



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 13, 2018



KAS MISSION & VISION GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PARENTS SEMINAR

Superintendent's Message

Parent Seminars – The first parent seminar of this school year was held today on the importance of the KAS Mission Statement and other supporting documents. The mission statement is very important in guiding us in our decision making and being consistent with the importance of having clear direction.

The next Parent Seminar will be held on September 27 at 8:30 am in the Library on the topic of Safeguarding at KAS. Last year the KAS Board established an ad hoc committee whose task is to develop a comprehensive Safeguarding Manual to help us provide protection for all at our school. The members of this committee are Dr. Salma Moustafa (Board Member), Susan Boutros (Secondary Principal), Ann Crowley (grade 4 Teacher) and Steve Alexander (Superintendent).

Incorporating more safeguarding procedures into our school this year is a major goal for the KAS staff. There are several procedures we have already put in place.

- All staff must provide an up to date police background check
- All potential employees must provide references from people who have supervised them at their work These references must be sent to us by the supervisor not the candidate
- Construction and other vendors working on KAS campus will need to show proper vetting by their employers
- All KAS staff sign a Code of Conduct that follows the ethical code of conduct developed by the Council of International Schools
- All KAS staff sign a Consent and Waiver form allowing us to check their background work history
- We have established a staff committee who will oversee incidents that are reported and follow up in a timely manner

We believe these procedures help us protect everyone at KAS. We will continue to review and revise our procedures as needed. We are increasing the amount of staff who attend professional development training with regard to Safeguarding.

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent



ANNOUNCEMENT

Join Us!
PTA
Meeting

Do you want to make a change, be heard and be part of a great supportive community?

Then join our KAS PTA for amazing volunteer work opportunities, which are guaranteed to keep you busy. Our first official PTA meeting will be held on Thursday September 20th at 8:45 am in the conference room.

Can't attend the meeting but would still like to join KAS PTA?

No Problem! Just drop by my office to sign up or email me at nsalih@krtams.org

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Nada Salih
Admissions Director
PTA Teacher Representative



PARENT

**Please collect your ID Badge
and Car Pass Sticker for the
new school year 2018 - 2019
FROM THE ADMIN OFFICE**

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Happy Mid-September Everyone!

Well we're finally on a roll now, aren't we. The weeks are beginning to go by quickly and the students are falling into a good routine. I hope all the children are getting plenty of time to study and to play at home and of course to rest as well.

The homework load in the elementary has been limited due to the fact that all growing individuals should have adequate time for at home activities in addition to their school work. Studies show that when families spend quality time together each day children score better on tests and are more well-adjusted emotionally and socially. Happier kids, is the end product we all want.

Our school-wide MAP testing is coming up next week so it is important that your children get plenty of rest and are therefore alert for this testing. The results of these tests will be used as one more vital tool in our repertoire to better understand your child's learning needs and their current growth.

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

THE JOYS OF LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

As many of us are new to Khartoum, I am sure that you might currently be undergoing the experience of trying to learn a new language.

I can very well remember my first foreign language that I was exposed to.... it was German and as I eagerly collected every new word, I would try it out on unsuspecting (probably annoyed) family members, much to their confusion, as none of them were German speakers! It was only when I was exposed to native German speakers that I really felt elated that my words elicited the correct response and that people did understand me!

Physiological studies have found that speaking two or more languages is a great asset to the cognitive process, including improved memory, greater multitasking ability, better decision-making skills and very importantly staving off Alzheimers and dementia in our old age. Interestingly, one of the major benefits is also that it raises your awareness of the mechanics of language, e.g. grammar, syntax and sentence structure, which leads to a better understanding of your own native tongue.

So, may I encourage all of our readers and KAS community to grasp the opportunity to learn one or even more languages, especially French as a school offering and Arabic, the language of the country we currently call home. Do not fear failure or ridicule, for it is only by practice and repeated practice and some more practice that greatness is born. Allons-y!

Ilse Young
French Teacher



After a week of research, the 7th grade science class shared their discoveries about climate change at the elementary assembly. Not only did they teach the younger students how they can help the environment, but student-made global warming warning posters will be hung around the school to ensure students work together for a brighter tomorrow. The 7th graders are shining examples of how education and activism are helping to create the next generation of global citizens.

A big thank you goes to Mr. Jorgensen, Ms. Nafisa and the 7th grade science students!

Why Manners Matter

A primary goal for both educators and parents is to help instill good manners in their students and children. From a very young age, we remind children to practice using manners with the coaxing question, "What do we say?" We do not teach manners as an archaic formality that is passed on from generation to generation out of habit, but rather we provide a framework for children to develop the social skills they will need in order to live happy and productive lives.

Emily Post stated, "Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners, no matter what fork you use." Even the great guru of etiquette dismisses the idea of manners as an arbitrary list of dos and don'ts, but instead boils it down to the golden rule. When children begin to realize how their actions, attitudes, and words affect others, they are able to create empathy for those around them.

Teaching manners does not need to be a tedious chore. Children learn manners from the adults in their lives whether we teach them or not. They are constantly observing the interactions we have with others. When we strive to model good manners, our children will begin to mimic this kind of behavior.

Manners can be broken down into two components: being polite and acting appropriately in any given situation.

1. Being polite

Striving to be polite by smiling, holding doors open for those behind you, saying "please," "thank you," "excuse me," and "you're welcome" go a long way toward making and keeping friends and easing a tense situation. You might begin by asking children to give some examples of polite behavior. Have them demonstrate ways they have been polite and role-play situations in which they should make an effort to be polite. Encourage them to practice in real life. Be sure to notice when they do. Discuss the outcomes of their practicing polite behavior. Ask children to describe any changes they feel when they are polite or when someone is being polite with them. Do they feel more comfortable, happier, and safer?

2. Acting appropriately

Behaving appropriately can help you succeed in reaching your goals, whether you want to get better grades, get a job and get promoted, or get invited to social events. Again, brainstorm with children to get them talking about appropriate behavior for various settings. Discuss appropriate behavior for conversations, including listening when someone is speaking to you, speaking when being spoken to, not talking about private things in public, and maintaining eye contact with the person you are speaking with. Have children role-play conversations with their peers and adults, focusing on making small talk about appropriate topics. Encourage children to be aware of their interactions with others, and give them tips on how to modify their behavior when necessary.

We owe it to our children to teach them manners. If we truly want to give all students an opportunity to succeed, we must stress the importance of acceptable, desirable behavior that will help them obtain and maintain jobs, friends, and family.

Miriam Easterling
Kindergarten Teacher

Saying of the Week

When we describe something as **OK**, we regard it as acceptable and good for use. The expression seems to have first appeared in print during 1839 in the Boston Morning Post and later popularized during the 1840 election campaign of Martin van Buren of Kinderhook, New York. He was known as 'Old Kinderhook' - OK for short. Twenty years later, during the American Civil War, soldiers relied on a biscuit called Orrin Kendall for rations, and a port in Haiti called Aux Cayes was famous among American sailors for its rum, known as 'OK Rum'. But before all of this there lived a popular native American chief called Old Keokuk who signed all his treaties by using only his initials.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department