

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, May 5th, 2011

Safety

Safety

**Return all Library Books by
Thursday, May 12th, 2011**



A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

At Khartoum American School we spend a great deal of our time and energy looking at ways of improving our academic programs and the teachers in particular are at the forefront of designing our curriculum in such a way that we cater to our total school population while also maintaining our high standards of achievement. One important facet of school life that takes precedence at the school, even over our academic programs, is that of health and safety.

As you are aware we regularly update parents if we have reason to believe there is outbreak of contagious diseases in Khartoum and at the same time we have worked hard this year refining practices and procedures throughout the school that guarantee the well being of our entire school population. This included the review of our fire drill, emergency drills and other specific procedures that we follow specific to different sections of the school and the playground.

At present we have began to focus more on safety to and from school, and on this point we are enlisting parental support in terms of ensuring that our students travel safely. Recently we have noted several children arriving at school not wearing their seat belts and we have begun a campaign to educate our children as to the dangers of traveling in such a way. We encourage parents to help us by ensuring that their children buckle up or that drivers are insistent that seat belts be worn at all times.

Accidents are a sad part of life and I have seen firsthand the terrible consequence that a tragedy involving students can impact a school. I implore everyone in our school community to take a proactive approach to safety issues. Our buckle up campaign will be a step in this direction.

Enjoy the weekend.

A Letter from the Elementary Principal, Ben Voborsky

Khartoum American School playgrounds and fields are an obvious necessity in a student's life. Our playgrounds play an important part in the development of a student's physical body, as well as a place where social and emotional development takes place. At KAS, we know how important our elementary playground is and we are improving it! The things that help students climb and gain their balance better will be wrapped up for the rest of the school year in the name of improvement. Construction began after the spring vacation and the entire space has been corded off with the exception of the sandbox and the small basketball court. The new elementary playground will reopen with the 2011-2012 school year and the area will be covered in grass to soften any falls. Every student has to fall to learn how to pick themselves up and this improvement will help them not fall as hard or hurt as much.

While we are waiting for the grass to grow and to celebrate the end of the school year, the elementary students in grades 1-5 will be going to the Greek Club next week for fun filled days of swimming. Permission slips have already been sent home and I am sure as parents you thought, "I wish I could go". Well the good news is that we really want to get you involved in all of our activities! If you would like to volunteer or help out around school please contact me, Mr. Ben, for details. Bvoborsky@krtams.org

All Books are Due Back in the Library No Later than May 12th

Please return all Library books on or before **12 May 2011**. We are finalizing inventory for the year and need the remaining days of the school year to account for all volumes and have the Library set to go for the coming school year.

Reminder!

Lost Library books are billed to the borrower at SDG 150.

Arabic Field Trip

To enhance their knowledge of topics that have been studied in Arabic class, Arabic class students in grades 7/ 8 organized a field trip on Monday, May 2nd, 2011 to AL-Mahdi's cemetery - where Al-Mahdi and many of his family members were buried. The cemetery is close to the Al-Khalifa Museum.

Students also crossed the other side of the Blue Nile to visit Tuti Island. The trip was very fruitful for all of our students; they reviewed part of Sudan's history and nature in a realistic context.



KAS Model United Nations (MUN)

KAS hosted its third annual Model United Nations (MUN) conference this past weekend. Chaired by Sammy Hassan, Almaha Al-Hammadi, and Hayam ElSanousi, the twenty student participants focused on two very timely issues: fighting the spread of terrorism and censorship of the internet, especially social media sites.

Friday was devoted to discussing the issue of terrorism and possible ways to prevent its growth and spread. After delivering opening speeches, small groups of students combined to draft three potential resolutions, which were then submitted by Bethel Tafere, Andrew Kim, and Majid Fageeh. Students spent the afternoon debating the details, logistics, and effectiveness of each resolution. On Saturday, the students debated Internet censorship and the role of social media sites in the recent uprisings around the world. Hasan Babiker, Mengfei Wang, and Moi El-Bashir were the main submitters for the three censorship resolutions, and all the students got very involved in trying to determine the best possible actions to take on each issue.

Throughout the conference, students had the opportunity to learn, utilize, and strengthen several important skills, including public speaking, debating, research, writing, and the art of diplomacy. All of the students did fantastic work, and the conference was a huge success.

The digital copy of the newsletter includes copies of the two resolutions that were successfully passed, one on terrorism and one on censorship, and several opening speeches delivered by the student delegates. Please take a look to see all the hard work and effort of the students!

Progressive Story Project (Grade 4)

Recently, Grade 4 participated in a shared writing experience called the Progressive Story Project. Students from seven different countries participated and were paired up according to grade level. Using the shared writing strategy, (a strategy in which the teacher and students compose text together, with both contributing their thoughts and ideas to the process, while the teacher acts as scribe, writing the text as it is composed) each class wrote one part of the story and provided illustrations for their text. In the next week, we will be recording our voices reading our selection that we wrote using Voicethread. It has been a great experience for the students so far, as we eagerly awaited each new entry as they came in. Please check out our story and others on <http://writeyourstory.wikispaces.com/>. We are Story 21 "WHIZ... SPLAT" Part 4.



Dates to Remember

Last day for parents to check out books from the library.

Thursday, May 5th

All library books must be returned (150 SDG fee for missing books)

Thursday, May 12th



Child and Adult Behavior: New Understandings Repeated

There will be repeated presentations on two Tuesdays, May 10 and 17 by Dave Zakem in his Preschool room. This is a repeat of the April presentation which was very well received. 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?

No charge, no childcare available, everyone welcome, family and friends.

A Message from the Learning Center

Start planning backwards! Many students are required to complete final projects as their end of year assessments. Projects are a great way to showcase creative learning, but they require lots of planning. It can be difficult to sit down and start a project from scratch; you must choose your topic, arrange for your resources, and typically practice a presentation. This can be overwhelming, especially if you are counting down the days until summer!

Why not plan backwards? Imagine what you want your final product to be. How will you design it? Will you use Powerpoint, poster board, or video? What colors and graphics will be best? Start with what interests you most, and then work back to decide what you supplies you need. Once you have an idea for the final product, you will be able to decide how much time is needed to create it. This will lead you to make a schedule for yourself. Before you know it, you will have an outline and will be ready to start!

Stop by the Learning Center if you need space to work after school!



Teachers Wanted

- **High School ESL**
- **Special Needs Teacher**
- **Part-time Biology Teacher**
(at Advanced Placement Level)
- **Teaching Assistants**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DELEGATION: The Republic of Singapore

QUESTION OF: Censorship of the Internet, Especially Social Media Sites

Esteemed Chairs and Honorable Delegates,

The Republic of Singapore realizes the importance of Internet censorship, and we fully support the restraint of improper websites. Under the regulation of the Media Development Authority (MDA), the citizens have much freedom of speech and opinion. Compared to China's severe restrictions on the Internet, we believe in a more open and honest style.

Singapore understands the necessity of the Internet censorship and encourages the restraint of critical opinion online. However, we hope that the UN can spread the freedom of the internet and let people from all places see this colorful world from different perspectives. The government of Singapore trusts its citizens, so we only concentrate our Internet censoring on moral and religious websites, especially pornography. We believe that we can create a civil and peaceful living environment with the UN and our citizens.

Thank you

FORUM: General Assembly

QUESTION OF: Censorship of the internet, especially social media sites.

MAIN-SUBMITTED BY: Peoples Republic of China

CO-SUBMITTERS: Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Tunisia and Libya

Recognizing that many countries in the world already support some sort of Internet censorship policies.

Recalling the recent large-scale protests that have happened in the Arab world, those have grown as a result of Internet freedom.

Noting with appreciation the work of the Human Rights Council in establishing two resolutions that limit the freedom of speech,

Appreciating the consideration of establishing an inter-governmental group to create policies globally in order to regulate the Internet,

Distressed by the idea of freedom of speech, which will endanger society and also weaken the government status,

Understanding the belief of national sovereignty and that countries do not have the right to intervene into other countries,

Acknowledging that it is the government's job to protect its citizens from inappropriate web content,

Convinced that certain types of speech are not given protection as they are deemed to be of inadequate value compared to the harm they cause,

Emphasizing that truly offensive material such as hardcore pornography and intense racial hatred are no different simply because they are published on the World Wide Web as opposed to a book or video,

1. Encourages countries to censor or reinforce the censorship of Internet, which restricts access by methods such as word filtering programs, to specific websites such as but not limited to:
 - a. Large discrimination or negative responses against religion, race, gender, governments and ideals,
 - b. Revealing pornography, extreme violent content, confidential reports, and gambling sites;
2. Urges companies, organizations, and countries with a reduced amount of Internet censorship to respect laws and regulations of other countries especially when it involves the policy of censorship within that country;
3. Asks all countries to find ways to expand or continue expanding their Internet accessibility within all areas of the country by following the rules of censorship;

4. Pleads with member states to establish the International Internet Surveillance Organization (IISO) to prevent the spread of any site through other countries that discriminates on the basis of gender, race, and ideals, reveals pornography, criticizes the government, or shares any information agreed upon by the IISO that will endanger the lives of the people;

5. Recommends that member states establish the Anti-Internet and Personal Information Corruption Committee (APICC) with the acceptance of the countries to locate and hand them over to the government individuals such as:

- a. Who upload blogs, articles, or videos that discriminate on the basis of race, gender or religion, criticize government, and share pornography,
- b. Shows or shares any information that will endanger the society such as confidential plans for the government, procedures to make weapons, procedures that could possibly violate laws, procedures to hold on to something illegal, and hold onto confidential information of the government and other citizens;
- c. Who commit computer crimes such as, identity theft, harassment, spamming, cyber terrorism, and cyber warfare,

6. Suggests governments to try and monitor or shut down all social media sites in order to prevent discrimination, harassment, and opening activities such as revolts against the government or programs that will be harmful to the society and that would benefit rebel or terrorist groups in the country, through:

- a. requiring citizens to provide identification before posting content on the internet,
- b. suing or prosecuting individuals who post unsuitable content,
- c. using phishing softwares with government cooperation to block and searches for unsuitable content on the world wide web

Honorable chair, fellow delegates.

Internet censorship is the control or suppression of the publishing of accessing of information on the Internet .To the Republic of Cuba Internet censorship is of utmost importance. The Internet plays a vital role in people's everyday lives and thus making them aware of what is happening in the world around them. Cuba is the second most internet censored country in the world. Only about 3 % of Cuba population is on the internet or has access. The situation regarding what to censor on the internet in Cuba is of particular concern with the government of Cuba only really focusing on the prevention and stoppage of counter-revolutionary material entering the country. Not only are we concerned about that but to keep children safe from violence and porn , women fall into play with this as well as they are protected from sexual exploitation. Cuba realizes that it is hard enough to censor the internet but it does not mean that we should not seek to do so, it is extremely difficult already to provide internet in the country as paying for satellite usage is expensive and with the trade embargo that the United States has placed on us it does not make it any easier, Ladies and gentlemen we are here today to seek solutions and opinions that will not compromise the country's self-worth and beliefs.

Thank you.

Opening Speech- General Assembly
Iman El-Mahdi
Delegation: The Islamic Republic of Iran

Honorable Chairs and distinguished delegates:

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that terrorism is a huge threat to peace and security in the world. Iran strongly considers the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons the main reason affecting the spread of terrorism. However, Iran stresses its position that injustice in the world is the root cause for terrorism. For example, some states are prevented from owning nuclear technology, while others are allowed to own the same technology and even use it to produce weapon of mass destruction.

Therefore, it strongly urges all UN Member States to increase international and regional cooperation, on the basis of a common and shared responsibility, in order to combat and prevent the spread of terrorism and to increase stability and peace throughout our international community.

Iran continues its significant efforts to prevent terrorism within its borders and in the world in general. It has supported many UN resolutions, especially resolution 2004, which asked all UN member states to create laws that avoid non-state actors, which are actors on the international level that are not states, to be involved with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons or even the material that construct them. Nevertheless, it beseeches the UN to put more effort into ending the

spread of terrorism by helping countries to create law-based criminal justice systems, which will fight terrorism. Iran recognizes that the only solution for this matter is spreading justice and forming strict laws that apply to all people and countries equally.

Thank You,

Mr. President.

Opening Speech KASMUN- General Assembly
The Federal Republic of Brazil- Bethel Tafere
Question of: Censorship of the Internet, Especially Social Media Sites

Honorable Chairs, Fellow delegates,

The issue being debated today is not only of critical importance to the international community as a whole, but also a current issue that affects each nation individually and therefore must be addressed and dealt with.

Although censorship of the Internet has become more of an issue for debate over the last few years, it is imperative that all countries remain autonomous with regard to the type of content they wish to make available to the people.

The Federal Republic of Brazil believes that freedom of expression and thought are rights to which all human beings are entitled. However, when this freedom is taken advantage of and used to commit acts of hatred, it is necessary to preserve the stability of the nation and protect the dignity of its people by prohibiting the actions of those who continue to commit those acts of hostility.

As defamation of religion and racism are becoming more common, especially on the internet, Brazil sees it as the duty of each country to work to protect its people from such corrupt moral principles. The only way to minimize the negative effects of Internet use is to censor content that the government deems inappropriate or offensive.

As there are many differing opinions on this subject, Brazil anticipates a broad debate and lasting solutions to this issue.

Thank you.

Leticia Dornelas- The Republic of Iraq
KASMUN III- General Assembly (GA)
Question of: Spread of Terrorism

Honorable Chairs, fellow delegates,

The republic of Iraq congratulates the UN on its commendable efforts on behalf of those who are afflicted by terrorist activities. Despite accusations and unfounded claims made by the United States government against Iraq, Iraq is willing to cooperate with the UN in combating the spread of terrorism, and endeavors to improve economic stability and restructure its government. Having already taken several steps to counter this issue, including the creation of the Iraq Special Operations Forces (ISOF), which has aggressively hunted down terrorist extremists all over the country, the Republic of Iraq would like to keep advancing its tactics to help fight terrorism and would encourage all nations to do so.

The Republic of Iraq strongly encourages nations to try to come into agreement for the definition of terrorism, because only after there is an internationally accepted definition will it be possible to effectively counter the spread the terrorism. If international cooperation on fighting the spread of terrorism is improved, ending funds for terrorist groups through means such as decreasing the drug trade and human trafficking, terrorism will reduce considerably. Iraq hopes to have this issue debated and creating long-lasting solutions for this topic.

Thank you.

Opening Speech-KICSMUN-General Assembly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia- Sarah S. Omer

Honorable chair, fellow delegates,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a responsibility to its citizens and the Muslim community of the world to keep Internet use “pure”. Despite the principle of freedom of speech in democratic countries, it is widely accepted that certain types of speech are not given protection as they are considered to be of inadequate value compared to the damage they cause. For instance, child pornography in the print or broadcast media is never tolerated. The Internet should be no exception.

It is the Saudi Arabian government’s job to block access to unsuitable content for the country’s citizens. Saudi Arabia involves a unique approach towards Internet censorship. It blocks a great amount of web content, from pornographic web sites to calls for the overthrow of the government, but has fewer than 25 people involved in the blocking process. Saudi Arabia’s Communications and Information Technology Commission uses software to block violations such as web sites for porn and gambling. Citizens who send about 1,200 requests a day to have sites blocked recommend everything else. Students and religious activists tend to be the ones most involved in flagging offensive sites.

Just because it is hard to censor the Internet does not mean we should not seek to do so. Work done by governments such as China’s have shown that it is possible to exercise significant control over the Internet and its users. There is a bigger picture here than just keeping citizens’ Internet time “clean”. By censoring the Internet we are tackling terrorist activity, crime, racial hatred and protecting children from exploitation. These are all international problems and require international cooperation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to encourage other members to perhaps take a more serious approach towards keeping their citizens off harmful web sites. Saudi Arabia would like to see the UN make Internet censorship a priority by promoting the ban of inappropriate websites.

Thank you.

FORUM: General Assembly
QUESTION OF: Fighting the Spread of Terrorism
SUBMITTED BY: Russian Federation
CO-SUBMITTERS: Malaysia, U.S.A., U.K., India, Colombia

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Acknowledging that terrorism is a great threat to international peace and stability,

Taking into consideration the innocent lives that are taken by terrorist acts all over the world,

Reaffirming that any act of international terrorism represents a threat to international peace and security,

Deeply concerned about the increasing number of terrorism acts motivated by extremism in numerous regions of the world,

Renewing its commitment to strengthening international collaboration to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms,

Deeply disturbed by the persistence of terrorist acts that have been carried out worldwide,

Desiring the full and further implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all nations,

Recalling the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly,

1. Calls upon States that have not done so to consider becoming parties in a timely manner to the existing International Conventions and Protocols against terrorism, and make efforts to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism;
2. Requests countries to raise awareness of terrorism throughout the countries by, but not limited to:
 - a. Using mass media to notify citizens of the meaning of terrorism and the dangers of being involved in or helping terrorists,
 - b. Warning citizens of the consequences and giving them a chance to confess with a minor punishment,
 - c. Educating illiterate people who do not have access to any type of media;
3. Urges LEDCs that have terrorist groups to allow counter-terrorist organizations, such as NATO and INTERPOL, and MEDC countries to aid them in order to:
 - a. Locate terrorist hideouts and capture terrorists with the voluntary assistance of soldiers, intelligence specialists, medics, mechanics, and supplies from the governments,
 - b. Train soldiers, police officers, and security related personnel to cope with

- different kinds of terrorist attacks and to disrupt any suspected terrorist activities
- c. Equip and educate soldiers with weapons and other materials that can be used against terrorists,
 - d. Educate soldiers, police officers and security personnel on how to recognize and identify individuals who could be a threat to national peace and security, or suspected to be involved in the planning of terrorist acts;
 - e. Discuss with government officials possible ways of capturing terrorists;
4. Requests governments to implement projects and programs that can be used to capture or hinder terrorist activities with the help of organizations such as NATO and INTERPOL, and countries by, but not limited to:
- a. Increasing surveillance in airports, government grounds, land borders, main squares, harbors, schools, rural areas, and popular areas in order to eliminate any terrorist trade or activities that helps terrorist groups to locate:
 - i. Explosives, sensitive materials, illicit drugs, and other firearms or weapons that may benefit terrorist groups,
 - ii. Person or persons that may suspicious of being involved of terrorist group or terrorist attacks, such as suspicious financial transactions, weapons trafficking, money laundering, falsified travel and identity documents, and seizures of nuclear, chemical and biological materials,
 - b. Spreading fliers and broadcasting through the media that will encourage citizens to inform officials of any information that relates with terrorist activities or terrorist groups, which would help locate terrorists' hideouts or prevent terrorist activities by, but not limited to:
 - i. Rewarding them with sums of money,
 - ii. Providing safety and security for the civilians in danger to terrorist harm by offering them a living in foreign countries,
 - iii. Granting requests that would benefit or are important to the person, which are also reasonable and that are not difficult,
 - c. Implement programs and drills to prepare civilians for terrorist activities that will possibly occur in the near future;
5. Asks for all the eliminations of weapon supplies, materials that can be formed into weapons, and unsafe drugs to ban or to allow only certain people or organizations to purchase these with the government approval and to continually inspect them, and increase penalties of having no license for the weaponry;
6. Suggests countries to inspect and supervise weapon industries, record all shipments that are exported and imported from industries, and to verify backgrounds of employees and shipments, through but not limited to:
- a. police search of shipments,
 - b. police supervision of production,
 - c. officials in charge of monthly searches of employees and their activities,
 - d. keeping track of all the company's products and to where they are shipped, to insure that their products are not being given to terrorists or individuals suspected of terrorism;

7. Ask all Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts in banks, in such ways including but not limited to:
 - a. Freeze without delay funds and other financial assets or economic resources of persons who commit terrorist acts or participate in organize the terrorist acts;
 - b. Freeze funds and other financial assets or economic resources of their nationals or any persons and entities who support terrorist acts or facilitate the commission of the terrorist acts directly or indirectly;
 - c. Punish all criminal activities that are likely a financial resource of terrorism, including drug trafficking, money laundering, weapons trafficking and other forms of crime;

8. Calls for countries to establish systems in order to prevent aid to terrorism by, but not limited to:
 - a. Implementing rules for hotels, motels, inn, land owners to verify each person or person's identifications who may reside inside their complex or lands,
 - b. Implementing rules for hospitals and places of medication to immediately inform any irregular incidents that may relate to terrorism such as shooting or stabbing to the police,
 - c. Inspecting appropriate stores, company, and industries that may be useful to terrorists and report any suspicious sellers or buyers;

9. Further encourages the United Nations and its Member States to maintain terrorism-related investigations with assistance from the Fusion Task Force (FTF), created in September 2002 by INTERPOL, in regard to:
 - a. Identifying active terrorist groups and their membership,
 - b. Soliciting, collecting, and sharing intelligence with other nations,
 - c. Enhancing the capacity to address the threats of terrorism and organized crime;

10. Endorses the deeper involvement of Non-Governmental organizations in global attempts to combat terrorism to gather more balanced perspectives, especially when it comes to terrorists' information gathering and policy making within Member States, in ways such but not limited to:
 - a. Calls for a more extensive representation of the NGO sector in mediums such as conventions organized by the NGO Committee of the United Nations' ECOSOC by setting annual meetings for NGOs around to exchange the possible ways to tackle terrorism,
 - b. Encouraging more extensive exchange and communication between NGOs and the UN;

11. Requests the establishment of an international fund to compensate victims of terrorist acts and their families, which could be financed through voluntary contributions or assets seized from terrorist organizations;

12. Resolves to remain actively seized on this matter.