

news

news from the trunk
Thursday, March 7, 2019

AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

2019 ELEMENTARY MUSICAL



KAS ELEMENTARY SPRING MUSICAL

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY WITH A TWIST

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Superintendent's Message

KAS Annual General Meeting Notification

The Khartoum American School will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday April 21st starting promptly at 7 pm in the quad area at the school.. It is important that as many parents as possible attend this meeting. At this meeting parents will elect four members to each serve two-year terms on the School Board. Each parent is allowed one vote. There are no proxy votes for this election. To vote parents must have paid all school fees for this school year.

Any parent wishing to run for election to be on the School Board must have at least one child enrolled in school at the time of this election and must have paid all fees for the school year when declaring candidacy.

Candidate Criteria for Parents Who Want to Serve on the KAS School Board

1. Candidates should request from the Superintendent a declaration form that needs to be signed and delivered to the Superintendent no later than 4 PM on Sunday, April 7th.
2. Attach an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (cv)
3. One paragraph why you want to be on the Board
Must be in good financial standing – all fees must be paid by April 7th

All documents should be sent to the Superintendent – you can bring them to the Superintendent's office or submit by email salexander@krtams.org

Parent Seminar – March 14 – “Is it Mean, is it Rude, is it Bullying”

On Thursday, March 14 after the elementary assembly Nicole Stacey and Don Tingley, our school counselors, will give a special presentation on bullying. This informative presentation will cover students of all ages. Please plan to attend. It will be held in the KAS Library.

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

KASMUN X

From February 27th to March 1st high school students participated in the 10th annual KASMUN conference. Students in the Model United Nations class spent weeks preparing for the conference by researching the issues in depth and working with Ms. Mona, Ms. Minette, and Mr. Hussein on all the logistics surrounding the conference. Our Security General, Nadia Saeed, and Deputy Secretary General, Kareem El-Sanousi, were instrumental in the success of the conference by building up enthusiasm among the students and contacting our visiting schools, Unity High School and Avinash Academy. Our opening ceremony had a record crowd of over 130 guests and the student speeches from Nadia, Huda, Amina, and Ibrahim were all outstanding. The conference went well: students engaged in three days of lobbying and merging, productive (and at times heated) debate, as well as successfully passing several resolutions related to our theme of Combating Inequality Through Global Consensus. A big thanks to the whole MUN class for all their hard work. I am happy to end my time as KASMUN director on a high note and with so many underclassman playing a lead role in the conference, I am confident that Model United Nations has a bright future at KAS.



Owen McMullen
MS/HS Social Studies

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

As you already know, early release days are used for teachers to collaborate and plan together. Teacher collaboration is one of the most important factors in students' success as it ensures all teachers are working together on a common path for teaching, learning and overall school improvement.

This Thursday, March 7th, we will be working on updating and reviewing our five year strategic plan. Teachers will be working in groups in the following categories:

- Safety
- Languages
- Admissions
- Marketing
- Facilities
- Service Learning
- Information Technology
- Student Life
- Campus Beautification
- Cafeteria

Teachers are requested to look at the ideas that were already put forth for each category as well as to brainstorm new ideas and to prioritize these ideas.

We are very excited to discuss these ideas in the above categories and we are sure that this will have a very positive impact on school improvement.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

The First Eight Minutes of the Day

At KAS, the homeroom period occupies an unenviably slim timeslot, 8:00 to 8:08AM. These eight minutes are too brief to engage in fundamental learning, yet too long to sit through idly once attendance is taken.

Many might lament the homeroom period as wasted time, eight minutes for latecomers to sleepily drift in while others noisily chat about a mundane plot twist in their favourite TV show, or how they devastated their opponents last night in an online competitive video game. If that is all homeroom is good for then it might as well be retitled, "morning break" and not be accumulated into the minutes of the school day.

But what is an educator to do with eight minutes?!

In grade 12 homeroom, those eight minutes are used to keep students up to date on knowledge that does not categorize into any of their class subjects.

For example, they are used to keep students abreast of world events such as the ongoing Canadian scandal in which the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, attempted to absolve Montreal engineering firm SNC/Lavalin from bribing Muammar Gaddafi's Libyan government. It was also in homeroom that we learned that Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is speaking favourably of merging his country with Russia. It was in homeroom that we saw video footage from the daily protests in Venezuela, when tens of thousands of citizens stormed the streets of Caracas.

We also use homeroom time to learn of advancements in science, technology and economics, such as the creation of lab-grown, edible meat; how the quantity theory of money explains pecuniary inflation; Albert Ellis' rational-emotive theory, which links psychological disorders to philosophical underpinnings; and the effects of increasing testosterone levels in other mammals (hint: they get real mean).

Today in homeroom we explored why an educational YouTube channel with 8.1 million subscribers recently deleted their two most popular videos when they came to disagree with the messages those videos purported. This subject is particularly important for understanding how information is constructed, why it is important to critically analyze published work, and how this event relates to one's responsibility to act with intellectual integrity. Is it strange to look forward to homeroom? Often, I do. Even though eight minutes barely scratches the surface, sometimes a brief overview is enough to pique one's interest in the topic and get one thinking about the further implications and connections. After all, the goal is not to cram in an encyclopedia's worth of facts, but to wake up a dozen sleepy teenagers.

Jon Marck
HS Mathematics Teacher

Saying of the Week

Across The Board means all encompassing, wide-ranging and including everyone or everything. At 19th-century race meetings large boards would be used to display the odds on a horse to come first, second or third. This was known as an 'across the board bet.' Obviously the bookmakers' odds would be calculated and only when a horse finished in the position a bookmaker least expected it to would a punter win more than the sum of his three stakes.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

SWIMMING

The summer weather is arriving and it is going to be hot! There is no better way to beat the heat than by going swimming to cool off. Here at Khartoum American School we are getting ready to start our swimming unit in physical education class. The students will be learning basic swim safety and the use of different swim strokes and skills.

Although playing in the water can be fun and satisfying, without respecting the water it can be very dangerous. According to the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease and Control Prevention over 360 000 people die a year from drowning and is the 3rd leading cause for unintentional injury-related deaths. In many countries people are not taught the basics of swimming, which could help prevent drowning. There are many other ways to decrease the number of drowning victims, while still having fun, by following some of these safety precautions:

- **Supervise your children** – never let your children swim alone. Make sure that there is someone to supervise the children as they swim, such as a lifeguard.
- **Teach your children to swim** – having basic swim skills will help save lives. Even if it is learning how to float until someone can help.
- **Be aware of items that can be used in case of emergency** – long rope, anything that floats, or even a pool towel. Unless you are a strong swimmer, you should not jump in to help. Usually this results in more than one drowning.
- **Fence off your pool** – if you have a pool make sure that you can fence it off and keep it locked so that children don't use the pool unsupervised.
- **Stay in designated areas** – when in public swim areas such as beaches, there are designated areas for swimming. There could be strong currents under the water in other areas that could pull you down.
- **Feet first** – when getting into the water, enter feet first. Check for the depth of the water and any underwater hazards.

No matter where you are swimming, playing in the water is a great summertime event and a way to get exercise, socialize and relax. With the proper precautions we can take advantage of the water around us and enjoy the summer. Remember to also protect your body from the sun by wearing sunscreen and using a hat when out in the sun for long periods of time. I look forward to helping you keep your child safe around the water.

Jeremy Albright
P.E. Teacher

Zero Waste Camp



Grade 4 participated in a "Zero Waste Camp" during the school day on February 20th. The campers pitched tents, enjoyed a scavenger hunt, sang songs around a campfire, and checked that the campfire was properly extinguished. Throughout the day the campers paid due attention to the waste they created. They used zero paper products and only took the food they were able to eat, so as to not throw away scraps. The fourteen campers disposed of only 8.65 grams of waste during their 6 hour camping experience. The challenge is on for the 2020 Grade 4 campers to create less waste than the 2019 Grade 4 campers.



Ann Crowley
Grade 4 Teacher