

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, May 15, 2014



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS



**Mr. Don's GOAL Group Spirit Week**

From Sunday, May 18, to Thursday, May 22, 2014 at KAS



## Letter from the Superintendent, Mr. Steven Alexander

Great Concert – KAS AGM – School Board Election Results



Last night our elementary students under the direction of Mrs. Lanario, our Music teacher, performed the annual Elementary Musical. The students were at their best and it was an

exceptional musical performance. Thank you to the students, Mrs. Lanario and all the KAS staff for giving us such a great entertaining show.

Prior to the Musical, the KAS School Board held its Annual General Meeting. The purpose of this important meeting is for the Board to report to the school community the status of the school. Mr. Mohamed Omer, the President of our School Board, gave a very positive outlook for this school year and told parents about the Board's goal to develop a long term strategic plan for the future of KAS. He also thanked Board members who will be leaving at the end of this school year.

Mona Hassan, our Business Manager, gave a report on the status of our financial health. The report showed we have had a very good year, financially meeting our goals and having a healthy status. Mona also presented the approved school budget for next year.

Haska Moesman then gave an update from the work of our PTA this year and thanked the community for its strong and continuing support in providing funds and activities that we all enjoy.

Finally, each of the seven candidates standing for election for the 4 open School Board seats gave brief personal speeches. The candidates who were elected to serve on the School Board starting next August are:

Ian Frankish  
Jeroen Uytterschaut  
Mohib Faig  
Mubarak Ali Ibrahim

Congratulations to these candidates and thank you to all candidates for standing for election. Thanks to the many parents who attended the meeting and musical

Steve Alexander

### New Policy:

When students are absent we ask parents to call and confirm and we will also call parents to confirm absence when we are not notified.

## Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

Dear Parents and Friends,

Our sixth annual Khartoum American School - Model United Nations Conference took place on May 11 and 12, 2014.

MUN is an educational political simulation, which provides a rewarding educational experience for high school students. MUN is important because students discuss vital world issues and engage in debates that aim to reach peaceful resolutions.

We have always been very proud of our KAS MUN students. In the past students from KAS have participated in many conferences. Our Students have participated in the THIMUN conference in Singapore, which is one of the most prestigious MUN conferences in the world. It usually has over 1200 students from schools worldwide.

KAS students have been to the THIMUN conference in Singapore four times already and we are planning to participate in the conference again in the next school year. KAS students have also participated in the RCIMUN Conference in Istanbul, Turkey and they always participate in the KICSMUN annual conference.

We also have our own annual KASMUN conference. This year's conference was very special because all our High School students participated. This is because we wanted to ensure that all our high school students got a taste of this exceptional experience.

Our conference this year was on two topics, The Crisis in Crimea and Flight of Human Capital. Our high school students, led by our MUN directors Ms. Burwash and Ms. Minette, did an outstanding job and the KASMUN Conference was a huge success.

Today's youth are tomorrow's world leaders, and our students are well on their way to developing the leadership skills needed.

Have a great weekend!



## MUN at KAS



This Sunday and Monday, we held the sixth annual Khartoum American School Model United Nations. This is a student led event, and our four senior chairs did a wonderful job of planning and preparing for all our high school to participate. Great work Noon, Lamease, Luther,

and Iris! Opening ceremonies were held on Sunday evening and featured speeches from delegates regarding both topics: The Crimean Crisis and The Flight of Human Capital. Monday featured an all-day formal debate, in which students came up with a final resolution by the end of the session. Thanks to all students for their participation, enthusiasm, and dedication.

## WHAT IS MUN?

Model UN has great educational value, and teaches valuable skills like research, public speaking, problem solving, teamwork, conflict resolution, diplomacy, and global citizenship. Through multicultural awareness, students are challenged to understand the motivations behind political actions and encouraged to question their own political identities. MUN provides an interactive learning experience that celebrates international debate and diplomacy. By simulating an actual United Nations conference, students are empowered to be involved in vital decisions that diplomats make every day on behalf of their nations. This encourages a deeper understanding of global issues in this multi-dimensional and dynamic world.

## Theater Production


On Thursday 8th May 2014, high school and middle school students joined ranks to perform William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. It was quite fitting; throughout the world people are celebrating the 450th anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare these days. Therefore, the play was rather timely.

The setting for the play was the Stone Garden and the students demonstrated creativity and imagination with their choice of venue. In fact, it was the perfect place to perform this play, particularly the scenes with the fairies and young lovers in the woods. This capitalized on the excellent work of Mrs. Sanchez's Goal Group last year that had the brilliant idea of transforming an under-utilized part of our campus. It made a truly magical scene, complete with curtains, fairy lights, and a little theater in the round feel.


As for the play itself, the script was rewritten by M.J. from grade 10 with an interesting selection of music from the twenties, fifties, sixties, seventies and eighties. This created a number of moods, keeping within the boundaries of the play while at the same time putting the students' own mark and creativity on it. Lines from the original were retained out of respect for the Great Bard. The audience appeared to really enjoy it and seemed to welcome something that was a little different.

However, what made this elective class so very different was the fact that it was a student-centered performance. The teacher acted as a facilitator and refrained as much as possible from putting his mark, style and influences on it. Difficult for me because I have some hard and fast rules when teaching Shakespeare, the most important being: it has to be done in the original language. The students didn't want that so we negotiated and came up with a solution. Like we negotiated, argued, came into conflict, and got upset about everything, but in the end came together in the spirit of cooperation as a team. The drama was wonderful, everyone enjoyed the final performance, but the real learning was the life-skills the students took away from it, including responsibility and accountability.


## Wild Animal Wonders



Did you know that elephants have long eyelashes to help them keep the dust out of their eyes? Did you know that giraffes have more than one stomach? (In fact, they have four!) Did you know that ostriches do NOT really put their heads under the sand when they are afraid? These are just some of the very interesting facts you can learn by visiting the second grade classroom this month! Second graders have become wild animal experts. Students enjoyed devouring library books and internet articles to learn about the wild animal of their choice. After intense research, students created their very own animal encyclopedias. They can now be sure to tell you about their animal's appearance, behavior, diet, habitat, young, and other interesting tidbits of information you probably didn't already know. Upon completion of their books, students participated in a wild animal exposition by sharing their books with the other students in the class in a rotating forum. Students are now working on making a three-dimensional animal project based on the facts they have learned. So come by the second grade classroom to check out our creative work. Have fun and keep up the great learning, second graders!



Here are a few more interesting facts that you might enjoy knowing . . .  
Did you know that warthogs can run at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour?  
Did you know that orangutans are only found in Borneo and Sumatra?  
Did you know that tigers are the largest members of the cat family?





# GOING GREEN

NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL ISSUES CLASS

As part of fostering a "REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE" culture in this school, we started plastic water bottle competitions where each class competed to collect the most water bottles this past quarter. The winning classes got a Pizza Party! Congratulations to Grades 6, 9 and 12 for winning a Pizza Party.

For the next school year, the focus is to "REDUCE" our use of plastic water bottles, and encourage each student to get their own reusable water bottles, in concert with new water coolers being installed around school. This way, our students save money (no need to buy water at the kiosk every day) and reduce their carbon footprint. The class is busy planning how to get all students involved next year, and we look forward to "GOING GREEN" in a big way once school starts!

## English Sayings...

To **Lick Something Into Shape** means to mold something (or someone) to suit a particular task or situation. Bizarrely, some races used to believe that some animals, particularly bears, gave birth to formless offspring and then licked them into the shape of their breed. This is possibly because many animal offspring are born covered in a thick after-birth, sometimes making them almost unrecognizable until a mother has cleaned it off. Around AD 150 Aulus Gellius wrote, 'For he said that as the bear brought forth her young formless and misshapen, by licking gave it form and shape.' And we thought the Romans were knowledgeable.

### Elementary School Math problems:

**Kindergarten:**  $7-3=$ \_\_\_

**Grade 1:** Draw a watch showing the time half past 7.

**Grade 2:** Half of Ms. Girod's second graders like hot dog pizza. How many children do NOT like hot dog pizza?

**Grade 3:** If I closed my eyes and chose one student from grade three without looking, what is the chance that it would be a girl?

**Grade 4:**  $1/7 + 2/7 =$ \_\_\_  $5/6 - 1/6 =$ \_\_\_

**Grade 5:** Harry travelled 7 miles toward his destination. He has completed  $1/3$  of his journey. How long is his entire journey?

### Middle and High School Math Problem:

Solve the following:  $X+4=X-3$ .

**Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten:** 11, 12, 14; **Grade 1:** 20 blocks; **Grade 2:** 58; **Grade 3:** Max = 111, Min = 14, Med = 31, Mean = 38.5, Range = 97; **Grade 4:** b; **Grade 5:** Green caterpillar is  $1/5$  of an inch longer than orange caterpillar; **Middle & High School:** -31, -63, -127;



**This Week's Winners**  
Leila (Pre-K), Daniel (KG), Mahmoud (G1), Iskandar (G2), Meron (G3), Saba (Grade 4), Bashir (G5).

## Ross's Rebus

I am looking forward to seeing your answers!

**Elementary School Rebus**

**Middle and High School Rebus**

**Teachers Rebus**

**This Week's Winners are...**

**Antis, Grade 8** **Salma, Teacher**

**Solutions from the last week: Elementary School:** Famous Actor; **M&H School:** Model United Nation; **Teachers:** Sleeping in;