

LEADS news

news from the trunk
Thursday, January 10, 2013



Welcome Back!

High School Exams

From Monday, January 21, 2013 to Wednesday, January 23, 2013



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

The winter holiday was truly a welcome break, but it is always fun to see the students back in school and to watch the excitement of them catching up with their friends once again. Regardless of the fact that our school is so small, there is always a lot going on and the past two days have been hectic to say the least.

I would like to give a special welcome to our new students. It is a real pleasure to see the outstanding growth in our school and it is gratifying to see so many families choosing Khartoum American School as their school of choice. The past few years have seen a lot of exceptionally hard work from our teachers, administrators and the School Board, and the fact that so many families are interested in coming to our school is testament to this.

As you are all aware the school has moved ahead markedly in the past few years in terms of our upgraded facilities and our increased focus on using technology in the classroom, among many other areas. Despite these changes we have always maintained our friendly, warm, community focus for which we have always been renowned.

While our recent growth is positive we are also looking to grow and expand more so please remember to promote the school whenever you have a chance to friends and colleagues and hopefully our fantastic little school will one day soon reach its capacity. Hard copies of our "Welcome Guide" for new parents are in our office so please feel free to pass by and take copies to pass on to families who may be interested in joining the school, or refer them to our school website for even more information.

This second part of the school year promises a lot of wonderful times for all and I look forward to sharing these with you.

As always, have a wonderful weekend.



Letter from the Elementary School Principal, Ben Voborsky

Welcome back to KAS! I expect everyone enjoyed the winter break and had an opportunity to do everything they wanted. I hope it was especially relaxing for all of our KAS teachers, faculty, and staff who put in the additional time and effort, far beyond their contractual obligations, to make KAS the best place for our students.

As the first semester comes to a close, we will be celebrating our students' success with the narrative report cards, and we are looking forward to an exciting second half of the school year. ASAP Session 3 will be fun and enriching again! Sign-up forms have already gone home with our elementary students. Detailed information will be available on the KAS website and on the ASAP activities board, but first, please return your sign-up forms to the office! We are looking forward to another session of 100% elementary participation.

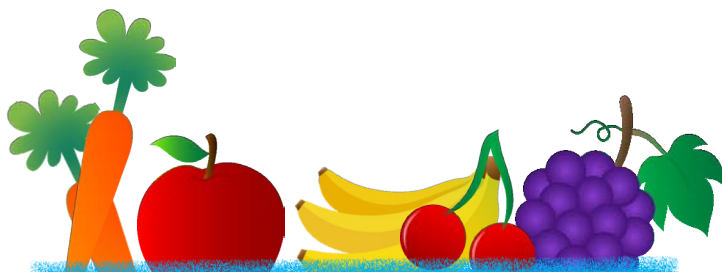
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the numerous new students and their families who are joining our amazing community. There is a reason that we all have chosen KAS! KAS is a truly international school and is recognized as a great place for children. The Middle States Association of School and Colleges (MSA) and the Council of International Schools (CIS) validated this through our accreditation. Membership in MSA and CIS ensures an academically strong program, promotion of internationalism, and a commitment to continuous improvement through reflective practices. KAS continues to build on our reputation of quality teaching and learning for all and the expectation of continuous improvement.

2013 will kick off with various committees being formed to begin the preparation for our Five-Year MSA/CIS Accreditation visit in December. The Five-Year Report on Progress and Planning will be compiled by these committees to document how far KAS has come and the incredible amount that KAS has achieved in the past five years. The plan will be the KAS road map for the future. This document will ensure continuous improvement and the continuity of our mission, vision, and guiding beliefs.

Khartoum American School provides an outstanding learning environment, which is open, inclusive, and student-centered, fostering educational growth and development for a diverse international group of learners.

MSA and CIS will once again validate the quality programming that makes KAS a special place for learning. I wish all KAS community members a successful and vibrant 2013.

Happy New Year and what a year it is going to be!



Healthy Grade 2

Grade 2 Discovery has focused on Healthy Habits and Decision Making. Students explored different parts of the body, organs, what our bodies need to stay healthy and what we can do to help our bodies stay healthy. We looked at different food groups, recorded what we ate and what food group it came from as well as how much sleep we got each night, brushing our teeth and exercising. "Healthy Grade 2" is our final project, an electronic book which is being added to our classroom iPads. Each student has a chapter where they outline some of the things that they made connections to in this unit.



Turtle Class News



The new year sees some changes in Turtle Class. Just before the Christmas break we said goodbye to two of our friends, whose parents are relocating to a new post.

We wanted both

Maria and Cedric to remember us and the great time spent in our school, so all the children worked together to make two wonderful cards on which we also wrote their words. Both families brought in a sweet treat that we greatly enjoyed. All the best to you, Maria and Cedric, in your new schools and countries!



People come, people go... in Turtle class we are welcoming a new friend. His name is Adli and he already has an older brother at KAS. In two days' time he has already settled in and is starting to make friends. He likes our class so much that when his Mum comes to pick him up, he doesn't want to go home!



Digital Learners and Healthy Use of the Laptop

A question that comes up time and time again from parents is, how can they ensure that their students are using their laptops in a healthy and appropriate way? Here are some tips which may help.

Today, digital devices have become an integral part of one's learning environment, both within the classroom and beyond. At KAS we are trying to equip our students with 21st century skills that are an essential pre-requisite for their future success in education and the workforce. From our experience so far it is clear to see that through technology our students are more engaged in the learning process and they are learning to interact with each other in a much better way. They usually try to share their knowledge through explorations and they feel good when they learn something new about the technology that they are using and they come to class eager to share their new discoveries. We had a very productive Teachers' Professional Day last December. We had the chance to share our experiences and learn new tools that will benefit our students and foster the use of the technology. In the Elementary and Middle school section we are focusing more on teaching digital citizenship and Internet safety. We want to ensure that we have a healthy digital environment that will foster technology learning and empower students' exploration to enhance their learning achievements. For our parents, we would like to have your support in this program by continuing monitoring and ensuring that your students are learning at home in a safe environment. We want to share some tips and rules that could help you to monitor and support your child's digital learning in an appropriate and positive way. All these tips can be found on:

<http://www.common sense media.org/advice-for-parents>

- **Model good behavior.** If we're on our Blackberries or iPhones at dinner, why will our kids listen to us when we tell them to turn theirs off?
- **Pay attention.** We have to know where our kids are going online -- and what they're doing there.
- **Impart our values.** Cheating, lying, being cruel - they're just not OK. Right and wrong extends to online and mobile life.
- **Establish limits.** Phone time, video download time, and destinations. There really is a right time and place for everything.
- **Encourage balance.** Get kids involved in offline activities, especially activities that don't require or allow cell service.
- **Make kids accountable.** Using digital media is a privilege. Make sure your kids earn it.
- **Explain what's at stake.** Remind your kids that what they do today can be abused by someone tomorrow.
- **Find ways to say "yes."** This means that you have to do some homework and know the sites your children visit, the songs they download etc. and find ways to use technology that lets us say "yes" more often than we say "no."
- **It's not rocket science.** Learn to text, send a mobile photo, set up a Facebook page, and upload a video. Or have your kids show you how. It's impossible to guide what you don't understand. Not only that, but think of all the anxiety you can avoid by knowing how things work.
- **Lighten up, embrace their world, and enjoy the possibilities together.** None of us want digital divides in our relationships with our kids. It's up to us to learn something new, join the fun, and help our kids make the most of digital technologies.

By: Egbal Mohamed



Alan-KG, Lewan-G1, Preet-G2, Adam-G3, Tawfeeg-G4, Jairo-G5.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Circle the shortest pencil. Put an 'x' through the longest pencil.



Grade 1: Joe has 2 pennies, 1 dime and 3 nickels. Penny has 2 dimes and 7 pennies. Who has more money? How much more?

Grade 2: Look through newspapers, magazines, etc. for a graph, or print one from online. Submit it with your math contest question. We will use these in class :-)

Grade 3: Take the number 267. Round it off to the nearest:
a) 10 b) 100

Grade 4: The numbers 28, 35 and 42 are all multiples of:
a) 7 b) 4 c) 6 d) 2

Grade 5: Multiply using the Short-Traditional method, and check by using the Partial-Product method:

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ \times 23 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Middle School Math problem:

An internet service provider charges a \$21 set-up fee plus \$12 per month. A competitor charges \$15 per month. How many months before the total charge will be the same for both companies? Show work.

High School Math problem:

Tania found a house for \$100,000.00. She will pay 5% of the price of the house as a down payment. How much will the monthly 30 year mortgage payment be?

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: Answers will vary; Grade 1: Minus; Grade 2: 666; Grade 3: Answers will vary ; Grade 4: 0.06, 0.43, 0.6, 0.9; Grade 5: $26 \times 43 = 1,118$; Middle School: 61; High School: \$12,634.75;

Circle one:

High School
 Middle School
 Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____

High School Exam Week Schedule - January 2013

	Monday, January 21	Tuesday, January 22	Wednesday, January 23
8:00-9:30	Geometry 9 Business Math Consumer Math Modern History 10 Pre-Calculus 11 Physics 12	Physical Science 9 Algebra II 10 Intermediate Algebra African Studies 11 English 12	Ancient History 9 Biology 10
10:00-11:30	English 10 Chemistry 11 Comparative Govt. 12	English 9 African Literature 11 Statistics 12 Calculus 12	(make-up exams)

Hello parents! We love learning outside of school. If you are able to help KAS find interesting and secure field trips for our students we would appreciate it! Grade 2 is looking to visit a factory where raw materials are transformed into products that are distributed and sold around Khartoum. Please email kfredericks@krtams.org or bvoborsky@krtams.org if you have suggestions. Thanks!

Please find below approved school calendar for School Year 2013 -2014

- August 10.....New Faculty Arrive
- August 11 – 13.....New Faculty Orientation
- August 14, 15 and 17.....All Faculty Work Days
- August 18.....First Day of School for Nursery/Preschool
- August 20.....First Day of School for K - 12
- October 11 - 19.....Fall Break (Eid al Adha)
- November 4.....No School (Islamic New Year)
- December 20 – January 11....Winter Break
- January 14.....No School (Prophet Mohamed's Birthday)
- March 7 - 15.....Spring Break
- April 18 – 21.....Long Weekend (Easter and Sham El Nasim)
- June 5.....Last Day of School
- June 6 - 7.....Faculty Work Days

Total Student Days: 178
 2 Sport Days on Weekends
 3 Professional Development Days
 Subject to change as conditions may warrant.