



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 1, 2018



AUTHOR STEVE SKIDMORE VISITING KAS

Letter from the Middle and High School Principal

We were thrilled to have Mr. Steve Skidmore visiting us at Khartoum American School. Mr. Skidmore is a well-known author. He has written many books including *Warrior Princess*, *Action Dogs* and *Superhero*. He is an ex-teacher with many years teaching experience. Since leaving the classroom, he has undertaken hundreds of school and library visits across the world.

Steve visited elementary and middle school classes as well as the library. He spoke to our students and they absolutely loved him. He was very energetic and entertaining as well as educationally effective. The children learned that reading and writing is actually really fun.



He also delivered a very informative and interactive session to our parents on the topic of "How to Get your Students Reading" on Tuesday. Parents were amazed at Mr. Skidmore's sense of humor and his ability to bring reading to life.



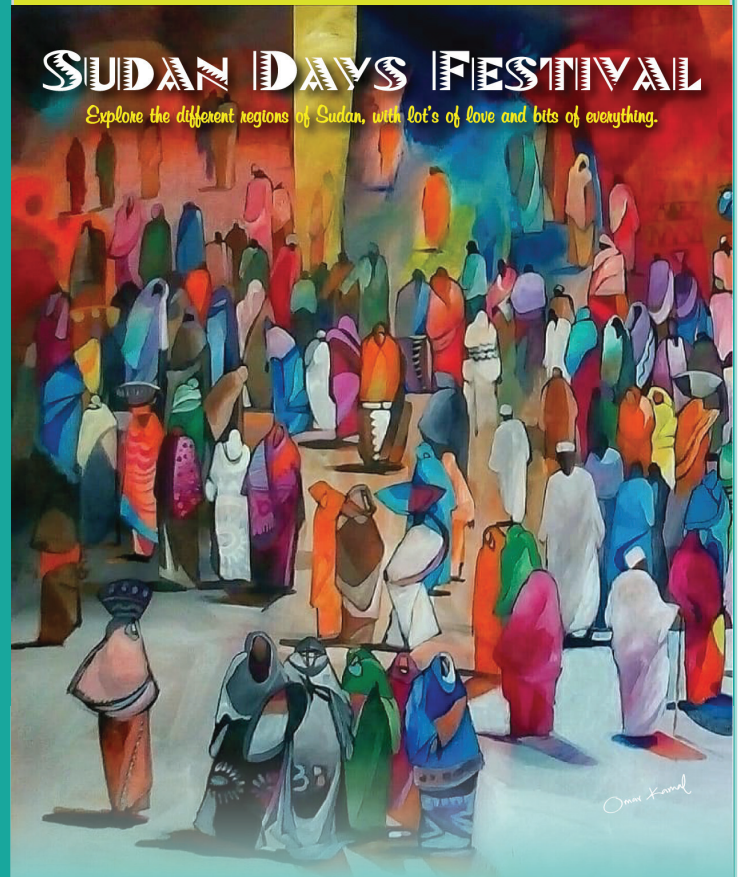
Mr. Skidmore's visit was an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Our teachers and librarian feel that this visit has inspired our students and has definitely increased the enthusiasm for reading and writing.

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

ANNOUNCEMENT

SUDAN DAYS FESTIVAL

Explore the different regions of Sudan, with lot's of love and bits of everything.



Friday, February 2

1:00pm-6:00pm
(Open to KAS & Outside Friends)

FREE ENTRY



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PARENTING

The moment I stepped into a class, I realized that I was undertaking a great responsibility! After I became a mother my responsibilities became greater.

Being responsible for how you shape a child's life isn't easy at all. This is a challenging job, and though we try our best, we all make mistakes!

I read a lot and attended workshops to learn how to better deal with my responsibility as a mother and a teacher. I wish to share just a few things I learnt about some of the mistakes we as parents make that negatively affect our children.

Our actions don't match our words:

"Actions speak louder than words" - Abraham Lincoln.

Children watch us all the time even if we are not watching them! Our actions should match our words so that our kids learn how to be sincere.

We focus on accomplishments more than on character:

"Good character is the foundation for long term success" - Dale Hudson

Of course there is nothing wrong with celebrating our kids' success and accomplishments. In fact we all enjoy these moments! However, we should show children that we value their character more.

Focusing on honesty, integrity and all the good values that build up a strong and trustworthy character will help our children to achieve their goals in life.

Lack of communication:

"To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today" -

Barbara Johnson

Every child needs an ear that listens, not judges and a loving heart. Children, who feel that they can talk to us about anything that bothers them without being afraid of our reaction, trust their parents. This trust will create a positive environment that will bring us closer to them.

Our kids are valuable and we all want to do our best for them. Parenting is challenging but at the same time it's the most rewarding job we'll ever take.

Let's enjoy this daily learning experience!

Sally Boktor
Substitute Teacher

THIMUN Qatar Model United Nations Conference

From January 24-26th, 12 Students from Grades 9-12 participated in the 7th annual THIMUN Qatar Model United Nations conference. Representing the United Arab Emirates, students engaged in intense and fruitful debates on a whole host of issues from gender equality to climate change. KAS students were active throughout the 3 day conference, with most of our delegates successfully able to pass resolutions to help solve the various issues in the committees. In addition to the conference, students also enjoyed some of Qatar's cultural attractions, including the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, and taking a desert safari. A special shout out to Omnia Alzein, who served as the student ambassador with distinction both at the flag ceremony and by keeping her fellow delegates organized on punctual.



Owen McMullen
MS/HS Social Studies Teacher

GRADE 1 WORD WORK

In Grade One we do a lot of word work! This includes learning sight words as well as different spelling patters. Sight words are high frequency words that cannot be decoded and therefore have to be memorized. Skill words follow a specific spelling pattern and so they can be decoded. We also use these words in context to make sure students learn their meaning in addition to the spelling. We do this through a variety of methods including conversations, writing, and the use of pictures.

In our class, we use many different approaches to learn spelling. We make spelling flash cards and write our spelling words on slates, paper, and other materials. We play Memory, Go Fish, Bingo, and board games. We also sort words based on certain features, make puzzles, and use applications on iPads and computers.

One method that helps children identify different spelling patterns is by differentiating parts of the word by color. Below are some examples. Note the differences depending on which part of the word is the focus.

- For Beginning consonants (*b, c, d, f, g*): **bed**, **cat**, **door**, **flower**, **ghost**
- For Word Families (*at, ad, an*): **cat**, **sat**, **mat**; **pad**, **mad**, **sad**; **man**, **fan**, **can**
- Digraphs (*c, h, ch*): **cat**, **car**, **candy**, **hand**, **hat**, **hose**, **chair**, **cheese**, **chain**

For fun at home, try spelling words by: using chalk on a sidewalk or other cement; finger painting on paper; painting in the bathtub or shower; or writing on a mirror or window with dry erase markers!



Kathleen Taylor
Grade 1 Teacher



ANNOUNCEMENT

KAS POOL

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THE KAS POOL WILL BE CLOSED DURING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AND WILL REOPEN ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Saying of the Week

At The Drop Of A Hat is used to imply something would be carried out immediately. The phrase is easily traced to the 19th century when sporting referees, who usually word hats, would raise one into the air, alerting competitors to be ready, and then drop it to signal the start of an event. The method was commonly used in boxing or horseracing and such events were considered started 'at the drop of a hat'. It is sometimes thought to be of American origin but the practice has long been used on both sides of the Atlantic.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department