

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, January 20th 2011



Welcome Back  
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**PTA Winter Fun Picnic**

Saturday, January 29th, 2011 • 1-5pm



## A Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

The first week of second semester is almost completed and I wish to say a heartfelt welcome back to our families from our Winter Break. While I know many people were anxious to see how the secession referendum would pan out, it is obvious that life has continued as normal and any potential security problems have not materialized. For our school we were concerned that enrollment may be affected. However, I am pleased to report that we have been busy meeting with new parents and we are moving from strength to strength this week.

As an administrator I really enjoy the first few days back from vacations as it such a pleasure to see our children so happy to be returning and in some sense relieved to be back in class and in the company of their classmates. Holidays also have that wonderful power of reenergizing people and from my first week back it has been fantastic working with our teachers on exciting and new projects that we hope to launch in the second semester.

International schools are very unique in that it is not long after the school year starts that plans are underway for the following year. Next week I will be flying to the United States to speak with many potential candidates who would like to join us here at Khartoum American School. The challenge for me is to find those candidates who are a really good match for the school. We pride ourselves here at KAS on giving every child the individualized attention that they deserve, and it is this student-centered philosophy that permeates throughout our school. Over the past weeks I have entertained questions from many candidates via email, about the school and the feedback that I have received from these teachers is that they are drawn to our approach to education and have heard amazing things about the school and our sense of community.

While I spend a great part of the next month away, the school will be still buzzing with its usual effervescence, with many exciting events and activities planned. Not the least of these will be our annual KAS Bazaar (February 4th), which promises to be a fun occasion with many crafts and artisan work on sale. Additionally, our PTA is also looking to start the semester with another Winter Fun Family Picnic (January 29th) which is also bound to bring our community closer together once more.

**Continued in next column.....**

It is great to be back at work and I am sure that I speak for all us here at KAS when I say that this semester will truly be a special one. I am sure that in years to come 2011 will be a wonderful year to remember.

## After School Activities Program (ASAP) Begins

**ASAP** The After School Activities Program for this term will begin on Sunday, January 23. The last day of activities for this term will be Monday, March 7. Please mark your calendars. A revised listing of students participating in various activities is being sent out with this newsletter. We've worked to give every child the desired activity or the next best choice if the activity was already filled up. Please contact Mr. Dave with any concerns.

## Attention parents! The new and revised KAS Report Card is about to arrive at your home.

### What is it?

Twice a year (in January and May), teachers will write a detailed report describing each student's progress. This report will be in a narrative format written by each teacher for each subject.

### Where did it come from?

Over the past five years the KAS faculty have been working on a number of curriculum initiatives and changes designed to ensure that the KAS curriculum meets the highest standards of excellent education. Throughout our work, we were constantly thinking about how we could better inform students and parents about progress and achievement.

### Why are we changing?

Basically, we felt that student achievement and potential deserved more than a couple of lines on a report card, that students and their parents deserved to know more details about how and what a student had achieved.

### What will it look like?

There are three main areas that each report will cover:

- A course description: what material was covered? What were the essential questions or areas of inquiry?



- A description of the student’s achievement: How proficient is the student with this new knowledge? How successful was the student in mastering concepts and applying understanding?
- The factors that affect achievement: What habits and practices helped the student achieve or what strategies might be used to do better next time?

**What should we, as parents, do with all this information?**

We hope that every parent will use this detailed report as a basis for talking directly with their student about the student’s learning. In the past, parents often asked: “What grade did you get?” Now, we hope that parents will ask: “How well did you understand what you were learning and how can you go on to improve?” or “Are there some common themes in these reports?” “What are you most proud of?” and “What goals will you make for yourself to do even better?” Be sure to contact your son or daughter’s teacher if you have questions or concerns about the report.

**KAS Soccer**

Soccer season was back in action this week with U19 Boys playing at Unity on Tuesday. The boys went to the game with only 7 players but played a fantastic game defensively and come a way with a draw 1-1 against Unity. Next week the U19 boys will play against KICS at home on Monday, January 24th. Good Luck!

The U14 boys played at home against KICS. The team played hard and had a few shots on goal with one going in by Yousef Al-Harbi in the first half. Although that one goal would not be enough to stop KICS as the final score was 4-1 with KAS losing. Next week the team will have a rematch with KICS, and travel to KICS for the game on Tuesday, January 25th. Good Luck!

The U14 girls traveled to Unity to play on Wednesday. The game was a big dust bowl with all the dirt on the field, but the girls played their best game yet of the season. Both goalies, Mariam ElSanousi and Yara Salama, did excellent work in goal. The final score was 4-0, but the game was much closer than the score states. Good work team! Next week the girls take on Unity in a rematch on home turf on Wednesday, January 26th.

The U19 girls had the week off, but will play next week on Wednesday, January 26th against BES at home. GO TEAM!



<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
<b>Thursday, January 27th, 2011</b>	<b>Narrative Report Cards go home</b>
<b>Saturday, January 29th, 2011 1-5pm</b>	<b>PTA Winter Fun Picnic</b>
<b>Thursday, February 3rd, 2011 at 3 pm</b>	<b>U11 Soccer Championship</b>
<b>Friday, February 4th, 2011 1-6pm</b>	<b>KAS Bazaar</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 15th, 2011 at 3pm</b>	<b>U14 and U18 Boys Soccer Championship</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 16th, 2011 at 3pm</b>	<b>U14 and U18 Girls Soccer Championship</b>
<b>February 11, 2011 PTA and Elementary Student Council Dance</b>	<b>Social Under the Stars</b>





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Winter Fun  
Family Picnic  
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