



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, October 11, 2018



CIS AND MSA ACCREDITATION TEAM VISIT TO KAS



Council of International Schools



Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Dear KAS Family,

As our visit from the evaluation team draws to a close this week everyone on campus is feeling relieved and proud. Relieved because anytime evaluation is mentioned the human heart rate rises substantially. But more importantly, proud. Proud because our various teams and committees were praised so much by the evaluation team during these past days. I am more than confident that at the exit meeting, which will be on Thursday afternoon, the team will have the same praise and kudos for all of our staff and what each does inside and outside of the classrooms. This proficiency translates to an excellent education opportunity provided to your children by our school.

I personally have learned much during this visit, being my first year here at KAS. Analyzing every aspect of the operation of a new school is an awesome thing, albeit time consuming. And it is always beneficial to hear dialogue from many different perspectives, which is what a visiting team brings to each school. I am happy to part of this family, (KAS) for sure.

Ring, ring, ring goes the bell. Oh no, another fire drill, or is it real? That's what we think when the school's fire alarm goes off. And that sort of thinking should happen as we exit our classrooms and head out to the field. Because we always should think if this is real am I doing my job of evacuating to safety in a proper manner. Being quiet and following directions as I know how to. We did have another fire drill this week and our evaluators were impressed at the speed and calmness displayed during that drill. The children are becoming comfortable with these now and other drills that we do. It's a must to continue to practice so we can stay prepared.

Next week is the last week of session one clubs or ASAP.

As always, 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

Everybody Can Succeed at Math

All parents have hopes and dreams for their children, but so often they send a very confusing message to their kids and these confusing messages could just be the main messages the children hear. "You're just not a math person," is typical of a negative message that undermines a child's confidence. This creates tremendous problems not only for the child but also for the teachers, because people who believe they cannot do things, stop making an effort and often the effort is the foundation and once that has been laid solidly, building on the foundation is quite easy.

According to Terence Tao, UCLA's famous virtuoso mathematician, for high school math, inborn talent is just much less important than hard work, preparation, and self-confidence.

The online magazine Quartz shows the following pattern that leads to failure or success:

1. Different kids with different levels of preparation come into a math class. Some of these kids have parents who have drilled them on math from a young age, while others never had that kind of parental input.
2. On the first few tests, the well-prepared kids get perfect scores, while the unprepared kids get only what they could figure out by winging it—maybe 80 or 85%, a solid B.
3. The unprepared kids, not realizing that the top scorers were well-prepared, assume that genetic ability was what determined the performance differences. Deciding that they "just aren't math people," they don't try hard in future classes, and fall further behind.
4. The well-prepared kids, not realizing that the B students were simply unprepared, assume that they are "math people," and work hard in the future, cementing their advantage.

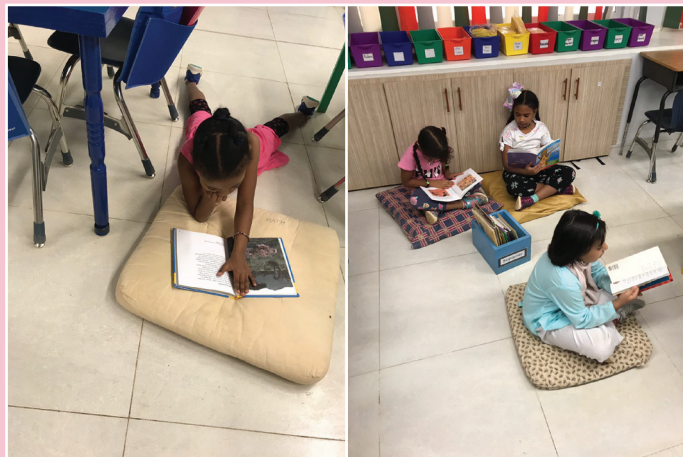
Thus, people's belief that math ability can't change becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The long and the short of success in math is simple – work hard, focus in class, do your homework and ask questions if you do not understand.

Quazanne Van Der Bijl
HS Mathematics Teacher

Growth Mindset

Day to day students learn the essentials for reading, writing, math, social studies, sciences and other extracurricular activities. One strategy that I would like to start implementing in 2nd grade is Growth Mindset, this means working on the following: What it means, Encourage Failure, the brain can grow, and helping change our dialogue.



HELP CHANGE DIALOGUE

The way students talk to themselves has a huge impact on their mindset. If they say "This is too hard!" Help them change it to "I can't do this yet, but I can keep trying."

This starts with us, the adults, instead of saying "Wow, you're so smart" praise direct efforts and goals that are met. This takes practice and persistence, once you get the hang of narrating positive behaviors it becomes second nature.

- "WOW! You never gave up, even when it was hard"
- "You really improved on ____"
- "I can tell you studied really hard"
- "You remembered to _____ (specific skill). Great thinking!"

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In the past we used to think intelligence was fixed- meaning we were either smart or we weren't. Scientist have proven that this is simply not true. Our brain acts like a muscle- the more we use it, the stronger (and smarter) our brain becomes.



ENCOURAGE FAILURE

Students need to know that failure can and often does happen and is okay! Don't step in to prevent your child's failure- this is how she/he learns to persevere in the face of challenge. Remind them that each time they fail and tries again, their brain is growing.



Patricia Marquez
Grade 2 Teacher

Book Review

Warhorse

Author: Michael Morpurgo



The difference between novels and movies is that in movies the entire story is visualized for you. In the book you have to read, think, and create your own visualization. Movies and novels also have different details; the movie can't recreate every single thing that happens in the book, if it did the movie would be more than two hours. In Language Arts we have been comparing and contrasting the book and the movie and thinking about whether we are book learners or visual screen learners or a bit of both.

Whether it's the book or the movie, Warhorse is an incredible story about friendship and trust. It's about a boy, Albert, and his horse Joey and their dramatic adventure through World War One. Throughout the whole story they love each other and take care of one another through the toughest of times even when separated by the war. This book really emphasizes the power of friendship. Joey is parted from his beloved friend and owner Albert, but this can't break the bonds of their friendship. Joey goes from being a farm horse to being a cavalry horse and suffers the affects of war in exactly the same way a soldier would. Despite many challenges and traumas, such as trench warfare and losing many friends along the way, horse and owner are reunited in an emotional climax. In the book, Joey speaks in the first person and in many ways this brings the novel to life. Nevertheless, this is a heart-warming story that touches the heart both in book form and on the screen. Their never-ending friendship gets them through the war in this story of love, friendship and overall hope. During hard times such as World War One there was a great sense of community between everybody, even though they had hard times they always helped each other in anyway they could, this is what we lack nowadays, a sense community and trust between one another. It's the best friendship story I have ever read.

Shams Metcalf
Grade 7



ANNOUNCEMENT

BOOK FAIR



Date: Sanday, October 14 -
Thursday, October 18

Location: KAS Quad Area

Saying of the Week

Hear Hear is often used in political circles to suggest agreement or endorsement of something being said. Originally any disagreement with a speaker, either in the Commons or the House of Lords, would be expressed by loud humming from those with opposing views, in an attempt to drown out the speech being made. But members agreeing and in favor of the speaker would call for those humming to listen by shouting 'hear him, hear him'. This phrase has evolved over the years to the one used today.

Minette van der Bij
High School English Department