

# n e w s

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 2016



KAS Parents Attend An Information Seminar-  
**“Positive Parenting-Success For Your Child and You”**

School will be closed on **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** and returns on **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

One of our schools's 'signatures' is our quality and rigorous curriculum of studies. Our curriculum of studies is the KAS "stated" curriculum. It includes subjects in: reading, mathematics, English Language development, science, social studies, writing, art, music, computer literacy, physical education and elective courses (such as psychology, and additional writing and social studies courses). Students in the Early Childhood Center, Elementary School, Middle School and High School are engaged every day in broadening their knowledge and understandings as a result of our stated curriculum. Every day they are deeply involved in the 'business and joy of classroom learning'.

In addition to the stated curriculum, KAS is also known for its excellent 'non-stated' curriculum. The non-stated curriculum is less visible. By the non-stated or less visible curriculum, I include the social and emotional skills and understandings learned as a result of being in a caring and nurturing school environment such as ours. One of those skills is empathy. Empathy is defined as "the ability to identify or understand another's situation or feelings...The ability to share feelings of another...It is a distinctly human capability..." Our teachers and principals take pride in helping children in the Early Childhood Center, Elementary School, Middle School and High School develop empathy.

At KAS students learn that to get along with and understand others, they need to empathize with them. Empathy does not mean that one necessarily agrees with what a person believes or how they behave. Rather, it means that we try to understand the motivation for why that person acts in certain ways or believes what they believe. In a sense, we are teaching the children to try to "get into the shoes" of the other person. Research shows that successful students and adults demonstrate high levels of empathy.

The combination of our 'stated' curriculum and our 'non-stated' curriculum forms a foundation for success and life-long learning.

I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Beck  
Superintendent

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Superintendent

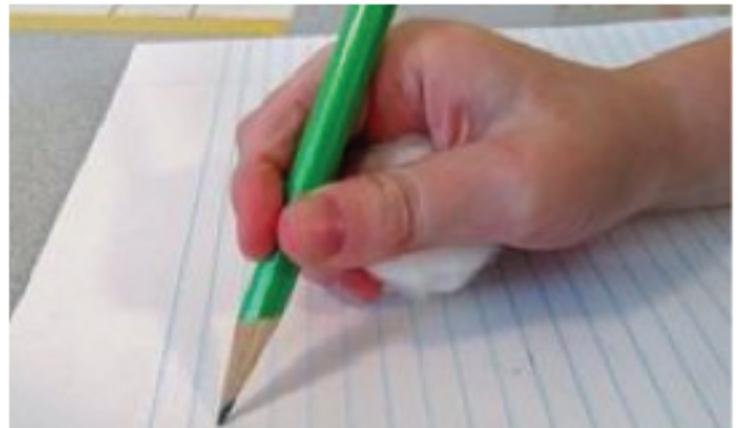
## News From Grade 1

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Did you know that mastering a proper pencil grip requires shoulder and arm muscles? People develop their larger muscles closer to their core, like shoulder muscles, before developing small muscles like those in the hands. If your child is having a hard time writing letters and numbers, this may be because they need to develop more physically.

The stronger and steadier one's shoulder and arm muscles are, the steadier their handwriting will be. Some fun gross motor activities that will help with this type of physical development are crawling, climbing, and pushing. Try making an obstacle course out of pillows, boxes, or other common household items that your child has to crawl around, climb over, or push out of the way for a fun way to help strengthen these muscles!

The goal is to use a 3-finger pencil grip. By age 5-6 most children will be comfortable doing so, though it may take a bit longer for some children. Practicing with a rubber pencil grip or a cotton ball may help with this. The pictures below show how to use a cotton ball to help.



Children can practice fine motor skills without a pencil too. Try using a finger to write in the sand, painting numbers or letters (with a paintbrush or fingers), or writing on a window with a dry-erase marker.

I hope you have fun practicing and developing these skills!

**Kathleen Taylor**  
Grade 1 Teacher

## A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As you may have noticed, Khartoum American School's student body has increased this new school year! This is a joy because it means we have more children with whom to share the wonderful experience of KAS, and a greater group of talented individuals to contribute to our learning community, making it deeper and more diverse.

Having this many more students also means that we need additional qualified and talented staff to help us fulfill our mission and vision. The KAS administrative team and teaching staff have been working diligently together to find and hire the best candidates to fill out our staff in order to meet the needs of our growing student population.

Khartoum American School is known not only as a great school, but also a great place to work and grow professionally, and the numerous applications we receive from adults wanting to join our team is a tribute to how highly our school is held in the greater Khartoum community. From this large pool of potential candidates for positions at our school, we select those we feel are the most qualified, and then go through a rigorous interview process with these candidates.

We continue interviewing candidates until we find the best fit for KAS in each of our open positions. It is gratifying to observe those we have hired doing such a great job working with our students. While this process takes time, sensitivity, patience, and good judgment, nothing could be more important for the well-being of our students and community than the selection and hiring of our competent and talented KAS staff.

**Phil Centers**  
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

## News from the Sports Department

Our 2016 basketball season is off to a great start! Our teams have been working hard improving skills and learning new ones. As a result, we have had success on the court. The MS Girls team won their first two games pretty handily. In fact, in the game against Nile Valley the MS Girls did not give up a basket the whole game. Pretty impressive defense!



The MS Boys lost their first game but they were able to regroup for the second. In our second contest the MS Boys displayed a dominant performance and scored an astonishing 40 points! Let's keep this momentum going forward for our game next week vs. KICS.



In the season opener the HS Girls lost a close game vs. Unity. Although we were not victorious the girls played an extremely competitive match and were able to take the lead several times throughout the game. The HS Girls are anxiously awaiting their next game so that they can continue developing their skills.



We are proud of the hard work that has been demonstrated by all of our teams. Keep up the good work. Go KAS!

Thanks,

**Breyon Burrell**  
Athletic Director



## KAS rises to defeat Unity 37-23

The HS Boys began their season on a winning note, defeating Unity High School 37-23. After a month's worth of intense practices and scrimmages, the boys voted Wang for captain and MK for vice captain. With their inspiring leadership, KAS rolled. The game itself featured several highlights: First, starting center Samir disobeyed the coach's directive by hoisting (and swishing) a 3 pointer at the end of the first quarter.



This broke open the game, and the team was able to maintain a double digit lead throughout. Another highlight was the high flying plays by MI and MK, showing some serious hops and skills by scoring 10 and 9 points respectively. Finally, Talha featured in one of the most amazing plays ever seen at KAS, as his pump fake led the Unity player to literally leapfrog over his head and send Talha to the free throw line.



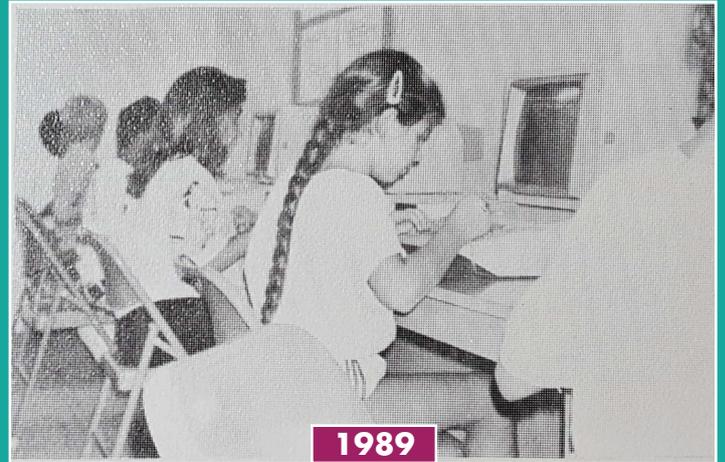
Coach McMullen was largely satisfied with the result, especially the fact that 9 players got on the score sheet and the team defense was sound. Our goal of the season is to go undefeated, so we are one game closer to achieving that goal.

**Owen McMullen**  
Middle & High School Social Studies



## KAS 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

KAS students using technology in their education throughout the years



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### SAYING OF THE WEEK

Being **Tarred With The Same Brush** is to be part of a group regarded as all having the same faults and weaknesses but, by inference, often unfairly. The expression is an old farming term, which derives from the practice of treating the sores of an entire flock of sheep. The sores could be coated by a brush dipped in tar. The same brush would be used on all of the stricken sheep but never on a healthy animal for fear of passing the infection on, in which case all infected sheep were 'tarred with the same brush'.

**Minette van der Bij**  
High School English Department

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