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news from the trunk

Thursday, February 4th 2016



THREE WONDERFUL **'SUDAN DAYS'** AT KAS!

Don't miss the Superintendent's Parent Information Seminar-
"ART AS A LEARNING TOOL" presented by Mrs. Mai Hassan, February 18 8:30-9:15am at KAS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you were able to spend time over the past three days enjoying the celebration of Sudan at the 'Sudan Days' events and exhibits on campus. Thank you to Mrs. Susan Boutros, MS/HS Principal, and her Sudan Days Committee for organizing the three-day event. A great deal of preparation went into making this year's Sudan Days the huge success that it has been. Thank you Mrs. Boutros and Committee Members!

Each year, the Sudan Days event is one of our most enjoyable and important non-classroom learning events. In one of my recent E-news messages, I commented on how important play and having fun are in the learning process. We know that children learn best when they are enjoying what they are being taught. Sudan Days is a perfect example at KAS of how we support the 'big idea' in education that learning happens best when it is enjoyable.

At Sudan Days, the children participated in and/or observed traditional customs, costumes, food, and demonstrations that highlighted many of the rich cultural aspects and heritage of Sudan. Their experience deepened their understanding and appreciation of the country in which they live. It reinforced their growing sense of internationalism, and their sense of being a member of a 'global society'. The learning experience they had was deeply meaningful, and it was fun!

I wish you a pleasant weekend with your family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Sudan Days at KAS



Dear Students, Parents and Community Members,

One of the unusual things that has happened in the KAS Library is that our wonderful KAS Librarian, Ms. Shireen, has had three Library Teaching Assistants (TAs) this year! Ms. Grace and Ms. Alaa began as Library TAs but have each moved on to other positions in our school. Finally just a couple of weeks ago we hired our hopefully permanent Library TA, Ms. Tsnat, who began working in the Library late last month. Ms. Tsnat is a great addition to our team. Please stop by and say hi to her!

We continue to add fantastic titles to our KAS E-Library! Ms. Shireen has already written in the E-news about the Nile Book Awards (NBAs) that we are participating in, which are now in full swing. The 8 titles of this year's NBAs (**Absolutely Almost, Beasts of Olympus: Beast Keeper, El Deafo, Operation Bunny, The Big Wish, The Princess in Black, The Year of Billy Miller, and Witchworld**) have all been added to our KAS Library in physical book format, and 7 of these 8 titles were available and have been added in e-book format.

In addition to these 7 new e-book titles, we have also added the following 9 award-winning e-book titles in children's and young adult literature: **Strawberry Girl** by Lois Lenski (1946 John Newbery Medal), **It's Like This, Cat** by Emily Neville (1964 John Newbery Medal), **The Hero and the Crown** by Robin McKinley (1985 John Newbery Medal), **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle** by Avi (1991 Newbery Honor Award), **Nothing But The Truth: a Documentary Novel** by Avi (1992 Newbery Honor Award), **A Corner of The Universe** by Ann M. Martin (2003 Newbery Honor Award), **Elijah of Buxton** by Christopher Paul Curtis (2008 Newbery Honor Award, the Coretta Scott King Author Award, etc.), **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg** by Rodman Philbrick (2010 Newbery Honor Award), and **When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead (2010 John Newbery Medal).

We have also added two outstanding graphic (comic-book style) history e-books for young adults: **Gettysburg: The Graphic History of America's Most Famous Battle and the Turning Point of The Civil War**, and **Grant vs. Lee: The Graphic History of the Civil War's Greatest Rivals During the Last Year of the War**, both of these written and illustrated by Wayne Vansant.

Finally, we have added three excellent adult history e-books: **American Heritage History of Young America: 1783-1860** by Francis Russell, **The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo** by Tom Reiss (Pulitzer Prize for Biography), and **History of the Twentieth Century** by Martin Gilbert.

We anticipate that soon all of our KAS e-books will be available to check out on your laptop or e-reader device like iPads. We'll let you know when this system is ready to go!

Phil Centers
ECC/ES Principal

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Soccer 2016

You need to be strong on defense and fast in attack.

The senior boys team coached by Messrs. David Lauchmen and Khalid Abdeltam is a classy example of the dictum that hard work beats talent. The boys have scored eight goals in their last two games and only three goals against them. They don't shy away from training. One can find them early mornings in the weight center and on Saturdays they put in extra sessions in their quest to be the best they can be.

Is it better to be hard working with modest talents or smart but lazy? The answer is cut and dried: hard work wins out.

Kind regards,

RESULTS

Round 1	KAS vs. UHS	Junior Boys	0 - 1
	KAS vs. UHS	Senior Girls	1 - 0
	KAS vs. UHS	Senior Boys	5 - 3
Round 2	KAS vs. NVS	Junior Boys	0 - 0
	KAS vs. NVS	Senior Girls	0 - 1
	KAS vs. NVS	Senior Boys	3 - 0

Hanro van der Merwe
Athletic Director



This Week's Riddle

What goes up when the rain comes down?

Answer: Umbrellas!

Math & Riddle Master

This Week's Winner



Abdulrahman Moustafa
Grade 2

Celebrating 400 Years of Shakespeare

Throughout my years as a Middle and High School teacher I have been faced with what has now become a perennial question, "Why do we teach Shakespeare, what's the use"? In response to the question, I wrote the following short article.

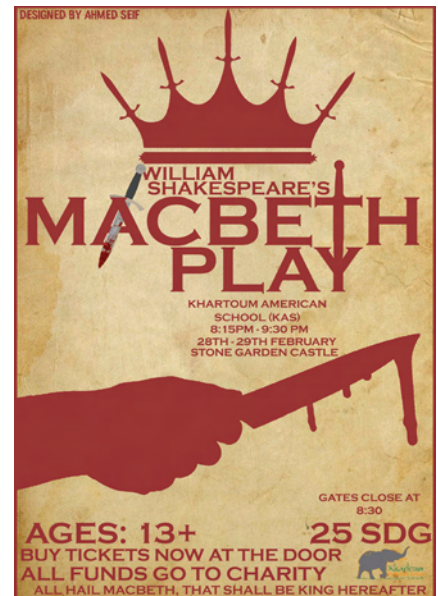
Shakespeare - Why Bother?

The work of William Shakespeare has a privileged place in our contemporary society and is particularly relevant, as this year marks 400 years since his death. Throughout history, the Bard's plays have been continuously adapted, updated, and performed in all corners of the world. Shakespeare's Scottish play, Macbeth, has been set in feudal Japan, Romeo and Juliet in modern day Iraq reflecting Sunni and Shia differences, and it could be argued that Julius Caesar lends itself quite appropriately to a boardroom management power conflict. Nevertheless, parents and students always ask a most pertinent question: "Why study Shakespeare?" "What's the big deal?"

The language of Shakespeare's plays offer a tremendously rich language study and his works deal with issues that are as pertinent and pervasive today as they were when he penned them. A Shakespeare play can take us through the whole gamut of the human condition: love, hate, anger, jealousy, lust, desire, ambition, deceit and treachery. One of his contemporaries, Ben Jonson, had the vision to say of Shakespeare: "He was not of an age, but for all time." Being familiar with a Shakespeare play or plays is still looked upon as a sign of being literate and well educated. And some educators believe that it is fitting that children encounter a Shakespeare play in some shape, form or fashion in grade 6 and study at least one more before they leave school. Unlocking Shakespeare's complicated language is a challenge that develops language skills and gives students confidence, as well as giving them a sense of pride and empowerment.

What is surprising is that many of the clichés we use in our everyday lives are none other than Shakespearian creations. Turns of phrase that trip off our tongues all of the time are from the Bard himself even though you may not know it. If you don't understand something and say, "It's all Greek to me" you are quoting Shakespeare. You may at some time have "refused to budge an inch" or had something "vanish into thin air". You may have called someone a "tower of strength" in times of trouble. I'm sure some teachers have used the phrase "I haven't slept a wink" at least once or twice over the past few weeks. All of this is testimony to the fact that Shakespeare is just as relevant today as he was all those years ago.

Shakespeare Drama Group



ANNOUNCEMENT

Valentine's Day Bake Sale
Sunday, February 14, 2016 at KAS
Please support the PTA and send donations
in the form of cakes, tarts...etc.

SAYING OF THE WEEK

To suggest a person is **No Great Shakes** is to imply they are not particularly effective, and not up to a given standard. The word 'shakes' in this context comes from the Old English word 'schakere', which means to boast or brag. This was a phrase used frequently in the 13th century and the phrase 'of no great schakere' meant a person had nothing to boast about. A second widely held belief is that the phrase comes from the game of dice, suggesting a poor player wasn't any good because his 'shakes' were not effective enough. ”

Minette van der Bijl

High School/Middle School English Department