

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 6, 2017



KHARTOUM AMERICAN SCHOOL

60th

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
GALA NIGHT & CONCERT

HOSTING

GUEST SPEAKER KAS ALUMNA

LEILA ABOULELA

LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE FROM

AL BALABIL

FLYING IN FOR A LIVE CONCERT

ZIGGI RECADO

&

DJ MOE ALI

NO CHILDREN UNDER 16 ALLOWED



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Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you and congratulations! Congratulations to Mr. Owen McMullen and his students on a fabulous Model United Nations Conference! Congratulations on Ms. Julianne and her students on a fabulous Fair For The Sciences! Congratulations to our PTA for their fabulous picnic for the entire KAS Family! Congratulations on the GIS Global Issues Conference teachers and students who attended the GIS meeting in Johannesburg! Congratulations to our Elementary School Teachers on their celebration of Reading Week with their students! And congratulations to high school student Fawzia Omer, and the teachers who supported her, on her being awarded the African Association of International Schools Award for her excellent achievements and service! This is a unique achievement. We are proud of you Fawzia!

Congratulations to our honored guest, famous author Leila Aboulela. Thank you from all of us for the time you shared with our students and teachers. Leila had a busy week visiting classes from the kindergarten to the high school. She gave students ideas and strategies on how to approach writing. It was clear to all of us that she is not only a gifted writer, but also a sensitive and giving person who is able to relate so well to individuals and groups of any age.

Those of you who were able to attend Leila's parent seminar and book signing this morning were treated to a very special event. It was a pleasure to hear her speak about writing. Her presentation was both meaningful and stimulating. Thank you for that! What makes Leila's visit even that much more special is that she attended KAS for several years as a child!

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow evening at the KAS 60th Anniversary Gala. Leila will be giving a keynote address in commemoration of our great and historic school's 60th Birthday.

Happy Birthday KAS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent

Reading and Your Child

- It is I Love To Read week at KAS! I really do love to read. Ever since I was a young child I was a voracious reader. Working in the Student Support Service division at KAS has shown me that ALL children love to be read to. ALL children love stories. Beyond the basics of reading to access the curriculum at KAS what can reading do for your child?
- **Children who read often and widely get better at it.** *Practice makes perfect in almost everything we do, and reading is no different.*
- **Reading improves concentration.** *Children sit still and quietly when they are reading.*
- **Reading exercises our brain.** *Reading is a complex task for the brain. Reading strengthens the brain's connections and builds NEW connections.*
- **Reading develops a child's imagination.** *As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play. Children develop empathy and deeper emotional intelligence.*
- **Children who read achieve better in school.** *Reading promotes achievement in all subjects. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.*
- **Linguistic Reasons.** *The result? Improved linguistic skills in the form of a richer vocabulary, correct grammar, improved writing, better spelling and more articulate oral communication.*
- **Connections.** *Children who read make real world connections, text to self connections, text to text connections, and text to world connections.*

What can you do as a parent?

- **Read to your child**
- **Read around your child**
- **Begin collecting books for your family library (or your child's personal library)**
- **Purchase books from school book sales and second hand book sales**
- **Borrow books from our wonderful library**
- **Consider an e-reader or KINDLE for an older child**
- **Share books**
- **Facilitate a book club for your child**
- **Audio books on car trips or in the mornings on the way to school is a great way to facilitate the love of stories and broaden language.**
- **Graphic novels**

Kris Gamil
Student Support Services Teacher

A Message from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

The 8th annual KAS Model United Nations Conference was a great success. I would like to congratulate Mr. Owen McMullen, our KASMUN Director, and our MUN students for organizing such an outstanding conference.

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Khartoum American School, this KASMUN VIII was set in 1957. Students from KAS, Unity, Nile Valley and HOLMS discussed issues from 60 years ago.

The 2-day conference started with an amazing opening ceremony on Wednesday evening. There were speeches by:



Dr. Robert Beck
Superintendent of Khartoum American School

Steven Koutsis
Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America

Mr. Owen McMullen
KASMUN Director

Mohamed Hisham Gamil
KASMUN Secretary-General

Omnia Abdelhafeez Alzain
KASMUN Deputy Secretary-General

Ahmed Seif Mohamed
Chair of GA 1

Talha Ghafoor Kayani
Chair of GA 2

Samir Yasien El Gaddal
Chair of GA 2
Ayesha Saeed
Chair of SC

Elhassan Mohamed Elfaki Mustafa
Chair of SC



The following issues were discussed:

(SC) Security Council

- The India Pakistan Question Regarding Kashmir
- Question of the Suez Canal Conflict

(GA 1) Disarmament and International Security

- Efforts in the United Nations to Maintain Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes
- Question of Algeria

(GA 4) Special Political and Decolonization

- Status of the Territory of South West Africa
- Treatment of People of Indian Origin in the Union of South Africa

Congratulations, Mr. McMullen and KAS MUN students! Your hard work and commitment to this program is evident. We eagerly await future MUN Conferences!



Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

Leila Aboulela - Famous Author Visits KAS



As part of the 60th Birthday Celebration Khartoum American School has had writer and alumna Leila Aboulela as a guest. While here she met with the 11th grade African Literature class. It had, just the night before, completed reading *Lyrics Alley*, her only novel based in Sudan, and the students were able to converse with her about creating it, her intent with the book, and being a writer.

While she was researching the book that portrays a Sudanese writer Hassan Awad Aboulela, a cousin of her father's, Aboulela explored Sudan of the 1950s leading up to its Independence. During the discussion, she led the students through her journey of mixing fact with fabrication. Also, she spoke specifically about blending characters together to enhance the novel, giving examples of some of those personalities, Mahmoud and Soraya, to avoid duplicating similar traits.



Her goal for the novel was to "make the canvas bigger," referring to her exploration of how Hassan's [Nur] injury impacted those around him. Thus, she shifted the plot beyond the doomed love story to a complex examination of tragedy, its effect, and survival.

The students asked insightful questions, much to Miss Utecht and my delight.

Lastly, when asked whether she felt the need to be careful about recounting customs when writing about Sudan (Yara Saeed), Aboulela responded, "If you can't write freely, you can't write well."

Anne Scott
High School Social Studies Teacher

Elementary Assembly Masters

This Week's Winner



Can Kurakbelli Grade 5	Khalil Osman Grade 3	Daniel Matta Grade 3	Samantha Faig Grade 3	Sabah Metcalf Grade 1
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SAYING OF THE WEEK

Another nautical phrase widely used is **Spick And Span**. These days it indicates something that is new, clean and tidy. Back in the ancient shipyards a 'spick' was a nail or tack (a spike) and a 'span' was a wooden chip or shaving. Newly launched ships, with wooden shavings still present and shiny nails, would be regarded as 'all spick and span' - brand new.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department