



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, January 21st 2016



Thank you **Laura Kibel**
for the wonderful **'Theatre of the Feet'** performance!



SUDAN DAYS AT KAS are coming!
Don't miss this wonderful experience of seeing and being
a part of the Sudan culture —February 2, 3, 4 on the KAS Campus

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Yesterday our students, staff, and parents who were able to attend enjoyed a delightful performance by the talented and famous Italian puppeteer, Laura Kibel, and her 'Theatre of the Feet'. This was a 'solo' performance as part of Ms. Kibel's first visit to Sudan. Following her performance, Ms. Kibel met with our Elementary students to answer their questions about her performance and to demonstrate how she creates her unique art form and one-person puppet show. We were honored to have Ms. Kibel at KAS. We thank Ambassador Fabrizio Lobasso and the Italian Embassy for providing this unique opportunity.

The arts at KAS are alive and well! In our art and music classrooms, and in carrying out student performances, our students gain an appreciation for art and music. A comprehensive and quality educational program is characterized by the availability of fine arts and music classes and experiences. It is understood that children want and need exposure to the arts. In my experience as a professional educator over many years, I have not met a child who does not enjoy music and the arts. Of course, as with all individuals, there are some students who may have a greater interest than others in the arts. The same can be said of academic subject areas or sports. I know, however, that all students enjoy and learn a great deal from engaging in art and music activities. And they certainly enjoy watching their peers, their teachers, and accomplished artists, such as Laura Kibel, as they model their interest and dedication to the arts.

To have such a model of excellence in the arts as Ms. Kibel perform and teach at KAS, as I said, was an honor. Our children, staff and parents thank you Ms. Kibel. Thank you!

DON'T MISS SUDAN DAYS-A WONDERFUL CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND STAFF—FEB 2, 3, 4 on the KAS campus—See you there!

Sincerely,
Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent



**Laura Kibel's
wonderful 'Theatre of the Feet'
performance!**

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Today our quarter two report cards go home with the students. The report card packet that parents receive is the culmination of an immense amount of work on the part of teachers and administration to present the results of our students' progress accurately, fairly, and in a well-written and easy-to-understand format. Our report cards are the result of a truly collaborative process that takes place each reporting period.

The first step in this process is the learning that takes place every hour in every class in the school. I am always filled with a sense of wonder and responsibility when I consider how the vast body of information and skills that constitute human knowledge is passed from one generation to the next, from one person to another, from parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors to students.

The next step in the process of report cards is for the teacher to keep organized and accurate records about the learning that is taking place. This requires an entirely different skill set than that required for teaching, and is part of what makes teaching one of the most challenging professions on the planet. Teachers don't just teach, an already daunting task. They assess and they record and they report.

Part of being organized is to be clear what our learning objectives are, for a single class period, for a unit, for a quarter, and for a school year. It's difficult to assess if we don't know what criteria we are measuring growth against. Among the criteria we use at KAS are the AERO standards, essential questions we want the students to be able to answer by the time they have finished studying a unit, skills and understandings we want them to have gained, etc.

The third step in the process is for each teacher to gather all her/his records of learning that has taken place during the quarter, as observed and assessed, and to begin writing a summary of the learning that has been achieved by each student in each subject. This summary has to be honest while being authentically positive. Here at KAS we genuinely believe that every student can achieve their full potential as human beings. We are here to help them move towards accomplishing that.

Writing report card reports requires that a teacher humbly face their own shortcomings. Why haven't their students achieved more during the quarter? Assessing, recording and reporting help us continuously improve in what we do as educators. Along with reflecting on what could have been done better, teachers inwardly celebrate all the learning that has been accomplished by their students as

a result of their efforts. They try to put all of this into words onto paper.

Finally the reports are proofed to check for accuracy, completeness, and consistency, entered into our report card database, and printed and prepared to send home to parents by the administrative support staff. The final product is what parents receive today.

We are constantly seeking ways to improve our report card process to make it more efficient and more valuable as a tool for continuous improvement. Next quarter no formal report cards will go home; students' progress in quarter three will be shared with parents at the spring parent-teacher conferences on March 23. Next year the Elementary School plans on changing their report cards from a narrative to a "standards-based" format. This will be a major transition and more information will be shared on this as it draws nearer. In the meantime we hope you enjoy your child's quarter two report card and find it useful in understanding the learning taking place.

Phil Centers
Elementary/Early Childhood Principal



SAYING OF THE WEEK

☞ **Not A Sausage** is a way of describing either something as free of charge or one's own self as being penniless. It is derived from another example of the colorful cockney rhyming slang of London, where sausage and mash was a staple diet between the 17th and 18th centuries. To be without 'sausage and mash' is to be without cash. ☞

Minette van der Bijl
High School/Middle School English Department

ANNOUNCEMENT



Sunday: **Pajama Day**

Come dressed in your favorite pajamas and get comfortable!

Monday: **Character Day**

What's your favorite character from your favorite book? Who's your favorite super hero? Now is your chance to dress up as the character of your choice!

Tuesday: **Formal Day**

Dress to impress in your best formal wear!

Wednesday: **Mismatch Day**

Different colors and different styles! Time to get silly and have fun in whatever mismatched style you want!

Thursday: **Class Day**

Show your class spirit by wearing the same color, shirt, or style of your choosing. Time to show KAS your class pride!

See you next week showing your KAS Spirit!

The Importance of **School Spirit!**

In light of our very exciting, upcoming Spirit Week next week, here's some interesting information about the importance of school spirit.

So, what is school spirit anyway? Some people say it means participating in your afterschool program, others may say it's cheering for your school's soccer team, some even say it's the excitement you feel the night before school (for some, anyway). The truth is that it's all of those things. School spirit is "the positive attitude students and teachers have about their school" (Henke). This can be developed in several ways like afterschool programs, sports teams, or even a school-wide spirit week.

What makes all these activities that promote school spirit so important? School spirit creates a positive learning environment for both students and teachers. This in turn can improve a student's commitment to education. Furthermore, it fosters positive relationships among students, faculty, and the overall school community.

Let's all promote our school spirit next week!

Leena Salih

Student Support Services Teacher

ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear Parents/Faculty

I am pleased to announce that KAS has joined the Nile Book Awards (NBA). This is just a fun way to promote reading for elementary-age students. Along with other librarians in the region, we choose a few books and have our elementary school students in the participating schools read them, and then vote for their favorite books. This year, the schools taking part are KAS and KICS from Sudan, ISU in Uganda, ICS in Addis, and IST in Dar es Salaam.

A Battle of the Book (BOB) competition will be held during the year, hosted by both KAS and KICS, where students will come together and discuss their understanding of the books they have read. An online discussion forum will also be held for all students in all five schools participating in the NBA.

Yours Sincerely

Shireen Shiber
Librarian