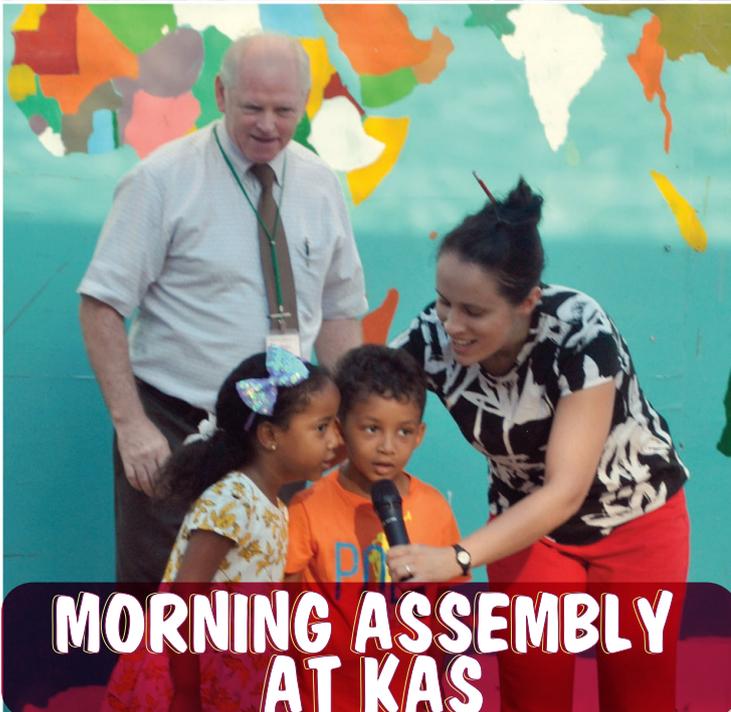


news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 1st 2016



MORNING ASSEMBLY AT KAS

Superintendent's Parent Teacher Information Seminar - 'Positive Parenting Revisited'
Presented by **Dr. Anna Beck** - Thursday September 22 at the library

Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians.

I hope you have been enjoying the opening weeks of the 2016-2017 school year. At the start of each school year, I like to remind all of us that KAS is a 'mission driven school' and 'vision driven school'. If a school does not stay focused on its mission and vision (they are the very reason for a quality school's existence and its 'signature'), it could head in a wrong direction and end up where it never intended to go. At KAS, we know where we are going. Our KAS Mission and Our KAS Vision have been carefully developed and refined over the years, always with the best interest of our students in mind. Below is Our KAS Mission and Our KAS Vision. I will be pleased to discuss the mission and vision of KAS with you at any time.

Our KAS Mission

Khartoum American School provides an outstanding learning environment to promote an open, inclusive and student-centered program. We are devoted to fostering educational growth and development for our internationally diverse student body.

Our KAS Vision

The Mission is supported through the KAS Vision of building the 4C's of:

Character:

By helping students develop self-discipline and a positive self-image, Khartoum American School encourages students to explore their potential and to develop a rich and broad understanding of today's world. Khartoum American School fosters in students a strong sense of personal commitment and dedication to their own learning.

Curriculum:

Khartoum American School follows an American Curriculum based around internationally recognized standards. Our student-centered program offers a technology-rich and inquiry-based approach. Khartoum American School offers a program of study that allows all students to reach their potential.

Community:

Khartoum American School actively pursues a sense of community characterized by students who are cooperative, communicative, productive and responsible. Students are encouraged to

view themselves and their school as integral parts of the global community. Our community is a partnership of stakeholders who are actively engaged in the school and collectively shape its direction and ethos.

Citizenship:

We promote global citizenship and the expectation of our students is to reflect upon their own world and the world around them and to develop the skills required to make positive changes worldwide. We encourage students to embrace the diversity present at Khartoum American School and to celebrate the fact that it makes us a richer school community.

I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck
Superintendent



SAYING OF THE WEEK

To **Play It By Ear** means to take a situation as we find it and then adapt our actions as we have to. In other words to wait and see what happens before reacting. This is a musical expression and can be traced back to the time prior to recording equipment. In those days composers and songwriters had to craft out a piece of music on a piano, and write it down as they went along to remember how the melody went. Musicians also had to listen to one or two instruments and then pick out their parts by ear, which was known as 'playing it by ear'. These days musicians who can play their part just by listening to a record are said to be 'playing it by ear', but that is a lot easier now than it used to be.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department



Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents,

In middle and high school we will continue using Engrade Pro this year at KAS. Engrade is an online gradebook that will allow you to check up on your student's grades any time, any place, using the Internet with your home/work computer, smartphone or tablet.

Engrade Pro is used currently by many schools worldwide. Khar-toum American School is part of this growing online education platform and learning management system. Engrade Pro is used worldwide by more than 4,000,000 students and parents to keep up with class grades, assignments and homework. Our middle school and high school teachers use this great tool to make their class available online and to communicate better with students and parents.

This website which empowers you to track your son's/daughter's progress in this class is very easy to use. To view your student's grades, assignments and homework, you will need the parent username and password. We will provide you with a slip of paper that has all the information that you need to log in, if you aren't already logged in. We can also send you your login information by email. If you need help with logging into Engrade, please don't hesitate to contact the school and set up a meeting with Ms. Egbal, our IT Teacher & Coordinator

I am sure that this amazing tool will enable students, teachers and parents to stay more connected which will further ensure the progress of students.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros

Middle & High School Principal

Math & Riddle Masters This Week's Winners



Joyce Barakat
Grade 4

Ahmed Adami
Grade 2

Kiba Ballege
Grade 2

Mohamed Elmubarak
Kindergarten

Talwan Hamad
Kindergarten

Asad Burrell
Grade 5

Adrian Bambang
Grade 4

Ms. Ekta Gheta
Stoe Manager

ASAP Activities



Reading Aloud to Children of Any Age is Important

Most parents are aware that reading aloud to their children is the number one predictor of school success. However, reading aloud falls by the wayside as kids become more independent readers and schedules become busier. But reading out loud to older children is very important, too. Here are several reasons why reading aloud to older kids matters so much.

1. Children listen on a different level than they read. Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook* told GreatSchools.net “A child’s reading level doesn’t catch up to his listening level until eighth grade. You can and should be reading seventh-grade books to fifth-grade kids. They’ll get excited about the plot, which is motivation to keep reading. A fifth-grader can enjoy a more complicated plot than she can read herself, and reading aloud is really going to hook her, because when you get into chapter books, you’re getting into the real meat of print—there is really complicated, serious stuff going on that kids are ready to hear and understand, even if they can’t read at that level yet.”

2. Life lessons. Not only do you find life lessons in books, but they can be easier for your child to internalize in that way as opposed to you telling them. Trelease says, “When you talk about a book together, it’s not a lecture, it’s more like a coach looking at a film with his players, going over the plays to find out what went right and what went wrong.” Reading aloud can facilitate talks about social issues, beliefs, and feelings.

3. Enjoyment. Reading aloud is a chance to introduce your child to fun books, to genres different from what they read in school, and to new authors they may not find in the school curriculum. If kids see reading as only “work” or as an assignment, they are less likely to become lifelong readers. If they see their parents enjoying reading, the chances of them enjoying it increases, too. Parents can be great salesmen of both reading and particular books!

4. Building vocabulary. Reading aloud with older children helps build vocabulary. Literacy researchers Duursma et. al. found “books contain many words, especially the more sophisticated words that children are unlikely to encounter frequently in spoken language. Children’s books contain 50% more rare words than prime-time television or even college students’ conversations.” Defining a word can be easier when it is heard in context, as it is when it is read aloud. This may be especially helpful for older children who may be struggling to put intense feelings into words.

5. Closeness and security. It’s been said that parents’ number one responsibility is to make a child feel safe, even above making them feel loved. Reading together with your child, at any age, conveys a sense of security because of the physical proximity of the reader and listener. You may not be as likely to snuggle as your child ages, but the closeness that comes from reading together is a comforting and wonderful side benefit for both you and your child.

6. Sense of belonging. The “tween” and teen years can be characterized by feeling like an outsider, feeling like you don’t belong, whether or not that is the case. Much great literature and wonderful writing makes the reader and listener feel understood, and reading a book about someone else who feels alone in the world (or shares another one of your problems such as moving to a new city and new school) can make the world seem less lonely.

While you know that reading aloud to a child daily is one of the most important activities for her reading success, don’t forget that this goes for big kids, too. Kids who are read to have good vocabularies, write well, and do well overall in school (Hiebert, Scott, & Wilkinson, 1985 U.S. Department of Education meta-study of 10,000 studies). They are also more likely to keep reading on their own.

References

E. Duursma, M. Augustyn, B. Zuckerman. Reading aloud children: the evidence. *Arch Dis Child* 2008; 93: 554-557.

Trelease, J., Trelease, J. (2014). *The new read-aloud handbook*. New York: NY Penguin Books.

Nicole Stacy

Student Support Services Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENT



FOOD DRIVE

Eid gifts to thank the KAS Workers!!

Oil, Sugar, and Tomato Paste

Now ~ September 4th

Give donations to
homeroom teacher