



# n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016



**Congratulations! KAS Is Proud Of Our Students Performance At The "BATTLE OF THE BOOKS"**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Congratulations KAS grade 3-5 Elementary School students on your outstanding performance and success in the 'Battle of the Books' contest that was held at the KICS school this past Sunday. Congratulations to our librarian, Ms. Shireen Shiber and library staff, who organized the event. And, congratulations to the KAS staff who assisted in preparing the students for the event, and to the parents who attended the "Battle of the Books" to cheer the children on. The contest required reading several books. The students were then questioned (and judged) about what they read. This is a very proud moment for the children, Ms. Shiber, their teachers and our parents. 'Battle of the Books' students you have made the entire school and KAS community very proud!

In addition to our students' demonstration of excellent comprehension of what they read, they also demonstrated excellent behavior at the 'Battle of the Books' contest. They showed the important character traits of kindness, generosity, maturity, focus and discipline as they watched students from KCS and their classmates compete. They modeled excellence both in their behavior and in their seriousness of purpose about reading. And they looked so mature and dressed up...Mrs. Shiber and the KAS staff had all the children wear KAS shirts. We are pleased that the children had the opportunity to participate in an academic oriented event and contest such as the 'Battle of the Books'. This unique experience will be remembered by them for many years to come.

## Battle of the Books Team



**Congratulations PTA on the success of the 'unbake' sale. The sale of fruits and vegetables was enjoyed by all. What a wonderful idea. Thank you. The kids and the staff loved the unbake sale. The KAS PTA is great and caring!**

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rob Beck**  
Superintendent



### SAYING OF THE WEEK

If we are **Barking Up The Wrong Tree** we have misunderstood something and are now pursuing the wrong course of action. This is a phrase of north American origin and comes from the old practice of racoon-hunting dating back to the 1800s. Racoons are nocturnal animals and hunters would roam around the forests in darkness, using dogs to pick up a scent. Frightened racoons would scurry to safety in the branches of trees but hunting dogs would stand with their paws on the base of a trunk barking. A hunter would then climb the tree for the catch, but would sometimes find the racoon nowhere to be seen. When that happened it was said the dog had been 'barking up the wrong tree'.

**Minette van der Bijl**

High School/Middle School English Department



Dear Parents and Community Members,

You may recall the article in the KAS E-news earlier this year by our Librarian, Ms. Shireen, regarding the Nile Book Awards that our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have been participating in this year. Students interested in taking part in this fun reading competition were required to read one or more of four titles, at one of two reading levels: grade 3 level or grade 4 & 5 level.

The culmination of this competition took place Sunday afternoon on the campus of KICS, in what was called the "Battle of the Books." 31 of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students rode on the bus to KICS (accompanied by Ms. Shireen, and joined there by her supervision team of 3 teachers and 4 parents) on Sunday after school to compete against students from KICS in answering comprehension questions taken from the four books at their reading level.

I am proud to say that our 3rd Graders won their first round, and after losing their second round they came within three points of emerging victorious in their competition. I am also pleased to report that our 4th and 5th Graders won their first two rounds of competition so soundly that there was no need for a third, deciding round. Congratulations to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students who took part in the Nile Book Awards / Battle of the Books competition!

Academic competitions like spelling bees, the Nile Book Awards - Battle of the Books, and mock United Nations that our students participate in have a special quality to them that's similar to, but also quite different from, the quality of sports competitions our student experience. There is something special about sharpening one's mental skills to compete against other students academically. Often students come away from this experience with greater academic confidence and deeper interest in the learning process.

Our students came away from their competition on Sunday exhilarant about the results of their efforts and with heightened confidence in their abilities as readers and students. Thank you, Ms. Shireen, for facilitating and leading this highly successful experience for our students, and to all parents and teachers for encouraging the students to carry through to the end.

**Phil Centers**  
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

## ch-ch-ch-changes!

As we move into the homestretch before summer holiday, I have begun reflecting on the school year thus far. I've seen such amazing growth in our Pre-school Owl class. They started the year timid and dependent and now they are vivacious and independent classmates. They are a wonderful close-knit group of friends and I am so excited to watch them grow even closer next year, as Ms. Reem and I will have the privilege of being their teachers for Pre-Kindergarten. This class has grown socially, emotionally, academically, and most noticeably physically! They are giants compared to the first day of school, and their faces have changed revealing their incredible maturity and personalities. Below are some photos from throughout the year chronicling their massive changes!



**Sarah Boyer**  
Pre-School Teacher



## PTA UN-BAKE Sale at KAS



**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".**

**- Nelson Mandela**

Grade 6 Social Studies just finished learning about Nelson Mandela. Mandela became President of South Africa in 1994, after 50 years of racial segregation known as Apartheid. The class ended a thoughtful and educational unit with a visit by Mr. Hanro and Mrs. Andurette, who discussed how Mandela inspired them, and their experiences living under Apartheid.



Here are some things the students learned from our unit!

**Saba:** Conflicts are not made by people, they are created by leaders.

**Akash:** I learned Nelson Mandela was a really good person.

**Vanshika:** I learned that Nelson Mandela is a superb person who stopped Apartheid.

**Yula:** I learned that Nelson Mandela is a good person and can be trusted.

**Mohanad:** I learned that not everyone respected Nelson Mandela, but he respected them.

**Ghason:** I learned about mercy and forgiveness from Mandela, and without mercy and forgiveness you can't fix anything.

**Sara:** I learned that sports can really bring people together, as we saw in the film Invictus.

**Youssef:** I learned a lot from Mandela, specifically how to forgive and have mercy.

**Dina Shalash**

Middle & High School Social Studies

