



KNOWLEGE BOWL - A SMART SUCCESS!



Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year we will be visited by a team of school licensing officials from the Council of International Schools (CIS-head offices are in the England), and the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges (MSA-head offices are in the United States). The visit is part of the process of 'accrediting' our school. The process of being accredited by CIS-MSA requires that the school do an in-depth 'self-study' across a wide range of educational domains. For example, we must examine our school's purpose and direction, our governance system, our curriculum, our facilities in terms of their adequacy as a school serving nursery to grade 12 students, and we must examine procedures we have in place to assure for the safety and well-being of our students.

The staff has been very busy in compiling answers to the over 100 questions about the above domains. The answers will be sent to CIS-MSA later in the semester. Yesterday, for example, the faculty spent the afternoon in a workshop led by our HS/MS Principal, Susan Boutros. We discussed the meaning of Global Citizenship and how KAS is meeting our promise to develop responsible 21st century global citizens. It was exciting and interesting to hear the faculty from the nursery and elementary school levels to the secondary levels discuss how we are developing global citizens at KAS.

The faculty is also meeting regularly to discuss other key topics of how the school is meeting the requirements of CIS-MSA in other areas such as student well-being and student learning. We have been having a very healthy debate and dialogue about "how are we doing?" in these areas. Our goal is to continue to be a top international school. The CIS-MSA self-study is important and welcomed in helping us stay focused on that goal.

I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

What's going on in music class?



After we came back from the Winter break, the students started learning the dances assigned to them for a big Spring Musical production on March 9, 2017. The repertoire of songs and dances for the Musical this year gives tribute to the 6 decades of the Khartoum American School. The students will be dancing to songs from the 50's till the 2000 era.



I have seen so much enthusiasm from the students as they work to master their dances during music class. The students come during recess and lunch break to practice and improve their choreography. There are several dance groups that the students, themselves, have organized to create a musical number for the show. I am very happy to see the joy that this activity is giving the students. Please plan on joining us on the evening of March 9 to share in the fun and accomplishments of our students and to honor the 60 years of being KAS!

I have seen growth in the students over these past months as they apply what they are learning in music class: good rhythm, following cues by listening to the accompaniment, self-confidence, poise, and working with each other. All these reflect my third quarter goals to develop in the students the skills and ability to be good performers.

As KAS music teacher, I can only say how proud I am to be a mentor in our students' pursuit to claim the stage and give pleasure and quality performances to their audiences.



Didith Lanario
Music Teacher

A Message from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Last Sunday all the middle and high school students met in the quad for an amazing event – The Knowledge Bowl!



The Knowledge Bowl was organized in order to help our students develop “a strong sense of personal commitment and dedication to their own learning” and give students and opportunity to be “cooperative, communicative, productive, and responsible” as outlined in our Vi-vision Statement. Our teachers collaborated by submitting questions from grades 6 through 12. Students participated in teams of 15 and answered questions about English, Social Studies, Math and Science. Students also showcased their skills by performing lines of Shakespeare, drawing an image using rules of proportion, and by demonstrating their athleticism in an obstacle relay race. Both students and teachers ended the competition on a very proud note! Please congratulate the winning Middle and High School students:

- Louis – Gr.12
- Yumna – Gr.11
- Yara Sayed – Gr.11
- Eunseo – Gr.11
- Mohamed Ibrahim – Gr.11
- Mounim – Gr.10
- Fawzia – Gr.9
- Bedis – Gr. 9
- Omer – Gr. 8
- Amina – Gr. 8
- Haneen – Gr. 7
- Caleb – Gr. 7
- Kishan – Gr. 6
- Rohulla – Gr.6
- Su – Gr. 6

Ms. Minette and Ms. Joyce helped them decide who would answer questions and developed a group name with them. Many thanks to all of the teachers who helped coach the groups of students and supported them during the bowl! I would also like to thank Mr. McMullen, Mrs. Juliane and Mrs. Shalash for organizing this outstanding event.

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

Exploring a Variety of Media



Khartoum American School is dedicated to helping our students develop into informed, critical thinkers. To do this, students must engage with a variety of media and, in this day and age, that includes video games! In Video Games as Literature, students have been applying critique traditionally aimed at literature and film to a more interactive medium.

Bastion is the story of a silent protagonist who must put his world back together as it, quite literally, is falling apart. As the player progresses, the protagonist's mysterious and tragic past is revealed and it becomes clear that the conflict he is intertwined in is not so simple as it first appeared. While exploring Bastion, students are learning about literary terms, plot devices, character development, the theory of the Monomyth, and working to be more critical consumers of media of all shapes and sizes.

None of this would have been possible without the kind help of Bastion's developer, Supergiant Games, who very kindly donated copies to KAS to make this exciting class possible. From all of us at KAS, and especially in Video Games as Lit, thank you Supergiant Games! We could not have done it without you!

Chelsea Utecht
Student Support Services /ESL Teacher

Batwa in Need



The Batwa are an indigenous group that live in the forests of Uganda. They lived there for centuries until the government decided to support "conservation" and removed them from the forest, giving them no other means to survive. They are now extremely poor, and many of them are starving or losing their lives to common sicknesses since medical help is extremely far from where they reside. The government now profits from paid game areas and also offers mining opportunities on the land that was previously the Batwas'. These actions actually have not improved the situation in the forest in any way, and might have caused more damage.

The Batwa have been careful about the environment around them, avoiding hunting some animals during dry season, since it is a season of pregnancy, and they also avoid hunting animals that are rare to protect them.

Ms. J is working with the eighth graders to help support the Batwa people by donating live chickens purchased with donations through fundraisers. This will give the Batwa something to eat and to sell, eggs! Be sure to drop by her classroom to donate some yourself! This will help feed the Batwa, and not only once!

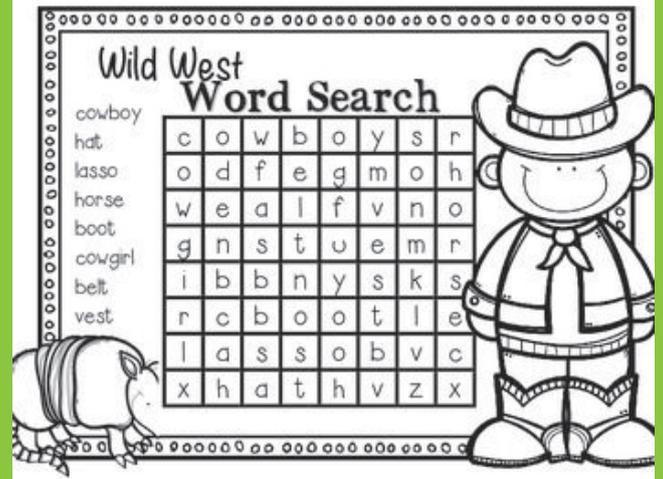
We are a group of freshmen working to raise awareness about this Global issue. You'll notice there will be quite a few posters around our school focusing on the Batwa. We hope we can really make a change.

If you have any questions, please contact us at helpthebatwakhartoum@gmail.com

Grade 9 Students:

Omer Abdelghani, Jayden Hoogdorp & Dina Abuelgasim

Puzzled Library



Shireen Shiber
Librarian

SAYING OF THE WEEK

If we are told to **Whistle For It** the inference is that we are highly unlikely to get the result we want. This is another expression dating back to the early sailing ships circumnavigating the world. The belief among some sailors was that when the day was still, and the sails empty, they could summon the wind by whistling for it. Other sailors disagreed and felt whistling was the Devil's music and instead of a gentle wind arriving a fierce storm would appear. This also explains the origin of the phrase '**whistling in the wind**'. Often, whistling would bring no change in the weather at all (no surprises there) but it did lead to yet another saying, '**neither a fair wind nor a storm**', meaning the action altered nothing at all.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

Elementary Assembly Masters This Week's Winners



Alaa Albrair
Grade 1

Mohamed Mirghani
Grade 3