

# news

news from the trunk  
Thursday, December 20, 2018



 School will close for Winter Break and will reopen on Monday, January 13, 2019.



## CHRISTMAS CAROL AT THE US EMBASSY AND THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES RESIDENCE

 Pool will be closed starting Sunday, December 23, 2018 for maintenance over the break and will reopen in January, 2019



## Superintendent's Message

**Winter Break** – I want to wish all in our community a relaxing Winter Break. Our first semester was very successful and was highlighted by receiving re-accreditation from CIS / MSA.

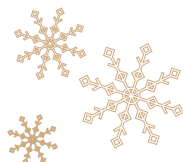
**Parent Seminars Second Semester** – We have planned the following Parent Seminars for the second semester and we encourage parents to attend these informative sessions.

February 7 – Bringing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to KAS – We are beginning the process of becoming an IB DP school, using the IB DP curriculum for grades 11 & 12 once we complete the authorization process. Steve Alexander and Don Tingley will explain the benefits and details of this program and we encourage all parents to attend this seminar.

March 14 – What KAS Does to Handle Bullying at School – Don Tingley and Nicole Stacey, our school counselors will discuss how we handle bullying at school and what parents can also do to help their children with this issue.

April 11 – SPACIT / New Staff at KAS for 2019-20 – Steve Alexander will update parents on the status of our strategic plan (SPACIT) and let parents know who the new staff members will be for the 2019-20 school year.

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent



## News From the Arabic Department



This semester in Arabic classes for first graders we covered most of the letters of the alphabet, placing vowel signs on words. We have also introduced the Arabic language writing system and Arabic vowel sound system, in addition to communication skills.

To meet the requirements of this course students must be able to identify the letters of the alphabet, the shapes and sounds of the letters, to write the letters at different positions in a word, to place the vowel signs on words correctly and to explain the major differences in the Arabic vowel sound system.



**Abdelrazig Ibrahim**  
Arabic Language Teacher

## Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

Students at Khartoum American School have worked so hard this semester and now that the semester has come to an end, Winter Break is finally here. For many of us, this is both rewarding, exciting and, of course, a huge relief. All of the hard work throughout the semester has paid off and it is now time to treat ourselves for the next three weeks.

It's essential that you give yourself the time you need to recover from the stress of the semester and relax. It is also very important that you keep yourself busy. Keeping busy prevents you from feeling down and provides your life with excitement.

Here are some suggestions for things to do over the Winter Break:

- Catch up with old friends (and stay in touch with new ones)
- Bake
- Exercise
- Catch up on your reading
- Spend quality time with family
- See a movie
- Volunteer
- Find a hobby: Whether this means trying out music, art, crafts, knitting or writing

Have a relaxing and exciting Winter Break!

Happy Holidays!

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal

## Archeological Digs

This semester, the sixth graders learned about geology and fossils. Instead of just reading about them in the classroom, the sixth graders discovered that there are fossils all around, even in our own backyard!

Using the same techniques that professional archeologists use, our very own KAS scientists uncovered a treasure trove of fossils. The student scientists were challenged to dig carefully until they found the fossilized remains, and they found all of them, including leg bones, vertebrates, and even entire skulls. Then they excavated the bones, using brushes to carefully remove the surrounding dirt, before transporting them back for observations.

Back in the lab, our intrepid intellectuals-in-training recorded their findings in their science journals, drawing sketches and guessing what these animals used to be. By looking at the teeth, skull shape, and sizes, the sixth grade was able to identify several types of species.

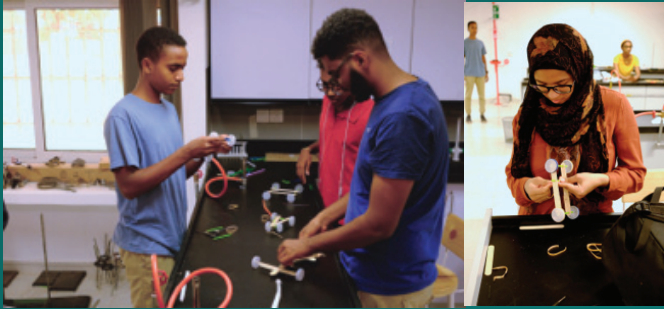
I guess you could say these students really dig science!



**Michael Jorgensen**  
MS Science Teacher



# Physics is Phun!



Not all assessments in school have to be paper and pencil tests. Sometimes having to use what has been learned in order to make something is an even better test of understanding than being able to “do the math.” Grade 11 Physics and Grade 12 Advanced Physics have been investigating two different aspects of momentum. While the Physics class has been studying the tendency of an object moving in a straight line to continue to move in a straight line, Advanced Physics has been investigating the tendency of an object that is rotating to resist changes to that rotation. Both of these concepts are used in the auto industry. Knowing about the forces involved in linear momentum and impulse helps engineers to design crumple zones into the frames of cars, and airbags into the interior spaces to help protect the occupants in the event of a crash. Having a handle on rotational momentum and inertia aids in the design of wheels and tires that require less of a car’s energy to turn them.



In Physics the task was for each student to design and construct a device no bigger than a 30 cm cube that would protect a raw chicken egg from as high a fall as possible. Some of the designs

were elegantly simple, some more complex, and some just looked strange, but the final deciding factor was whether it kept the egg from breaking.

In Advanced Physics the design brief was to design a car powered by a single rubber band that would go fast and travel in a straight line. Again, design solutions varied. Some students worked on perfecting cars propelled by winding the rubber band around the drive axle. Others used the rubber band as a kind of sling-shot to propel the car. In either case, it took some perseverance on the students’ parts to build a car that would not fall apart (first rule of racing – finish the race) and that was fast.

Students of both classes now have a feeling in their hands for what these concepts of momentum are all about.

**Marc Scott**  
HS Science Teacher

## Saying of the Week

**By Hook Or By Crook** is an expression we use to explain achieving something by any means possible, either honestly or otherwise. For its origin we need to know that a hook is a blunt billhook and a crook is a curved shaft a shepherd uses to gather his flock. In medieval feudal England a law was passed preventing the cutting down of trees or lopping of branches in order to gather firewood. But the law permitted the poor to gather dead wood from forests and deemed anything they could collect with a blunt hook or shepherd’s crook was allowable. The Bodmin Register of 1525 states, ‘Dymure Wood is open to the inhabitants of Bodmin ... to bear away on their backs a burden of lop, hook, crook and bag wood.’

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