numbers and shapes. When they left, the Little KICS took with them one of our baby tortoises. They promised to take good care of it, give it a name, and watch it grow. We were invited to visit the KICS campus and check out their horses, so we now have some planning to do about the excursionthank you Little KICS!

English Sayings...



To **Fiddle While Rome Burns** is a phrase often used to describe somebody being occupied by small details while a greater disaster is taking place unnoticed. Roman legend has it that in AD 64 Emperor Nero wanted to see what Troy had looked like as it burned to the ground, so he set light to Rome. It was said that he watched the blaze for six days and seven nights while he played his fiddle and enjoyed himself. Nero strongly denied the claims and blamed the disaster on the Christians, who were then ruthlessly persecuted. Historians have confirmed Nero was nowhere near Rome when the fire started, supporting his defence. Instead he was probably out enjoying himself at the School of Charm run by Caligula.

Dance like no one is watching



Dancing STUDIO ROSS



Ross's Rebus

I am looking forward to see your answers!



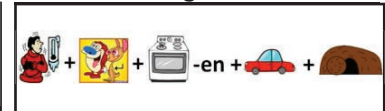
Who won Ross's Rebus last week?

Hazim Gamil (Grade 5)

Elementary School Rebus



Middle and High School Rebus



Solutions from the last week:

Elementary School: Sudan Days;

Middle and High School: Time is an illusion;

KAS SPORTS

Senior Boys leaves it until the last minute!

U/15 Boys Team



The senior boys left the best result for the last tournament. From the start, they meant business. Howard and Ayman Alzein were leading their troops by example, and they were rewarded with an excellent win

against KICS. The U/15 team could not continue their good form from the previous tournament and only managed to defeat NVS 2-1. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the boys and their coaches on a very rewarding season. I trust that they can't wait to return to the soccer field next year.

U/18 Boys Team



Enjoy your weekend!

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Elementary School Math problems:

Kindergarten: How many cents in a dime? How many cents in a nickel? How many cents in a penny?

Grade 1: Count on to find the answer

31, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

$31 + 6 =$

Grade 2: What is $46 + 29$?

Grade 3: $29 + 5 * 3 - 5 + 12 * 3 = 75$

Add the parentheses to make this sentence true.

Grade 4: Honey costs 20 SDG for 1000 grams. Neeka has 5 SDG. How many grams of honey can Neeka buy?

_____ grams

Grade 5: What is the latitude and longitude co-ordinates of Sudan's capital Khartoum. Cite your source.

Middle and High School Math problem:

What US coin doubles in value when half is taken away?



This Week's Winners

Sama (Pre-K), Murwan (KG), Joy (G1), Amaar (G2), Su (G3), Sara (G4), Hazim (G5).

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 1; Grade 1: 2 longs and 3 cubes; Grade 2: 57; Grade 3: $(56-7) * 5 = 245$; Grade 4: 1236; Grade 5: Answers will vary; Middle & High School: You can't have a 12 inch nose because then it would be a foot;

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