

news

news from the trunk

Thursday, December 20, 2012



WINTER Break

Winter Break

From Friday, December 21, 2012 to Monday, January 7, 2013



Letter from the Superintendent, Greg Hughes

Dear Parents,

With the winter break now upon us we I wish all of our families a relaxing and peaceful holiday.

This week we have been inundated with new families looking to join our school community, and while this has meant a frenzy in the office, it also bodes well for a wonderful 2013.



So please make sure that your holiday is safe, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on January 8.

Have a wonderful festive season.



Letter from the Middle and High School Principal, Susan Boutros

December is a very busy month for our students, teachers and staff. It is also a very enjoyable and exciting month.

Our students are aware of the many different cultures in our community and the multiple ways that they celebrate the Holiday Season. As a school, we appreciate and try to understand the different ways that each family celebrates the holidays. It may be going away for a holiday. It may be helping mom and dad hang lights on a tree. It might be exchanging gifts. It may be just spending time with family and friends. We can't forget to mention the whole baking experience and the many favorite recipes that we each seem to have and enjoy.

No matter how you celebrate the holidays, it is the wish of myself and the entire staff at Khartoum American School that you are able to spend some valuable time with your families. Keep old traditions and start new ones, remember those who are no longer with us, and laugh with those who still are.

Happy Holidays Everyone!



What's up in Music?

It has been an exciting 2 weeks since the International Dinner and Talent Show. The students are back in their regular routine of learning to read notes, identifying music symbols, defining musical terms, conducting research and developing techniques in chorus. Over these past two weeks, the music room was filled with nice singing from the students learning a repertoire for Christmas. Their favorite song is Jingle Bells.



The first grade, second grade and third grade music classes are learning partner songs. They have been practicing how to sing independently their assigned parts. Kindergarten class understands that another name for shakers is maracas. The kindergarten has also started playing patterns to accompany a Spanish Christmas song, also in our repertoire. They are enjoying this part of the lesson very much.



Fourth graders continue to learn more notes to play the recorder. They are now able to play C and D. This completes the C scale and their techniques are consistently improving. Fifth graders are enjoying discussing African music in class. They are so engaged and the discussion is very lively because everybody has some information to share. The students like each other and the class has been very productive.

From the Music Department, I wish you all Happy Holidays. I hope you and your families will have a great, restful break!!!



Physics class

Physics class Students in Mr. Don's Grade 12 Physics class recently designed and conducted an experiment to investigate the motion of a pendulum. They used one smartphone as a timer, and another as a video camera to capture the motion of the pendulum. Students then loaded the video clips onto their laptop computers, and performed a stop-motion analysis to determine the maximum velocity of the pendulum. They then compared the velocity to that predicted by using the formulas for kinetic energy and gravitational potential energy, and found that their results were very close to the predicted values.

Throughout the experiment, students worked together to overcome difficulties. They had to adjust their experimental setup in order to properly record the time and position of the pendulum, and to analyze the videos. Students learned a great deal about experimental design and control of variables.



Trip to Meroe

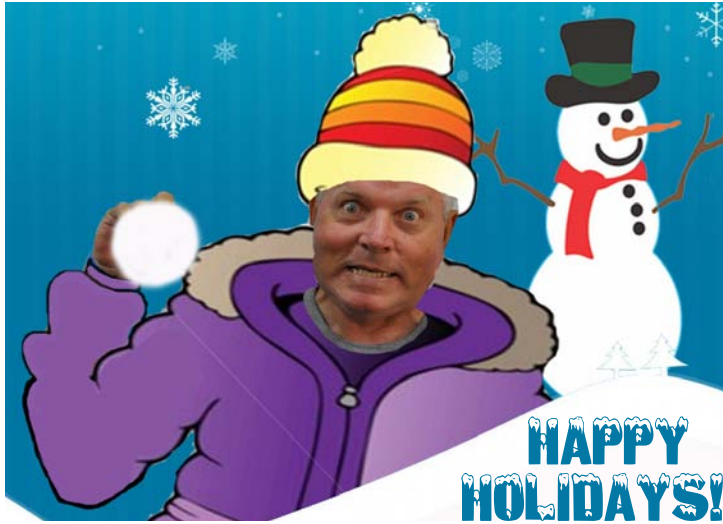
Meroë was an adventure for grades 7 and 11!

We had a windy greeting, to say the least. After pitching tents, the bonfire was started and dinner was over the charcoals. Everyone mingled, laughed, ate, danced, and marveled at the star-filled night. We were witness to a meteor shower and it was amazing! After a windy evening, everyone was up before sunrise to see the sun come up over the dunes. We took off to the pyramids a little while later. Students all had activities to study the pyramids and their histories. So many relics were still visible and we were all impressed to see in what good condition some are still. Students stayed all morning taking pictures, completing activity packets, and running down sand dunes. After a quick trip to the Royal City, we were all tucked in for the bus ride back to Khartoum.

The trip to Meroë was short, sandy, and sweet.



Mr. Hovde's Amazing Math Contest



Last Week's Winners



Braskala-KG, Hugo-G1, Ashu-G2, Syahmi-G3, Amsyar-G4, Nita-G5, Abdelrahman-G7.



Farewell



The Learning Center has grown over the past year and a half, as we have really become more of a support services unit. Our talented and caring ESL teachers have very much become part of the Learning

Center team, and all of us at the school, classroom teachers, assistants, and support services find ourselves working more and more closely together with one goal in mind – to reach every child and facilitate success. As Ms. Marji and her family finish out 2012 with us and then move to Kenya for a new chapter, we are reminded of the impact she has had, and the hole she will leave. We want to wish her family everything they are hoping for in this move and more. With each goodbye comes sadness and the opportunity to get to know someone new. Ms. Salma will be joining us in January to continue the ESL work in the elementary school and the several learning support duties that Ms. Marji also provided. Goodbye Ms. Marji, you will be missed by many.

Elementary School Math problem:

Kindergarten: What time does PE class begin?

Grade 1: What does the word difference mean in math?

Grade 2: What does $314 + 352$ equal?

Grade 3: Draw three rectangles with the perimeter of 12 units. Label the sides.

Grade 4: Put these numbers in order from smallest to largest: 0.6, 0.06, 0.43, 0.9.

Grade 5: Multiply using the Partial-Products method, and check it by using the Lattice method. Show work.
 $43 * 26 =$

Middle School Math problem:

The people at a party are forming teams to play a game. When the people form groups of 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 there is always one person left over. What is the smallest number of people who could be at the party?

High School Math problem:

If you invest \$5,000 into an account with an interest rate of 5% (compounded annually) how much will be in the account after 20 years?.

Solutions from the last week: Kindergarten: Answers will vary; **Grade 1:** 8, 2, 5; **Grade 2:** Answers will vary; **Grade 3:** $150 + 150 + 300 + 200 = 800$; **Grade 4:** Because it has more than two factors; **Grade 5:** Maximum 328, Minimum 254, Range 74, Median 280; **Middle School:** 7; **High School:** $-i = -\text{square root} (-1)$;

Circle one:

High School Middle School Elementary School

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Answer: _____

KAS Sport News

This week we had an exciting face off between the KAS faculty and the working staff. It was a very emotive game. The staff started winning 2-0 but the the faculty teachers caught up and made it really hard for the experienced staffed workers, who ended up winning by one goal 5-4. We hope to repeat this experience and extend it to KAS parents and students as soon as possible.

Ali Martinez, PE Teacher