



# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, November 8, 2018



## Fun at the Farm with Kindergarten and Grade 4

**PLEASE NOTE:** School will be closed on **Tuesday, November 20** for Prophet Mohamed's Birthday.

## Superintendent's Message

**Hiring Teachers for KAS** – I consider one of the most important responsibilities of a school superintendent or principal is to hire the best teachers we can get. Hiring quality teachers is a very competitive process and we have to spend a good deal of time researching databases, meeting candidates face to face, and using skype calls to interview prospective teachers.

We set minimum qualifications of 2 years experience - preferable with international or a national school Teaching License and/or Certification, at least a Bachelor's degree in area of instruction, a required background check, and a medical check.

When hiring teachers we use the following procedures

- Review CVs for experience, certification, and availability – preference given to experienced, U.S. certified teachers
- Contact referees for confidential references
- Set up skype interviews with preferred candidates
- Meet face to face for interviews at recruiting fairs
- Involve other staff with skype and email contact with potential candidates

We are in the midst of the busiest part of the recruiting season. So far we have hired 5 teachers for next year. In next week's E News I will introduce new teachers for next year with qualifications and experience. We hope to finish all hiring before next February.

PTA Picnic – I would like to thank the KAS PTA for the wonderful picnic that was held at school last Friday. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend, but many people have commented to me what a great time everyone had. Thank you PTA!

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

## A Field Trip at Mr. Magdi's farm



## A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Thank you all so very much for the great turnout we had on our Parent/Teacher Conference day/night last week. There were tons of great conferences going on and plenty of happy faces walking around campus. It is always nice to hear about how our children are doing in school personally from another adult who cares and works with our kids. My daughter was always so proud to have my wife and I attend all of her conferences even if sometimes there was information about her that she didn't particularly want us to hear. This usually revolved around what specifically she needed to work on more in class. And most times putting forth more effort did the trick. I think it's because we had a good relationship with all of her teachers and they knew that they could count on us for support when they needed it from us and us from them as well.

All students want to know that all of the adults that work with and care for them are on the same page. It gives them security and makes them feel part of the whole team. Thank you for showing this type of teamwork approach in working with us and your children.

Only five weeks till the winter break, so please have your youngsters here every day, it so important. Unless they are sick of course.

Some announcements:

Don't forget the early dismissal on Thursday the 15th at noon. Then on the 20th which is a Tuesday, there will be no school.

As always, thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school and its students, employees and programs.

Take care,

**Joe Kaminski**  
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

## More Than A Single Story

What assumptions do you make about others based on a single characteristic? What assumptions have been made of you? Perhaps you recall how a bold teacher taught you how to spell "assume" and that assumptions usually lead to unfortunate outcomes.

In a TED talk, the Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells us of the danger of the "single story." When we remain ignorant of the cultural wealth that any person has, we fall prey to assigning them a static stereotype. Adichie was victim of the single story when her writing mentors accused her novels as not being "authentically African." This is only my third year in Africa, but I agreed with Adichie when she found this to be an absurd comment to make. There is such tremendous diversity on every level on this continent that is inane to attempt to neatly classify what is and what is not "authentically African." Adichie also fell prey to believing the single narrative when she realized that she only defined the family who did domestic work for her middle-class parents by their poverty, rather than by any other attribute, experience or skill they had.

Growing up, my wise father would remind me that "everyone is an I." This pithy statement has helped me time and time again as I have felt isolated or misunderstood. We all bare different truths because there exist multiple accounts of history. There is no single story for any single person. Unfortunately it seems to be a natural instinct to surmise, stereotype, and assume rather than expand upon our knowledge and stay open to altering what we know about others.

How do we stay open? What makes it possible for us to connect to others, and why is connection important? On a global scale, connection and understanding between two or more cultures can be fiscally imperative to the survival of those cultures. On a personal scale, we are better able to relate to our neighbors and get along with them when we more fully understand their many stories, and how those stories have shaped them.

Even when we hear all of the stories (and we will never hear all of the stories), we are something different than the sum of our experiences. We are gestalt. Everyone is an I. There is no single story.

**Miriam Easterling**  
Kindergarten Teacher

# Tackling Academic Dishonesty

When the Josephson Institute Center for Youth Ethics surveyed 43 000 high school students in both public and private schools, they found that 59% of those students admitted to cheating on a test within the past year: 34% self-reported doing so more than two times. About as many admitted that they had used the internet to steal at least part of an essay.

The Times of London revealed that students from outside the UK are four times as likely to cheat in their university classes. As an international schoolteacher who has dedicated his professional life to preparing young people to have a positive impact in their adult lives, I find such a number deeply troubling. When my students leave KAS, are they four times more likely to cheat in university? Yikes!

For the next two months in 'Hear the Herd' we have designed a series of lessons that explore the meaning and implications of academic dishonesty. We do not just want students who merely refuse to cheat, but who truly admire success through honest measures.

This past Sunday we asked the question, "What's so bad about cheating?" The responses varied.

While students saw dishonesty as a fundamental moral flaw, they also believed that any strategy that helps them to get ahead is, at least in part, justified. Some said that they did not believe that universities would care whether they cheated or not. Universities are businesses, and businesses only care about their bottom lines, which means that so long as they pay their tuitions, they are allowed to operate how they choose. Others said that while cheating is wrong, sometimes when students predict impending failure they feel compelled to cheat. This is particularly true with students who are accustomed to receiving high grades.

We learned about a situation in another country where parents rioted because their children were not allowed to cheat. Cheating had become so pervasive in that culture that any district that attempted to curb cheating was seen to be putting its students at a disadvantage. One father even punched an exam invigilator for

preventing his son from receiving answers from his friends via text message.

This upcoming Sunday session of Hear the Herd will examine the real-world consequences of cheating, regardless of whether or not it was ever caught. We will discuss how a strong society depends on trust and collaboration, how good business practices are usually built on long-standing loyalties, how no one wants to work with a fraud, and so dishonest people find themselves gradually excluded from the world of legitimate business.

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<https://www.plagiarism.org/article/plagiarism-facts-and-stats>

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20160921125627336>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/10132391/Riot-after-Chinese-teachers-try-to-stop-pupils-cheating.html>

**Jon Marck**  
HS Mathematics Teacher

## Saying of the Week

A **Barrack Room** Lawyer is a derogatory term meaning they are unqualified or inexperienced at what they are attempting to achieve (usually in professional circles). Since the 19th century the Queen's (or King's) Regulations have enabled soldiers without any formal legal training to conduct their own defence, make a formal complaint to superiors or promote their own interests. But those who did so were held in contempt by their commanding officers, who bestowed the uncomplimentary tag upon them. The phrase had passed into common usage by the beginning of the 20th century.

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