



NEWS

NEWS FROM THE TRUNK
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Report Cards Go Home

Thursday, October 31, 2013



**Khartoum
American School**

Letter from the Bussines Manager, Mona Hassan



Dear Parents,

Halloween is the month where children are given a free pass to have and share all the candy their little hands can grab. A short walk in the neighborhood, a cute costume, a knock on the door and a loud "Trick or Treat?" call is all what's needed to do the trick.

KAS campus is decorated with a myriad of Halloween decorations with intricate designs including massive pumpkins welcoming the spooky day.

The American Halloween tradition of "trick-or-treating" dates back to the early All Souls' Day parades in England. During the festivities poor citizens would beg for food and families would give them pastries in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives. The tradition of dressing in costume for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, winter was an uncertain and frightening time. Food supplies often ran low and, for many people the short days of winter were full of constant worry. On Halloween, it was believed that ghosts came back to the earthly world, people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of food outside their homes to appease the ghosts and prevent them from attempting to enter.

Halloween in America has always been a holiday filled with mystery, magic and superstition. It began as a Celtic end-of-summer festival during which people felt especially close to deceased relatives and friends. For these friendly spirits, they set places at the dinner table, left treats on doorsteps and along the side of the road, and lit candles to help loved ones find their way back to the spirit world.

This year in KAS everyone celebrated Halloween. Both teachers and students have dressed up in costumes for the day, enjoyed the trick or treats of the day while students proudly walked in the Halloween Parade showing off their creative attires.

With this happy note we end our long week, looking forward to the weekend and excited about back to school fresh on Sunday.

Happy Halloween Everyone!

Mona



Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros



It has been a very exciting week at Khartoum American School.

Today we celebrated Halloween at school. Halloween is celebrated amongst family and friends in many parts of the world. It is always celebrated on October 31. Parties and other events may be planned on this day and many people celebrate by watching horror films, holding costume parties or creating haunted houses. Many children dress up in fancy costumes and visit other homes in the neighborhood. At each house, they ask for sweets, snacks or a small gift. If they do not get this, they threaten to do some sort of a fun trick to the inhabitants of the house. This is known as playing 'trick-or-treat' and is supposed to happen in a friendly spirit, with no mean tricks being carried out. Some families carve lanterns with 'scary' faces out of pumpkins and decorate their homes and gardens in Halloween style.

The Preschool and Elementary students celebrated Halloween by dressing up in costumes and walking in a parade. They also had their faces painted and wore masks. Some students carved pumpkins and others played trick or treat. The students also sang Halloween songs and played games. Everyone had so much fun. During lunch the PTA had a bake sale, so our students enjoyed delicious cakes, cookies and snacks. High School students will celebrate by having a Halloween Dance this evening from 6-10pm.

It was a great pleasure seeing so many of you on Wednesday evening for College Night and Parent - Teacher Conferences. College Night was very informative. Our excellent, committed and experienced College Counselor, Mrs. Ross, gave our families and their students a presentation about the college search and admission process.

Thank you for attending Parent -Teacher Conferences. These conferences are an important component in the ongoing home - school communication. It was really good that you met and spoke with us and I am certain that your child will benefit greatly from the cooperation between the teachers and parents. If you were unable to come to school on Parent - Teacher Conferences Evening, please contact the school to arrange an alternative meeting time.

Report cards were sent home today. Please discuss the report card with your child. Read the report card together and encourage them to talk about their school performance as well as concerns. Make sure that you let your child know that you are proud of their good work and accomplishments but at the same time if your child does not do as well as expected talk openly about it. This might be a good time to develop a plan of action with goals for improvement. Report cards only come out a few times a year. Review your student's work regularly and pay special attention to grades and comments that go along with them. You are always welcome to call us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card.

Have a great weekend!

PATTERNS everywhere

Grade 1 is busy learning about patterns. We began our learning by thinking about "what would be a pattern?", "where would we find patterns?", and "how do we know that something is a pattern?" After our brainstorming session in class, we thought that a pattern could be:

Triangle square triangle square

Or

yellow yellow blue blue yellow yellow blue blue.

Ms. Andurette took us on a pattern walk around the school. We found lots of different patterns but still could not find the answer to "how do we know that something is a pattern?"

We found so many different kinds of patterns. After a while, we went back to class and started looking at the photos of all the various patterns. We talked about the patterns and tried to find the answer to the question.

We finally found the answer. A pattern is something that always repeats over and over and over again. It stays the same. We also found out that there is lots of patterns in numbers. Counting in 2's or 5's or 10's is a pattern. Odd and even numbers are patterns. 3,13,23,33,43,53 is a pattern. What patterns can you find?



English Sayings...



How The Other Half Lives is a friendly phrase alluding to the life styles of the rich. The expression can be traced as far back as 1532 and the French book Pantagruel by Rabelais and was in use in England by 1607. Jacob Riis used the phrase as the title of a book in 1890 but somewhere along the line the saying completely changed its meaning.

Originally it was a condescending expression used by the rich to describe the poor, but these days it is a light-hearted expression used by the less fortunate to describe the rich.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT KAS

The good weather is here and we are enjoying open-air sports and activities on the field. Playing games, learning and practicing sports in the open air is something that is not always so encouraging due to the hot weather in Khartoum. Unfortunately there will be no swimming for P.E. classes until February/ March.

This semester, the younger classes are learning to play volleyball, basketball, track, croquet, baseball... you name it, it's in our plans. At KAS we believe in diversity to improve motor skills and to search for hidden talents.

Encourage your children to play all sports; it's very important for their physical and mental development.

Enjoy your weekend and see you on Sunday!



After School Activities Session 2

A new set of interesting, exciting and fun activities start next week! Our students are looking forward to becoming engaged with **technology** (Electronics Fun, iPad Fun, Computer Games), **building skills** (Water Bottle Fun, recycle, Re-use, Re-create, Fun Kite Time), **artworks** (Paper Crafts, Puppet Making Fun, Craftsmania, Indoor Fun Activities), **entertainment** (Puzzles & Board Games, Movies for Fun,) **brain training** and **storytelling**. After the **basketball** season is over, which will be next week, soccer training starts right away. **Religious studies** also continue their courses. **Swim Team** progresses in practicing and refining skills and techniques as long as the weather is good. Unfortunately the cold season has arrived earlier than usual this year, so we are canceling all the ASAP pool sessions. We will provide alternative activities. Here is the schedule for Session 2.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
November 3	November 4	November 5	November 6	November 7
November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14
November 17	November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21
November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12

The After School Activities Program Session 2 starts on Sunday, November 3, 2013 and ends on Thursday, December 12, 2013. Activities begin at 2.05 and end at 3.00. Please be prompt in picking up your children at 3:00 on ASAP days.



TRICK OR TREAT
ANSWER THE FOLLOWING
AND GET A SWEET...



Last Week's Winners

Samir, Zareena (Pre-K), Jason (Kindergarten), Joy (Grade 1), Nour (Grade 2), Kishan (Grade 3), Mohanad (Grade 4), Hamadelnil (Grade 5).



Mr. C's Amazing Math Contest

Elementary School Math problems:

Kindergarten: Sort six hearts into two equal piles.

Grade 1: Fill in the missing number: $__ + 3 = 9$

Grade 2: If the time is 8:30 a.m., what time will it be in 2 hours?

Grade 3:

1. How many millimeters in 13 centimeters?
2. How many meters in 7 kilometers?
3. How many centimeters in 14 meters?

Grade 4: $98 \times 72 = ?$



Grade 5: The mean average of the following 5 math marks will become your report card mark: 97,80,88,70, and 90. What will your report card mark be? Show work.

When you improve a little each day, eventually big things occur.... Not tomorrow, not the next day, but eventually a big gain is made. Don't look for the big, quick improvement. Seek the small improvement one day at a time. That's the only way it happens - and when it happens, it lasts.

-John Wooden

On Tuesday I had the privilege to witness KAS Sport in action as the four teams 'battled' it out on the basketball court in our annual Inter House Basketball tournament. Seventy enthusiastic and talented students and their coaches were prepared and they delivered. The matches were pretty evenly matched. The halftime show consisted of Leila and Omer entertaining the crowd with some jokes and lifting the spirits of the students. The games were played very hard but in good spirit. The behaviour of the students was exemplary.

Tuesday was a wonderful day for our students. However, there always has to be winners and losers. The Red teams were the winners in the end.

Middle School Math problem:

If a cube has a volume of 1 square foot, what is it's volume in square inches?

High School Math problem:

Factor using completing the square
 x^2+4x-1



Results:

Age Group	Red	Blue
U/12 Boys	12	16
U/15 Boys	18	15
U/18 Girls	26	17
U/18 Boys	14	12

Hanro van der Merwe
Athletic Director

