

# news

news from the trunk  
Thursday, October 4, 2018



## Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing

## Superintendent's Message

### Accreditation Visit

Starting this Saturday KAS will be receiving a visiting team of educators representing the Council of International Schools and the Middle States Association. The visiting team will be meeting all week with staff, students, parents and School Board Members. The self study report for the accreditation visit has been put together by our staff during the past two years. I want to thank all our staff, students and parents who have helped with the preparation. I want to especially thank our steering committee under the leadership of Susan Boutros for writing and preparing the final self study report. We are all confident the visit will be successful and KAS will benefit from the improvements to our school through participating in the accreditation process.

### Parent Seminar – November 15, 2018

Our next parent seminar will be presented by Nicole Stacey and Don Tingley, our school counselors, on Thursday, November 15, starting at 8:30 am in the KAS Library. Their presentation will include important information on how we are helping students with safeguarding issues at school. Please plan to attend this important and informative parent seminar.

**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

## The Importance of Show and Tell in Grade 1



Show and tell is an effective and enjoyable way for young children to refine their public speaking and oral communication skills while learning more about each other. We establish guidelines within the class in order to build confidence and decrease anxiety. Each week, four children are selected to bring an item to show to the class and tell about it. Students are encouraged to raise their hands and ask questions to their classmates about the item they brought in. Show and tell allows students to demonstrate an understanding of listening and speaking skills for effective communication. The student will learn to speak clearly, guide a listener to understand important ideas, describe people, places, things and locations, increase vocabulary, speak in complete sentences and follow and create a sequence. Show and tell helps us to practice storytelling, use descriptive language, use vocabulary and increase our confidence. Building confidence and pride, learning great communication skills, showing respect and overall social skills are why we do show and tell. Show and tell is an activity that can be socially rewarding and academically advantageous for young children while also solidifying the home-school connection.

**Janet Albright**  
Grade 1 Teacher

## Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

As you all know, for the past year, KAS has been working on an extensive self-study for our re-accreditation that involves rating ourselves against CIS (Council of International Schools) standards and outlining the areas of strength and those for improvement. This led to very in-depth discussions and reflections by staff, students and parents and to a lot of self-improvement. This self-study ends with a visiting team of experienced educators coming to our school. During their visit, the team reads the documentation that was provided by us, visits classes and meets with staff, students, board members and parents.

The CIS/MSA (Council of International Schools / Middle States Association) joint Accreditation Team Visit will take place this coming week from October 5-11. We are very excited and looking forward to the visit. We know that this will help further guide our path into the future, making sure Khartoum American School continues to meet international standards in education.

Have a lovely weekend!

**Susan Boutros**  
Middle & High School Principal

## New Technology at KAS: Classe365



As you all know, KAS has moved to Classe365 as our School Management System (SMS) that has everything related to your students in one place. This cloud-based platform is built to allow any educational institute to manage the Students Information System SIS, Learning Management System (LMS) and Financial System in one place.

One of the KAS' Administration goals is to lower the use of paper and digitize the admission process, the financial procedures, and of course, virtualize the learning management system. During last school year, we were searching for a suitable SMS that can fit our school needs. Classe365 was highly recommended by many international educational institutes, and so we decided to use it as our SMS. When we implemented the new system, we realized that the grade book was not calculating the overall grades in the same way that our previous program (Engrade) did. That is why the grade book was disabled for a while. To ensure the calculation will match our grading policy, we requested some customization to be done for us by the vendor, which was finished last week. We then enabled the overall grade on the grade book. Now the grades you see on the middle/high school grade books are all accurate.

Like any new technology, the new system will take some time to blend and serve our school community thoroughly. We are working with the company to customize more of the tools and modules that we could use in the future to enrich our students learning and improve the communication between home and school. So, I would like to ask you to be patient with us throughout this changing process. I'm confident when the Classe365 is fully implemented, we will all be happy with it.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank you all for your support and cooperation with us and for always making KAS a better place for learning.

**Egbal Mohamed**  
Technology Coordinator

# The Beautiful Game

One of the best things about teaching Language Arts is that there is a broad range of topics you can touch upon and bring into the classroom.

It goes without saying that all subjects lend themselves easily and naturally to the English language, particularly in an English medium school. However, my favorite lessons are about one of my passions, football (soccer) and can be stimulating, lots of fun especially within the realms of vocabulary, academic and dare I say mystical.

From the kick-off, pun intended, the words football and soccer become a talking point. Since the nineteenth century when the term Soccer was introduced in the U.K. to differentiate between Football and Rugby, controversy has raged. Despite efforts to bring into common usage the word Soccer as opposed to Football, the steadfast Brits have parked the bus and quite categorically refused to acknowledge the word Soccer. According to [www.goal.com](http://www.goal.com): "Across the Atlantic in the United States, as the indigenous variant of football-known as gridiron or American football; a culture developed that categorized American Football as Football and Association Football, as Soccer." Clearly, no self-respecting Brit who follows the Beautiful Game would ever use the term Soccer, although I must admit that I sometimes inadvertently let the word Soccer slip; much to the surprise and at times annoyance of my friends and family in the U.K.

The Language of Football (Soccer) is replete with figurative language, clichés, even incorrect grammar, and from time to time good English vocabulary. For example, Sergio Aguero drilled the ball into the bottom right hand corner. Aguero didn't just kick it low and hard he drilled it. Sometimes the language of Football (Soccer) finds its way into everyday colloquial language such as back of the net expressing the pure joy of scoring a goal. In the U.K it's not unusual to hear back of the net when someone has done well in an exam, passed a driving test or come into some money. Football (Soccer) commentators always use the worn out cliché it's a game of two halves. This implies that a football match can change dramatically over the course of 90 minutes. In post match interviews Football (Soccer) players who are renowned for their dribbling skills rather than their verbal skills will say to the interviewer we was robbed instead of we were robbed, much to the disdain of the viewers. Meaning that the defeat was unfair and perhaps the referee was unjust, to put it rather mildly. Another phrase that trips nicely off the tongue is he's got a sweet left foot. This means that a player is very skillful with his left foot in a world dominated by players who are inclined to be right footed. Reading through a match report from the other week about the English Premiership game between Manchester City and Newcastle United, it was interesting and refreshing to find

decent English in the lines that said, "City ran a beleaguered Newcastle defense ragged." Making it clear that City outclassed a very suspect, shaky and unprofessional Newcastle back four.

Italian novelist and filmmaker, Pier Paolo Pasolini, argues that football, just like any language, is a sign system. A spoken-written language, such as the English you are reading now, is built from letters and phonemes that constitute its minimum units. Pasolini termed the minimum unit of the language of football a podema (from the Ancient Greek πῶδες, meaning feet), where a podema is a kick of the ball. The infinite combinations of podemi – the football words; a dribble, a pass, a long ball – are then combined into a discourse, which itself is governed and regulated by its own syntax.

Arsene Wenger believes that Football (Soccer) goes beyond the spoken word, "People who cannot speak together can play together because you use your body and the way you understand the game to communicate, and you can share exactly the same vision of the game. A Russian, an American and a Japanese can play together and have a fantastic time together without talking together." Football (Soccer) transcends language, culture, borders, and race; this is one of the reasons I believe it deserves the popularized title "The Beautiful Game."

Michael Metcalf  
Language Arts Teacher

## Saying of the Week

When the **Cat Is Let Out Of The Bag** it means some sort of secret has been revealed. In the days of the medieval market deceptions were often played on unsuspecting buyers, and one of those involved baby farm animals and cats. Having been shown a baby animal a purchaser would then start haggling with the vendor over the price. While this was going on the baby animal would be bagged up ready to be taken home, but a cat was often substituted while the buyer's attention was diverted. The deception would only be revealed when the buyer reached home and let 'a cat out of the bag'.

Minette van der Bij  
High School English Department