

NEWS FROM THE TRUNK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30 2014



**Happy
Halloween**

October 31st.

KAS

PTA Bake Sale Thursday, November 6th at lunch time





Letter from the Superintendent, Dr. Robert Beck

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, the Ebola virus outbreak on the continent (with related cases in Europe and the US) presents concerns and challenges for parents, for our students, and for our staff. At this point, and after meeting with our KAS Leadership Team, we are monitoring the situation closely.

Extra cleanings of bathrooms are being done (bathrooms 3 times daily). We have additional supplies of paper towels and sanitizers. Since the virus is transmitted via bodily fluids, I ask that you remind your child to monitor their bathroom hygiene carefully and that you encourage regular and frequent hand washing. You can find information about the virus at several World Health Organization links (an example of a WHO link follows: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/messages/en/>).


We are mindful of the need to be proactive in this situation. If you have specific concerns about the virus, it is recommended that you contact your family physician. Our school nurse, Aleli La Caste, will also be available if you wish to speak with her.

We are always concerned about the health and safety of our students, our parents, and our staff. Thank you for your support going forward.

For your Information-Mr. Stephen Brugma has been selected to be the KAS Aquatics Center Manager. Stephen is a creative strategic thinker who comes to us with extensive experience in project and team management. He has worked as a team manager for the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and for private companies. He is trained and knowledgeable in emergency response management. Stephen is a KAS parent who has coached the KAS junior swim team. He received his Bachelors Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Guelph in Canada. We look forward to Stephen's contributions to the development and management of our KAS pool and Aquatics Center program. Please welcome Stephen!

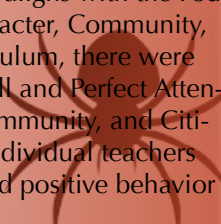
I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Letter from the Middle/High School Principal, Susan Boutros



Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at our first Awards Ceremony for middle and high school students. I would like to congratulate all the students who received awards today. We have the intention of making Award Ceremonies a tradition at KAS and we will from now on have an awards ceremony every quarter.



Today we celebrated student achievement as it aligns with the Four C's of our mission statement; Curriculum, Character, Community, and Citizenship. For the first C, which is Curriculum, there were awards for Golden Honor Roll, Blue Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Awards. For the other C's (Character, Community, and Citizenship) awards were given to students from individual teachers who have nominated them due to demonstrated positive behavior and attitude at school.

Report cards were sent home last Thursday. Please discuss the report card with your child. Read the report card together and encourage them to talk about their school performance as well as concerns. Make sure that you let your child know that you are proud of their good work and accomplishments but at the same time if your child does not do as well as expected talk openly about it. This might be a good time to develop a plan of action with goals for improvement. Report cards only come out a few times a year. Review your student's work regularly and pay special attention to grades and comments that go along with them. You are always welcome to call us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card.

On behalf of all the faculty and staff of Khartoum American School, I wish all of our students a lot of success. It is indeed a pleasure to celebrate students' success and achievements.

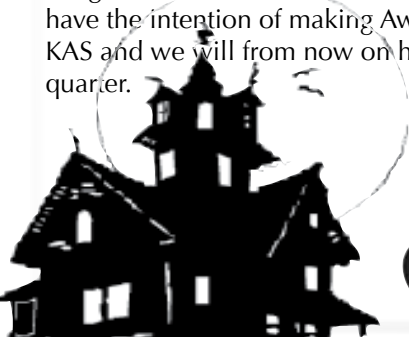
Letter from the Early Childhood Center & Elementary School Principal, Phil Centers

Dear Parents and Friends,

When I first became familiar with Khartoum American School from afar I heard about how it is a student-friendly school. This quality attracted Juliane and me to KAS because being student-friendly is a value that is dear to us, and seemingly more and more difficult to find in education these days, particularly in the U.S. with the intense pressure on students to "perform" more and more and at younger and younger ages, a pressure which is squeezing most of the fun and meaning out of the school experience for children (and for teachers and administrators!). Before arriving in Khartoum we wondered just how much this value would permeate the school and KAS community, though certainly everyone at KAS we communicated with from a distance was very friendly to us, which was encouraging.

Now that we have been at KAS for three months, August through October, we know that the quality of being student-friendly is not just something nice-sounding that is posted on the website or printed out and displayed on the wall. It really is one of the core principles of all that goes on at KAS, from the interactions between students and between teachers and students to the guiding values held by the Board and entire staff. This truly is a unique quality for a high-quality school in today's high-pressure world.

There was a movement a few decades ago called "small is beautiful," which, though small in its name, captured a mighty big truth, namely that in life we often find that less is more, and that, like Aesop's famous fable, starting a long race slowly allows us to finish it strong and successfully. Being student-friendly is a "small is beautiful" kind of thing. It might run counter to what seems to promise higher output, but in the end it produces what we want most in education: happy, balanced students who are able to achieve much more in the long run than their jaded and exhausted peers in high pressure schools that have forgotten what it means to be student-friendly.



A GREAT Teacher



I have a B.A. (Honors) in Arabic with Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, which I obtained from the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham. However, I am the first to admit that Arabic never came easily to me in the beginning, but I had determination, showed perseverance, which at the time compensated somewhat for my lack of linguistic know how. My colleagues and I would sit in our language classes and our language instructor; Mr. Jack Wesson would get us to read. Jack was passionate about the Arabic language; an inspiration, and he would sometimes get choked with emotion and become bleary eyed if he listened to a piece of eloquent Arabic. He would punch the sky unashamedly if he discovered a quadrilateral verb in the text. The words of the Egyptian singer, Um Kalthoum aroused in him deep feelings, while the speech delivered by Jamal Abdel Nasser at the time of the Suez Crises inspired him to punch the air and rave on about the quality of the Arabic, and I hasten to add cry unashamedly. Jack seemed to be obsessed by tests and would devise weird, wonderful and at times rather obscure examinations. Students would joke that Jack's final exam would probably include an Arabic text about the Mongolian Dung Beetle. Not quite, but "Bee Keeping in Jordan" came pretty close.

I would frequently leave language classes with the feeling that I was the most stupid man on the planet. Yes! Learning a foreign language is an amazing adventure; it can also be a very humbling experience! Regardless, I have a lot to thank him for, particularly the high standards he demanded. One day, at one of my lowest points, he took me to his office; got me to read and then pointed out just how far I'd come. He continually encouraged me and kept me on track. He lived, breathed, and ate the Arabic Language, and pretty soon it rubbed off on me. Thanks to him, I got through it all, did my year abroad, and lo and behold; I was lining up on Palace green with my colleagues to graduate after four years of rigorous, but awesome study. As we were filing into the Great Hall a familiar voice rang out, "well done Michael; I knew you could do it!" It was Jack! "What are you doing here", I replied. "I came to cheer you on", he exclaimed. What a teacher, what a mentor! It just goes to show you that a great teacher coupled with the will to succeed take you a long way! So to all language learners, don't give up and follow your teacher's advice!

Michael Metcalf
High School ESL Teacher

FALL INTO LEARNING WITH KINDERGARTEN

AUTUMN IS A TIME OF CHANGE AND THIS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY TRUE HERE IN KINDERGARTEN! ALTHOUGH IT HAS ONLY BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE OUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND ARE CHANGING DAILY. THEY ARE BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT, SELF-SUFFICIENT AND GROWING INTO LITTLE GLOBAL CITIZENS. THESE LAST COUPLE WEEKS OF WE HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT AUTUMN AND ALL THE GREAT CELEBRATIONS THAT ARE CELEBRATED THIS TIME OF YEAR: KOREAN CHUSEOK, CANADIAN THANKSGIVING, EID AL-ADHA, AND HALLOWEEN JUST TO MENTION A FEW. EXPLORING DIFFERENT CULTURAL AND SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS HAS PROVEN TO BE A FUN AND INTERACTIVE UNIT HERE IN KINDERGARTEN. THE STUDENTS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS WEEK'S HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION!

Erika Cousens
Kindergarten classroom Teacher

HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY TRIVIA!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN GUYS AND GHOULS! WHY NOT START THE CELEBRATION WITH SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT HALLOWEEN:



DID YOU KNOW...
-HALLOWEEN COMES FROM THE TERM "ALL HALLOWS EVE" AND DATES BACK TO OVER 2000 YEARS AGO?

-HALLOWEEN ORIGINATED IN IRELAND?

-ORANGE AND BLACK ARE HALLOWEEN COLORS BECAUSE ORANGE IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FALL HARVEST AND BLACK IS ASSOCIATED WITH DARKNESS AND DEATH?

-PUMPKINS ALSO COME IN WHITE, BLUE AND GREEN. GREAT FOR UNIQUE MONSTER CARVINGS!

-IF YOU COME TO MS. LEENA'S CLASSROOM (NEXT TO HS BOY'S BATHROOM) AFTER-SCHOOL TODAY, YOU CAN GET A TASTY TREAT TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN?

HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND ENJOY YOUR WEEKEND!

Leena Salih
Learning Center Teacher



MR. MANN'S MATH MINUTE



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MATH PROBLEMS:

KG	COMPLETE THE PATTERN: ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
GRADE ₁	ADD THE NUMBERS. WRITE THE ANSWER IN THE BLANK SPACE. THEN, SHOW THE ANSWER IN TALLY MARKS. 3+2 = _ 4+3 = _ 6+1 = _ 5+5 = _ 7+2 = _
GRADE ₂	SOLVE: 399 + 687 =
GRADE ₃	9 x 7 + 2 = _ 6 x 5 + 3 = _ 4 x 8 + 5 = _
GRADE ₄	HERE ARE THE AGES OF GIRLS ON THE SOCCER TEAM: 12, 10, 11, 11, 9, 10 Q: WHAT IS THE MEDIAN AGE OF THE GIRLS ON THE SOCCER TEAM?
GRADE ₅	GRADE 5 SOLD 15 BOXES OF CUPCAKES FOR THE CLASS FUNDRAISER. EACH BOX CONTAINED 3 DOZEN CUPCAKES. 215 STUDENTS BOUGHT CUPCAKES FROM THE CLASS. HOW MANY CUPCAKES DID GRADE 5 SELL?

Last weeks solutions:

KG: () G1. (5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50), G2. (60), G3. (calendars and 100s chart; 2 examples of a number line: rulers and thermometers), G4. (9, worth 90,000), G5. (1,350 pages)
Last weeks WINNERS are!



KG. James
G1. Bilal
G2. Cameron
G3. Adalia
G4. Kishan
G5. Nika

SwimAthon News

What a fantastic event with supportive parents and siblings. Thank you to all parents, teachers and students who helped as volunteers. In the end the final results were 1440 lengths x 25m = 36km. From Calais to Dover the distance is 33.1 km, so KAS Community crossed the English Channel easily. Hassebo in Gr.10 was exceptional with 50 lengths on his own. The Grade 1 swimmers Timon Breve, Taemin Kim, Murwan El Fatih, and Abdulrahman Moustafa swam 34 lengths entirely on their own in 30 min. Mr. Dave Lauchmen, the Learning center coordinator, swam 60 lengths.

We even had a friend of Meron Breve (gr.4), and Timon Breve (gr.1) Dr. Alison Lievesley, who crossed the actual English Channel; she swam 239 lengths in total.

Thank you to our lovely PTA for the excellent food and cold beverages.

The KAS mission is underlined by an open, inclusive student centered program. This event reflected this goal of ours. Our whole community accepted the challenge and together we achieved our goal.

BASKETBALL ANNOUNCEMENT:

KAS vs. NVS Monday, November 3, 2014

Hanro
Athletic Director



English saying

To describe people as **HAVING GONE DOOLALLY** is to suggest they have gone mad. In the late 19th century, as the British Empire dominated the world, the British Army established a military base at Deolali, 100 miles north of Bombay in India. The base had an asylum, into which unstable battle-weary troops would be sent, but it also doubled as a transit camp where soldiers, at the end of their duty tour, would be stationed to await the boat home. But ships only left for Blighty between November and March so some soldiers had months to wait for their transportation. The ensuing drawn-out weeks of heat, exhaustion and boredom often resulted in strange and eccentric behavior. This behavior would be explained, on their return to Britain, as the man having 'gone through Deolali'. Doolally was recorded as military slang in 1925.



Ross's Rebus

LOOKING 2 C UR ANSWERS!

Elementary Rebus



Middle & High Rebus



Teacher's Rebus



Last week's solutions:

Elem: Scary movies
MS/HS: Zombie apocalypse
Teachers: Nightmare on najeeb street

Last week's WINNERS are!

MS/HS: Deena Elomarabi gr. 11
Teacher: Katee Jo Ross