



# news

news from the trunk  
Thursday, February 14, 2019



## SUDAN DAYS AT KAS!

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## Superintendent's Message

### International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Parent Seminar

On Thursday, February 21st, we will have a very important parent seminar to explain the IB Diploma Program to parents in the KAS library beginning at 8:30AM. The IBDP, as it is known, is an excellent college preparation program for students in grades 11 and 12. There are presently over 4700 IB schools operating throughout the world. This seminar is for all parents and we hope you come and learn about the IBDP.

### New Teachers Hired for 2019-20

The following teachers will have been hired since the Winter Break and will be joining our community next year:

**Mike Schrage – High School Social Studies** – Mike has a BA in History and an MA in Special Education. Mike has taught Humanities in the U.A.E., History in the USA. and is presently teaching IB History in Azerbaijan. Mike is single and an American citizen

**Marialejandra Alvarado Colmenares – Pre-Kindergarten** – Marialejandra has a BA in Education. She has been the Early Childhood Director at the Colegio Internacional in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, and has taught Pre-K at Nile Valley School in Khartoum. Maria is single and is a citizen of Venezuela.

**Reekha Dolley – Grade 3** – Reekha has a BA in Elementary Education. Reekha has taught in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and is currently teaching elementary school in Cedar Falls, Iowa, USA. Reekha will be coming with her husband Jakob and her 3 year-old daughter. Reekha is an American citizen.

**Jakob Elmquist – Middle School English** – Jakob has a BA in Secondary English and an MA in Teacher Leadership in International Schools. Jakob has taught in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and is presently teaching in Cedar Falls, Iowa, USA. Jakob will be coming with his wife Reekha and his 3 year-old daughter. Jakob is an American citizen.

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

## SUDAN DAYS 2019



## A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Sudan Days!

Can you believe that we are right in the middle of February already? A few more weeks and it will be March and then boom, the final three months of the school year 2018/2019 will be upon us. There is so much still to do.

Our after-school program will start up again this coming Sunday, so please, ask your children what they have signed up for. Our after-school programs will run from Sunday until March 6th, then take a break and resume in quarter four.

If you have been contacted by your children's teachers for individual advanced parent/teacher conferences, please let them know what your plans are and when you can meet with them. If you can't make it in before the 26th of this month that's okay, because we'll have conferences beginning at 12:00 noon on that day and they will go till 4:00PM. School will be dismissed at noon for the students. Communication with your children's teachers is very important and your child loves the teamwork that is displayed when parent and teacher work together for the benefit of the student.

On January 28th the report cards for our first semester became available to read online. If you have yet to view your child's card online please contact myself, your child's teacher or our IT department as soon as possible.

Student safety is still our main concern at KAS and the school will be in contact with all of you if there are any issues that may arise regarding this. So far, our "virtual days" have been successful, but, obviously, they are no replacement for teacher-to-student face-to-face interaction. That's why we all went into education in the first place. It is just plain fun to interact and transmit knowledge and skills to other human beings, in person.

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

Take care,

**Joe Kaminski**  
Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

## Using Music to Energize Students

In music class, sometimes, my older students come wearing their headsets, which they are not to use during class, and I often remind them also not to use their cellphones. At times, it can feel like I'm working too hard to get my students to pay attention. They would argue that it is a music class so they are supposed to be allowed to listen to music. That is a question: whether it is okay to let them or to instead impose a school rule. So what do I do? I give them the last 10 minutes of the class to listen to music as long as it is up to standard. I call it "Music Appreciation Class."

The right kind of music has the power to change moods within minutes, sometimes even seconds. Adding some up-tempo pump-up music into the environment gives students a jolt of adrenaline and adds instant energy to the classroom; energy that the teacher can then redirect to a learning task.

What is it about music that causes people to respond physically? Is it the beat? The mode? The rising and falling of the pitch? Research has found that the tempo of the music is the most important factor driving entrainment. For example, people who listen to music while exercising tend to match their movements to the beat of the music, which leads to more satisfying and enjoyable workouts.

This semester, in music class my students are learning to create dance steps as part of becoming good performers. I explained to them the techniques used in choreography. As we leave the unit, "Element of Rhythm," The students showed improvements in their ability to stay on beat and make good expressions. I am glad also that my students show eagerness at remembering patterns and sequences.

It is a pleasure to share with you that my students are preparing for the End-of-the-Year Musical Production. They worked hard on their dances and musical numbers. The show is called "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with a Twist." It will be held on March 6th, Wednesday, at 6:30PM. Watch for updates over the next 3 weeks. See you there.

**Didith Lanario**  
Music Teacher

# Support The Batwa!



The Batwa are a group of Indigenous Ugandan people that were kicked out of their forest home by the government's forces to protect the gorillas. Since then, the Batwa have lost their homes and have been left in incredibly harsh and heartbreaking conditions. Therefore, every year the KAS eighth graders go on an ecology and service learning trip to Uganda, where they try their hardest to help the Batwa out.

This year's 2019 eighth grade class needs your charitable donations to help us reach our goal of helping the Batwa people. As requested by the Batwa, our main focus this year will be to build huts for them. To accomplish this goal we organized several fundraising events that appealed to the KAS community, such as "The Fall Ball" and some "Batwa Bake-Sales". Though our best efforts have raised quite a bit of money, we are still short of our fundraising goal, so we need your help to reach it. All donations are appreciated, so if you would like to donate, please give the money to the eighth grade's advisor, Ms. Utecht, or support us at our upcoming bake-sale at Sudan Days this Friday!

**Rayan Elkedir and Maryam Shakeel**

**Grade Eight Students**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



KAS Pool will be closed  
on  
**Friday, February 15,  
2019**

### Saying of the Week

**Rigmarole** is an unusual word with an interesting origin. It is used to describe something disconnected, rambling and difficult to see a way through. It is now well over 700 years old and dates back to 1291 when the Scottish noblemen signed a deed of loyalty to King Edward I of England. Each of them fixed their seal to it and when all the attachments were joined together and presented to the King it was 40ft long. The deeds were known as the Ragman Roll and it was a disheveled mix and match of all the Scottish deeds, both confusing and complicated. Ragman Roll morphed into 'Rigmarole' and became used to describe anything of troublesome, time-consuming and awkward nature.

**Minette van der Bijl**

High School English Department