



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 10, 2019



**Origami Artist Mr. Om Parkash
Visit to KAS**

Superintendent's Message



ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAS Parents are invited to the following event:

'Meet the Board President and Superintendent'

**October 17th
8:30 am KAS Library**

Dear KAS Community,

During the next few weeks we have a number of exciting school events and presentations.

From karate to gymnastics to soccer to basketball – KAS students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills within our community and in competition with other schools.

There are more opportunities to build community via the Family Movie Night on Wednesday October 23rd and the Swimathon fundraiser the same week.

We are always seeking to broaden and improve our After School Activity Program via input from students and other community members. Please do communicate with Mr. Jeremy if you have ideas of activities you would like to be part of our program.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Bridget Davies
KAS Superintendent

STUDENT COUNCIL



On the 16th of September, the official winners of the 2019 student council election were announced: Abdallah Abbas (Student Body President), Fawzia Omer (Vice President), Lina Fadl (Secretary), Dina Ebrahim & Joshua Udochi (Publicists) and Sean Im (Treasurer). The council also consists of our great class representatives: Rayan Ebrahim (11th grade), Mohanad Hamadelnil (10th grade), and Adaw Kekui (9th grade). The Student Council of 2019 is determined to meet the needs of the student body. We are looking forward to a productive and exciting year!

October will be busy for the student council this year. To celebrate the fun holiday of Halloween, we are hosting a Halloween Parade with a spooky Haunted House. By the end of this month, we will be launching KAS's first-ever student council website, accompanied by a survey for middle school and high school. This survey will consist of a wide range of questions to document students' opinions on different issues at the school. Also, one of our main focuses this month is to tackle the food delivery policy and to work with the administration closely to come up with a solution that will please the students.

Dina Ebrahim
Student Council Publisher
Grade 12 Student

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Greetings,

This was the last week of our afterschool club program for the elementary school. This program is part of the Khartoum American School curriculum. Don't get confused, curriculum doesn't refer to only academic subjects, but instead refers to a total learning experience. Here at KAS, we believe in developing the whole child and giving the students as many learning experiences as possible. The afterschool clubs extend many of those sorts of opportunities that students might not have inside the classroom. These activities and clubs support and promote Khartoum American School's 4 C's: Curriculum, Character, Citizenship and Community.

To celebrate the hard work and dedication that students have devoted to some of their clubs these first six weeks, KAS will be hosting a couple competitions during this upcoming week. First, on November the 16th our karate and gymnastics team will welcome the Coptic Club karate and gymnastics team for competition. On Saturday the 19th we will be hosting Purple Crayon School for a small soccer competition. There will be some snacks and drinks for sale during the competitions. We hope that you are able to come out and support our programs.

The second six weeks of afterschool clubs will start on October 27th. Signups for those clubs will be the week prior. I will be sending out a sign-up through signupgenius.com to parent emails once we are ready, so pay attention to emails coming from the school. The next six week session will have some familiar clubs such as soccer and karate, but will also have some new ones offered by our teachers. We are looking forward to another great session of ASAP. Please make sure you sign up your child as soon as you get the email, as some clubs have limited space and are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Look forward to another great session of afterschool clubs.

Jeremy Albright

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

The Benefits of Hands-On Learning

Hands-on learning is the process of learning by doing. To be most effective, hands-on activities should mimic a real-world scenario as much as possible. Hands-on learning also helps students engage with the subject matter to solve a problem or create something.

Hands-on learning has many benefits such as:

- Inspiring a love of learning

Learning by doing allows children to become personally invested in their own learning processes. Becoming actively engaged in their education builds confidence, as the lessons require students to rely on their own abilities to obtain knowledge.

- Encouraging experimentation

Hands-on learning allows students to experiment as they test concepts with tactile equipment, learning as much from their failures as their successes.

- Aiding comprehension

The hands-on teaching strategy engages the senses in a way that promotes learning comprehension on multiple levels. This practice allows students to understand information and also to use it.

- Improving knowledge retention

Tactile equipment that can be handled by the student increases the likelihood that knowledge learned in the classroom will be retained.

The best example for hands-on learning comes from attempting to teach someone to ride a bicycle. No matter the number of books you read about cycling, to actually learn you should go out and ride it. Clearly, in certain situations, hands-on learning is vital.

Sarah Osman

Student Support Services

Failure is an Option

One of the greatest errors we as educators commit is believing that failure equals catastrophe, as though failure were some sort of virus that poisons and corrupts. Rather, I think of failure differently, perhaps as a well-meaning friend that should be respected and embraced.

That can be a tough pill to swallow. Failure is embarrassing. It doesn't feel good and it changes how people treat you. Society doesn't reward or respect defeat, which, though painful enough for a perfectionist adult, is multiplied a thousand fold for students trapped in the social experiment known as adolescence.

In fact, we are often so afraid of failure that we confuse its absence for success. Then, when we do make mistakes, we avoid admitting to them because they make us feel self-conscious and vulnerable. It's a flaw in human programming; we care so much about how our peers perceive us that we aren't willing to take healthy risks.

Yet for some people, failure is welcome. Why? Two reasons, and each reason produces vastly different results. The first reason is a poor one: to conveniently avoid responsibility and labour: "The assignment was too difficult", "I was too busy to study", etc. Use this strategy too often and it cements into a toxic mindset that hinders all future efforts. I recently told my Grade 11 African Studies class that the saying, "Failure is not an option," is a preposterous statement for a rational human being to make. Failure is the most readily available option at all times and in all situations. "However," I told them, "it is a choice." Such a willingness to embrace failure to evade personal responsibility runs contrary to the growth mindset that so many education experts advocate.

The second reason people might appreciate failure is more positive. They might appreciate it for its constructive qualities. Like all experiences, failure can be a tool, a tool that can shape and hue personal character. Failure is an experience that when used correctly, leads to reflection, evaluation and, hopefully, improvement. Growth does not happen easily; growth is not safe and warm, it is oftentimes uncomfortable and strenuous. But when growth matures it delivers personal and professional benefits that cannot be achieved otherwise.

Failure is inevitable. Every day, every human is faced with multiple opportunities to fail miserably. Does that mean that the farmer who foresees drought shouldn't bother planting seeds? Or that the person who needs dental work won't make an appointment? Burying one's head in the sand and cursing the demigods of fate only leads to worse issues down the road, because if pushing forward means falling flat on our faces, well, at least we're falling in the right direction.

Mike Schrage
High School Social Studies

Saying of the Week

To **Throw Down The Gauntlet** is to lay a challenge, originally of combat but latterly to any form of contest. A gauntlet is a medieval armoured glove, forming part of a knight's suit of armour. Traditionally a knight would challenge another to a duel by throwing down his gauntlet. If his opponent picked it up it meant he was accepting the challenge and battle would begin. **Taking Up The Gauntlet** has since been a phrase used for accepting a challenge. The Swedish word 'gantlope' was anglicised to 'gauntlet' as a result of this tradition, but 'running the gauntlet' and 'throwing down the gauntlet' are not otherwise connected.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department