

news

news from the trunk

Parent Teacher Association

Mrs. Haska
PTA President



Wednesday, September 8th 2010

A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

One of the highlights of my working week has been the opportunity to meet with parents at our regular morning coffee sessions on Thursdays directly after the morning assembly for Elementary and Early Childhood students. For anyone wishing to attend, these commence at 7:20 am and last for only thirty minutes, but it is really wonderful to chat with other parents and to discuss issues about the school and beyond in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The past two weeks we have extended our morning coffee so that we can accommodate our fledgling Parent Teacher Association. We have found a very hard working and dedicated group of parents who are now hoping to support the school in a variety of ways throughout the year. Already they have been busy planning events that will not only help the school but this organization will also give an opportunity for parents to meet each other and be more actively involved in school life.

Some of the ideas that have come forward from our first two meetings have been very creative and fit in well with our desire to continue to make Khartoum American School a real community school. It is our wish that more and more parents will come along to these meetings and together we can continue to look at ways of improving the link between our families and the school.

While I am anxiously looking forward to some of the events planned, a couple that I am quite excited about are our "Plant a Tree Day" where families will be encouraged to work together in making our campus an even greener place. I think this will be a particularly wonderful bonding experience for families, while also giving parents a chance to model to their children the need to look after our environment.

The other event that I am very pleased to see on the drawing board is the Social Dance which will give our more energetic parents a chance to "dance a night away" and once more enjoy each other's company. While no decision has been made as to the type of dancing that will take place, the guarantee is that it will be a great night for everyone.

As far as our first event the Parent Teacher Association will be hosting a Family Picnic at the school on Friday, the 17th of September, from 16:00pm – 19:00pm, details will be sent in a separate letter.

I cannot express enough my gratitude to this group for trying to build upon our school spirit, and I am sure that we will all do everything we can to support them in the coming weeks and months to make all of their endeavors successful.

Any parents still wishing to be involved in the Parent Teacher Association need only turn up at our next meeting which will be held on Thursday the 16th of September at 7:50am.

How Can Parents Help?

Discuss every school day with your child. Remember to use open-ended questions and questions that require more than a yes or no answer. One example would be: "What did you do in Math class today?"

Remember that you can help with schoolwork at home as a form of practice. Don't expect your child to do all the assignments perfectly. Reassure him that everyone makes mistakes and that mistakes help guide the next steps in the learning process.

Encourage your child to talk to you about what he finds hard or confusing. Listen to his ideas on what would make schoolwork easier.

Model and help your child learn good organization and time management skills.

If assignments seem endless, break them into smaller parts. For a young child, fold worksheets into two or three parts to reduce feelings of being overwhelmed. For older students, have them highlight sections of the assignment in different colors, green — first part, yellow — second part, red — last.

Visually communicate progress towards completion. Take a small strip of paper and divide it into four to eight parts. Periodically, come by with an encouraging word and draw a star or make a check in one of the sections. The chart and schoolwork should be completed at the same time. Then give him a reward, such as a "high 5" or a hug.



Let him choose a pleasurable activity he can do immediately following homework, e.g., playing a game with the family, listening to a favorite story or CD, talking to a friend on the phone. Make sure the activity is one he's chosen so it motivates him to finish the work.

Above all, try to keep negative emotions out of interactions around schoolwork. If you're feeling challenged by your child's frustrating behavior, try to find out the causes.

If you have any questions or would like additional guidance, the Learning Center is here to help. Please feel free to drop in or contact us.
bvoborsky@krtams.org

Find us on Moodle at <http://krtams.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=114>

Reminder!

PE classes will be in full effect for all Middle School and High School classes starting on Monday after the EID break.

Please be sure you have the following for every PE class so that you are prepared to participate fully in each lesson:

- Ø PE T-shirt.
- Ø Full Water Bottle.
- Ø Proper running shoes.
- Ø Proper shorts/pants – **No jeans.**
- Ø Optional, but nice to have: change of shirt after PE and a hat or sunglasses.

Adult Sports

In case you missed it this week: Adult Sports at Khartoum American School have started! Middle and High School students must be with a playing parent in order to participate in the sporting activities.

Same guidelines for adult sports as last year:

- Ø Non - Khartoum American School members are

required to register at the door each day and pay 5 sdg and show a photo ID to match the name on the list. This includes all adults, playing or not, and children 12 years of age and older.

Ø In order to register with the door an email must be submitted to Mrs. Audrey Paar - apaar@krtams.org.

Ø All children that are not playing **must** be supervised - especially on the playground areas.

Ø Playing areas should be kept trash free.

Ø Any Khartoum American School students wishing to participate in the activities need to contact Mrs. Paar first.

Weekly Sports at Khartoum American School for Adults

Door opens at 5:30pm, and games start around 6:00pm

Schedule	
Sunday	Volleyball
Monday	Basketball
Tuesday	Ultimate Frisbee
Wednesday	Soccer and Touch Rugby

Need Help Crunching Numbers?

Beginning next week we will be offering a mathematics help center. The center will be open on Sunday and Monday from 2:10pm-3:15pm, in Mr. Cronin's classroom. We will be looking to add another day later in the week if the demand is there. All are invited to attend, especially those who are having difficult in math class.

Does Khartoum American School need to be Re-branded?

All students, staff and parents please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/72VYFT6> and vote on which logo Khartoum American School should adopt. The deadline for voting is Thursday, September 9th. Thank you.



The Breakdown

Elementary Schedule	
Period 1	7:20 - 8:10
Period 2	8:12 - 9:02
Break	9:02 - 9:12
Period 3	9:19 - 10:09
Period 4	10:11 - 10:58
Period 5	11:00 - 11:46
Lunch	11:46 - 12:16
Period 6	12:18 - 1:08
Period 7	1:10 - 2:00

Middle School / High School Schedule	
Period 1	7:20 - 8:10
Period 2	8:12 - 9:02
Break	9:02 - 9:17
Period 3	9:19 - 10:09
Period 4 Block	10:11 - 11:26
Lunch	11:26 - 12:16
Period 5	12:18 - 1:08
Period 6	1:10 - 2:00

Please Remember No School Tomorrow and Sunday for the Eid el Fitr Holiday September 9th - 12th

2010/2011 Academic Calendar

New Teacher Orientation | August 1st - 4th

Teacher Workdays | August 5th - 9th

First Day of School | August 10th

Eid el Fitr Holiday September 9th - 12th

Fall Break (Eid al Adha) | November 12th - 20th

Winter Break (Western Christmas; New Years; Coptic Christmas) | December 19th 2010 - January 8th 2011

Spring Break | March 10th - 19th

Long Weekend (Coptic and Western Easter; Shem el Nessim) | April 21st - 25th

Last Day of School | May 25th

Graduation | May 26th

Teacher Work Days | May 27th - 29th

Save the Date

Thursday, September 16th 2010 | PTA Meeting

Friday, September 17th, 2010 | Family Picnic

Wanted

Substitute Teachers
Teaching Assistants

Please submit your curriculum vitae by email to kas@krtams.org. We will only accept applications by email.

Photos by M. Garcia, Ms. Nada | Artwork by M. Hamo
Design by Mr. Brodie

Please email kas@krtams.org to receive a digital copy of Enews and more information, subject: newsletter.

KAS Supports a Greener Khartoum