

News

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 7th 2011

Science Fair

Early Dismissal

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011 at 11 am



A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

The Science Fair yesterday evening was nothing short of fantastic! I am sure that everyone who came along will agree that the effort and enthusiasm of all participants was the true highlight of the event. From the feedback I received from parents in attendance many were in awe of the engagement of the students in their projects while others marveled at the scope of the different experiments on offer.

While kudos goes out to our students and their teachers, a special mention goes to Mr. Paar who really excelled in putting together a program that enthralled everyone. When you plan events such as this you are never sure whether something may go astray somewhere along the way, but the students made sure that they played their part to perfection, and once more did our school proud.

The key point that struck me was the philosophy behind the event. At KAS we often talk about our discovery based program and the Science Fair, more than any other event in the school, typifies this concept of inquiry based learning. In this method of learning, students are asked to challenge themselves with a problem of interest and then by appealing to their own sense of curiosity they are able to formulate their own strategies and plans for the development of their projects while learning through a process of discovery. For many of us brought up on heavy doses of rote learning where the teacher always knew best, and learning never really involved input from the learner, this modern style of teaching is truly a breath of fresh air.

The other interesting point that struck me was the willingness of our students to open up, and to display the confidence required to present their material to their parents, teachers and in some cases strangers. In particular our ESL students did an amazing job not only explaining their projects, but also tackling the difficult terminology that is part of Science.

It seems like every week there is always something amazing taking place at KAS, and without doubt this week has been no exception.

A Letter from the Principal Susan Boutros

Dear Parents and Friends,

It always gives me great pleasure to see the many successes of our students. This week, I have had the opportunity to see that in various ways and on multiple occasions.

During the Khartoum American School Open Day, yesterday, our senior students and the Community Service Learning class students welcomed our guests and gave them a tour of our beautiful campus.

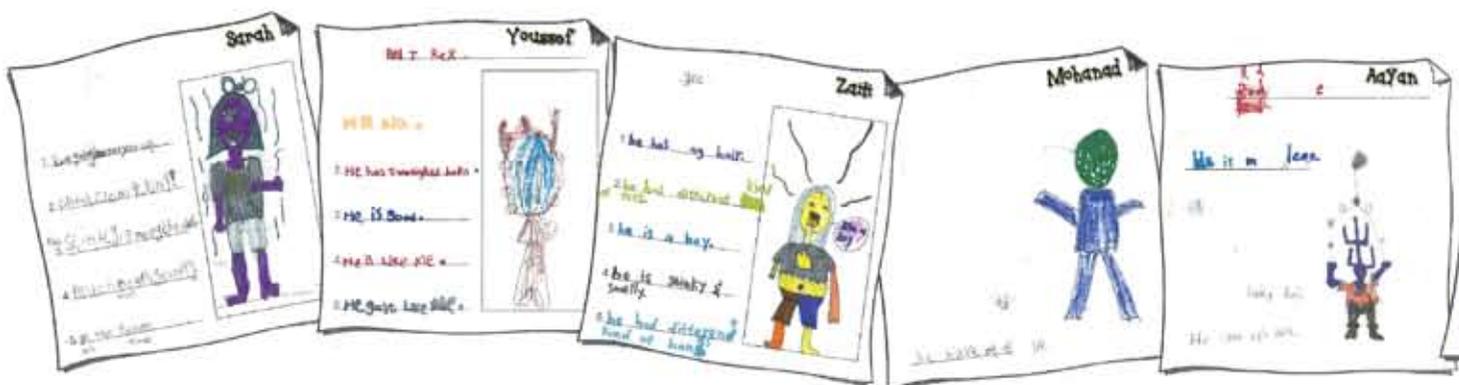
Our students did an amazing job and made us all very proud. I would like to congratulate all our students who took part in the Science Fair. It was a great success. The students chose topics that were very interesting and did an outstanding job in presenting their projects.

I would also like to congratulate our U19 Girls Volleyball team on winning the championship against KICS. Girls, we are so proud of you!

It is always a pleasure to see parents on campus. Please do join us for all the activities happening here at school. I hope that everyone has a great weekend!

Descriptive words (1st Grade)

In Grade 1, we have been exploring descriptive words. Descriptive words are "size, shape" (Adam), "colors" (Aayaan), "smell and look" (Ben). They are also "long and short, big and tall, how many" (Grade 1). Descriptive words tell about something. We practiced using descriptive words to tell about a troll after we read *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. We named our troll and then drew a picture to go along with our descriptions. We also wrote our own short stories using descriptive words. First, we brainstormed things to write about. We chose an animal or a topic and then started writing. We worked with Ms. Fredericks to revise our stories and then we re-wrote them. We illustrated pictures to go with our stories and shared them with the class. Be sure to check out our stories and illustrations on the bulletin board outside of the Grade 1 classroom.



April is the **GIFT OF GIVING** month

“Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do.”

Khalil Gibran, Lebanese poet, philosopher, 1883 - 1931

The Gift of Giving project is a bi-annual event where (twice yearly) students, families and faculty collect items of clothing and food staples to make baskets of thanks in appreciation of our KAS workers. The month of April has been designated as the month for collecting items for our spring baskets, an end of year expression of our appreciation. As April is the month for spring cleaning and the month when many of us begin to think of sorting through items as we ready for a move to a new posting or a return to our home countries, it seems the perfect month for our Gift of Giving collection. Please start sorting now....you won't regret the early start and your donations will benefit all! Your gifts will help us extend a sincere "Thank You!" to our workers – the guards, our maintenance crew, the cleaners and the gardeners – for all they do to keep our community clean, safe, healthy and beautiful! They truly are unsung heroes who work quietly to ensure we may work in and study in a lovely, inviting environment. Please help us express our sincere appreciation for all they do.

We are collecting:

- Clothing and shoes
- Staples: powdered milk, oil, cans of tomato paste, flour, sugar, dry pasta...

We hope you will give generously and give often, as we work to teach students that giving is as much a gift to self as it is a gift to others. If you have questions, please contact

a GoG committee member: Ann and Haska in the Library, Kris – Elementary Learning Support, Roma – HS Chemistry/MS Math, or Jan HS English.

Child and Adult Behavior: New Understandings

There will be repeated presentations on Monday and Tuesday, 18th and 19th April by Dave Zakem in the Preschool room. There will be information covering many areas including:

- Do good parents have good children?
- Do parents or schools have more influence?
- Simple ways to have successful children
- What do children learn from parents?
- Why teens often seem so negative
- Why are some children and parents always at odds?
- New ways to get desired behavior
- Different behaviors at home and school; Why?

This workshop is open to everyone for free. There will be no childcare available.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, April 14th, 2011 at 11am	Early Dismissal
Friday, April 15th, 2011	Earth Day Family Picnic
Monday and Tuesday, 18th and 19th April, 2011 at 07:30pm	Presentation by Dave Zakem at KAS
From Thursday, April 21th, 2011 to Monday, April 25th, 2011	Long Weekend, Coptic and Western Easter



Volleyball News

CONGRATULATIONS!

KAS Girls U19 Volleyball Team
BACK to back CHAMPIONS, SY 09/10 and SY 10/11



Way to go, girls!
(Martha, Thaby, Waad, Iman, Hayam, Sarah, Lamease, Rida and Almaha)
Thank you, Coach Marlo and Coach Hani!

The Comeback: Boy's U19 Volleyball

If you were not at KAS for the Boy's U19 Volleyball match on Tuesday, March 29th, you missed one of the greatest comebacks in volleyball history. KAS took to the court with their six players (we do not need subs) against arch rival Unity. KAS was coming off a 2-1 victory over Unity, but knew they would need something special in order to keep our house tidy. Unity had a definite height advantage that would require KAS to do a little more work on the net.

The first game came as a wake-up call to KAS with Unity dominating both the front and back courts and a 15-25 loss. The second game was no different, KAS remained slow and sluggish in their execution and they just got out hustled. Mid-way through the second game everything looked all but over with Unity leading 18-12, but then something magical happened. No, the moon didn't eclipse the sun, but KAS got fired up and refused to lose. Team captain Moumin gave a pep talk, Ahmed amended the strategy, Yousif got angry, Badr started to place his serves on selected blades of grass, Basil never missed, and Tony orchestrated the back court comeback. KAS went on a run and never looked back. They won the second game 25-23 and with Moumin's ace on the last serve of the day, won the third game 15-12. KAS will now move on to the championship game next week at KICS. You won't want to miss this one!

How television affects reading

From the Library:

How Can You Ensure Television Won't Have a Negative Influence on Your Child?

1. Regulate the types of programs your child watches.
2. Reduce the amount of time your child watches TV everyday.

3. Promote non-TV activities, especially reading.
4. Make reading a daily family activity in your home.
5. Limit your child to an hour of television a day.
6. Reduce playing video games.
7. Watch programs with your child.
8. Praise your child when he or she chooses other activities, especially reading during non-TV time.

Congratulations 2011 Science Fair Participants!!!

This year's Science Fair was full of interesting topics and insightful presentations. All of the participants had a great time and valued the opportunity to discuss their experiments with everyone who attended the Fair.

Thank you to all of the judges and attendees.

Of course, everyone who participated is a winner, but this year's 'Fan Favorites' will be announced in the next issue of The Trunk.

Come one, come all!
Join us celebrate
Earth Day!

Earth Day Family Picnic

Friday, April 15th, 2011

03:00pm - 07:00pm

What to bring:

- blankets, towels and extra clothes (water sprinklers will be turned on!).
- Your play equipments (balls, kites, etc).
- Food: BBQ grills will be available for cooking your meats.
- Cooking and eating utensils.
- Kiosk will be open to sell drinks.

