

news

news from the trunk
Thursday, November 8, 2018

PLEASE NOTE: Thursday, November 15, 2018 is **Early Dismissal** at 12:00pm.



Halloween at KAS

PLEASE NOTE: The PTA Picnic will take place on November, 9, 2018 starting from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. Also the pool will be closed on that day from 2:00pm.

Superintendent's Message

Parent Conferences

Thank you to all parents who attended Parent/Teacher conferences yesterday. These conferences are very important for building strong relationships between teachers and parents in helping children to progress and succeed in all areas at school.

KAS IT Infrastructure

One of the important upgrades at KAS this school year has been the \$200,000.00 capital investment in our school wide IT system. This has allowed much faster and more reliable internet access for everyone. In the past we have suffered too many delays and slow internet access during periods of high usage. This no longer happens. We also have a safer, more secure, system. We are all very pleased with the results we are having from this upgrade.

I am very happy to be back at school and enjoying the great atmosphere at KAS. As I become more mobile I look forward to spending time in classrooms seeing the progress in learning that students are making. I welcome parents to stop by and discuss anything about KAS.

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents,

It was great seeing so many of you on Parent-Teacher Conference Day. Children do better in school when parents are involved. Attending parent-teacher conferences is one of the best ways to be involved in your child's education and help your child succeed. Parent-teacher conferences are a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and to work with the teacher to help your child do well in school.

Now that Parent-Teacher Conferences are over, please review what was discussed at the conference with your child, including any special learning plans, and share the positive comments the teachers made as well as the recommendations. If you still have concerns put your thoughts in writing and send an email to the teacher. You can also schedule a meeting with the teacher as soon as mutually convenient.

Make sure that you check Classe365 on a regular basis. Keep in mind that you can contact the teacher with any new questions or questions that you didn't have time to ask at any time.

Always remember that you and your child's teacher have the same goal: To help your child succeed in school.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal



ANNOUNCEMENT



KAS PTA

Welcomes you, your family and friends to a

FAMILY PICNIC

Food and drinks available for sale

Ice cream Popcorn Cotton candy Fun and games Music



Friday, November 9th, 2018



KAS Gardens



2:00pm-8:00pm

Free
Entrance

Pool will be closed on November 9th from 2:00 pm onwards

Saying of the Week

A Baker's Dozen is 13, not 12. There are two established theories as to the origin of the phrase. The first is set in medieval England and identifies the sales techniques of tradesmen such as bakers and fishmongers. When selling directly to the public, merchants would have a fixed price for their wares. But when selling to bulk buyers such as town market stall-holders, the merchant would gift an extra item for every dozen bought. In such cases the 13th loaf or fish would represent the stall-holder's profit on the items he buys and then sells at market.

The second theory dates back to the 13th century when bakers had the reputation of selling underweight loaves, although sometimes unfairly as the baking process at times made the bread 'thin' on the inside. In 1266 regulations were brought in to standardize weights of various loaves and the penalty for being underweight would mean a day in the stocks. To avoid this, bakers began to add an extra loaf, known as a vantage loaf, to every dozen sold, to make sure they stayed within the new laws.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

The Leviathan: Gazing into The Deep

During the first quarter in Advanced Physics we studied some of the history of what ideas humanity has had about how the universe is ordered, and how we came to those ideas. One of the ideas people have wrestled with is just how big is the universe?

Between the years 1771 and 1781 the French astronomer Charles Messier, who had a passion for discovering new comets, compiled and published a list of the locations of faint, fixed celestial objects so that other astronomers would not mistake them for those celestial wanderers. These objects became known as the Messier Objects. Although for the time the telescopes Messier used were cutting edge, they were the equivalent of a 10-centimeter reflecting telescope that an amateur astronomer could purchase today for a couple of hundred dollars (10 cm referring to the diameter of the reflecting mirror that collects and focuses the starlight).

In the year 1842, William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, an Irish amateur astronomer of some means, began construction of an immense telescope on the grounds of his home, Birr Castle. He wanted to have a closer look at the Messier Objects to see if he could determine what they were. Three years later Parsons finally mounted the mirror in the telescope that became known as the Leviathan of Parsonstown. The barrel of the telescope was 16 meters long, and the box that held the 3 tonne primary mirror was another meter-and-a-half deep. The mirror itself was 183 centimeters in diameter, which meant that an adult could easily stand up inside the barrel of the Leviathan. On those infrequent nights that the Irish weather allowed, Parsons observed, recorded data on, and made sketches of a number of the Messier Objects. One in particular, Messier Object 51, or M51, fascinated him. What Parsons saw was not just an indistinct cloud of interstellar gas (which is the definition of a nebula), but an object with definite structure; he likened it to a whirlpool and called it the Whirlpool Nebula. Parsons went on to make other observations and publish papers detailing his observations and discoveries and was recognized as one of the leading astronomers of his day. The Leviathan remained the most powerful astronomical instrument of the 19th Century. It was not until the 20th Century (1917), when the Mount Wilson Observatory built its 254 cm diameter telescope, that a more powerful instrument was available to further our understanding of the universe.

In 1929 the American astronomer Edwin Hubble also looked at the Whirlpool Nebula using the 254 cm 'scope at Mount Wilson, and calculated that the stars he was seeing in this nebula were far too distant to be in our galaxy (just a few years before Harlow Shapley used Mount Wilson's 183 cm telescope to work out the size and shape of the Milky Way Galaxy). What Hubble concluded was that the Parsons, Whirlpool Nebula wasn't a nebula; it was a galaxy on its own. Up until Hubble's discovery, the words "Milky Way," "galaxy," and "universe" were used interchangeably – they meant the same thing. Suddenly those words meant very different things. Our Milky Way was only one galaxy in a universe filled with other

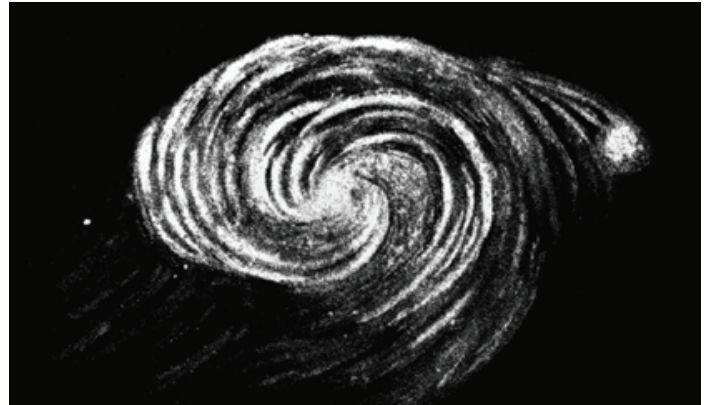
galaxies. So M51 had another name change, it became the Whirlpool Galaxy.

Today one can visit Birr Castle in Ireland and see the Leviathan, as Anne and I did on our way back to the US last spring. It stands as a monument to William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, the man who first gazed into the deep and truly saw something beyond our galaxy.



The Leviathan of Parsonstown on the grounds of Birr Castle in Ireland.

Photo: M.J. Scott



An 1845 drawing of the Whirlpool Nebula, M51, in William Parsons's observation notebook



An image of M51, the Whirlpool Galaxy, taken by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2005. Photo: NASA

Marc Scott
Science Teacher

KAS Parent-Teacher Conferences First Term



This week the EC-ES gathered to acknowledge the passing of Term One. We celebrated by gathering in the Clinton Garden and taking a photo together the day before teachers met with the KAS parents for conferences. It was during the first ten weeks of school that teachers and children sized each other up. Determinations were made by the teachers as to how they would collaborate to move the young people along both academically and socially. This information was shared at conferences this past Wednesday.

Parents, when you were a child you probably saw your own parents head off for a parent-teacher conference at a school. Maybe you dreaded these meetings because of the scolding you thought you would get afterward. Or perhaps you looked forward to the proud look on your parents' faces after hearing the nice things your teachers would say.

Regardless of your past experiences, you only had a vague notion of what a parent-teacher conference was all about and what happens at such a meeting. Now that you're an adult and responsible for taking part in these events, let's look at what parent-teacher conferences were about at KAS last Wednesday.

At the KAS Parent-Teacher Conference children's parents and teachers met to discuss children's progress academically, socially and with regard to expected classroom behavior. Other topics, such as emotional challenges, homework, or issues with friends, might have come up. The teachers

shared examples of the children's school work, any relevant test scores, and observations of the class participation, academic work, and social growth with the parents. Teachers made sure parents knew of the portal Class365 which the school and teacher use to share vital information each day around what is happening in the classrooms and the school.

As parents you listened and talked as you communicated with your child's teacher. Teachers shared the Progress Reports. The first term progress reports normally revealed the children to be in the 'developing' or 'applying' area for learning. That is to be expected. As the school year advances and relationships grow in the classroom, the children will routinely move more into the 'applying' and 'mastery' stage of learning.

The KAS Parent-Teacher Conferences allowed the parents and teachers to meet and discuss how the expectations for the children would now be met. As the conferences closed teachers and parents made sure they had each other's contact information. The cycle of communication came full circle, and now everyone at KAS is on board to begin and complete a successful Term Two.

VeryWellFamily. January 28, 2018 Katherine Lewis, "What to Expect at a Parent-Teacher Conference" was a resource for this article.

Ann Crowley
Grade 4 Teacher

KAS SWIM-A-THON



Friday, November 2, 2018, KAS families met at the pool in the late afternoon to participate in a lovely event put together by Dr. Christopher Rampacek. The PTA provided a multitude of wonderful snacks and beverages to support the event. Swimmers collected sponsors to pay sums of money either for the time swimmers spent

swimming, or for the laps they completed successfully. The event emphasized camaraderie and support over competition. The funds collected for the event will help defray the expenses that swimmers will incur while attending the Dubai MEUC International Swim Meet this coming February. The following swimmers swam the most laps: Divya GD 11, Su GD 8, Omer GD 11, Akane GD 8, Moni GD 7, Phone GD 6, Kohei GD5

Ann Crowley
Grade 4 Teacher