



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Professional Development

Thursday, February 27, 2013 at KAS



PTA Family Picnic

Friday, March 1, 20, 2013, from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm at KAS



Letter from the Superintendent Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

It is a fantastic feeling to have that plane touchdown in Khartoum after such a long, cold recruitment trip. I know that in my absence the Principals and Business Manager did a wonderful job in terms of managing the school over the past month.

In terms of the recruitment process I can tell that attracting great candidates to come to Khartoum is a competitive issue, but I am pleased to report that we have almost completed all of our recruiting for next year with the exception of one solitary position and this we hope to fill in the coming weeks.

The incoming teachers represent a team of exceptional educators and I am really excited about the upcoming school year. As you are aware the school is really flourishing at present and with the increased enrollment coupled with numerous enquiries from prospective parents already rolling in, it appears we are looking at a great 2013/2014 school year.

Focusing on issues more immediate, the school will be closed for students next Wednesday the 27th of February as teachers work hard developing accreditation documentation in preparation for school's mid-point accreditation visit which will take place next December. Being a quality international school we are bound to self improvement through the accreditation process and the work carried out during this day will take a broad look at all aspects of our school and the resulting changes will help make us an even better and stronger institution.

Even more pressing is the final day of our Sudan Days program, today, and it has once more been a pleasure to celebrate this wonderful country, Sudan and expose our international students to its vibrant culture and traditions. For our local students it is an opportunity to feel a sense of national pride which is well and truly deserved. Sudan really is an amazing country and something I heard this week really hammered this point home to me. Just after getting my passport stamped as I passed through immigration the official looked me in the eye and said, "Welcome home". It's hard to express the happiness I felt at this point, but it made me reflect on what a wonderful home it really is.

As always enjoy the weekend.



Letter from the Elementary School Principal Ben Voborsky

The KAS mission and guiding statement on curriculum starts: "Through an inquiry-based approach and a student-centered program, Khartoum American School offers" ... Waffles by the Pool! Well, at least Waffles by the Pool for Grade 1. This is one example of applying a unit on measurement and procedures to a real life experience.



Effective inquiry is more than just asking questions. Inquiry-based learning is a complex process where students formulate questions, investigate to find answers, build new understandings, meanings and knowledge, and then communicate their learning to others. In Grade 1's case, everyone tasted delicious waffles!



In classrooms where teachers emphasize inquiry-based learning, students are actively involved in solving authentic (real-life) problems within the context of the curriculum and/or community. These powerful learning experiences engage students deeply. Research suggests that inquiry-based learning increases student creativity, independence, and problem solving skills, and it improves student achievement.



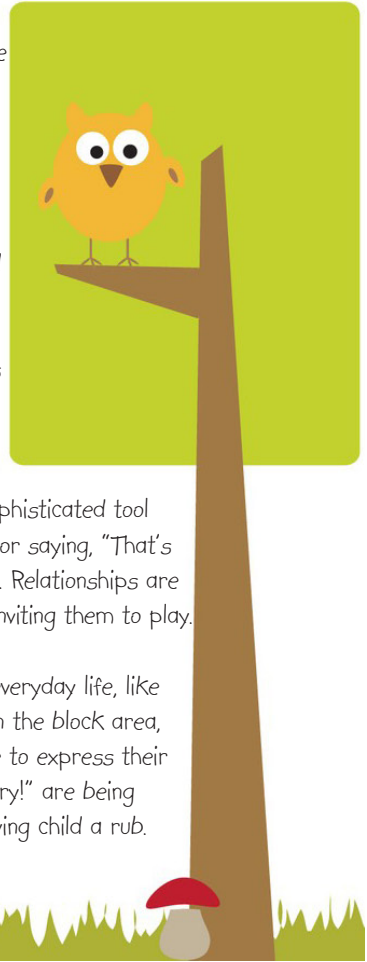
Next week Kindergarten will be off to Detasi Poultry Farm, perhaps to solve the "which came first: the chicken or the egg?" dilemma.



NURSERY AT KAS



Many of the children are close to or have turned three years old! The children have not only grown physically, but cognitively, emotionally and socially as well. They are able to stay on task for longer periods of time and their ideas have become more complex. Dramatic play is becoming more complex and filled with language. Block structures are becoming airplanes and large soft blocks are becoming horses for riding. Puzzles are completed over and over again until the children master them and then a new batch of puzzles is brought in to keep them challenged.



The children have become a cohesive group. They initiate group dances themselves. One child will reach his hand out to another and say, "Ashes, Ashes," asking to do "Ring around the Rosie." They also create their own dance moves for their friends to copy. When a child is absent, their classmates ask for them. Language has become a sophisticated tool that helps the children get their needs met, whether asking for water, or "something else," from their lunch boxes, or saying, "That's mine! Give it back!" We have also heard, "That makes me angry! I don't like it when you do that!" and much more. Relationships are blossoming and more friendships are forming nicely as children are becoming more aware of their peers and are inviting them to play. Many children can be seen asking others questions like, "Can I play with you?" or, "You wanna play with me?"

The children are taking charge and initiating games with one another. Many of these games relate to re-enacting everyday life, like taking care of a baby, cooking, serving food, having picnics, etc. Children can be seen building structures together in the block area, which requires a lot of negotiation and at times, some help from teachers. The children are using their words more to express their feelings and are becoming more aware of how their peers are feeling. Statements like "I need space!" or "I'm angry!" are being heard. When a child is crying, it is not unlikely to see other children nearby asking what is wrong and giving the crying child a rub. In conclusion those children are rocking the nursery class.

Welcome to High School English with Ms. Kelley!

We're in the last half of school, but the intensity is increasing in Ms. Kelley's English classes! Here are three posters that show what each high school class is learning. Notice the essential questions - these are the big ideas that each class is wrestling with. Students should be able to answer all of these questions once we are finished!

JOSEPH CONRAD'S HEART OF DARKNESS
Examining Colonization From Multiple Perspectives

How do writers demonstrate and express universality in their works? What is ambiguity? What is its purpose? How do the recognition of symbols add to the overall meaning of a literary work?

African Literature - Grade 11 English
Spring 2013
In response to Achebe's epic *Things Fall Apart*

SHAKESPEARE'S MACBETH
A TRAGEDY OF EVIL AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
ENGLISH 12 SPRING 2013

SHAKESPEARE'S SHORTEST TRAGEDY COMES TO KAS
STARRING THE CLASS OF 2013

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: HOW DO OUR DECISIONS INFLUENCE OUR LIVES? WHAT IS SUBJECT AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT OUR READING OF A WORK? HOW DO CHARACTERS CONVEY VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HUMAN NATURE?

12 ANGRY MEN
DIRECTED BY SIDNEY LUMET

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What is persuasion and how is it used effectively?
- What qualities make up a good justice system?
- How do people suppress, oppress, and repress? What are the consequences of each?
- What are the features of a play? How are each used?

GRADE 10 SPRING 2013



With one
APPLE
everywhere...

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: Draw a penny. What is it worth?

Grade 1: A ring costs 57c. Show, using coins, how you might pay for it and what, if any, change you would receive.

Grade 2: There are 9 days left in February. There are 31 in March, 30 in April and 30 in June. Write and solve a 4 digit addition problem (remember to break it down and to show your work!!!!)

Grade 3: Mr. C. bought 18 fish. They were one pound each but he got a special deal by purchasing 3 for the price of 2. How much did he spend on his fish?

Grade 4: Map scale: 1cm represents 100km. Solve the following.

1. 2cm = _____ km
2. 0.5cm = _____ km
3. 4.5cm = _____ km

Grade 5: Write 3 facts that you know about fractions.

Middle School Math problem:

Find 2 equivalent fractions, A and B. A's numerator is 3 times B's numerator. A's denominator is 36. B's numerator is 5.

High School Math problem:

What is the largest number you can express with three digits?

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: 25 ; **Grade 1:** a) 100, b) 20, c) 10, d) 4; **Grade 2:** There were 2 favorite flavors! Cherry and Choco, the least popular flavor was Vanilla. $6-3=3$; **Grade 3:** Each person gets 5 candies; **Grade 4:** $12 = (24/6) * 3$; **Grade 5:** 15 degrees 36 North and 32 degrees 32E; **Middle School:** 15/30; **High School:** $x=\{0, \pi, 2\pi, 3\pi\}$;

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____



Abeer-KG, Adalia-G1, Abdulla-G2, Ayaan-G3, Nour Aliya-G4, Abdalaziz-G5, Sakuntala-G7, Abdelrahman-G7.



Brain Foods

In the past, the Learning Center has referred to healthy eating and even to the website listed and quoted below. While the excerpt below is obviously directed at adults, it is true that fish is excellent brain food for our students. Many parents have to be very creative, convincing their children to eat a variety of foods. You'll find an excellent resource in fellow parents if you ask them how they get their children to eat various foods, including fish.

<http://www.webmd.com/add-adhd/slideshow-brain-foods-that-help-you-concentrate>

Fish Really is Brain Food

A protein source associated with a great brain boost is fish - rich in omega 3 fatty acids, essential for brain function and development. These healthy fats have amazing brain power: higher dietary omega 3 fatty acids are linked to lower dementia and stroke risks; slower mental decline; and may play a vital role in enhancing memory, especially as we get older. For brain and heart health, eat two servings of fish weekly.

Message from the PTA

Dear Parents, Teachers and Staff, the PTA would like to thank you for your support and contributions to last week's Bake Sale, which was an enormous success. A special thanks goes to Sara Mamoun of grade 10 who made a terrific Valentine's Day Poster. With kindest regards,

The PTA committee

