

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing



A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Our KAS Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Miriam, wrote an excellent article for the Enews last week in which she explored the importance of creating bits of free time and providing direction for young children to allow their natural curiosity, joy, service and creativity to flourish. I would add to Ms. Miriam's proposal, that among the most essential activities the young child can engage in during the unstructured times we create for them is that of imaginative play. In fact, the importance of imaginative play for the cognitive development and psychological health of the human being is well researched and documented.

One of the researchers in this area I find most helpful is that of the Soviet psychologist Lev Vygotsky, who already beginning 90 years ago published his findings about how imaginative play helps young children to mature and thrive. Vygotsky's suggestion of how this process works was roughly as follows.

First, children from their earliest years observe the behavior and listen to the speech of those around them - primarily parents to begin with, then siblings, teachers, and class- and playmates. Children then try to imitate the behavior and speech surrounding them, the behavior through play and directed activities, and the speech through talking to themselves either silently or out loud. As children practice observed behavior and language in their environment through imitation, those closest to them (parents, teachers, older siblings, close friends) will guide and correct them in their acquisition of these skills, and provide challenges for further mastery.

Through this process of imitation, behavior and language become "internalized," that is, become part of the child's inner landscape.

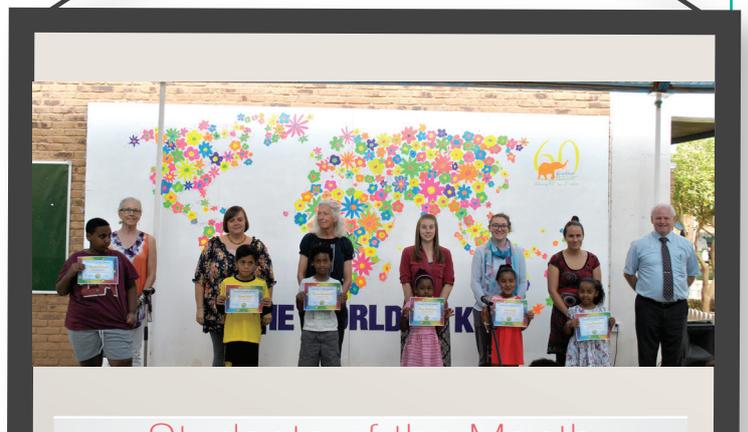
Yet this beginning foundation isn't sufficient for these skills to be utilized in everyday life by the young child. For mastery of these most basic human elements to be achieved, social interaction is needed to practice and hone the skills obtained.

Perhaps the most powerful form of social interaction available to the young child to allow them safely to explore and hone their language and behavior skills is imaginative play. Imaginative play involves social interaction both with other children and with imaginative characters, and through this interaction allows profound growth of the internal skills of behavior and language. In child-centered imaginative play, children act out different roles and explore different language uses. As their behavior and language competence and maturity unfold through play, children move from being externally to internally regulated in their cognition. A huge step towards being fully functional and integrated human beings has been achieved!

So let's celebrate the imaginative play our students engage in, understanding that it is one of the most profound and important educational tools available to the young child.

Phil Centers

Early Childhood Center & Elementary Principal



Students of the Month
Initiative

KAS 2017 Spring Swim Team



KAS has every reason to be proud of its Swim Team. The swimmers competed in the KICS swim meet Sunday, April 23, and outperformed their December appearance in the same pool. The Swim Team has grown over the months, and the newest swimmers on the team from Grades 3 and 4 took on the challenge of the different pool structure and equipment at KICS. The team members are to be commended for their commitment to practice and growth as a team in team spirit. KAS has one swimmer, Yula, going to Dubai this weekend to swim in an international swim meet. Go Yula! We thank all parents, coaches, teachers and the entire KAS community for your support, and look forward to another terrific team come Fall, 2017.

Ann Kathleen Crowley
Grade 3 Teacher

SAYING OF THE WEEK

Once **The Balloon Has Gone Up** you know there is trouble ahead. During the First World War, observation balloons would be sent into the sky at the first suspicion of an enemy attack, in order to monitor distant enemy troop movements. To most this was a sign of impending action. During the Second World War, strong barrage balloons connected to the ground with thick steel cable were raised around English cities. The idea of these was to impede enemy aircraft, which might crash into them in the darkness or clip their wings on the steel cable. Often they also protected cities from enemy missiles, which would hit a balloon and explode before reaching its target. Their Success was immeasurable but to city folk the sign of 'the balloon going up' meant an impending air raid. Trouble was indeed ahead.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

Water Intake and Dehydration

As the temperature continues to rise I would like to take this opportunity to share some facts and figures about dehydration and how to stay hydrated in hot, dry climates:

- 1. There's a 75% chance that you're dehydrated right now!** A survey of more than 3000 people recently found that 75 percent of participants were losing more water than they were drinking. Even if you're drinking the recommended 8 glasses of water per day, drinking caffeinated beverages or eating foods high in sodium can lead to an overall loss of water.
- 2. Dehydration Causes Fatigue.** A pair of recent studies found that young people who were mildly dehydrated were much more likely to feel fatigued during moderate exercise and even when sedentary. On a hot day, a glass of water can actually wake you up more than a cup of coffee, tea or soda. Drinking water throughout the day can help keep us alert and energized.
- 3. Thirst Means You're Dehydrated.** Dehydration triggers the body's thirst response. This means that by the time you actually feel thirsty, dehydration is already setting in. This onset of dehydration and resulting thirst can happen quickly, especially following exercise or when fighting or recovering from an illness such as a cold or flu. As difficult as it can be to remember, it is therefore important to drink water before we start feeling thirsty.

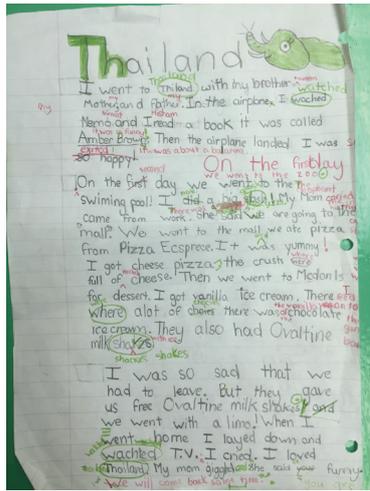
- 4. Dehydration Causes Lack of Concentration and Irritability.** Even mild dehydration has been shown to put stress on our cognitive abilities. In younger adults, for instance, dehydration has been linked to a dip in concentration and short-term memory, as well as an increase in anxiety and irritability. Drinking enough water can improve both attention and memory.

I know we all have those days when the hot weather seems to be draining away our energy and focus. Staying hydrated can help us function to the best of our ability and keep us feeling alert, positive and productive.

Jon Williams
MS\HS PE Teacher

ARMS and CUPS

By Chelsea Meyer



When Ms. Lelia Aboulela visited our classroom a few weeks ago and shared a narrative story that she wrote, she also gave the 2nd Grade class some advice for their writing. The most important thing that she emphasized was to reread and revise your own writing! As the 2nd Grade scholars progress in their development and understanding of the Writing Process, they are beginning to perfect their method through revising and editing. In the Writing Process, it's important to differentiate between the two, and Ms. Hiba, our wonderful Teaching Assistant, found a way to help us remember what to do!

For revising, we use ARMS

A Add sentences or words.

R Remove unneeded sentences or words.

M Move sentences and words around to make more sense.

S Substitute bland words for spicy words!

For editing, we use CUPS:

C Capitalization (names, titles, proper nouns)

U sage (match nouns and verbs)

Punctuation (periods, quotations, question marks, exclamation points)

Spelling (check all words)

To see an example of what these two steps look like, take a look at 2nd Grade scholar Hala's first draft of her narrative about visiting Thailand (shown above). Our young authors are busy publishing new pieces every week! Stop by to check out their portfolios if you have time, or come listen to them read their published works aloud in the Author's Chair every Thursday at 2:00pm.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Battle of the Books

IS COMING

VOTES ARE COMING FROM **ETHIOPIA, UGANDA, KENYA AND SUDAN!**
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BOOK NOW!

The White Nile Readers: Upper Elementary

Turtle of Oman
Imagination Box
Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer
Pax

The Blue Nile Readers Lower Elementary

Claude, Lights! Camera! Action!
Jasper John Dooley You're in Trouble
Lola Levine is Not Mean!
Diva and Flea



Monday, May 1

KAS Library

10:00 am - 11:15 am

Elementary Assembly Masters This Week's Winner



Geneina Benton
Grade 2