



THE INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

DINNER

A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!



School closes on Wednesday, December 21-11:00 AM and Reopens Sunday, January 15 at regular time

Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I again want to congratulate and thank everyone for this year's highly successful International Potluck Dinner. A special thank you to our parents for providing the wonderful food; a special thank you to Mona Hassan, our business manager, and her Potluck Committee; thank you to the many dignitaries and friends of KAS who attended the event; thank you to the vendors and businesses who provided the wonderful prizes for the evening's raffle; a special thank you to Sara Abugarga and our teaching faculty who worked hard to make the Parade of Nations a success; thank you to Mai Hassan for the fabulous stage set; thank you to Didth Lanario for preparing the children for the excellent talent show; and, of course, a special thank you to all the children who brought joy to all of us at the dinner! BRAVO TO THE KAS FAMILY!

It has been a productive and exciting first semester. The children and their teachers have worked diligently since we opened this past August to move forward in building skills, knowledge and understandings. Now is the time for the children and the staff to rest and 're-charge' their batteries. We will continue on our journey of learning when the children return after the winter break on January 15.

For those families and children who are leaving Sudan and not returning to KAS, we thank you for being a part of the KAS Family. You will always be in our hearts, and you will always be a member of the KAS FAMILY. Our best wishes to you now and in the future.

I wish all of you a restful and enjoyable holiday break. In advance, HAPPY NEW YEAR...SEE YOU IN 2017!

(Last day of school is Wednesday December 21- 11:00 AM pick up—School Reopens Sunday January 15 at regular time)

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Making Connections! Our Nursery School Program



The nursery students are learning new skills everyday, skills that we as adults take for granted. Socializing is one of the main skills we teach our nursery students. Teaching them to play, share and be around other children takes time and lots of patience. Learning to separate from caregivers and being comfortable around strangers, i.e. school staff, is a huge milestone in a toddler's development. We understand how difficult it is for a toddler to be all alone in school without their loved ones. Therefore we provide our nursery students with a loving and safe environment. Once relationships have been established inside the classroom venturing outside around campus is only logical. One of our favorite nursery rituals is taking the Nursery Attendance Folder to the office every morning. Visiting with the lovely and very friendly office staff is a great opportunity for the nursery class to form new relationships with adults outside their inner circle. Thank you, Dr. Beck, Ms. Mona, Ms. Maab, Mr. Jhun, Ms. Nahla and Mr. Hussein, for helping the nursery students blossom into social butterflies.



Nada Salih
Nursery Teacher

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

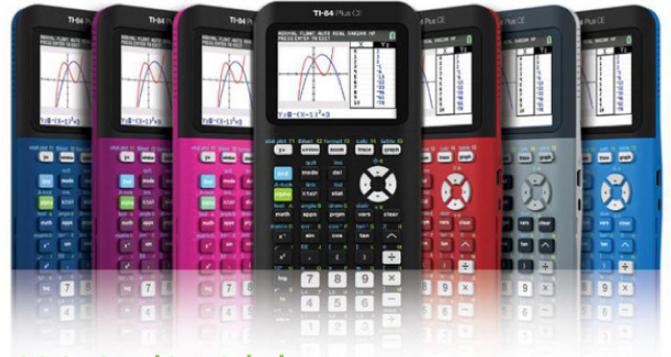
Dear Parents and Community Members,

In my last Enews article I continued exploring major paradoxes in modern education, the second of which I suggested was the powerful nature of the internalization process itself, one of the core tenets of modern education. When human beings “internalize” (learn deeply, take into themselves, and make a part of their personalities) what they imitate and absorb from all teachers in their environment (which includes not only those individuals designated with the formal title of teacher but also parents, friends, spiritual mentors, and the culture surrounding us), it is extremely hard to get these things out of ourselves or even simply to correct them if they are wrong. Therefore we must understand that what we teach our students affects them deeply and in fact changes their lives, whether we intend it to or not.

Today I explore the third of the paradoxes of modern education, and the last one in this series, one that I refer to as the phenomenon of the “forest and the trees,” or the particulars vs. the whole. After decades of applying research-based instruction in modern education, we are competent with the “how to” of our craft as educators. We know, for instance, how to teach a child to read. Depending on the amount of time and energy and resources we apply to the task, and what meets us in the child, we may be able to teach a child to read in a few weeks or months or years. But regardless of our success, if we teach a child to read and that child then never wants to read a book for pleasure the rest of their lives, what have we achieved? The “trees” are the “how to” that we provide, but the “forest” is the whole of a person’s life that is the context of our educational process. Turning a child off to a skill, or to an entire aspect of the legacy of humanity, because we successfully taught a particular skill or knowledge element but in a way that left the child untouched by or, worse, full of antipathy towards the thing we taught, is something we must always be wary of in our work as modern educators, in order to truly benefit our students.

Phil Centers
Early Childhood Center & Elementary Principal

From Our Math Department



TI-84 CE Graphing Calculators:

KAS is eagerly trying to keep up with the latest technology for math by using the newest colored TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculators. These calculators are a must for all of the math classes starting with grade 10. Current math textbooks incorporate the use and applications of graphing calculators in Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus. A student without a graphing calculator is at a huge disadvantage, not only in their math classes, but also in their advanced science classes. These calculators are also allowed and invaluable for your child's SAT and AP exams for math and science.

If your child does not already own a graphing calculator, please purchase one from Mr. Jhun in the finance office as soon as possible. Let's not leave any of our students behind!

Thank you,

Mattie Boyce
MS/HS Math Teacher

Libray Puzzle!

Christmas Word Search

Look at the pictures to help you read and find the words.

																																																																										
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Shireen Shiber
Librarian

Digital Citizenship: Creator Rights

Nowadays, students assume that everything available in the digital world is accessible and meant to be shared with the rest of the world for FREE. This of course is not true, as the idea of Intellectual Property Rights has taken on a whole new meaning in the digital world.

During this quarter, I had the pleasure of introducing the topic of digital citizenship to grade 8 students. We started by reviewing the 9 rules of digital citizenship. Then we focused more on copyright and responsibilities as a part of digital rights and the responsibilities rule. Students learned about the most popular song in the world "the Birthday Song". I told them frankly that the song is licensed, and if anyone wants to use it in a commercial way through movie, TV show, or music production, they must obtain a license. Of course, that was shocking news for all of them. The song "Happy Birthday" must be one of the most widely used and familiar songs in the world.

To bring a greater understanding of this, we created a very interesting activity around this concept and the song. Students worked in-groups creating their own version of a birthday song. Each group made its own lyrics and music for a birthday song. They spent time and worked really hard to be sure that no one from the other group stole their ideas or listened to their song before they finished it. They were very creative and the outcome was amazing. Most importantly, they used the Creative Commons Website to make a license for their work. The goal of the activity was to let them learn and comprehend why it is important to respect other people's work and understand the copyright rules.

Their creativity was beyond my expectations! The students were very engaged in the lesson and I'm sure the experience will stay with them for a long time.

In my opinion, nowadays students learn by real life connections and experiences; and the activity we implemented was a good example. They also did very well collaborating with each other and working in teams. Please take a look at the following examples of their lyrics:

Soon you're gonna be so old
You'll have teeth made of gold
You're so close to immortality
You're already at the top of the family tree
You'll have to see what you can be
So spread your wings and fly so free
You'll go over mountains and sail over seas
By then you built your personality
So make your dream become a reality

Once upon a time not long ago I was born.
And I'm telling you cause today is my birthday and I'm
turning 22.
I was born.
And I'm telling, cause you better say happy
birthday to me too.
I was born.
I want gifts, I want his gifts, I want her gifts, I want all
gifts, I want gifts.
I want gifts, I want his gifts, I want her gifts, I want all
gifts, I want gifts.
Once upon a time not long ago I was born.
And I'm telling you, cause you better say happy
Birthday to me too.
I was born.

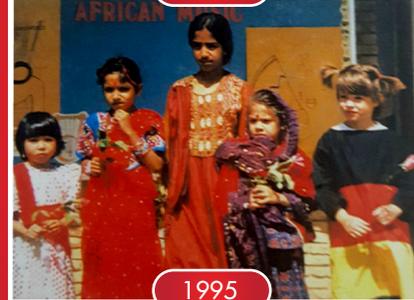
Egbal Mohamed
Technology Coordinator



KAS 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT KAS



1993



1995



1997



ANNOUNCEMENT

BIOLOGY CLASS

Please join us in the Library at 8:20 am Sunday Dec 18th! Be our audience.

The 9th grade Biology class will present their individual research on an endangered species from their country as part of the final exam for their Ecology of Plants and Animals unit. The individual presentations will be 3 – 5 minutes. Tea and coffee provided after!

SAYING OF THE WEEK

A Deadline is the final date or time by which a task has to be completed. Originally the deadline was a white line painted at Andersonville prisoner of war camp in America during the American Civil War. Without the use of wire and fencing Andersonville simply had marksmen placed around the perimeter and any prisoner crossing the white line was shot dead, no questions asked. Since then the phrase has been applied to newspaper writers who had to have their article submitted by a certain time before a publication went to print. If they missed the deadline their story was considered dead as it would be out of date by the following day's print run.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department